

**CHELMSFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
August 16, 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), Dr. Linda Hirsch (Assistant Superintendent), and Ms. Joanna Johnson-Collins (Director of Business and Finance),

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 comment session.”

Consent Agenda

1. Approval of the minutes of the regular school committee meeting of August 2, 2022

Mr. Doherty moved to vote to approve the minutes of the regular school committee meeting held on August 2, 2022. Mr. Moses seconded. Motion carries 5-0.

2. Approval of the minutes of the regular school committee meeting of August 9, 2022

Mr. Doherty moved to vote to approve the minutes of the regular school committee meeting of August 9, 2022. Mr. King seconded. Motion carries 4-0 with Mr. Moses abstaining.

Good News

Mr. Doherty shared that yesterday the CHS All Sports Booster Club held their first annual golf tournament at Four Oaks Country Club in Dracut. It was a “huge success” with all foursomes being sold out! Former students, teachers, coaches and teams attended with each team creating a raffle basket. “It was a lot of fun”! The Boosters annually give out scholarships and help out with needs of the teams during the school year.

New Business

1. 2021/22 End-of-Year School Committee Goals Progress Review

The Chair provided an update on progress since mid-March when this was last presented. The goals, action steps and updates are included in tonight's agenda packet. Ms. Newcomb was pleased with how productive The Committee was during the past school year in regular meetings, public input sessions and subcommittee work. Moving forward The Committee will work with the DM Group to create an action plan for the upcoming school year which will be based on the district's Strategic Plan. Uncompleted goals from the past year will be addressed. It was evident the impact that COVID had on much of what transpired during this past school year.

2. 2021/22 End-of-Year Superintendent Goals Progress Review

Dr. Lang also included his goals, action plans and updates in tonight's agenda packet. At the last meeting he presented much of this information when presenting the highlights of the 2021/22 school year in review.

3. 2022/23 School Nutrition Update

Ms. Johnson-Collins included a memorandum in tonight's packet and was happy to share that "There will be **no cost** to the students for breakfast and lunch as the cost will be funded by the USDA and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for one (1) more year." Families should still fill out applications for "free and reduced lunch" on the district's website as that status may lead to other benefits from The Commonwealth. In Chelmsford students who qualify also receive free bus transportation.

4. 2022/23 Return to School Update

Dr. Lang shared that district administrators returned yesterday to participate in a two-day "Retreat" to prepare for the reopening of schools in two weeks. He and Dr. Hirsch shared a slide show which appears in tonight's agenda packet. Dr. Hirsch's presentation covered: the continued plan; student and family connections; benchmarks (prior student information); curriculum adjustments and professional development; and additional supports. To fully appreciate the details of this comprehensive "Return to School" plan and the discussion between Dr. Hirsch and The Committee members, please watch this portion of tonight's meeting on Chelmsford Telemedia.

Dr. Lang resumed this presentation with "School Health and Safety Information" for the coming school year. DESE and DPH have updated guidelines during the past few weeks. COVID-19 protocols call for masks to be required to be **worn only in the school health offices**. Individuals who choose to wear masks will, once again, be supported in that choice. DESE has discontinued all the COVID testing programs which were in place last year. "Effective August 15th – All positive COVID-19 individuals must isolate for 5 days. May return to school days 6-10 with a mask if symptoms have improved and are fever free for 24-hours. No mask required days 6-10 if the individual tests negative on day 5 or after." Close contact quarantine will not be required. Additional information supporting the safety guidelines may be found on the District's Website. Masks will be available at all schools.

Dr. Lang is looking forward to the new school year! Orientation will take place on August 29th with students returning on August 30, 2022. McCarthy is adding two more teachers to cover grades five and six, to keep class sizes at suggested levels. Ms. Johnson-Collins added that currently 2,961 students have registered to ride busses. Chelmsford will once again have 29 busses, which has been typical except for last school year. Bus passes will be mailed this week.

5. Personnel Report - July 2022

No action required.

Liaison Reports

None.

Action/New Items

Mr. King stated that MASC has posted a new policy on “clothing and hairstyles”. He would like to have this discussed at the next meeting. He would also like to review the policies on “non-discrimination and harassment”. The Chair would like to revisit DEI and SEL. Ms. Santos would like to see more presentations next year by departments (i.e. art, athletics).

Public Comments

None

Adjournment (6:52 p.m.)

Mr. Doherty moved to vote to adjourn from regular session then enter into executive session to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation and will not then return to open session after the executive session has been adjourned. Mr. Moses seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carries 5-0.

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

*Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Giglio, Recording Secretary*