

**CHELMSFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
September 20, 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 input session.”

Consent Agenda

1. Approval of the minutes of the regular school committee meeting of September 7, 2022

Mr. Doherty moved to approve the minutes from September 7, 2022. Mr. King seconded. Motion carries 4-1 with Mr. Moses abstaining.

CHS Students Representative Announcements

Lana Freije, a sophomore, introduced herself as did Keya Upadhyay who is a junior at CHS. Keya shared that The Ecology Club at CHS started its first week of composting. Bins are provided for students in the cafeteria to compost and reduce the amount of refuse sent to the landfill. Additionally, the Spanish exchange students who have been visiting will be leaving today. The CHS Theatre Guild will be performing *Legally Blonde* and have been busy with rehearsals. Lana added that registration for Dual Enrollment will be due September 23rd. Open House for CHS will take place on September 28th from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. SATs will be held on October 1, 2022. Picture Day will be October 17th. The Committee was happy to hear that the school year is off to a great start and welcomed the new student reps.

Good News

Dr. Hirsch is sad to see the Spanish exchange students leave but is happy that the French exchange students will arrive on October 14th. The upcoming newsletter will include information about the Spanish students' visit to CHS. The Chair added that The Committee was pleased to attend a dinner given in honor of the Spanish exchange students.

Public Comments

None

New Business

1. Announcement: Chelmsford High School Alumni Association 2022 Hall of Fame Inductees

George Simonian and Terry McSheehy spoke to The Committee about the upcoming 31st Hall of Fame Induction to be held on October 15th, at the UMASS Lowell Conference Center. Tickets will cost \$60.00.

2. DM Group Presentation: Special Education Opportunities Review

Dr. Lang welcomed Tess from District Management Group online. This is the second year of work with DMG. DM's Special Education Opportunities Review is "well-aligned to support the work on our Strategic Plan". The Power Point for Tess's presentation is included in tonight's agenda packet. Her detailed presentation and supporting slides would best be appreciated by watching tonight's meeting on Chelmsford Telemedia You/Tube. The three phases of the work to lessen the achievement gap between general education and special education will take place over a time period of six months, but lasting systemic changes will continue to develop in the coming years. Four to six specific changes will be recommended for implementation based on DM's analysis.

3. FY2023 Budget Report: 1st Quarter Financials

This will be addressed by the second meeting in October.

4. Recommended FY2023 Budget Transfers

Ms. Johnson-Collins included memoranda in tonight's packets which detail the requested budget transfers.

Mr. Doherty moved that the School Committee approve the FY2023 local operating transfers of \$29,795 from the operating budget to the Chelmsford Public Schools as presented. Mr. Moses seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carries 5-0.

Mr. Doherty moved for the School Committee to approve the FY2023 local operating budget transfers of \$1,027,314 from the Salary Reserve COLA Account to the various labor accounts as presented. Mr. Moses seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carries 5-0.

Mr. Doherty moved for the School Committee vote to approve the FY2023 local operating budget transfer of \$88, 227 from the Salary Reserve COLA Account to the various labor accounts as presented. Mr. Moses seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carries 5-0.

Mr. King pointed out that although the memo stated the COLA increase approved was 2.5%, it was actually 2.0%. Ms. Johnson-Collins acknowledged that correction but stated the amounts of the requests were correct and based on a 2.0% increase.

Mr. Doherty moved that the School Committee approve the FY2023 local operating budget transfer of \$5,932 from the Salary Reserve COLA Account to the various labor accounts as presented, Mr. Moses seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carries 5-0.

Mr. Doherty moved that the School Committee approve the FY2023 local operating budget transfer of \$86,010 from the Salary Reserve Lane Change Account to the various labor accounts as presented, Mr. Moses seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carries 5-0.

5. Personnel Report: August 2022

No action required. Dr. Lang thanked the HR office for their hard work.

6. Approval of Field Trip & Travel Requests

Mr. Doherty moved that the School Committee approve the field trip of the Chelmsford High School's band members to The Western International Band Clinic in Seattle, Washington from November 18th to the 22nd, 2022. Mr. Moses seconded. Motion carries 5-0.

Liaison Reports

Ms. Santos attended the Harrington PTO meeting on September 8th. It was well-attended and took place both virtually and in-person. On October 22nd they will host the "Battle of the Boos". They will also host several appreciation days for staff throughout the school year. They are off to a great start! She will attend McCarthy's PTO meeting this week.

Mr. King attended the Center School playground opening. The children are loving it and landscaping is being finished up. Last week's PTO meeting at Center had "fabulous" attendance! Each PTO Board position is filled with two officers. On October 6th they will host an ice cream social with "Trunk or Treat" on October 22nd. They will do their annual recycle day with McCarthy Middle School on November 5th. CHIPs first PTO meeting will take place on October 19th and is expected to be in-person. SEPAC will meet virtually on October 6th.

Mr. Moses was at Parker Middle School's first PTO meeting and attendance was huge! Byam will be meeting soon.

Mr. Doherty reminded all about the upcoming Alumni Hall of Fame induction and congratulated Terry McSheehy on his 23 years serving as the president of the group. Ms. Santos added that the Alumni Association provided funding this past year for many student programs at CHS.

Ms. Newcomb was at the South Row PTO meeting on September 12th where there was also a great turnout! They had stations set up where parents could volunteer for different activities coming up this year. They will hold their ice cream social on September 27th (rain date is the 29th). The Chelmsford Friends of Music met on September 7th. Upcoming meeting dates will be posted on their Facebook page. The "Bottle and Can Drive" will be held on the second Saturday of each month. The Chelmsford Council of Schools will meet on October 13th.

Action/New Items

Ms. Santos would like to learn what staff positions remain open.

Mr. King said that voting on the MASC Delegate Resolutions will take place at the next meeting. These will be presented at the annual MASC Conference.

Ms. Newcomb looks forward to hearing how the MASC Senior Study goes on October 5th and both Parker and McCarthy will be visited because of the building submission made in the spring. Dr. Lang finds the upcoming visit encouraging. The next School Committee meeting will include a proposal from Dr. Lang to do a facility and safety review looking at the buildings as well as the emergency protocols and practices. The Chair would also like an update on ESSER Funds. She would like an update on policy from Mr. King and Ms. Santos. Additionally, she would like updates on the middle school reconfiguration process. Dr. Lang added that the process would be starting in mid-October.

Public Comments

None

Adjournment (6:59 p.m.)

Mr. Doherty moved to adjourn at 6:59 p.m. Mr. Moses seconded. Motion carries 5-0.

*Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Giglio, Recording Secretary*