

**CHELMSFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
August 19, 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 August 5, 2025**

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

GOOD NEWS

Dr. Hirsch shared that teachers are back and setting up classrooms and tomorrow and Thursday new teacher orientation will be held.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None

NEW BUSINESS

1. **2025/26 Return to School Update**

Dr. Lang shared an update on returning to school for the 2025/26 school year. Beginning with student enrollment he shared slides providing data by schools and grade levels.

Total enrollment as of yesterday 5,120 students. During the first few weeks of school there are typically additional new students who enroll. There are about 800 students at McCarthy with about 840 at Parker. For this reason, an additional fifth grade section was added to Parker. Ms. Johnson-Collins provided an update on transportation stating that in a typical year there are about 3,400 students who ride 29 busses. As of now 3,194 students have registered to ride. Bus passes were sent home on August 5th. Dr. Lang then shared the many capital projects that have been completed this year or will be completed by mid-September. These include five schools having received secured entrees. At Parker, in addition to the secured entry a split A/C unit was installed in the teachers' room and acoustical panels were placed in the band/orchestra room. At McCarthy: two accordion walls were replaced with permanent ones; the SRO office wall was enclosed; the ramp near the nurse's office was rebuilt; electrical switchgear maintenance and new electrical panels were installed; new boilers were installed, and 43 new parking spaces were created in front of the building. Also, at McCarthy renovations of the sports space is underway for basketball, street hockey, tennis and pickleball and will be completed within the next three weeks and will include a play area for families and younger children. At the four elementary schools motorized basketball hoops were installed to facilitate height adjustments. The library at Byam was fully renovated. New window shades were installed at Center. At Harrington the hardwood gym floor was refinished and striped. At South Row A/C was installed in the teachers' room and new bottle fillers installed in the corridors. At CHS the Athletic Training Room was renovated and included some unexpected plumbing work. Also, the PAVE special education classroom was renovated and all exterior metal surfaces of CHS were given an updated coat of paint in maroon. Bill Silver, our Technology Director, saw that the secure vestibule hardware and software necessary upgrades were completed for all schools. At Harrington a pilot was done this summer to enhance the clock/intercom and security systems. All these highlights were well-received by The Committee!

2. Personnel Report – July 2025

Dr. Lang shared that a job fair was held today to hire more paraprofessionals and lunch and recess aids. The end of last week two teachers resigned and these positions are actively being posted with interviews to follow.

No action required on the Personnel Report.

REPORTS

1. Liaison Reports

none

ACTION/NEW ITEMS

Mr. King shared that the Building Committee will be meeting Thursday. Next Tuesday The Designer Selection Panel will meet to narrow down six applicants to two or three. The MSBA Selection Meeting will be held two weeks after that.

Ms. Lebeaux would like to see discussions on AI and policies for its guidance. She has recently attended meetings where policy discussions have taken place. Ms. Santos would like to see if State and Federal funding might support AI integration into the schools.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None

ADJOURNMENT at 6:42 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Giglio, Recording Secretary