

**CHELMSFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
October 15, 2024
Meeting Minutes**

Members Present: Mr. Dennis King (Chair), Ms. Maria Santos (Vice Chair), Ms. Diana Lebeaux (Secretary), Ms. Susan Mackinnon and Mr. John Moses

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

Call to Order

Mr. King 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 Policy. 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 October 1, 2024**

Ms. Santos motioned to approve the minutes of the meeting from October 1, 2024. Ms. Lebeaux seconded. Motion carries 5-0.

CHS Student Representative Announcements

Patrick shared that the senior class will hold a Halloween Dance at CHS on November 1st. The Class of 2027 will host a movie night showing *Beetlejuice* at the PAC on October 19th starting at 6:00 p.m. The boys Cross Country Team were successful at the Manhattan Invitational placing second for “All School Varsity”. On October 17th Eighth Grade Parent Night will be held at CHS. October 28th will be a half day for students. Last week the CHS Football Team beat Lowell 32 to 14!

Lana was not at tonight's meeting because she had a field hockey game!

Good News

Dr. Hirsch added that last week our eleven French Exchange Students arrived and will be here until this Friday. There was a nice welcome dinner for the host families, students, administration and teachers. The students whose families are hosting exchange students will have a French Experience this spring.

Public Comments

None

New Business

1. FY2026 Capital Planning & Prioritization

Dr. Lang shared that some projects have been completed recently and will not need to be considered for FY2026. The agenda packet for tonight's meeting includes photos of these completed projects along with proposals for the Fall 2024 Town Meeting, requesting renovations for the McCarthy Middle School Tennis Court Area. Projects completed include: Parker Middle School gymnasium floor; McCarthy New Secure Vestibule Entryway & Cement Walkway; CHS New Tennis, Basketball & Pickleball Courts (which will be dedicated to Al Thomas in the spring); CHS Art Classroom Renovations; and the CHS New Kitchen!

Regarding planning for FY2026 Dr. Lang has included a color-coded spread sheet in tonight's packet along with a memorandum for his prioritization recommendations of the capital projects. Any projects related to Parker Middle School have been deferred unless they are safety issues pending the outcome of the new school MSBA building project process. School safety and security projects are tier one of the recommended projects. Dr. Lang described these in detail. Tier two includes: finishing technology in the CHS art rooms; McCarthy tennis courts and parking spaces and CHS HVAC. The third tier includes roof repairs at McCarthy and South Row Elementary. The remaining tiers may not be funded by The Town but could be covered as "one-time" school department expenditures and are all smaller projects. Some deferred projects may be covered in another year or so through MSBA. Dr. Lang would like to finalize the priorities by the end of the meeting on November 12th. Committee members should send notes or emails to Dr. Lang concerning the suggested order of these projects prior to the next meeting. He will send out an update prior to the next meeting. No action required tonight.

2. FY2025 Budget Report: 1st Quarter Financials (July 1 – September 30, 2024)

Ms. Johnson-Collins included a memorandum and supporting documents in tonight's agenda packet for the FY2025 first quarter budget report. All accounts are favorable and larger expenses are in line with the budget for this year. Her entire report may be viewed on Chelmsford Telemedia/YouTube.

3. Personnel Report: September 2024

No action required.

4. Approval of Field Trip & Travel Requests

Ms. Santos motioned to retroactively approve the CHS Cross Country Track team qualifying members for the Manhattan Cross Country Invitational in Riverdale, New York from October 12th to the 13th of 2024. Ms. Lebeaux seconded. Motion carries 5-0.

Ms. Santos moved to approve the McCarthy Middle School grade seven students attending the performance of *A Christmas Carol* at the Palace Theater in Manchester, New Hampshire on December 20, 2024. Ms. Lebeaux seconded. Motion carries 5-0.

Reports

1. Liaison Reports

Ms. Lebeaux attended the South Row PTO meeting. The school is diving deep into “restorative circles” this year. There was lots of discussion on internet safety. Pumpkin Fair will be held on October 19th. The PTO is looking into purchasing more technology tools to be shared with other school PTO’s. The Parker/McCarthy PTO announced that Parker’s “Change Drive” for The Jimmy Fund was successful! This school year McCarthy is experiencing a better “sense of community”! Some McCarthy student leaders attended a conference at SNHU. McCarthy’s recycling day with Center School will be held on November 2nd from 8 a.m. to noon. Parker will host a craft fair on December 8th.

Ms. Mackinnon attended the Harrington PTO meeting. They had held a “very successful” Walkathon and raised over \$5,000 to help fund their spring “Field Day”. A fund raiser at Roller Kingdom earned them \$1,000. “Trunk or Treat” will take place on October 19th. Their “Holiday Shop” will run on December 14th.

Ms. Santos added that “Trunk or Treat” will happen at Center School on October 19th. She also attended the first meeting this school year of The Wellness Committee. They need to make sure the program is complying for the current school year. They are looking for new committee members. Let Ms. Santos know if you would like to join. This Thursday the Council of Chelmsford Schools will meet.

Action/New Items

Mr. Moses is asking when halal chicken will be available in the CHS cafeteria. Dr. Lang said the menu will continue to expand now that the kitchen renovation is complete.

Ms. Lebeaux has been hearing from concerned families about the unreliability of the busses which often run late.

The Chair shared that this Monday at Town Meeting several concerns regarding the schools will be raised. He also would like more discussions about AI. Chelmsford will be sending several staff to a series of workshops on AI starting this Friday at MIT.

Public Comments

None

Adjournment: 7:30 p.m.

Ms. Santos motioned to adjourn. Ms. Mackinnon seconded. Motion carries 5-0.

*Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Giglio,
Recording Secretary*