

**CHELMSFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
January 17, 2023
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 & 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 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 January 3, 2023

Mr. Doherty moved that The Committee approve the minutes of the regularly scheduled School Committee held on January 3, 2023. Mr. King seconded. Motion carries 3-0. Ms. Santos abstained. Mr. Moses was not present at the time of the vote.

CHS Students Representative Announcements

Lana shared that last Thursday was “Reverse College Day” and CHS alumni came from different graduation years to speak to the juniors and seniors about their transitions to college. All CHS teachers wore shirts representing the colleges they attended. Last Friday a dance was held by the Southeast Student Organization to celebrate cultures, dance, music and food. On January 27th the Asian Student Organization will host a fundraiser dance from 6:00 until 9:00 p.m. Term two ends on January 20th. The biology MCAS retest will take place on February 1, 2023. Next week there will be a breakfast held for the “Students of the Month”. An email has been sent to all seniors with scholarship information, which can also be found on the district website.

Good News

Dr. Hirsch suggested that everyone take time to read Dr. Lang's newsletter which is always filled with good news and accolades for our students!

Public Comments

None

New Business

1. Spotlight on the Departments: Technology

Bill Silver, Director of Technology came to the table to share updates and an overview on the Technology Department from this past summer moving forward into the current school year. He began by thanking his entire ICTS staff. He stated, "The dedication, professionalism, and efficiency of the group is what makes all aspects of technology work so well in the Chelmsford Public Schools." He provided details on the many grants and awards that his department has received. Supporting figures are included in his slide show presentation which may be found in tonight's agenda packet. Many projects have reached completion including: the new "virtual environment"; upgrades for internet/filter/firewall (with the bandwidth now at total of 15Gbps); several security upgrades (including 487 physical cameras, alerts for trespassing at the stadium at night and alerts for doors left open); and a security audit was completed, and results are awaited. The 1:1 project is in year four so new devices will be distributed to grades 5 and 9 when the next school year begins. The CHS Library has received furniture upgrades including new circulation areas and lower bookshelves. Also, the E-Sports program will launch this month with 16 participants from grades 9-12. Competitions will be with other school districts. The Technology Integration Specialists continue to provide training with 1:1 and co-teaching opportunities. Many tech staff attended MassCUE this fall. The middle school librarians and TIS staff meet to work on curriculum/integration and library book collections for the realignment to take place in the 2023/24 school year. Additional programs have been added for Project Lead the Way (PLTW) at CHS (dual enrollment classes) and middle schools (computer programming) and elementary students are learning how to code starting in kindergarten. His informative presentation was well-received and may be viewed on Chelmsford Telemedia YouTube.

2. Reminder: 2023/24 School Year – Kindergarten Registration Dates

Dr. Lang shared that kindergarten registration opens on the 24th of January. The packet with information is included in tonight's agenda, is on the website as well and has been shared by email with district families.

3. FY23 Financial Report: 2nd Quarter (October – December 2022)

Ms. Johnson-Collins included a memorandum in tonight's packet with supporting data and spoke of the details contained therein. Half way through FY2023 all accounts are favorable! Dr. Lang added that for the next fiscal year there will be a substantial increase in the cost of out-of-district student placements. The high school Student Activity Accounts will be audited this year.

4. Personnel Report – December 2022

No action required.

5. Approval of Field Trip Requests

Mr. Doherty moved for The Committee to approve the CHS French Exchange trip planned for February 17 through February 28, 2023. Mr. Moses seconded. Motion carries 5-0.

Mr. Doherty moved for The Committee to approve the McCarthy Middle School sixth grade student field trip for a team building experience May 24th and May 25, 2023 to the YMCA Camp Lincoln in Kingston, New Hampshire. Mr. Moses seconded. Motion carries 5-0.

Liaison Reports

Mr. Doherty reported that the deadline for the Alumni Association for present student scholarships is January 23rd and for alumni scholarships it is January 31, 2023. The Boosters Club will hold a St. Patrick's Day fund raiser at The Establishment on March 11, 2023. Boosters will also award ten \$1,000 scholarships this year. The second annual golf tournament will take place on August 14th at Four Oaks. The CHS PTO is working on a staff appreciation breakfast for January 25th and working on the after-prom event with their committees.

Mr. King shared that CHIPS PTO met a few weeks ago and have many enrichment activities planned. In February they will hold their "sock drive". They treated their staff to an appreciation breakfast last week and are grateful for the funds provided for that. Center PTO will meet tomorrow night.

Ms. Santos added that Harrington's PTO met and will hold their "Special Persons Dance" on March 18th. They will host a movie night on February 11th and a hockey night on February 4, 2023. February 2nd is their next meeting date.

Ms. Newcomb said that South Row PTO is doing terrific enrichment activities. The Discovery Museum came to the school recently. Their Book Fair will be in March and the Community Read-in will be March 13th through the 17th and they are looking for guest readers for the schools. Their Science Fair will take place on February 28th. She attended the Chelmsford Friends of Music meeting last week where questions arose about the middle school realignment and they plan to discuss this with Dr. Lang in the coming weeks.

Dr. Lang attended The Council of Chelmsford Schools meeting and was amazed at all the fundraising they do to provide enrichment activities.

Ms. Newcomb introduced Select Board member Virginia Crocker-Timmons who attended tonight's meeting. She has had contact with Stephanie Quinn to increase student involvement in community service.

Action/New Items

Mr. King mentioned that there are many action items coming up in meetings in the next few weeks. Ms. Newcomb stated the agendas going forward will be quite full. Mr. Moses would like a "Walkability Study" done for the elementary schools. He also would like to learn more about the food provided at the after-school programs after an inquiry was received from a third-grade student.

Public Comments

None

Adjournment (6:50 p.m.)

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

*Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Giglio, Recording Secretary*