

**CHELMSFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
February 28, 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 this 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 February 7, 2023

Mr. Doherty motioned that The School Committee approve the minutes of the regular scheduled School Committee meeting of February 7, 2023. Mr. Moses seconded. Motion carries 5-0.

CHS Students Representative Announcements

Keya shared that March 2, 2023, will be a student half-day. During February vacation 22 students participated in The Student Exchange Program with eleven students going to France and eleven others to Spain. They will be sharing their experiences with the rest of the student body.

Lana added that the House Olympics will run from March 13th through the 17th. This is a contest to see which of the three CHS houses is the best! This Friday freshmen and sophomores will host the Shamrock Shakedown Dance. Congratulations to sophomore, Thomas Brown, for winning the MIAA D1 State Wrestling Championship for the second time.

Good News

Dr. Hirsch shared that the “Good News” is here tonight and is on the agenda! Ms. Santos added that CHS is hosting the “Competitive Plays”. All are welcome to attend.

Public Comments

None

New Business

1. Recognition: Massachusetts Outstanding Biology Teacher Award – Dr. Linda Tanini

CHS Principal Steve Murray and Dr. Tanini joined the meeting. Mr. Murray shared that Dr. Tanini was awarded the 2022 Massachusetts Outstanding Biology of the Year by The National Association of Biology Teachers! He presented her plaque to her and she was rewarded with a round of applause from all in attendance. She gracefully accepted.

1. Recognition: UMASS Lowell Teaching Excellence and Achievement (TEA) Fulbright Scholars

Dr. Hirsch acknowledged the presence tonight of the TEA Fulbright Scholars. Dr. Matthew Beyranevand, Department Coordinator for Mathematics, invited the TEA Scholars who have been sharing teaching practices with the CHS staff, to join the meeting. Mr. Hector Madrid, from Honduras, expressed thanks for the “honor and opportunity” to be here and to be able to share with teaching experts. He is grateful to have had the opportunity to bond internationally and to learn that teaching “struggles” are the same in the United States and Honduras. Mr. Somez, from Burkina Faso, who teaches English as a foreign language is grateful for the opportunity to learn how teaching is practiced at CHS. He looks forward to engaging these practices when he returns to his country. He feels “well-equipped” to do so.

2. Spotlight on the Departments: Mathematics.

Dr. Beyranevand presented tonight on the planning and implementing a full K through 12 curriculum adoption. A K-5 committee working closely together this year has identified two curricula that best will fit the needs of the district. They are “The Reveal Math Program” from McGraw-Hill and “The Into Math Program” from Houghton-Mifflin. Both are in the process of being piloted this school year. A decision will be made on which program is chosen later this month.

The “Big Ideas Program” is currently used in grades 6-8 and 9-11. Middle and high school classes are using “The Big Ideas Program”. After looking at other programs a decision was made to continue with using “Big Ideas” and we will move to a newer version (2022 edition) with the textbook and digital curricula. Additionally, for CHS the CP Statistics and AP Statistics an adoption will be decided by the end of March. Moving forward in late Spring new materials will be received and initial trainings held. By summer curriculum writing and pacing guides will be completed and continuous PD for all staff will occur throughout the 2023/24 school year.

3. FY2024 Budget Hearing

Dr. Lang began by referring attendees to page 10 of the budget binder which contains the summary level totals which adds up to \$70,700,000. He then moved to page 11.

Mr. Doherty motioned to approve the bottom line budget figure on page 11, 1110 School Committee, in the amount of \$34,050. Mr. Moses seconded. Motion carries 5-0.

Mr. Doherty motioned to approve the bottom line budget figure on page 12, 1210 series Superintendent in the amount of \$454,125. Mr. Moses seconded. Motion carries 5-0.

Mr. Doherty motioned to approve the bottom line budget figure on page 13, 1220 series Assistant Superintendent in the amount of \$262,742. Mr. Moses seconded. Motion carries 5-0.

Mr. Doherty motioned to approve the bottom line budget figure on page 14, 1230 series District Wide in the amount of \$530,700. Mr. Moses seconded. Motion carries 5-0.

Mr. Doherty motioned to approve the bottom line budget figure on page 15, 1410 series Budget and Finance in the amount of \$449, 652. Mr. Moses seconded. Motion carries 5-0.

