

**CHELMSFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING  
January 3, 2022  
Meeting Minutes**

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

**Also present:** Dr. Jay Lang (Superintendent) and Dr. Linda Hirsch (Assistant Superintendent)

**Call to Order**

6:03 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 wishing to speak 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 December 20, 2022

**Mr. Doherty moved that the School Committee approve the minutes from the regular School Committee meeting of December 20, 2022. Mr. King seconded. Motion carries 3-0.**

**CHS Students Representative Announcements**

Lana shared that the current term will close on January 20<sup>th</sup>. Semester classes will hold exams on January 17, 18, 19 and 20<sup>th</sup>. This Friday seniors will attend an assembly to explore possible internship opportunities.

Keya added that presentations will be taking place at CHS for all students enrolled in a senior health education course. This will happen on January 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> in their health education classes on behalf of the NAN Project. The NAN Project promotes mental health awareness and suicide prevention programs in classrooms throughout Massachusetts.

**Good News**

“Happy new Year. We are back!” declared Dr. Hirsch. Mr. King added that the wrestling team placed fourth in the Holiday Tournament in which 86 teams competed!

## Public Comments

None

## New Business

### 1. Spotlight on the Schools: Center Elementary School

Dr. Lang introduced Principal Fulreader and Assistant Principal Omobono who joined The School Committee at the table. Tonight's focus is on the ELA curriculum, Foundations and the Fountas & Pinnell Classroom. Assisting with tonight's presentation are Ms. Pierce Clark who teaches second grade with second grade students Savannah, Finn, Aria and Carly. The students demonstrated the use of "drill sounds", "trick words" and "skywrite letter formation" using "Baby Echo". Audience participation was required! Next Foundation Letter Boards were shared and, working in pairs, the adults at the table were asked to "tap out" the words and then spell them on the letter boards. The children shared what they like about Foundations, which is a program they began using in kindergarten and will use through third grade.

Next Ms. Marino, a fourth-grade teacher came to the table to share the Fountas & Pinnell Classroom, a guided reading program for kindergarten through fourth grade. The guided reading books offer variety in genres, characters and story lines. The students are asked to write summaries of their readings and compare books and are able to look back in the books to find evidence to support their writing. Charlotte, a fourth-grade student, demonstrated how she was able to respond to specific questions about the book she read. She spoke enthusiastically about the book *Dream Park: The Soccer Star* and the two main characters in the story. The children read their responses to one another for peer feedback to inspire good writing supported by evidence.

Finally, the presentation included a video of the fourth grade singing *We Shall Overcome* in celebration of the upcoming Martin Luther King Day. Very moving! Thank you to Mr. McGillicuddy and the fourth-grade students. If you were unable to view this presentation you can find it on Chelmsford Telemedia YouTube with the supporting slides and photos.

### 2. Recommended FY2023 Budget Transfer

**Mr. Doherty moved that The School Committee vote to approve the FY2023 local operating budget transfer of \$288,372 from the salary reserve COLA, lane change, and retirement sick buy back accounts to the various labor accounts as presented. Mr. King seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carries 3-0.**

### 3. Request for School Nutrition Program Substitute Employee Hourly Rate Increase

Dr. Lang advised that the minimum wage in Massachusetts increased to \$15.00 per hour effective January 1, 2023. Some of the substitute hourly nutrition workers have been paid less than that in the past. This increase will not only meet the new minimum wage requirement but will help keep parity with the wages of other support staff in the district.

**Mr. Doherty moved that The School Committee vote to approve the hourly rate of pay of \$16.00 per hour for the part-time school nutrition substitute employees beginning January 1, 2023. Mr. King seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carries 3-0.**

#### **4. 2023/24 School Year – Kindergarten Registration Dates**

Tonight's agenda packet contains information on kindergarten registration for the 2023/24 school year. This will begin on January 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. A second round will take place in April.

#### **5. MSBA Notification of Non-Selection of 2022 Statement of Interest**

Dr. Lang included a memorandum in tonight's agenda packet from December 29, 2022, stating that the MSBA has notified the district that the Parker Middle School SOI will not be invited into the MSBA Eligibility Period at this time. Due to cost increases the MSBA is not funding as many schools as in prior years. The plan is to submit an SOI for Parker again this April which will include the middle school realignment information.

#### **6. NEASC Accreditation Report: Chelmsford High School**

NEASC has visited CHS over the past few months for the accreditation cycle. In the spring of 2024 they will revisit to see if CHS has incorporated suggested goals into their plans. CHS will send them an update of response to these goals this coming spring. Dr. Hirsch shared that curriculum alignments and syllabi are being updated. The "vision of what a graduate will look like" is also in the works.

#### **Liaison Reports**

South Row PTO will meet on January 9<sup>th</sup>. The Chelmsford Friends of Music will meet on the 12<sup>th</sup>. Also, the Chelmsford Council of Schools will meet on January 12<sup>th</sup>. CHS PTO will meet on January 9<sup>th</sup>. Tomorrow night the Alumni Association will meet. Boosters will meet a week from Thursday.

#### **Action/New Items**

Ms. Newcomb shared that "The Day on the Hill" will take place on May 4, 2023. She would like The Committee to hold a working session in February to prepare for the upcoming visit from the state representatives.

#### **Public Comments**

None

#### **Adjournment (6:49 p.m.)**

**Mr. Doherty moved to adjourn. Mr. King seconded. Motion carries 3-0.**

*Respectfully submitted,  
Sharon Giglio, Recording Secretary*