

**CHELMSFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING  
April 25, 2023  
Meeting Minutes**

**Members Present:** Ms. Donna Newcomb, Mr. Dennis King, Ms. Maria Santos and Ms. Susan Mackinnon. Mr. Moses is absent tonight.

**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 April 11, 2023

**Mr. King motioned to accept the minutes of the meeting on April 11, 2023. Ms. Santos seconded. Motion carries 3-0 with Ms. Santos abstaining.**

**CHS Student Representative Announcements**

Keya shared that on April 13<sup>th</sup> Governor Maura Healey visited Innovation Pathways classrooms at CHS where she announced there are now Innovation Pathways at 17 schools within the State. On Wednesday, April 12<sup>th</sup> CHS AP chemistry students won the ACS Chemistry Quiz Bowl against other schools at UMASS Lowell! Registration is open for spring sports. The grade 4 musical instrument “test drive” will be held on April 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Good News**

Mr. King stated that at Town Meeting last night the budget for the next school year was “approved overwhelmingly”! He thanks the town representatives and town officials.

## Public Comments

None

## New Business

### 1. Spotlight on the Departments: Science

Mr. John Morris, Science Coordinator K through 12, came to the table to present. In K-4 the new Foss Science Curriculum units were being introduced each year. Because of COVID the third year of the three-year introduction was delayed. This unit was integrated last year. Working with Stephanie Quinn made it possible for science and social science units to overlap by alternating the units. The feedback on this has been positive and allows students to “dive deeper” in both science and social science. Summer work will focus on changes indicated by student performance and staff feedback. This allows for focus on the core state standards. Monthly meetings with elementary staff allow for updates and changes to be made as needed.

In the middle schools there have been a lot of new activities particularly for 7<sup>th</sup> grade. The focus is on linking the community to science investigations happening in school. This helps with relevancy and current topics. Biotechnology skills are being used in classrooms. Cameras throughout the district allow students to observe wild animal life locally and question what may be problems and solutions with interactions between the different organisms in town. The curriculum also includes work with basic circuitry. A new MCAS assessment for middle schools will be introduced in 2026. Consideration is also being given to ways in which the new middle school configuration will enhance the science curriculum. DESE provides updates on resources and science applications.

At CHS there is a new innovative science pathway. Options for students include college dual enrollment, AP classes and specific career skills integrated into the classroom and laboratory activities and partnerships with local industry. This is the first year of Life Science Innovation Pathway at CHS which included environmental technology and biotechnology. Grant money has allowed purchases to provide tools and renovations to school areas like the “science pond” and the greenhouse. Produce is grown and donated to the local community food bank. The support of the staff in these endeavors has been phenomenal. Mr. Morris’s presentation was well received. It may be viewed on Chelmsford Telemedia.

### 2. 2022/23 School Committee Meeting Schedule

Dr. Lang included a draft of the meeting schedule going forward.

**Mr. King motioned to accept the meeting schedule for the Chelmsford School Committee as amended. Ms. Santos seconded. Motion carries 4-0.**

### 3. 2022/23 School Committee Liaison Assignments

The Chair included the current liaison assignments and asked members to review that and email her with any preferences or changes. The new assignments will begin in July.

### 4. Acceptance of FY2022 MA DESE End-of-Year Financial Audit Report

Ms. Joanna Johnson-Collins shared that the end-of-year audit and student activity audit have been completed. She is thankful to her team and the department heads for all their work.

**Mr. King motioned to accept the FY2022 MA DESE End-of-Year Financial Audit Report as presented. Ms. Santos seconded. Motion carries 4-0.**

**5. FY2023 Budget Report: 3rd Quarter Financials**

Ms. Johnson-Collins walked The Committee through these reports.

**Mr. King motioned to accept the FY2023 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Financial Report as presented. Ms. Santos seconded. Motion carries 4-0.**

**6. Approval of Contract: Special Education Student Transportation**

A summary report is being shared tonight. A formal vote on the contract will be taken at the next regular meeting. This covers that out-of-district transportation for special education students. Trombly Motor Coach was the only bidder. The district's attorney will draft a three-year contract with options for the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> years.

**Liaison Reports**

Ms. Santos shared that Center and McCarthy have a recycle day scheduled for May 13<sup>th</sup>. The two middle school PTOs are planning activities to help with the upcoming transition. CHS is still looking for volunteers for the After-Prom Breakfast on May 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Action/New Items**

"Day on the Hill" will take place a week from Thursday. The plan is to meet with our representatives in Boston on that day.

Dr. Lang shared that Mr. Kim from District Management Group will attend the May 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting to share the SPED opportunity review findings.

Thanks was expressed to all who have worked for many years on the Chapter 70 issue which will yield more financial support for the schools moving forward.

**Public Comments**

None

**Adjournment (7:03 p.m.)**

**Mr. King motioned to adjourn. Ms. Santos seconded. Motion carries 4-0.**

*Respectfully submitted,  
Sharon Giglio, Recording Secretary*