

**CHELMSFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
September 19, 2023
Meeting Minutes**

Members Present: Ms. Donna Newcomb (Chair), Mr. Dennis King (Vice Chair), Ms. Susan Mackinnon (Secretary), and Ms. Maria Santos. Mr. John Moses is not present tonight.

Also present: Dr. Jay Lang (Superintendent), Dr. Linda Hirsch (Assistant Superintendent), and Ms. Joanna Johnson-Collins (Director of Business & Finance)

Call to Order

Ms. Newcomb called the meeting to order at 6:00

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 input session.”

Consent Agenda

1. **Approval of the minutes of the regular school committee meeting of August 15, 2023**

Mr. King motioned to accept the minutes for our meeting of August 15, 2023. Ms. Santos seconded. Motion carries 3-0 with Ms. Mackinnon abstaining.

2. **Approval of the minutes of the regular school committee meeting of September 5, 2023**

Mr. King motions to accept the minutes from our meeting on September 5, 2023. Ms. Santos seconded. Motion carries 4-0.

CHS Student Representative Announcements

The Chair welcomed the representatives back. Keya shared that on Monday, August 28th, the staff was treated to breakfast courtesy of The Chelmsford Federation of Teachers which was catered by Summer Street Grocers. This was greatly appreciated! On August 29th, The Chelmsford Lions donated new backpacks filled with school supplies to CHS. Distribution will take place through the House Offices and the Nurse’s Office. This donation for the students was appreciated! Colleges who will be visiting CHS in the near future will be Roger Williams, Worcester State and the University of Connecticut.

Lana added that all fall sports have started, and clubs will be beginning soon. School pictures were taken yesterday with retakes to be held November 9th. Curriculum night will be Thursday, September 28th. Freshman parents should report to the PAC by 6:00 p.m. Students will present their parents with a copy of their schedules prior to that night. Hawthorne House welcomes its new dean, Dean Mitza. Tomorrow will be a half-day for students.

Both Keya and Lana are pleased with the start of this school year! The Chair added that the upcoming MSAC Conference will be providing information on the roles of student representatives.

Good News

Dr. Hirsch shared that all Open Houses have gone well. At this moment the Parker Middle School Open House is taking place. Families are encouraged to attend the Open House at their student's school. Dr. Hirsch is also happy to have the student reps back at the meetings. "The rest of our Good News is sitting in the audience!"

Public Comments

None

New Business

1. Announcement: Chelmsford High School Alumni Association 2023 Hall of Fame Inductees

Lou Distasi (class of '97 and President of the CHS Alumni Association) and George Simonian are in attendance tonight. Mr. Distasi spoke of the Hall of Fame Induction Banquet. This 32nd annual induction will take place on October 21st at the Sheraton Hotel in Nashua. The inductees are: Christopher L. Chew '90; Sherrill Erickson '95; Alycia Belle (Garrigan) '95; Jonathan C. Morris '98; William J. Moseley '76; Thomas F. Peterson '90; Kathleen S. Ralls '96; Erica L. Stone '99 and Patricia Wotjas '70. Tickets will be \$75 per person and are being sold by Lucy Simonian and Lauren Cochran whose email addresses may be found in *The Lowell Sun* soon. Tickets will not be sold at the door!

2. Approval of 2023/24 Superintendent & School Committee Goals

Dr. Lang shared that a draft of the superintendent and committee goals were shared at the last meeting. Tonight's agenda packet includes the final version of the goals which are mutually aligned and further aligned with the district's strategic plan. These are submitted tonight for School Committee approval. These will be reviewed mid-year and at the end of the year with updates. During the school year the five subcommittees will present updates as well. District Management Group will continue to be involved with the Strategic Plan throughout this school year. Once approved the goals will be posted on the CPS website.

Mr. King motioned to approve the superintendent's 2023-2024 school year goals as presented. Ms. Santos seconded. Motion carries 4-0.

Mr. King motioned to approve the school committee 2023-2024 school year goals as presented. Ms. Santos seconded. Motion carries 4-0.

3. MASC Resolutions & Voting Delegate – Fall 2023 Membership Meeting

Dr. Lang included in tonight's packet the MASC resolutions to be voted on at the November Conference.

This year the entire Chelmsford School Committee will do a panel discussion on work that has been done with IDEAS with focus on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. Prior to the conference our Committee needs to appoint a voting delegate to vote on the resolutions. This can be finalized at the next meeting in October. The resolution submitted by the Chelmsford School Committee was not selected. The Chair added that the panel discussion will include the history of what steps have taken place in the past two years and what plans are for the future. Ms. Newcomb and Dr. Hirsch will put together slides for the panel discussion. Dr. Lang believes this is an opportunity to spotlight some of the work Chelmsford has been doing.

4. Personnel Report: August 2023

No action required.

5. Approval of Field Trip & Travel Requests

None this evening.

Public Comments

none

Reports

1. Liaison Reports

Mr. King was responsible (in his role as Alumni Association Liaison) for the presentation tonight under New Business #1.

Ms. Mackinnon attended the Harrington PTO on September 6th and CHIPS PTO last evening. Both appreciated the ice cream truck! CHIPS is hoping the superintendent and committee will still be willing to help with staff appreciation activities. Dr. Lang said that determination will be made at the end of the first fiscal quarter and all PTO presidents will be advised.

Ms. Santos attended the Parker and McCarthy combined PTO meeting. Lots of parents attended as were the two school principals. Currently the two PTOs have separate boards and financial accounts. A merger may possibly take place at the end of this school year. There were many questions concerning scheduling. The principals stated there was a technology glitch responsible which has since been resolved. There were also questions about art, music and band opportunities being increased. Overall parents expressed satisfaction with the middle school transition process. The ice cream truck was appreciated by them as well. Their "Power of Purpose" called "POP" fund raiser has begun with pamphlets of information being distributed.

Ms. Newcomb shared that South Row's PTO meeting was run like an open house and families were given opportunities to sign up to volunteer. Dr. Lang attended the Friends of Music meeting in Ms. Newcomb's place. Their current fund raiser is "Chelmsford Monopoly"! There will be spaces on the board for the schools and Dr. Lang may appear on the one-dollar bills!

Action/ New Items

There will be an executive session prior to the second meeting in October. Dr. Lang sent an email about the upcoming meeting with the state representatives proposed for October 24th. The Chair would like to see a few "Parent Forums" during the course of this school year.

MCAS results will be shared by Dr. Hirsch in October. Ms. Santos shared that there is community discussion concerning the continuation of MCAS going forward.

Adjournment (6:53 p.m.)

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

Respectfully submitted,

**Sharon Giglio,
Recording Secretary**