

**CHELMSFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING  
June 3, 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 May 20, 2025**

**Ms. Santos motioned to approve the minutes of the regular school committee of May 20, 2025. Mr. Moses seconded. Motion carries 5-0.**

**CHS Student Representative Announcements**

Patrick announced that Richie Freije who is a sophomore, will be the new representative to the School Committee starting in the new school year and congratulated him! Last Sunday the Class of 2027 held a Spike Ball Tournament. Tomorrow night the Senior Prom will take place and will be followed on Saturday with their graduation! Tomorrow MCAS will be held for freshman and sophomores who are taking biology. The Chair thanked Patrick for all his work this year. Patrick said it was "fun" and he looks forward to returning!

**GOOD NEWS**

Dr. Hirsch shared that Unified Sports Day was held on Friday at McCarthy. It was great with lots of activities and good weather. Everyone "had a blast"! Sarah Costello who teaches first grade at South Row is a finalist for "Teacher of the Year for 2026"! Ms. Santos congratulated Katie Simes and her team for all the work on Unified Sports! The Chair added that today the new tennis courts were dedicated to Al Thomas!

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

None

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **1. Spotlight on the Departments: Science**

Dr. Lang welcome Jon Morris, K – 12 Department Coordinator for Science, to the table to talk about “real science”! He began with a curriculum overview for grades K-4 which uses the Foss “Next Generation Science Curriculum” and has recently added “ThinkLink” which is online and available to all students and staff. It includes assessments, student videos and teacher resources. It also includes science information specific to Massachusetts. PD is offered for staff on “note booking” science from K-6. Foss continues to be used in 5-6. McGraw Hill iScience is used for 7-8. Physics is introduced in grade 8. At CHS there are many science sequence choices and students may move from one level to another. Additionally, there are many AP offerings as well as electives. CHS students increasingly are improving on AP test scores! Additionally, four dual enrollment options are offered through Middlesex Community College.

Next Mr. Morris spoke confidently of the science classroom/lab renovations at both McCarthy and CHS. When the transition of McCarthy to a grade 7-8 school took place, serious renovations were required to accommodate science today. Mr. Morris included these improvements in the agenda packet tonight and displayed photos of the transformations which allow for diverse room setups depending on the lab taking place. At CHS a biotechnology lab was created. Before and after photos are also included in tonight’s presentation. This lab was created from two spaces and includes much needed storage space. It can be adapted for other science classes when needed.

MCAS has been improved to include “performance tasks”, digital experiments and storyline-based questions for grades 5-8. This new assessment will be available in the school year 2027. The test will provide data for students to analyze. Mr. Morris shared a sample question in his presentation tonight. Feedback from pilot groups has been positive on this innovative assessment change. Staff PD for these changes has already begun and DESE resources are shared as well. To fully appreciate tonight’s presentation, please view it on Chelmsford Telemedia YouTube.

### **2. Spotlight on the Departments: English Language Learners (ELL), Reading & Title I Services**

Next, Dr. Lang welcomed Ms. Kelly Rogers, Department Coordinator for Reading, English Language Learners, and Title I Services. Her presentation tonight focused on how all her departments support the needs of diverse learners and create inclusive classrooms for **all** students. ELLS in Chelmsford total 279 students and represent 85 languages. Due to recent ACCESS Tests 58 students were able to exit the ELL Program! Most students will exit the program after six years with most students entering the program during elementary school. The **needs** of incoming ELL students are increasing due to refugees and immigrants from different countries and include many whose formal education has been interrupted due to conditions in the countries they have come here from. We have translation/interpretation tools available for all families and continue to pilot and add new devices as they become available.

We will be getting a Xerox Workflow Central which is a copier/app capable of translating documents such as IEPs and report cards into 50 languages!" WIDA Can Do Descriptors" helps staff and ELLs to access curriculum content based on how far they have progressed in learning English. Foundations is used in K-3 for phonics. Fountas & Pinnell is used for K-6 and helps teachers to meet all the students where they are. The stories in this program are diverse and culturally rich. Foundations also supply intervention kits for K-3 students.

