

**CHELMSFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
November 15, 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 November 1, 2022

Mr. Doherty moved that the Committee approve the meeting minutes from November 1, 2022. Mr. Moses seconded. Motion carries 5-0.

CHS Students Representative Announcements

Keya shared that MCAS makeups took place today and will continue tomorrow. For Project 300 and the Troop 81 Food Drive the last day for collections will be tomorrow, November 16th. The winning Plus Block will receive a breakfast party for the entire Plus Block! Smaller prizes will be given for second and third place. On Friday, December 2nd, a Winter Semi-Formal Dance will take place. Tickets are \$10 and will go on sale November 17th during lunch. Only CHS students are included and no tickets will be sold at the door. Spirit Week begins this Thursday and ends the following Wednesday. Themes for each day will be announced soon. Some of the CHS Band students were accepted to the Western International Band Clinic which will take place in Seattle!

Lana added that Nicholas College and Franklin Pierce will visit this week at the Career and Readiness Center at CHS. Bay Path Westfield State University in Northern Essex visited last week. Today a field trip was held to UMASS for the students in the Innovation Pathways Manufacturing Program. The Theatre Guild will perform *Legally Blonde* on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Additional information is on the CPS Website.

Good News

Dr. Hirsch added that the students going to Seattle are Rachel O'Brien, a clarinetist, and senior flautist, Sarah Bolzak. Kyle Pinto and Cara Miller were also accepted to attend but will remain in Chelmsford to perform for *Legally Blonde*. The CHS Environmental Studies class made their first food donation of vegetables and they continue to learn about sustainable farming techniques. On December 7th the Eighth Grade Parent night will be held for the parents of incoming freshmen. The ELPAC meeting will be held tomorrow evening from 6:30 to 7:30 at the Chelmsford Public Library.

Mr. Doherty added that the CHS Sports Boosters Club hosted a dinner last Friday for the veterans. Thirty veterans and their guests attended and were served by members of the golf, hockey and cheerleading teams and golf coach, Keith Stone.

Mr. Moses attended the CHS veterans' event on November 10th which was well attended by local veterans who shared their military experiences with the students.

Ms. Santos attended Harrington's veterans' celebration which was a wonderful community event. Over 50 veterans were in attendance.

Public Comments

None. Ms. Newcomb was pleased to welcome to tonight's meeting Benjamin, a Boy Scout from Troop 70. He is attending the meeting tonight to earn a merit badge.

New Business

1. FY2024 Capital Plan Prioritization

Dr. Lang shared a memorandum and worksheet tonight addressing his recommendations for the priorities for the FY2024 capital plan. The Town will approve between 3 and 4 million dollars to address some of these smaller projects to be completed during the next year. Dr. Lang's recommendations to The Committee this evening represent a figure of \$2.9 million for ten projects. The details may be seen in his worksheet. Discussion followed with The Committee. In reviewing this Dr. Lang stated that the McCarthy kitchen update is being funded elsewhere and also numbers 9 and 10 for the elevators at the two middle schools might be deferred until it is determined if a new middle school will be built. Committee members mostly agreed with the ten projects presented but ultimately decided to switch the order of 3 and 4 and switch the order of 7 and 8. Also 9 and 10 will remain on the list as deferred. The cost is now \$2.3 million.

Mr. Doherty moved that The Committee accept the prioritized order as presented for capital planning for this year. Mr. Moses seconded. Motion carries 5-0.

2. Recommended FY2023 Budget Transfer

Ms. Johnson-Collins included a memorandum in tonight's packet and she recommends reallocating \$19,500 from the Employee Separation Cost Account to the Medical Health Services Account to fund tools related to Social Emotional Learning (Care Solace and Cartwheel).

Mr. Doherty moved that The School Committee approve the FY2023 local operating budget transfer for the Chelmsford Public Schools as presented. Mr. Moses seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carries 5-0.

3. School Safety and Security Review

As an update, Dr. Lang announced that The Edward Davis Company has been hired to conduct the school safety and security review. This will begin with the physical assessment of each school which should be completed by the end of the December vacation week. They will also conduct a review of all safety policies and procedures which will be done early in 2023. Additionally, they will be on site when the ALICE Drills are conducted in February and again in the spring. Feedback will be provided during each phase of their assessment. Dr. Lang will share the findings with The Committee. ESSER money will fund this endeavor. The police and fire departments will be involved as well.

4. Personnel Report: October 2022

No action is required. Dr. Lang will share a full report on staffing in December.

5. Approval of Field Trip Requests

Mr. Doherty moved that The Committee approve the proposed World Language Department field trip to Buenos Aires and Iquazu for April vacation week of April 2024. Mr. Moses seconded. Motion carries 5-0.

Liaison Reports

Ms. Newcomb attended the Byam and South Row PTO meetings. Both are looking forward to supporting the school enrichment programs and resuming field trips. She also expressed thanks to all of the PTOs for teacher appreciation events which are held often.

Mr. King added that Center School's PTO will be meeting tomorrow evening.

Action/New Items

Ms. Santos shared that a date should be set up for Dr. Lang's contract.

On November 30th a meeting will be held for parents regarding the middle school realignment project. People may attend in person or remotely. Dr. Lang shared that a meeting was held yesterday with middle school staff.

The Committee will meet with the Selectmen on November 21st.

Ms. Newcomb would like an update in December on the athletic programs.

More Good News

Ms. Newcomb shared that the CHS Unified Basketball Team participated in the "Jamboree" last Thursday along with 12 other teams. She appreciates the coaches, the partners and the athletes who make basketball accessible for all students.

Public Comments

None

Adjournment (6:44 p.m.)

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

*Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Giglio, Recording Secretary*