

**CHELMSFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING  
April 29, 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. Linda Hirsch (Assistant Superintendent) and Ms. Joanna Johnson-Collins (Director of Business & Finance). Dr. Jay Lang is not present tonight.

**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 April 15, 2025**

**Ms. Santos motioned to approve the minutes of the regular school committee meeting of April 15, 2025. Ms. Lebeaux seconded. Motion carries 4-0 with Mr. Moses abstaining.**

**CHS Student Representative Announcements**

Patrick announced that the "Senior Survivors Competition" began this week. The CHS Theatre Guild will be hosting their first "cabaret" with tickets being sold now. Tickets are also on sale for "Cotillion" and "Prom". The new School Committee Student Representative race has started. Seven students have expressed interest in running for the seat being vacated when Lana graduates.

## **GOOD NEWS**

Dr. Hirsch shared that the school budget for the upcoming year was passed at the Town Meeting last night! Thanks to the meeting reps and The Town! Additionally, the capital budget and foster transportation through federal funding was passed.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

None

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **1. Spotlight on the Schools: Center Elementary School**

Principal Fulreader and Assistant Principal Omobono came to the table to share a presentation on "Center School Authors". Ms. Fulreader had the pleasure of visiting a third-grade class after the completion of their "Text Set" for various themes. The first theme was "Honoring Traditions" and students were able to share their reading and writing connections on their topic. Shi Shi shared her writing about "Ghana Independence Day". Next Genesis shared her writing about Easter followed by Tanvi who shared her piece on Diwali. The three were treated to applause by all in attendance! The next "text set" was "Amazing Animal Journeys" These were written in first person from the viewpoint of the featured animal. Students used facts from texts they read and combined them with fiction to achieve a "more abstract, complex way of writing". Google docs and peer revisions are included in this process, as well as teacher assisted editing. Zaid presented his writing on "The Peregrine Falcon" followed by Ryo's "The Peregrine in the City". Next McKenzi read her story entitled "The Long Journey" told from the viewpoint of a migrating falcon. The last author to present was Aria who presented "A Mother's Journey" about Emperor Penguins. All the young authors received a warm round of applause and heart-warming comments about their work. To truly appreciate the hard work exhibited tonight by the students and the staff at Center School, please watch the entire presentation on Chelmsford Telemedia You/Tube. You will be amazed!

### **2. Spotlight on the Departments: SEL & Counseling Services**

Ms. Shannon Bischoff, Coordinator of School Counseling and Social Emotional Learning, came to the table along with social workers, Julie Hopkins and Jaelithe Brodeur to present an update on SEL and Counseling Services in the district. Julie spoke of IDECIDE which is offered at CHS (and when needed at McCarthy Middle School) which is a "drug use and substance use diversion curriculum". This was developed by MGH's Addiction Medicine Center. This evidence-based program is delivered in modules for students with school drug infractions in lieu of suspensions and for students whose school counselors feel they may benefit from it. Community resources are actively promoted to decrease recidivism. She also spoke of CHS and its partnership with "The Table of Plenty". For February break they provided groceries for the week for 65 Chelmsford families! Jaelithe spoke of the district's partnership with the Chelmsford Health Department which created a curriculum for caregivers of children with disabilities to help create a community and support system for them. The district social workers also participated in the Chelmsford Fall Festival to meet families and offer services. Regarding community services,

Jaelithe added that a large database has been created which is user friendly and available for the school community. Ms. Bischoff expressed deep gratitude to both and the other two district social workers for their hard work and support!

Ms. Bischoff spoke of “Care Solace” a referral system that has been available post-COVID for students, families and district staff. Care Solace has expended their services to meet many therapeutic needs and families can “self-refer”. New this year is a partnership with Clark University called MIPEACE and is a pilot program. Also, this year Chelmsford participated with other local school districts in suicide prevention training for counselors, psychologists and social workers. The NAN Project, where people share their life stories about recovering from mental health issues, will hold a symposium “Empowering Youth Voices” on May 9<sup>th</sup>. The CHS STEP Program is being offered at McCarthy this year to assist students who have had absences for medical or mental health reasons. Currently the district has a limited partnership with “Cartwheel Care” for individual and family counseling, parent coaching and psychiatry and monthly webinars. Access is immediate with Cartwheel Care and services are multi-lingual. Many other programs are available for our district as growth continues. To fully appreciate this enlightening presentation including the slide show and links for resources, please view this on Chelmsford Telemedia You/Tube.

### **3. Reminder: 2025/26 School Year – Kindergarten Registration Dates**

The next kindergarten registration will take place on May 7<sup>th</sup>, by appointment at Central Office.

### **4. 2025/26 School Committee Liaison Assignments**

**Ms. Santos motioned to approve the 2025/26 liaison assignments and contacts as presented. Mr. Moses seconded. Motion carries 5-0.**

### **5. Designation of Chair King to MSBA Designer Selection Panel – Parker Middle School Project**

The Chair shared that the project committee met last week with Left Field, the selected project manager. It was a positive meeting. They will meet with MSBA soon. After that a designer needs to be chosen. The panel for this will include ten MSBA members as well as Dr. Lang, Paul Cohen and Dennis King.

**Ms. Santos motioned to designate Chair Dennis King to serve as one of the three representatives for the Chelmsford School District on the Parker Middle School Designer Selection Panel with the MSBA for procurement of a designer for the Parker Middle School Project. Mr. Moses seconded. Motion carries 5-0.**

### **6. Appointment of Superintendent Lang to the Valley Collaborative Board of Directors**

**Ms. Santos motioned to appoint Dr. Jay Lang to The Valley Collaborative Board of Directors. Ms. Lebeaux seconded. Motion carries 5-0.**

## **ACTION/NEW ITEMS**

1. Request for Reports & Updates

The Chair shared that the next meeting will be held in one week.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

None

**ADJOURNMENT at 7:12 p.m.**

**Ms. Santos motioned to adjourn to Executive Session and not return to regular session for the purpose of contract negotiations. Ms. Lebeaux seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carries 5-0.**

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Sharon Giglio,*

*Recording Secretary*