

**CHELMSFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
September 7, 2022
Meeting Minutes**

Members Present: Ms. Donna Newcomb (Chair), Mr. Jeff Doherty (Vice Chair), Mr. Dennis King (Secretary), and Ms. Maria Santos. Mr. Moses was not in attendance tonight.

Also present: Dr. Jay Lang (Superintendent), Dr. Linda Hirsch (Assistant Superintendent), and Ms. Joanna Johnson-Collins (Director of Business and Finance),

Call to Order (Mr. Jeff Doherty)

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 16, 2022

Mr. King moved to approve the minutes from the meeting on August 16, 2022. Ms. Santos seconded. Motion carries 4-0.

Good News

Dr. Hirsch announced that school has opened! This week the district will welcome 11 students and two teachers from San Estalo de Costa School from Malaga, Spain. The CHS exchange students will be staying with Chelmsford host families during their visit. They will arrive on Thursday night. Our students will travel to their school in Spain in 2023. Amy Brown, the art teacher from Byam Elementary has been named the 2023 Elementary Art Teacher of the Year by The Massachusetts Art Education Association and will be recognized in November!

Public Comments

None

New Business

1. Update on McCarthy Middle School Tennis Court Study Group

Dr. Lang shared that the group has met three times to discuss the future of the site of the current McCarthy tennis courts. After data gathering and doing a community survey to look at options, the Study Group will summarize the notes and share the report at either the next meeting or the first meeting in October. After that the recommendations will be shared with the Town Manager and the Select Board for further planning of the project. Mr. Doherty (a member of the group) shared that the multi-use idea for the site was well received.

2. Report on the Opening of Schools for the 2022/23 School Year

Dr. Lang stated that the school year is off to a great start! The staff got to meet together on August 29th for first day orientation at The Performing Arts Center. Dr. Adolph Brown spoke to the staff and supported the SEL and DEI work already taking place in the district. His message was both practical and charismatic and staff feedback was very positive. The next day Kindergarten to ninth grade students returned. CHS freshmen met with their mentors and the upperclassmen returned on Wednesday. That week went well and ended with a four-day weekend for Labor Day. Transportation is going well as is food service. The number of students using the busses has grown to pre-pandemic numbers.

Summer projects included completion of the Center School playground and the new stadium lighting at CHS in time for Friday night's home opening football game. Projects still in progress include: Center School gym floor replacement; Westlands School kitchen renovation and an exterior lift at Parker which should be completed by the middle of October. Mr. Doherty added that the previous stadium lights were salvaged and will be used for the tennis and basketball courts in the future.

Looking ahead there will be work with the District Management Group on implementing the Strategic Plan. This will help to meet priorities when working on the FY2023/24 budget. The DM Group will be sharing a proposal for Special Education opportunities at the next Committee meeting which will align with the Strategic Plan. Additionally, Dr. Lang has been seeking proposals from firms to do a safety audit review to assure all schools are as safe as possible. The Commonwealth may be offering grants to assist with upgrades in school safety.

3. School Committee Policy Updates

Dr. Lang would like to do a complete update of policies to see if the districts are matching those of MASC. The SC Sub-Committee on Policy consists of Mr. King and Ms. Santos.

Liaison Reports

Ms. Santos will attend the PTO meeting at Harrington tomorrow night. Chelmsford Friends of Music will have a bottle and can drive this coming weekend. South Row's PTO will meet on Monday night. The alumni Association will meet next Wednesday. The Hall of Fame Dinner will be held on October 15th. The Boosters' Club will have a tent set up to meet with freshman parents prior to Friday night's football game and will have games for the children.

Action/New Items

Ms. Newcomb would like to discuss at future meetings: safety; special education and policy. She would also like to discuss current goals with regard to actions to be accomplished by the Committee members.

Public Comments

None

Adjournment (6:38 p.m.)

Mr. King motioned to adjourn at 6:38 p.m. Ms. Santos seconded. Motion carries 4-0.

*Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Giglio, Recording Secretary*