

**CHELMSFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
October 4, 2022
Meeting Minutes**

Members Present: Ms. Donna Newcomb (Chair), Mr. Jeff Doherty (Vice Chair), Mr. Dennis King (Secretary), Mr. John Moses and Ms. Maria Santos.

Also present: Dr. Jay Lang (Superintendent) and Dr. Linda Hirsch (Assistant Superintendent).

Call to Order

6:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Opening Statement

“This meeting is being live-streamed by Chelmsford Telemedia and posted to the CPS website for interested community members to access and watch. In-person public participation will be taking place tonight in accordance with the Chelmsford School Committee Public Participation Guidelines. Anyone speaking tonight during the public input portion of the meeting has notified the superintendent’s office of their desire to speak and has been provided with these guidelines. Upon request written comments received no later than 12:00 p.m. on the day of this meeting will also be read and made part of the record of the meeting during the second public input session.”

Consent Agenda

1. Approval of the minutes of the regular school committee meeting of September 20, 2022

Mr. Doherty moved that The Committee approve the minutes presented for September 20, 2022. Mr. Moses seconded. Motion carries 5-0.

CHS Students Representative Announcements

Keya shared that many CHS students took the SATs this past Saturday. Late busses will begin on October 11th on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays for events taking place after school. At 6:30 on October 12th a webinar will be held by Campus Bound. Registration is required. Information will be given to parents and students on merit versus need-based financial aid for college. On October 13th through October 21st the French exchange students and teachers will be visiting CHS!

Lana added that PSATs will take place on October 15th. October 17th is picture day. The Seniors’ Halloween Dance will be held on October 22nd. At McCarthy on October 26th grades 5 through 12 will be performing String Fest.

Good News

Dr. Hirsch shared that with the French exchange students arriving, one more host family is needed in Chelmsford. Please contact Ms. Nolet if you are able to help. The Spanish exchange students have just departed and had a wonderful time while here. She would like to share a video showing the events attended by the Spanish exchange students but will do so later in the meeting due to technical issues. The video is shared in the September 23rd newsletter as well.

Public Comments

None

New Business

1. 2022/23 SC Meeting Presentation Schedule: Schools and Departments

Dr. Lang included in tonight's agenda packet the 2022/23 schedule for presentations by the schools and departments to share their highlights. The first presentation will take place on October 18th.

2. MCAS Interim CD Standard for the CHS Classes of 2023-2025

Dr. Hirsch shared a memorandum and slide show tonight regarding the MCAS Interim Competency Determination (CD) Standards Classes for 2023-2025. Her presentation and slides helped to explain the many changes that have happened since the COVID Pandemic and expectations going forward from DESE. The complexity of this will be best appreciated by watching Dr. Hirsch's presentation during tonight's meeting on Chelmsford Telemedia YouTube. For the classes of 2024 and 2025 all students will be required to take the interim tests for ELA, Math and Science (Next Generation tests). Her slides also show the changes in standards for ELA and Math. At a future meeting she will share the MCAS data and is very encouraged by the recent scores for Chelmsford students.

At this point in the meeting Dr. Lang was able to present the video of the Spanish exchange students. The video was enjoyed by all!

Dr. Lang thanked host families for providing a sample of life in New England for the visitors from Spain. Ms. Newcomb also thanked Ms. Nolet for bringing back the student exchange program.

3. MASC Resolutions & Voting Delegate – Fall 2022 Membership Meeting

Dr. Lang included in tonight's agenda packet a memorandum and description of the six resolutions for the upcoming support and vote at the November MASC/MASS conference.

Mr. Doherty offered to read the pertinent portion of each resolution so that the Committee may vote on each. The exact wording of the resolutions can be found in tonight's agenda packet.

1. Regarding Sanctuary Laws for Transgender Students Resolution

A Show-of-hands vote was taken. The Committee votes 5-0 in support of Resolution 1.

2. To Increase the Maximum Balance Allowed by the Special Education Reserve Fund

A Show-of-hands vote was taken. The Committee votes 5-0 in support of Resolution 2.

3. Membership of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education Resolution

A Show-of-hands vote was taken. The Committee votes 5-0 in support of Resolution 3.

4. Preserving Local Governance of Massachusetts Schools Resolution

A Show-of-hands vote was taken. The Committee votes 5-0 in support of Resolution 4.

5. Personal Financial Literacy Education Resolution

A Show-of-hands vote was taken. The Committee votes 5-0 in support of Resolution 5.

6. Establishment of a Regional School Assessment Reserve Fund

A Show-of-hands vote was taken. The Committee votes 5-0 in support of Resolution 6.

Ms. Newcomb motioned for Dennis King to represent The Committee at the MASC Conference Annual Meeting. Ms. Santos seconded. Motion carries 5-0.

Mr. Moses motioned to appoint Jeff Doherty as the alternate. Mr. King seconded. Motion carries 5-0.

4. Approval of Field Trip & Travel Requests

Of the three field trip requests, Dr. Lang emailed The Committee previously because a request came in too late to be included in the last SC meeting. Dr. Lang thus approved that trip for the Cross-Country team to Rhode Island for a day trip on September 24, 2022.

Mr. Doherty moved for The School Committee to approve two field trips as presented. Mr. Moses seconded. Motion carries 4-0. Ms. Newcomb abstained.

Liaison Reports

Mr. Doherty shared that the CHS PTO met last night with a good turnout. Their next meeting will be held on November 7th. They would like to start work on the After-Prom Breakfast earlier than they did last year! On October 26th they will hold a Staff Appreciation "Grab and Go".

Mr. King added that CHIPS had their first PTO meeting as did Center School. He was encouraged by the attendance at both of these. CHIPS has lots of upcoming enrichment activities. SEPAC has their first meeting virtually this Thursday.

Ms. Santos was at a well-attended McCarthy PTO meeting. There was discussion on what will take place next year with the reconfiguration of the two middle schools. November 5th is "Junk Day" to be held in conjunction with Center School.

Mr. Moses attended Open House at both Byam and Parker and found them to be "spectacular"! He expressed displeasure at the classrooms found at the basement level of Parker. The Byam PTO meeting will be tomorrow at 7:00 p.m.

The South Row Ice-cream Social was well attended last week, and Ms. Newcomb was happy to see so many parents involved.

Ms. Santos added that CHS Theatre Guild will present *Legally Blonde* from November 17th through the 19th.

Action/New Items

Mr. King would like updates on new programs and initiatives and how the tutoring program is going this year. He also wants to hear about transportation, especially for extra-curricular activities.

Public Comments

None

Adjournment (6:59 p.m.)

Mr. Doherty moved to vote to adjourn. Mr. Moses seconded. Motion carries 5-0.

*Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Giglio, Recording Secretary*