

**CHELMSFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
October 21, 2025
Meeting Minutes**

Members Present: Mr. Dennis King (Chair), Ms. Maria Santos (Vice Chair), Ms. Diana Lebeaux (Secretary) and 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."

The Chair asked to "take a moment to remember a longtime Chelmsford educator, Dennis Hunt, who recently passed away". He taught science at McCarthy Middle School for over 30 years and was The Massachusetts Biology Teacher of the Year in 1995. He was an inspiration to The Chair to become a teacher! A moment of silence to honor Mr. Hunt was held.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. **Approval of the minutes of the regular school committee meeting of October 7, 2025**

Ms. Santos moved to approve the minutes of the regular school committee meeting of October 7, 2025. Ms. Lebeaux seconded. Motion carries 4-0 with Mr. Moses abstaining.

CHS STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Patrick shared that school picture retakes will be held tomorrow. A Senior Halloween Dance will take place at CHS on October 25th. The Class of 2027 student representatives had a Halloween movie night on October 18th. Term 1 ends October 31st.

Richie added there will be a half day of school this coming Thursday. The CHS Volleyball Team won a tough match against Central Catholic but remained unbeaten and won the MVC Title as first in The State! PSAT exams were held last Saturday. The Pep Rally will be held next month, and students are excited about this event. The CHS Theatre Guild will present the musical, *Oklahoma*, starting on November 21st.

GOOD NEWS

Dr. Hirsch stated that the “Third Visioning Session” for The Parker Building Project for staff and parents was held just before this meeting. Tomorrow night from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. the public session will be held at the Elks.

Ms. Santos thanked The Town for school projects which were approved last night at Town Meeting!

Mr. King added that the CHS Baseball Team was on the cover of *The New England Baseball Journal* about winning the State Championship last spring!

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None

NEW BUSINESS

1. Spotlight on the Departments: Fine & Performing Arts

Dr. Christy Whittlesey K-12 Fine and Performing Arts Coordinator came to the table surrounded by student members of The Fifth Grade Parker Chorus and Ms. Martha Robinson. She shared that PD focus is on “Accessible Arts Education”. This is presented by the Berklee College of Music Institute for Accessible Arts Education and “offers a framework for inclusive arts instruction to support and empower students of all abilities”. The author of *Accessible Arts Education*, Rhoda Bernard, will visit Chelmsford’s music educators on October 23. All students can participate fully in music education regardless of ability. All k-12 Chelmsford Public School students learn and are assessed through the DESE Standards in the four domains of: creating; presenting/performing; responding and connecting. Visual Arts teachers K-8 continue to examine and refine the curriculum with the focus on alignment in content areas, development of 21st century skills, integration of new media and integration of diverse artists to ensure varied cultural perspectives. Dr. Whittlesey is thankful to the Arts Team for providing the “highest quality programming for our students”! Her slide show includes a sharing of upcoming events in theatre, visual arts, and music. Details on these events may be found on the district website and in *S’Mores* from the superintendent. To fully appreciate the amazing talents and accomplishments of our students in the arts and to enjoy the wonderful performance of *Tower of Strength* by The Parker Chorus, please watch this presentation on Chelmsford Telemedia YouTube!

2. Approval of 2025/26 Superintendent & School Committee Goals

Dr. Lang included these updated goals in tonight’s agenda packet.

Ms. Santos moved to approve the Chelmsford School Committee goals for the 2025/26 school year. Ms. Lebeaux seconded. Motion carries 5-0.

Ms. Santos moved to approve the Superintendent’s goals for the 2025/26 school year. Ms. Lebeaux seconded. Motion carries 5-0.

Dr. Lang will post these to the district's website tomorrow and start the tracking mechanism.

3. MASC Voting Delegate – Fall 2025 Membership Meeting

No Committee member will be able to stay at the meeting long enough to be an in-person voting delegate. The Chair will forward an email to the "division chair" at MASC to let them know how The Committee voted on the "resolutions" but none will still be in attendance to vote at the conclusion on the Fall Meeting. He will also ask if the voting on the resolutions could be scheduled to fall on one of the full days of the annual meeting.

4. SC Policy Action: IHAIA – Middle School CTE Exploration

Dr. Lang stated that this was on the agenda of the last meeting for discussion purposes. The policy is on tonight's agenda for action. Once approved Dr. Lang will submit it to DESE and put it on the district's website.

