

**CHELMSFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
April 28, 2026
Meeting Minutes**

Members Present:

Ms. Maria Santos (Chair), Ms. Susan Mackinnon (Vice-Chair), Ms. Diana Lebeaux (Secretary), Mr. Dennis King and Mr. John Moses

Also present: Dr. Jay Lang (Superintendent) and Dr. Linda Hirsch (Assistant Superintendent) and Ms. Joanna Johnson-Collins (Director of Business & Finance).

Call to Order

Ms. Santos 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 April 14, 2026

Ms. Mackinnon moved to approve the minutes of the regular school committee meeting of April 14, 2026. Mr. Moses seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carries 5-0.

CHS STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Patrick shared that over the break Chelmsford DECA members continuing through today participated in The International Stage in Atlanta. To be able to do this they had to succeed at Town Level and State Level. At this event they compete with people from all over the world. Congratulations to them! The CHS Marching Band during break performed in the Main Street Parade at Disney World! AP exams will start on May 4th. Math MCAS will take place on May 19th and 20th.

Richie added that The CHS Theatre Guild will perform a Spring Cabaret this weekend. For Teacher Appreciation Week (which starts on May 4th) the Student Council is collecting "thank you cards" for staff. The Masquerade Themed Cotillion will take place on May 9th.

Congratulations to Ritty Tsac and Kyra Ward of the CHS Volleyball Team were recently featured in *The Boston Globe* for their 37-match winning streak in the regular season! Congratulations to senior, Catherine Craig, who was featured in *The Lowell Sun* for committing to Division 1 Lacrosse at Sienna University!

GOOD NEWS

Dr. Hirsch welcomed everyone back to school and announced that “once again the Chelmsford Public Schools have been recognized for the Best Community for Music Education by The NAM Foundation”! This is the 14th consecutive year that Chelmsford has won this award! “This highlights the ongoing commitment of teachers, staff, students, families and leadership to ensure that there is high-quality music education in our district”.

Mr. King shared that Town Meeting approved the school budget last night as well as the capital budget which supports several school projects.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

none

NEW BUSINESS

1. Parker Middle School Building Project Status Update

Mr. King said that two days after The Committee’s last meeting, The Parker School Building Committee met and supported The School Committee’s choice that the new Parker Middle School will be comprised of grades four to six. Left Field and AI3 were authorized to submit the PSR (Preliminary Schematic Report) to the MSBA for that option. This along with the recently approved minutes of our April 14th regular school committee minutes will be submitted tomorrow to MSBA. In mid-May MSBA will invite us to a meeting where they will hopefully support us. After that, The Schematic Design Phase will begin on the project. By the end of summer or early fall a plan update will be presented to Town Meeting. A Special Town Meeting will take place in early 2027 for approval for a “debt exclusion vote”. Dr. Lang added that there will be a big education piece for the public in the fall.

2. FY2026 School Facility Work Order Summary: 2nd & 3rd Quarters (October 2025 – March 2026)

Christine Clancy, P. E., Director of Public Works/Facilities came to the table to provide updates on work orders for the 2nd and 3rd quarters (October of 2025 through March of 2026). She stated that “Asset Essentials” the newly adopted work order database has improved the process of entering and completing work orders. It allows workers to access the database through their mobile phones. For the 2nd quarter there were 357 work orders and for the 3rd there were 456 work orders. The work orders are tracked by location and by trade. In both quarters the completion rate of orders was 90%! HVAC, plumbing and electrical work orders are most frequently requested. Work orders vary from season to season. There are currently 23 active capital projects being worked on for the schools totaling over \$29 million. Many of these will be completed this summer. To fully appreciate this presentation and accompanying slides please view it on Chelmsford Telemedia YouTube.

3. Spotlight on the Departments: K-12 History & Social Studies

Stephanie Quinn, Department Coordinator for the History & Social Science Department, came to the table to provide updates for history and social studies. In tonight’s agenda packet she included a slide providing scope and sequence from kindergarten through high school. Sophomores, juniors and seniors have many opportunities for electives. The focus throughout is on inquiry and critical thinking. Students use evidence from primary and secondary sources to actively investigate history (as well as the geography components).

