

**CHELMSFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
March 25, 2025
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 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 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 March 11, 2025**

Ms. Santos moved to approve the minutes of the regular school committee meeting of March 11, 2025. Mr. Moses seconded. Motion carries 5-0.

CHS Student Representative Announcements

Patrick shared that the "Career Exploration Breakfast" for juniors will be held on April 15th. Professionals from a wide array of jobs will be there to meet with students to explain the requirements for their careers. The CHS Chess Team took second place at the Lowell High School's "Merrimack Valley Chess Invitational"! MCAS will be held this week. Spring sports have begun!

Good News

Dr. Hirsch said that she and Dr. Lang were able to attend *The Wizard of Oz* this past week and found it “amazing”! Ms. Santos added that the Katie Greer presentation was funded by the Chelmsford Council of Schools. An additional presentation for grades 9-12 as well as the current fourth graders will take place. An evening presentation will be held on April 8th at The PAC for families and community members on “digital health and safety”.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None

1. Spotlight on the Departments & Schools: Mathematics & Byam Elementary School

Dr. Lang welcomed Katherine Richard, K-12 Mathematics Coordinator, to the meeting as well as Byam Principal Jason Fredette and Assistant Principal Betsy Dolan for a dual department and school presentation. Ms. Richard began with an update on “Breakthrough Results” which has been focused on students at McCarthy Middle School. They have set goals on focus standards chosen by the grade 7 and 8 teams. Results demonstrate increase student understanding and provide leadership growth for teachers. This nine-week cycle will end when MCAS begins. Pre-assessments, weekly team meetings to monitor progress and post-assessments are done. Year two implementing Reveal Math for K-5 offers three PD days for planning lessons with a focus on student discourse. Next year’s focus will be “teaching with purpose” incorporating the math standards and differentiation. She introduced the Math Instructional Specialists, Amanda Bernie and Lesley Yanka, who service two elementary schools each. They spoke of providing coaching for: differentiation; collaborating with teachers; student discourse; providing strategies and resources. To demonstrate how students, use good math vocabulary, manipulatives, talk math to one another, students paired up with one another and a School Committee member to go to vertical whiteboards to communicate with sentence starters and posters (drawings) to solve a problem from “The Learn” section of the curriculum. The problem involved determining the area of a room to buy the correct sized carpet. Krissy Babson, a fourth-grade teacher from Byam oversaw the live project with students and Committee members. After the groups solved the problem, the students shared the strategies each group used and shared some of the “Math Discourse” they had while doing so. The students were amazing and received a round of applause from all!

Mr. Fredette and Ms. Dolan came to the table. Mr. Fredette shared that he was contacted by email by a principal from an elementary school on Martha’s Vineyard who wants to visit Byam to see the Reveal Math program. She was impressed by increased MCAS scores at Byam. Byam is looking forward to this visit. Ms. Dolan reviewed a presentation from last year when this math program was first launched and presented to The Committee. She sees increased confidence in both students and teachers this school year.

The routines are the same for K-5. Mr. Fredette added that in year three of the strategic plan and Byam's School Achievement Plan growth is truly happening in math with more than one year's growth being seen! The entire presentation was well received by The Committee. To appreciate it fully, please go to Chelmsford Telemedia You/Tube to watch.

2. Reschedule April 8, 2025, School Committee Meeting Date

The next meeting will be held on April 15th at 7:00 p.m. Zoom attendance will be possible for those who are out of town.

3. FY2025 Budget Projection

4. FY2025 Recommended One-Time Budget Expenditures

Ms. Johnson included a memo and supporting data in tonight's agenda packet providing a projection update on the FY2025 budget. She shared that there are many "favorable" areas. Included are recommendations for "one-time purchases" from this budget totaling \$708,000. Additionally, she included a list of seven federal grants totaling over \$2 million. Funding from the USDA also helps fund our school nutrition programs which total almost \$3 million.

5. FY2025 Recommended Budget Transfers

Ms. Santos motioned to approve the FY2025 local operating budget transfers totaling \$708,026 for the Chelmsford Public Schools as presented. Mr. Moses seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carries 5-0.

6. Personnel Report: February 2025

No action required. Dr. Lang shared that we are in good shape!

REPORTS

1. Liaison Reports

Mr. Moses attended Byam PTO meeting. They held a "Soup Luncheon" for the staff. It was a good meeting.

Ms. Mackinnon reported that the CHIPS PTO held a staff appreciation luncheon. Storyteller Joe and Mr. Riga from The Music Academy will be providing enrichment. In May baby goats will visit! They are reading a "Book of the Month" in all classes. Each classroom will do a book banner.

Ms. Lebeaux shared that the McCarthy/Parker PTOs met together. Parker will hold a STEM Fair this week. On June 11th they are planning a "We are Parker" extravaganza with lots of activities. Graduating Seniors have until April 11th to apply for PTO Scholarships. McCarthy raved about their zoom session with Dr. Melba Pattillo Beals who was one of "The Little Rock Nine". They were moved by her presentation and plan to have her return next year!

Ms. Santos shared that Center School will hold a recycle day on May 3rd. Activities for fourth graders are “in full swing”. The Taste of Chelmsford fundraiser went well. Their BINGO sessions are extremely well attended! Graduating seniors who attended Center School should apply for their \$1,000 scholarships. The Chelmsford Council of Schools is doing a great job bringing the school PTOs together!

Mr. King attended the Center School Science Fair and was also a judge. He found many of the projects to be “incredible”! This Thursday Dr. Lang will present at the FIN/COM meeting. The second meeting of the “School Building Committee” will be held on April 9th. Dr. Lang will recommend Left Field to be the OPM for the new school project to the MSBA on May 12th.

ACTION/NEW ITEMS

1. Request for Reports & Updates

Ms. Lebeaux wants to revisit technology, in particular cell phones and Smart Watches in schools. She would like to see a survey done of the community stakeholders.

Dr. Lang added that Bill Silver will be addressing AI and other topics at one of the upcoming committee meetings. The AI group which attended sessions at MIT with Mr. Silver will be working on PD next year for staff.

The Chair shared that the new tennis courts will be dedicated to former Committee Member Al Thomas! The date will be selected soon.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None

ADJOURNMENT at 7:23 p.m.

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

*Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Giglio,
Recording Secretary*