For Tier II interventions there are many supportive resources for K-8. For the few students at middle school who still need phonics instruction, the reading specialists use a program from Curriculum Associates. Dibels is used for benchmark data three times each school year. Progress monitoring continues to be addressed by classroom teachers and reading specialists alike for individual students. iReady also helps to support specific skills. Ms. Rogers collaborates with other districts in The State. Grant funding through The State currently is "business as usual" which is good news! Ms. Rogers's thorough presentation tonight may be watched on Chelmsford Telemedia YouTube.

### **3. Presentation: CPS School Nutrition Program Year-in-Review**

Nancy Antolini, Director of School Nutrition, came to the table next to review this year in the school nutrition program. Through May 22<sup>nd</sup> of this year 192,692 breakfasts were served as well as 490,577 lunches which total 683,269 meals. This was over 43,000 more meals served than last year! This school year federal funds and funding from The Commonwealth meant no cost to students for meals. Federal reimbursement for the coming school year is not known yet. It is not yet known what The Commonwealth funding will be for the 2025/26 school year, but Chelmsford will maintain prices with no increase. Not all procurements for the next school year have been set with dairy and grocery pending. Ms. Antolini spoke of a total of 14 accomplishments achieved during the current school year. Her slide presentation in tonight's agenda packet includes photos depicting several of these achievements. In the upcoming year more, ovens are needed for elementary schools and updated painting and storefront murals will appear in more schools. The School Committee and Administration are cordially invited to lunch soon! Dr. Lang thanked Ms. Antolini and all her staff for doing "a very nice job".

### **4. Vote to Approve Contract: Secure School Entryways**

Ms. Johnson-Collins included a memorandum in tonight's packet providing details on the contract for additional secure school entryways for Harrington, South Row and Parker Schools for construction of the vestibules (not including the doors). Funding is covered through Town of Chelmsford capital money. This covers one of three components involved in completion of the project. The projects will hopefully be completed before school opens at summer's end.

**Ms. Santos motioned to accept the base bid and award the contract for construction services for work at five of the Chelmsford Public Schools including new secure entry vestibules with existing storefronts to be modified or replaced and new vestibules as indicated in the contract documents to the following vendor: Marino Construction Inc., 24 Marshall Street, Lowell, MA 01851 for the four elementary schools and Parker Middle School in the amount of \$ 269,750. Mr. Moses seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carries 5-0.**

## **5. Recognition of LGBTQ+ Pride Month – June 2025**

Ms. Susan Mackinnon read the following proclamation:

**Chelmsford Public Schools**

### **PROCLAMATION**

**Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer + (LGBTQ+)**

**Pride Month June 2025**

**WHEREAS, the Chelmsford Public Schools is a welcoming learning community; and**

**WHEREAS, the Chelmsford Public Schools recognizes the importance of equality and freedom; and**

**WHEREAS, the nation was founded upon and is guided by a set of principles that includes that every person has been created equal, that each has rights to their life, liberty and pursuit of happiness and that each shall be accorded the full recognition and protection of law; and**

**WHEREAS, the Chelmsford Public Schools' Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer + (LGBTQ+) community are a vital part of all fields and professions and contribute to a stronger community; and**

**WHEREAS, The Chelmsford Public Schools is dedicated to fostering acceptance of all its members and preventing discrimination and bullying based on sexual orientation and gender identity; and**

**WHEREAS, the Chelmsford Public Schools is strengthened by and thrives upon the rich diversity of ethnic, cultural, racial, gender and sexual identities of its residents; all of which contribute to the vibrant character of our system; and**

**WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recognizes that LGBTQ + teens are at higher risk to be the victims of violence and have increased suicide rates; and**

**WHEREAS, it is imperative that young people in the district, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity, feel valued, safe, empowered, and supported by their peers, educators, and school leaders.**