The State provides free, online curriculum for grades 5, 6 and 7. Curriculum for grades 3 and 4 is being “piloted” with updates being released over this summer by The State. Students in grades 8 and 11 participate in “Civic Action Projects” this involves students reaching out people in The Town with questions via emails. Eleventh graders will share panel discussions. Students learn a lot about how being active in their community makes a difference!

Also, at CHS, there are several Dual Enrollment courses focusing on “social and criminal justice” available to earn college credits from Merrimack Community College. CHS offers a “mock trial team” where students compete against other high schools. Their coach this successful year was Katie Gilligan from The History and Social Science Department. Parents were able to attend the mock trials. Students at CHS also participate in “The Model UN” and in April’s competition won “Best Delegation” and received a total of eight awards! A high school course is offered in “Speech and Debate” and the CHS Team hosted the State Finals this spring. Ms. Quinn is grateful to the students, staff and community for supporting these programs.

“Semiquincentennial”, or America’s 250th Anniversary, will be celebrated with a CTV special highlighting what students are learning and doing around Chelmsford to explore the events of this anniversary. Third graders will participate by reading *The Declaration of Independence* and share biography projects. Field trips will take them to “The Boston Tea Party” and Lexington/Concord. Grade five from Parker recited the “Preamble to the Constitution” and signed it. In June eighth grade civics projects will be highlighted and the TV coverage will culminate with a panel discussion of five CHS seniors: Lucy Franklin; Karen Kayla; Nate Wilder; Miles Reading-Cooper and Samita Badre, concerning what it means to be a citizen. Finally, Ms. Quinn shared resources and links to help celebrate America 250th! These are found on the final slide of tonight’s presentation in the agenda packet. To fully appreciate Ms. Quinn’s enthusiastic presentation tonight please view it on Chelmsford Telemedia YouTube.

4. Reminder: 2026/27 School Year – Kindergarten Registration Dates

Ms. Johnson-Collins included information in tonight’s agenda packet for kindergarten registration for the 2026/27 school year.

5. Anticipated Last Day of School: Students & Staff

Dr. Hirsch stated that today is the 147th school day this school year with 33 more to go! The anticipated last day for students will be a half day on June 15th. Staff last day would be June 16th.

6. FY2026 Budget Report: 3rd Quarter Financials (July 2025 - March 2026)

Ms. Johnson-Collins included data supporting her 3rd quarter update in tonight’s packet. Since the last report the “transportation category” is still “unfavorable” but not as much as it was in the 2nd quarter report. More route sharing has lowered the cost for transporting students who are placed out-of-district. Special education tuition bills are coming in slightly less than budgeted and “pre-paying” these annually helps reduce these.

Ms. Mackinnon moved to accept the fiscal year 2026 budget report which is the third quarter financials July to March 2026 as presented. Mr. Moses seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carries 5-0.

7. 2026/27 School Committee Meeting Schedule

Dr. Lang updated two dates from the draft presented at the last Committee meeting

Ms. Mackinnon moved to approve the 2026/27 School Committee meeting schedule that's been presented tonight. Mr. Moses seconded. Motion carries 5-0.

8. 2026/27 School Committee Liaison Assignments

Ms. Mackinnon moved to accept the 2026/27 school committee liaison assignment roles as presented. Mr. Moses seconded. Motion carries 5-0.

9. Appointment of Superintendent Lang to the Valley Collaborative Board of Directors

Ms. Mackinnon moved to accept the appointment of Dr. Jay Lang to The Valley Collaborative Board of Directors. Mr. Moses seconded. Motion carries 5-0.

10. Personnel Report: March 2026

No action required.

10. Approval of Field Trip & Travel Requests

Ms. Mackinnon moved to approve the McCarthy Middle School eighth-grade class trip to Mel's Funway in Litchfield, New Hampshire scheduled for June 10, 2026. Mr. Moses seconded. Motion carries 5-0.

REPORTS

1. Liaison Reports

None tonight.

ACTION/NEW ITEMS

Ms. Lebeaux would like to look at data regarding the current literacy curriculum.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None tonight.

ADJOURNMENT at 7:29 p.m.

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

*Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Giglio, Recording Secretary*