Mr. Doherty motioned to approve the bottom line budget figure on page 16, 1420 series Human Resources in the amount of \$362, 969. Mr. Moses seconded. Motion carries 5-0.

Mr. Doherty motioned to approve the bottom line budget figure on page 17, 1430 through 1435 series Legal Services and Settlements in the amount of \$128,000. Mr. Moses seconded. Motion carries 5-0.

Mr. Doherty motioned to approve the bottom line budget figure on page 18, 1450 series Districtwide MIS in the amount of \$1,476,567. Mr. Moses seconded. Motion carries 5-0.

Mr. Doherty motioned to approve the bottom line budget figure on page 19, 2110 series Curriculum Directors in the amount of \$1,400,891. Mr. Moses seconded. Motion carries 5-0.

Mr. Doherty motioned to approve the bottom line budget figure on page 20, 2110 Curriculum Directors – Special Education in the amount of \$982,289. Mr. Moses seconded. Motion carries 5-0.

Mr. Doherty motioned to approve the bottom line budget figure on page 21, 2210 series School Leadership in the amount of \$3,088,474. Mr. Moses seconded. Motion carries 5-0.

Mr. Doherty motioned to approve the bottom line budget figure on page 22, series 2300-2305 Classroom Teachers – Regular Education in the amount of \$25, 224,967. Mr. Moses seconded. Motion carries 5-0.

Mr. Doherty motioned to approve the bottom line budget figure on page 23, 2310 series Teacher Specialists – Regular Education in the amount of \$2,227,404. Mr. Moses seconded. Motion carries 5-0.

Mr. Doherty motioned to approve the bottom line budget figure on page 24, 2310 series Teacher Specialists – Special Education in the amount of \$7,430,185. Mr. Moses seconded. Motion carries 5-0.

Mr. Doherty motioned to approve the bottom line budget figure on page 25, 2320 series Medical/Therapeutic Services in the amount of \$447,729. Mr. Moses seconded. Motion carries 5-0.

Mr. Doherty motioned to approve the bottom line budget figure on page 26, 2325 series Substitutes in the amount of \$811,000. Mr. Moses seconded. Motion carries 5-0.

Mr. Doherty motioned to approve the bottom line budget figure on page 27, 2330 series Paraprofessionals in the amount of \$4,696,835. Mr. Moses seconded. Motion carries 5-0.

Mr. Doherty motioned to approve the bottom line budget figure on page 28, 2340 series Library/Media Center in the amount of \$829,070. Mr. Moses seconded. Motion carries 5-0.

Mr. Doherty motioned to approve the bottom line budget figure on page 29, 2357 series Professional Development in the amount of \$218,275. Mr. Moses seconded. Motion carries 5-0.

Mr. Doherty motioned to approve the bottom line budget figure on page 30, 2410-2415 series Textbooks and Instructional Materials in the amount of \$547,405. Mr. Moses seconded. Motion carries 5-0.

Mr. Doherty motioned to approve the bottom line budget figure on page 31, 2420 series Instructional Equipment in the amount of \$173,300. Mr. Moses seconded. Motion carries 5-0.

Mr. Doherty motioned to approve the bottom line budget figure on page 32, 2430 series General Supplies in the amount of \$597,008. Mr. Moses seconded. Motion carries 5-0.

Mr. Doherty motioned to approve the bottom line budget figure on page 33, 2440 series Other Instructional Services – Special Education in the amount of \$190,000. Mr. Moses seconded. Motion carries 5-0.

Mr. Doherty motioned to approve the bottom line budget figure on page 34, 2451-2455 series Classroom Instructional Technology & Software in the amount of \$735,000. Mr. Moses seconded. Motion carries 5-0.

Mr. Doherty motioned to approve the bottom line budget figure on page 35, 2710-2800 series Guidance and Psychological Services in the amount of \$2,874,759. Mr. Moses seconded. Motion carries 5-0.

Mr. Doherty motioned to approve the bottom line budget figure on page 36, 3200 series Medical & Health Services in the amount of \$995,976. Mr. Moses seconded. Motion carries 5-0.

Mr. Doherty motioned to approve the bottom line budget figure on page 37, 3300 series Transportation in the amount of \$4,467,560. Mr. Moses seconded. Motion carries 5-0.

