

**CHELMSFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
October 7, 2025
Meeting Minutes**

Members Present: Mr. Dennis King (Chair), Ms. Maria Santos (Vice Chair), Ms. Diana Lebeaux (Secretary) and Ms. Susan Mackinnon. Mr. John Moses is not in attendance this evening.

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 September 16, 2025**

Ms. Santos moved to approve the minutes of the regular school committee meeting of September 16, 2025. Ms. Lebeaux seconded. Motion carries 4-0.

CHS STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Patrick shared that right now “The Escape the Vape” seminar is being held in the CHS Learning Commons. It deals with the dangers of vaping and provides families with preventive skills to avoid it. CHS Class of 2027 will hold a Halloween movie on October 18th in the PAC at 6:00 p.m. There will be no school on Monday, October 13, 2025.

Richie added that the September 29th Crafts Fair was a “huge success”. Juniors and seniors were given information on all the CHS available clubs. The annual “Pumpkin Palooza” for CHS clubs was held last Saturday with great success. Picture Day retakes will take place on October 22nd.

GOOD NEWS

Dr. Hirsch shared that in November The Theatre Guild will present *Oklahoma!* Ms. Santos added that CHS held The Leadership Conference thanks to Mr. Bartos and Mr. Peterson.

Dr. Lang stated that today the first of three “Visioning Sessions” for the Parker Middle School Building Project was held today with 45 in attendance. AI3 led the discussion which went “very well”. There will be additional meetings the next two Tuesdays. The first of the three sessions for the public will be on Wednesday October 22, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. at The Chelmsford Elks on Littleton Road. The public sessions will be recorded so those who are not able to attend will have access to them. Dr. Lang shared that, if all goes well, the new school would open for the 2030/2031 school year!

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None

NEW BUSINESS

1. Academic Update: Spring 2025 MCAS Data and Accountability Rating

Dr. Hirsch spoke about and shared slides concerning the Spring 2025 MCAS results. The accountability system has two parts: the “normative-percentile for schools” and the “Criterion Reference” which shows progress toward district and school targets. Chelmsford results are comparing us to “like districts” at the same grade levels. The targets provided by DESE do not arrive until January of each school year. The yearly results compare a different cohort of students each time. K-8 schools are one group with schools who combine K-8 with 9-12 as a second group. The third group are 9-12 high schools. Currently, none of the Chelmsford schools require assistance or intervention with percentiles ranging from 65 to 81. We are doing very well compared to other districts! The Criterion Reference measures how we are doing with the DESE target areas for: ELA; math; science; mean student growth; EL proficiency; chronic absenteeism and advanced course work in high school (both dual enrollment and AP classes). Our district showed improvement toward the DESE targets and scored 46% “Moderate progress toward targets”. Details for this are provided on slide number 18 of tonight’s agenda packet. DESE increased the proficiency standards last school year. We demonstrated an improvement in ELA scores, but showed a decline in math. Dr. Hirsch addressed the Chelmsford school by school performance levels and spoke to the slides providing this data. Student growth compared to state wide data showed one year of growth. More than one year of growth is needed to close the gap for students (many of whom receive special education services) who are performing below grade level. The current Strategic Plan addresses improvements for this. We are in the process of hiring additional math interventionists. Additional stretch growth is needed for special education students in both ELA and math to close existing gaps. Dr. Hirsch also added that comparing data from 2019 to 2025 shows that there is not a huge gap due to the pandemic in ELA, math and science. A meeting will be held with iReady tomorrow to talk about the current school year. To fully appreciate this articulate and data-supported presentation, please view it on Chelmsford Telemedia YouTube.

2. 2025/26 Strategic Plan Update

Dr. Lang added that all groups met last week for a “kick off” and will continue to meet every six weeks going into year four of the five-year plan. During the summer retreat the admin team looked at the different initiatives to see which have been met and to propose new ones. 80 % of initiatives showed growth last school year! “Writing practices” will be a focused initiative this year. Last year the focus was on the roles and responsibilities of the paraprofessionals and this year will see a focus on “onboarding, induction, mentoring and training”. The visitor management systems are being standardized. Harrington School is a pilot for this school year for the new ENS (Emergency Notification System). Next fall work will begin on a new three to five-year strategic plan.

3. 2025/26 Superintendent & School Committee Goals Review and Discussion

Mr. King thanked Dr. Hirsch for organizing and formatting the goals for review this evening. At the meeting on October 21 we will look toward finalizing and approving the goals. Committee members should contact Dr. Lang or The Chair with adjustments they would like to make prior to the next meeting.