Ms. Santos moved to approve the Middle School Career and Technical Education Policy as presented. Ms. Lebeaux seconded. Motion carries 5-0.

5. Parker Middle School Building Project – Community Visioning Sessions:

Dr. Lang is including this in tonight's agenda to remind the community that three public visioning sessions will be held for the Parker Middle School Building Project, with the first being held tomorrow night. It will not broadcast live but will be recorded for future viewing by Chelmsford Telemedia. Tomorrow night everyone will be brought up-to-speed and the evolution of the project and locations being considered. Left Field, our project manager, will attend as well as AI3, our designer. A summary of the three internal visioning sessions will be presented. The timeline for the project will be revealed. The first submission to the MSBA is due in January. Information may also be found on the district website for the Parker building Project.

- a. Wednesday, October 22, 2025, 7:00 p.m. Chelmsford Elks, 300 Littleton Road**
- b. Thursday, November 20, 2025, 7:00 p.m. Chelmsford Elks, 300 Littleton Road**
- c. Wednesday, December 17, 2025, 7:00 p.m. Chelmsford Elks, 300 Littleton Road**

6. FY2026 Budget Report: 1st Quarter Financials (July 1 – September 30, 2025)

Ms. Johnson-Collins included a memorandum and supporting data in tonight's agenda packet for The First Quarter Financial Report. She spoke to this sharing information on variances through September 30, 2025. At this time the budget is "favorable". Additional Circuit Breaker Funds were received in July totaling \$280,000. This report also contains updated data on the Grant and Revolving Funds.

Ms. Santos moved to accept the report just presented to us on our financial standing, the First Quarter Financial Report for fiscal year for 2026. Ms. Lebeaux seconded. Motion carries 5-0.

7. FY2027 Capital Planning & Prioritization

Dr. Lang began by sharing slides of work done during the spring/summer of 2025 including: the secure entryways at five remaining schools; the Byam Elementary School Library; new basketball hoops at Byam, Harrington, South Row and Center (that may be adjusted for the height of the players); renovated hard wood floor at the Harrington gym and painting of the red exterior of CHS. Additionally, at CHS the wood shop was gutted and rebuilt, which includes a tech lab. All of these improvements have been well-received!

Dr. Lang shared his list in tonight's agenda packet of the rolling five-year Capital Plan with recommended Capital Projects for FY2027. Several projects on the list have already been completed and will be removed from the list going forward. Some cosmetic projects related to Parker are deferred, while safety projects **are not!** The Schools will be working with the Chelmsford DPW on some projects. Updated recommended projects will be shared at the next regular meeting. No action is required tonight. Dr. Lang's presentation tonight may be watched in full on Chelmsford Telemedia You/Tube. The slides of the work done are especially impressive!

8. Personnel Report: September 2025

No action required.

9. Approval of Field Trip Requests

Ms. Santos moved to approve the Chelmsford High School 2026 Senior Class Banquet at Alpine Grove in Hollis, New Hampshire on June 5, 2026. Ms. Lebeaux seconded. Motion carries 5-0.

REPORTS

1. Liaison Reports

Ms. Lebeaux reported on the Parker/McCarthy PTO meeting held on October 9th. Restorative Circles are in place at Parker. Many extracurricular are planned. The Bionic Program was well received. McCarthy has a new Assistant Principal, Christopher Cowan, who attended the PTO meeting. McCarthy is pleased to now have two Supervisors of Students this year. They are in the process of establishing a chapter of The Best Buddies Program at McCarthy. Recycle Day with Center School will be held on November 8th.

Ms. Santos attended The Council of Schools meeting, as did Dr. Lang and Dr. Hirsch. The Council will hold the Community Read In in early March of 2026. They also heard from the principals of some schools. Currently, there is a problem getting school volunteers, so Ms. Santos encourages families who can volunteer in school to do so.

The Chair shared that the Parker Building Committee met earlier this evening. Many updates were shared and will be part of tomorrow night's public forum.

ACTION/NEW ITEMS

Ms. Santos requests an update regarding class sizes. Dr. Lang reports on that each November and will do so next month.

The Chair shared that The Committee's AI Workshop will take place on November 3rd. On November 10th, The Tri Board will meet.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None

ADJOURNMENT at 7:20 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Giglio, Recording Secretary