**NOW, THEREFORE, we the Chelmsford School Committee and on behalf of the Chelmsford Public Schools, hereby proclaim and recognize June 2025 as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer + (LGBTQ +) Pride Month in the Chelmsford Public Schools and urge all members to recognize the contributions made by members of the LGBTQ + community and to actively promote the principles of equality and liberty.**

Signed this 3rd day of June, 2025

Dr. Jay Lang, Superintendent:

and The Chelmsford School Committee members (will be signed tonight)

**Ms. Santos motioned to proclaim and recognize June 2025 as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer + (LGBTQ+) Pride Month in the Chelmsford Public Schools.**

**Ms. Lebeaux seconded. Motion carries 5-0.**

## **6. High School Graduation Requirement Update – Competency Determination**

Dr. Hirsch included a slide show to support her updated presentation tonight on the high school graduation requirement. In November of 2024 a ballot question passed prohibiting using MCAS scores for Competency Determination (CD). The high school graduation requirements are different from and **more robust** than the CD requirements. For graduation Chelmsford requires: four years of English; four years of mathematics; three years of science (including one lab science); three years of social studies; as well as arts, practical arts and physical education requirements. MCAS is still being taken and the data being used. The Governor's Graduation Council focused on the Classes of 2026/27 with regard to the CD requirement through sophomore year. The Class of 2027 will also need to study one year of U. S. History. For the Class of 2025 districts have differing graduation requirements. Years beyond 2026/27 will be determined by the Governor's Graduation Council moving forward. Families, teachers and guidance counselors will be notified as requirements are finalized. Changes will be reflected in the CHS Handbook.

**Ms. Santos motioned to approve the adoption of the updated Competency Determination language for the Chelmsford High School Class of 2026, which included two years of ELA, one year each of algebra 1 or geometry or integrated math 1 and 2, and one year of biology, chemistry, physics or tech/engineering in accordance with the new law. Mr. Moses seconded. Motion carries 5-0.**

**Ms. Santos motioned to approve the adoption of the updated Competency Determination language for the Chelmsford High School Class of 2027, which includes the addition of one year of U.S. History coursework that aligns with the new law requiring broader content coverage. Mr. Moses seconded. Motion carries 5-0.**

## **7. Special Town Meeting Articles: South Row Roof Replacement & Elevator Projects**

Dr. Lang reminded the School Committee that there will be a Special Town Meeting on June 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:30 with two articles on the agenda which pertain to the schools. The first is the roof replacement at South Row Elementary School. Over 50% of the cost will be covered by the MSBA. The Town needs to vote on this. The second vote is for three elevator projects to approve the funding for this to take place during the summer of 2026.

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

**Ms. Santos motioned to approve the Chelmsford High School Senior Prom on Wednesday, June 4, 2025, at the Double Tree by Hilton in Manchester, New Hampshire. Mr. Moses seconded. Motion carries 5-0.**

## **REPORTS**

### **1. Liaison Reports**

Ms. Mackinnon attended the Chelmsford Friends of Music meeting and stated that "they are a busy, busy group"! They have elected new officers. The bottle and can drives continue. They sponsored a successful middle school talent show in May. They awarded seven camp scholarships. Only one student applied for a college scholarship and received it.

Ms. Santos went to the Center School PTO meeting. They have run many beneficial events for the students this school year. The recycle day was successful, but more volunteers will be needed in the future. She attended the Chelmsford Council of Schools with Dr. Lang and Dr. Hirsch. They awarded two \$1,000 scholarships based on essays written by the students about specific Chelmsford staff members who had an impact on the students' lives. Along with Ms. Mackinnon, Ms. Santos attended "a wonderful signing day" for 13 diverse students who plan to become teachers!

#### **ACTION/NEW ITEMS**

Dr. Lang will provide information at the next meeting about a private/charter elementary school which is hoping to open in Chelmsford.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

None

#### **ADJOURNMENT at 8:02 p.m.**

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

*Respectfully submitted,  
Sharon Giglio,  
Recording Secretary*

