

**CHELMSFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
November 12, 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 15, 2024**

Ms. Santos motioned to approve the minutes of the meeting of October 15, 2024. Mr. Moses seconded. Motion carries 5-0.

CHS Student Representative Announcements

Patrick shared that the CHS Class of 2025 will hold a Craft Fair on November 17th in the CHS gym. A \$3.00 entry fee will be charged except for children and senior citizens. CHS will perform *Beauty and the Beast* on November 21st, 22nd and 23rd. Tickets will be sold at lunches, online and at the door. The CHS Ecology Club will hold a “clean up day” on November 20th. They continue to support compost bins in the CHS cafeteria. Fall sports are ending and meetings are being held to introduce winter sports.

Lana added that tomorrow night CHS will hold their annual “8th Grade Parent Night”. Spirit week begins on Thursday, November 21st ending with a “Pep Rally” on November 27th. This Friday the Chelmsford National Honor Society Board will attend a conference at Holy Cross and will conduct a presentation on how CHS students serve their community.

Good News

Dr. Hirsch stated a successful professional development full-day was held on November 5th. It was “successful and exhausting”! Ed Camp was held which fostered many good discussions as well as ice cream and prizes!

Public Comments

None

New Business

1. FY2026 Capital Planning & Prioritization

In tonight’s agenda packet Dr. Lang shared a memorandum and spread sheets with his updated recommendations for the FY2026 capital planning and prioritization. During Town Meeting the tennis court renovations at McCarthy were funded. Since the last Committee Meeting we learned that the South Row Roof Project will be partly funded through MSBA. Those two items have been removed from the list being discussed tonight. The “green tier” in tonight’s spreadsheet lists items needed for school safety. The items in the “blue tier” are structural. For the projects in these two tiers the total cost is \$2,804,045. The other items will be kept on the capital list but are deferred for funding at this time.

Ms. Santos moved to accept the proposed planning and prioritization schedule that has been presented tonight. Ms. Mackinnon seconded. Motion carries 5-0.

2. MSBA: Parker Middle School Enrollment Letter and Certification

Dr. Lang shared that The Town received an Enrollment Letter and Certification from the MSBA for the Parker Middle School project! This is key to moving forward with MSBA to replace the Parker Middle School. The three options are: a grades 5 and 6 middle school; a grade 4 through 6 middle school or a grade 5 through 8 middle school. Many documents required by MSBA were submitted this summer. A series of meetings will be held with MSBA to agree on enrollment for the new school. NESDEC completed an enrollment study this summer. MSBA did a separate study. MSBA recently gave us their final design enrollment. The next step is for us to sign the certification for the numbers which we agree to build to. These numbers will be worked into the Feasibility Study Agreement with MSBA which we will signed prior to the upcoming holidays. In January or February, the MSBA will extend their official invitation to the “Feasibility Study”. When that happens an OPM (project manager) and a designer will be hired. They will do most of their work over the summer. Community visioning sessions for The Town will be held in the fall of 2025 to discuss the three building options. In the fall of 2026 a ballot issue will determine if The Town will support the chosen initiative.

Ms. Santos moved to accept the presentation on the update to the project for a new school which include three proposals to potentially be presented to the certified design enrollments. Mr. Moses seconded. Motion carries 5-0.

3. MSBA Eligibility Period: Schedule of Deliverables

Dr. Lang included in tonight’s agenda packet a memorandum detailing the eight deliverables required by MSBA. All have been met already with the exception of the “Feasibility Study Agreement”. This will be executed through The Town and returned to MSBA. We should hear of acceptance by January or early February.

4. 2024/25 School Presentation Schedule

Dr. Lang included the presentation schedule for the schools to The Committee meetings this school year in the packet for tonight. This will begin with a presentation from South Row at our meeting next week.

5. Approval of Field Trip & Travel Requests

None tonight.

Reports

1. Liaison Reports

Ms. Lebeaux shared that South Row's PTO was pleased with the fund raising done at the "Pumpkin Fair". There are ongoing enrichment programs including author visits. Their Student Council this year includes 60 students!

Ms. Mackinnon added that The Friends of Music are very active with many new members and well-attended meetings. They have a new funding plan for enrichment and scholarships. They are looking for ways to involve the entire community going forward.

Ms. Santos attended The Council of Schools meeting along with Dr. Lang and Dr. Hirsch. The meeting was well-run with important content discussed. All the PTO's were represented at the meeting. Katie Greer will be presenting for the community and school families in January. She specializes in social media and online presence. The Council of Schools has a full board currently. Several of their programs may be shared by all the school PTO's.

Action/New Items

Ms. Lebeaux attended the MASC conference and represented Chelmsford as a voting delegate on the resolutions. All of the items The Committee supported were passed by the group.

Mr. King thanked The Town Meeting reps for approval of the two projects we supported: the McCarthy tennis court area and the South Row roof.

He stated that many Committee members want to have future conversations about cell phones. He would like to hear more about the focus for this. Ms. Lebeaux would like information on guidelines about AI and look at models from other districts. She wonders if the current school-by-school approaches on cell phone use is "sufficient". Dr. Lang shared that Bill Silver is part of an eight-person team who are participating in the focus group series on AI at MIT. Dr. Lang will ask him to keep us informed.

The TRI Board will meet on December 9th.

November has been designated as SEPAC Awareness Month!

Adjournment: 7:07 p.m.

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

***Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Giglio,
Recording Secretary***