Mr. Doherty motioned to approve the bottom line budget figure on page 38, 3400 series Food Services in the amount of \$125,628. Mr. Moses seconded. Motion carries 5-0.

Mr. Doherty motioned to approve the bottom line budget figure on page 39, 3510 series Athletic Department in the amount of \$950,696. Mr. Moses seconded. Motion carries 5-0.

Mr. Doherty motioned to approve the bottom line budget figure on page 40, 3520 series Other Student Activities in the amount of \$204,240. Mr. Moses seconded. Motion carries 5-0.

Mr. Doherty motioned to approve the bottom line budget figure on page 41, 3600 series School Security in the amount of \$204,004. Mr. Moses seconded. Motion carries 5-0.

Mr. Doherty motioned to approve the bottom line budget figure on page 42, 4110 - 4210 - 4230 series Custodial Services in the amount of \$1,943,177. Mr. Moses seconded. Motion carries 5-0.

Mr. Doherty motioned to approve the bottom line budget figure on page 43, 4120 - 4130 series Heating of Buildings and Utility Services in the amount of \$1,311,145. Mr. Moses seconded. Motion carries 5-0.

Mr. Doherty motioned to approve the bottom line budget figure on page 44, 5150 series Employee Separation Costs in the amount of \$144,593. Mr. Moses seconded. Motion carries 5-0.

Mr. Doherty motioned to approve the bottom line budget figure on page 46, 9300 series Tuitions in the amount of \$4,179,586. Mr. Moses seconded. Motion carries 5-0.

Mr. Doherty motioned to approve the bottom line budget figure of \$70,700,000 as referenced on pages 10 and 47 of the superintendent's recommended FY2024 Budget. Mr. Moses seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carries 5-0.

4. Recommended FY2023 Budget Transfers

Mr. Doherty moved that the School Committee vote to 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.

5. Personnel Report – January 2023

No action required.

6. Approval of Field Trip Requests

Mr. Doherty motioned for the School Committee to approve the CHS qualifying wrestlers field trip to the New England Wrestling Championships March 3rd through the 4th in Providence, Rhode Island. Mr. Moses seconded. Motion carries 5-0.

Mr. Doherty motioned that the School Committee approve the CHS qualifying DECA students for the field trip to the DECA State Career Development Conference March 9th through the 11th in Boston. Mr. Moses seconded. Motion carries 5-0.

Mr. Doherty moved that the School Committee approve The Parker Middle School sixth grade students PBIS Team Building Experience at the YMCA Camp Lincoln with one group going on May 24th and the second group going on May 25th at the campus in Kingston, New Hampshire. Mr. Moses seconded. Motion carries 5-0.

Mr. Doherty moved that the School Committee approve The McCarthy Middle School eighth grade student French Cultural and Language Experience field trip June 2nd through the 4th to Quebec, Canada. Mr. Moses seconded. Motion carries 5-0.

Liaison Reports

Ms. Santos attended Parker's PTO meeting. Their "Dime to Donate" earned them \$112. They will be holding their first calendar raffle starting tomorrow with daily drawings. This weekend they will produce *The Junior High School Musical*. Parker and McCarthy PTOs are collaborating on a middle school night at Fenway Park on June 1st with tickets going on sale March 10th. The two PTOs will be hosting community building activities for the upcoming school year. Ms. Santos also attended to McCarthy PTO Zoom meeting. Their musical, *Matilda*, took place with "Candy Grams" being sold. McCarthy also had an "extremely successful" 7th grade dance. Rock and Roll Bingo for March 24th sold out in just two hours! They are planning events with Parker in advance of the middle school realignment.

Mr. Doherty added that the Chelmsford Boosters Club will host a St. Patrick's Day party on March 11th at The Establishment. They will also sell tulips at Easter time.

Mr. King shared that CHIPS PTO will meet this Thursday night, Center School is holding their science fair on March 16th and they are still looking for volunteers to help.

Action/New Items

An update on Chapter 70 funding needs to be scheduled. A conversation about this should be held with the state representatives. Planning for this will be done at the SC workshop on March 14, 2023.

Public Comments

None

Adjournment (7:55 p.m.)

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

*Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Giglio, Recording Secretary*