

**CHELMSFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
September 2, 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 19, 2025**

Ms. Santos moved to approve the minutes of the regular school committee meeting of August 19, 2025. Mr. Moses seconded. Motion carries 5-0.

GOOD NEWS

Dr. Hirsch shared that there was a very good opening of school! The buildings are back alive! “Welcome back to everyone!”

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None

NEW BUSINESS

1. Opening of Schools for the 2025/26 School Year

Dr. Lang shared that “it was an incredibly smooth opening of school”! Staff came back the day before the students for a day that was building-based and included PD and time to work with colleagues. Bus transportation also began smoothly despite 140 new registrants. All teacher openings have been filled including a few late summer resignations. There still remain a couple of support positions to be filled, but five new support staff started today! The new assistant principal for McCarthy has been hired. All capital projects are “wrapping up” with the new secure entry ways being in good shape. Fall weather this week contributed to the comfort level in all school buildings. The work on the McCarthy fields (tennis, field hockey, etc.) are running a little late but are projected for completion by November 15th and all will be in great shape for the spring for public use.

2. FY2026 Recommended Budget Transfers

Ms. Johnson-Collins included a memorandum in tonight’s agenda packet requesting a budget transfer for FY2026. This will cover pay increments for employees who attained a higher education degree and are entitled to a “lane change” in salary. This increase will be made available to employees in the first paycheck of this school year on September 5th.

Ms. Santos moved to approve this budget transfer for the local operating budget in the amount of \$111,846 from the salary reserve lane change account to the various labor accounts as presented. Mr. Moses seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carries 5-0.

3. Circuit Breaker Reserve Relief

A memorandum with supporting data is included in tonight’s packet from Ms. Johnson-Collins. Dr. Lang explained in great detail the recent history on circuit breaker relief through the present. Basically, The Commonwealth is reimbursing the Town of Chelmsford \$408,963 which the Town is transferring to the School District to cover special education expenses. To appreciate this issue fully, I recommend you view Dr. Lang’s clear explanation of this somewhat complex issue by watching tonight’s meeting on Chelmsford Telemedia YouTube. No action is required tonight by The Committee.

4. MASC Resolutions - Fall 2025 Membership Meeting

Dr. Lang stated that the MASC Resolutions for the November 2025 Conference were just received prior to tonight’s meeting. The eight resolutions may be found in tonight’s agenda packet for The Committee to review. At an upcoming meeting in October these will be reviewed and voted on to support or not support by Committee members. At that time a representative and back-up representative will be selected to present The Committee’s decisions at the Conference.

REPORTS

1. Liaison Reports

The PTOs and The Chelmsford Council of Schools meetings will happen soon. Committee members are looking forward to attending.

The Chair shared that The Building Committee met with MASC and narrowed the design firms from six down to two. On Tuesday both firms will be interviewed. The design firm chosen will be presented at the next meeting on September 16th. Dr. Lang and Mr. King are pleased with the two finalists.

ACTION/NEW ITEMS

Ms. Santos would like to see The Committee set their goals for the current school year. Working with DM on the five goal areas for the Strategic Plan continues. These goals will be presented in October meetings.

Ms. Mackinnon would like to hear more about AI and begin to work on policies addressing this.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None

ADJOURNMENT at 6:41 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Giglio, Recording Secretary