

**CHELMSFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING  
May 6, 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) 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 April 29, 2025**

**Ms. Santos motioned to approve the minutes of the regular school committee meeting of April 29, 2025. Mr. Moses seconded. Motion carries 5-0.**

**CHS Student Representative Announcements**

Patrick clarified that the "Senior Survivors" is NOT a school sanctioned event. Many sanctioned events for seniors are coming up including BBQ on May 23<sup>rd</sup> and Prom on May 28<sup>th</sup> with the After-Prom event following. The banquet will take place at the Westford Regency and on June 7<sup>th</sup> the class of 2025 will graduate at the Tsongas Arena! This past Saturday the Theatre Guild held their first "Cabaret" which featured many modes of entertainment. Tomorrow there will be a rugby game with CHS playing against Malden Catholic (both teams are undefeated).

Lana shared that an event took place in The Career Center for students interested in the field of accounting. Last week District Attorney Marian Ryan hosted "The Empowered Girls Conference" with twelve CHS junior girls who attended and listened to "influencers who made impacts in their fields"! On Earth Day, The Ecology Club and The Football Team cleaned up the area outside of CHS. Congratulations to Gabel Gray and Thomas Brown on their recent athletic achievements!

## **GOOD NEWS**

Dr. Hirsch added that it is “Teacher Appreciation Week” and “Nurses Appreciation Week” and the PTO’s have been sponsoring fun events and treats to celebrate!

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

None

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **1. Spotlight on the Departments: History & Social Studies**

Stephanie Quinn, Department Coordinator for the History & Social Studies Departments came to the table to share updates, including “past, present and future”. She is especially happy that we are celebrating “America 250” this year! She began by speaking about the “Investigating History” curriculum. This was created from input by many and was spearheaded by DESE. This resource is free, digital and aligned with State Frameworks. Grades 5, 6 and 7 have been using this curriculum for a couple of years. Students enjoy this inquiry-based approach and are using both primary and secondary resources. They can make connections between the past and current times. The focus is on students building their own questions and gathering pertinent information. This curriculum with its varied activities and lessons has been phased in during the past two years to receive feedback from both teachers and students. A “pilot” version of the curriculum for grades 3 and 4 will be released in the summer of 2026.

Regarding “Civics” education, students in grades 8 and eleven are actively involved in “Civic Action Projects (CAP)”. About 800 Chelmsford students are investigating topics of interest in the local community (as well as state and federal levels). Adults in the community will be contacted to provide information. There is a lot of community support for this research. Students will present these projects in class before the end of the school year. On May 20<sup>th</sup> 8<sup>th</sup> graders will take the civics MCAS. The of the essay portion will be on the “rights and responsibilities of a citizen”.

For the past few years Chelmsford has been working with Middlesex Community College to develop a path for students who want to explore criminal justice and social justice careers. Many CHS students are taking dual enrollment courses to obtain college credits while still in high school. Chelmsford Police and local attorneys also provide opportunities for those students. The Massachusetts Bar Association’s local attorneys continue to assist with the “Mock Trial Program”. This program has received many positive comments from the legal community! At the “Model UN Competition” The “International Relations Club” from CHS received the “Best Delegation Award”! The CHS “Speech and Debate Team” also had a very successful year!

Ms. Quinn included links in tonight’s slide show for events to celebrate America 250 as well as information for Chelmsford Students to tour historical sites. Beyond that 4<sup>th</sup> graders and their families can receive free passes to our country’s National Parks! To fully appreciate this interesting presentation, please watch it on Chelmsford Telemedia You/Tube.

## **2. Spotlight on the Departments: World Language & Cultural Exchange Programs**

Next Dr. Danja Mahoney, Department Coordinator for World Language & Cultural Exchange Programs, came to the table to discuss work which is ongoing through her department. She began with “The Massachusetts State Seal of Biliteracy” which was initiated in 2017 with Chelmsford participating in three main awards. 70 CHS students took the qualifying proficiency “STAMP Test” and more than 25 awards have been granted so far. Additionally, 21 juniors have already qualified for these awards to be given for The Class of 2026! For The Class of 2025 there are thirteen “Language Opportunity Coalition Achievement Award” winners. Eleven have earned “The Seal of Biliteracy” and 3 earned “The Seal of Biliteracy with Distinction”! Most Massachusetts State colleges and community colleges award college credits for these achievements. Having “Highly Qualified Language Teachers” in our classrooms and a district that supports the curriculum (with audio, video and print resources) leads to benefits for language learners.