4. 2025/26 School Committee Meeting Presentation Schedule: Departments & Schools

The proposed schedule is included in tonight’s agenda packet. The first meeting of each month will feature school presentations while the second monthly meeting will focus on departments.

5. MASC Resolutions & Voting Delegate – Fall 2025 Membership Meeting

Resolution 1 Removing BMI Testing from Schools

Ms. Santos moved to approve Resolution 1, Removing BMI Testing from Schools as presented. Ms. Lebeaux seconded. Motion carries 4-0.

Resolution 2 Reauthorization of Previously Approved Resolutions

Resolution 3 Regarding Sanctuary Laws for Transgender Students

Ms. Santos moved to approve Regarding Sanctuary Laws for Transgender Students as presented. Ms. Lebeaux seconded. Motion carries 4-0.

Resolution 4 Increasing the Maximum Balance Allowed by the Special Education Reserve Fund

Ms. Santos moved to approve Increasing the Maximum Balance Allowed by the Special Education Reserve Fund from 2% to 5% as presented. Ms. Lebeaux seconded. Motion carries 4-0.

Resolution 5 Membership on the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education

Ms. Santos moved to approve membership on the Board of Elementary and Secondary to change as presented. Ms. Lebeaux seconded. Motion carries 4-0.

Resolution 6 Preserving Local Governance of Massachusetts Schools

Ms. Santos moved to approve the Preserving Local Governance of Massachusetts Schools resolution as presented. Ms. Lebeaux seconded. Motion failed 1-3.

Resolution 7 Personal Financial Literacy Education

Ms. Santos moved to support the Personal Financial Literacy Education provision here as presented. Ms. Lebeaux seconded. Motion carries 4-0.

Resolution 8 Establishment of a Regional School Committee Assessment Reserve Fund

Ms. Santos moved to support the Establishment of a Regional School Assessment Reserve Fund as presented. Ms. Lebeaux seconded. Motion carries 4-0.

A voting delegate to represent The Chelmsford School Committee will be named at a later meeting.

6. SC Policy Discussion: IHAIA – Middle School CTE Exploration

Dr. Lang provided an overview of new policy “IHAIA – Middle School CTE Exploration” for discussion this evening. No action is required tonight. Action will be called for on this policy at the next meeting on October 21st. The state Legislation enacted a regulation for the “sending district” (i.e. Chelmsford in relation to Nashoba Tech and seven other local districts to Nashoba Tech) to share information to its middle school families concerning the options available at the regional school that offers CTE programs. Our policy needs to be submitted to DESE by November 1, 2025.

7. Approval of Field Trip Requests

Ms. Santos moved to approve the field trip for McCarthy Middle School students to attend the Student Leadership Conference on October 16, 2025, at Southern New Hampshire University, Manchester, New Hampshire. Ms. Lebeaux seconded. Motion carries 4-0.

Ms. Santos moved to approve the field trip by Chelmsford High School students to the senior class prom of 2026 on June 3, 2026, at Atkinson Country Club in Atkinson, New Hampshire. Ms. Lebeaux seconded. Motion carries 4-0.

REPORTS

1. Liaison Reports

Ms. Lebeaux attended the South Row PTO meeting last evening. They are getting set for The Pumpkin Fair on October 18th, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., which is open to the entire community. Many fourth-grade students at the school have applied to join the Student Council. Staff at the school are doing a deep dive into multi-systems of support to differentiate for students and provide interventions.

They have a committee working on spending the \$20,000 from the Box Tops Program for playground equipment geared toward their younger students. They are pleased with their updated security entrance.

Ms. Mackinnon attended the CHIPS PTO meeting last night and learned that they have plenty fun enrichment events planned. Picture retakes will happen on November 13. They look forward to the administration, once again, providing funds for their staff appreciation events. Dr. Lang will contact them with information.

Ms. Santos added that The Wellness Committee met and are focusing on the upcoming Wellness Fair which will be held in the CHS gym on March 6, 2026. The CHS PTO met on October 1st and had a good turnout. They did hold their first Pickle Ball Tournament. They recently held a staff “Grab and Go”. They appreciate the administration’s support for these staff appreciation events.

ACTION/NEW ITEMS

The Chair announced that the second “visioning session” for the new Parker School will be held next Tuesday. The Building Committee will meet a week from Thursday. The first public forum for the new school building will be on October 22nd. Town Meeting will take place on Monday, October 20th with school requests on the agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None

ADJOURNMENT at 7:55 p.m.

Ms. Santos motioned to adjourn. Ms. Lebeaux seconded. Motion carries 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Giglio, Recording Secretary