Dr. Mahoney was proud to share several “Cultural Exchange Opportunities” under the leadership of our World Language teachers. Last October we received 14 guests from France who visited for a week. This April vacation we had students travel to France for an immersion experience. Also, we had 35 students visit Panama and Costa Rica and were fortunate to visit the rain forest during their trip. A total of 35 McCarthy eighth graders visited Quebec just this past week. In June a panel of interpreters will be coming to Chelmsford from American Sign Language and our students will learn about “deaf culture”. Our ASL program has been steadily growing and continues to be successful. There are now “World Language Honor Societies” at CHS for Spanish, French and ASL. An exchange trip to Spain is being planned for next April. Dr. Mahoney’s entire presentation and accompanying slides may be viewed on Chelmsford Telemedia You/Tube.

## **3. Seal of Biliteracy Award Recipients – CHS Class of 2025**

Dr. Hirsch included a slide show in tonight’s agenda packet listing the names of those students who are receiving The Seal of Biliteracy with Distinction; and those who are receiving The Massachusetts Language Opportunity Coalition Achievement Awards. These awards will be added on to the diplomas they will receive at graduation. Congratulations to all!

## **4. Update on Parker Middle School MSBA Project - OPM & Designer Selection Timeline**

Dr. Lang included in tonight’s agenda packet the names of the 13 Chelmsford members of the Parker Middle School Project. This group will meet monthly, and meetings will be televised. Left Field is the recommended OPM. On May 12<sup>th</sup> a panel meeting will be held with the anticipation that the MSBA will approve Left Field as the OPM. Once the contract is signed by The Town work will commence. Next a “Designer” must be selected. The panel overseeing this will consist of 13-member team (ten from The MSBA and 3 from Chelmsford). Chelmsford will be represented by Dr. Lang, Town Manager Cohen and Mr. King.

The designer panel meeting dates will be held in July and August. By Labor Day we will be able to look at the three new school options (a 5<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> grade school; a 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade school or a 5<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade middle school). This determination should be in place by January of 2026. Forums will be held at the start of the new school year to allow input from all stakeholders. The project has many milestones and will take about five years. By the spring/summer of 2030 the project should be complete!

## **5. FY2025 Recommended One-Time Budget Purchases**

Ms. Johnson-Collins included a memorandum in tonight's agenda packet recommending one-time budget purchases totaling \$270,409. These are additional projects to be done as well as the ones approved in March 2025.

## **6. FY2025 Recommended Budget Transfers**

**Ms. Santos motioned to approve the local FY2025 operating budget transfers totaling \$270,409 for the Chelmsford Public Schools as presented. Mr. Moses seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carries 5-0.**

## **7. Approval of Field Trip & Travel Requests**

**Ms. Santos motioned to approve the CHS Best Buddies Program for the Silver Knights baseball game in Nashua, NH on May 28, 2025. Mr. Moses seconded. Motion carries 5-0.**

## **REPORTS**

### **1. Liaison Reports**

Ms. Lebeaux said that the South Row PTO met last night. Because this year's fourth grade class is a large one, they will hold an outside picnic to celebrate the students moving up to Parker. They spoke highly of the April PD sessions.

Ms. Santos added that there was a huge turnout for Recycle Day for McCarthy and Center Schools. The CHS After Prom event will be held at The Elks Club. Donations of gift cards and food items are appreciated.

Mr. King shared that The Alumni Association met last night. They are updating their website and are working on streamlining the process for nominations for The Hall of Fame and the honoring ceremony. Their Scholarship Awards Ceremony will take place on May 20<sup>th</sup>.

## **ACTION/NEW ITEMS**

### **1. Request for Reports & Updates**

The Chair shared that a family survey will take place through the Panorama Platform soon. It is part of The Strategic Plan. The results will be presented on June 17<sup>th</sup>. The next meeting on May 20<sup>th</sup> will be Lana's last before she graduates!

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

None

## **ADJOURNMENT at 7:49 p.m.**

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

*Respectfully submitted,  
Sharon Giglio,  
Recording Secretary*