

**CHELMSFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
May 5, 2026
Meeting Minutes**

Members Present:

Ms. Maria Santos (Chair), Ms. Susan Mackinnon (Vice-Chair), Ms. Diana Lebeaux (Secretary), and Mr. Dennis King. Mr. John Moses is not present tonight.

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.”

CHS STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Patrick shared that Junior Cotillion will be held on May 9th. This is the first of two weeks of AP testing at CHS. The CHS Pickle Ball Tournament will take place on May 16th with proceeds supporting the After-Prom Party.

Richie added that sign-ups have started for the “24 Hour Relay Race” which will be held on May 30th and 31st. “Junior Job Shadow Day” is scheduled for May 19th. This is officially “Teachers’ Appreciation Week” and letters written by CHS students are on display in front of all three House Offices.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None

NEW BUSINESS

1. Parker Middle School Building Project Status Update

Mr. King shared that the PSR was submitted to the MSBA this past Wednesday along with the previous Committee meeting minutes. On Wednesday May 13th a meeting will be held with The Facilities Assessment Subcommittee where Chelmsford will make a 20-minute presentation followed by a 20-minute Q & A. This is prescreening which will then be brought to the MSBA full board for approval in June. The next element after that will be Schematic Design.

2. Spotlight on the Schools: Harrington Elementary School

Harrington Elementary Principal, Rob Asselin, came to the table along with: Karen Grabowski, Assistant Principal; Eric Hiltz, APE Teacher; Christina Rayball, Special Education teacher in the SAIL Program and Kelly Cormier, PE/APE teacher. Tonight's focus is on the third year of the SAIL Program (Students Achieving Independent Learning) and the introduction of SAIL students to the Unified Arts at Harrington. The Unified Arts include music; art; physical education and library. The program which serves students with Autism has grown from two classrooms to three this year. Ms. Rayball shared that SAIL students require instruction designed on the "principles of applied behavior analysis". The current focus is on "expanding our students' abilities to access the greater school community". These students do not have to spend all day in a separate classroom, rather having the opportunities to attend Unified Arts classes. Students are showing improvement in communication, participation and expression. Small groups of SAIL students attend UA classes and improve regulation and safety in these spaces. Also evidenced is growth in social development: taking turns; sharing activities; modeling peers and building real-world social skills. This makes it possible for "SAIL students to access preferred activities". These students enjoy more access to the entire school and have opportunities to get to know other staff members. Unified Arts inclusion has shown positive impacts for all SAIL students at Harrington. Assistant principal, Ms. Grabowski, shared reflections from the Unified Arts teachers and tonight's agenda packet contains these slides and slides of students enjoying their time in Unified Arts! Mr. Asselin shared that moving forward this will be expanded to provide more opportunities for students and staff. Mr. Hiltz added that he will be bringing Unified PE (will pair SAIL students with general education students) to Harrington as he has already done at McCarthy and Byam. These programs enhance SEL, build leadership skills, empower physical progress and produce a positive inclusive culture. At the end of the school year "Unified Game Day" is held for the district with all students attending and celebrating! To fully appreciate this inspiring presentation, please watch this segment of tonight's meeting on Chelmsford Telemedia YouTube.

3. Valley Collaborative Quarterly Report – FY2026 (3rd Quarter)

Ms. Mackinnon moved to accept the Valley Collaborative Quarterly Report for fiscal year 2026, third quarter as presented. Ms. Lebeaux seconded. Motion carries 4-0.

4. Approval of Field Trip & Travel Requests

Ms. Mackinnon moved to approve the Chelmsford High School Best Buddies Program to attend a Nashua Knights baseball game in Nashua, New Hampshire on May 27, 2026. Ms. Lebeaux seconded. Motion carries 4-0.

REPORTS

1. Liaison Reports

Ms. Lebeaux attended South Row's last PTO meeting for this school year. There is an upcoming art show with a "Glow Room". Grade 3 will hold an "Engineering Day" and all grades will share their writing during "Author's Day". The playground will be closed this summer while new equipment is added to be funded through the \$20,000 Box Top Award and money awarded to a South Row teacher who was a finalist for the "State Teacher of the Year for 2026". They are excited to have received numerous requests for scholarships from graduating seniors!

Ms. Santos added her gratitude to all the PTOs for all they do each year. Their participation in "Staff Appreciation" events is wonderful. She also thanked the CHS student reps for organizing the writing of personal thank you notes to staff!

ACTION/NEW ITEMS

Mr. King stated that the last policy review was done in 2022 (prior to that it was 2017). He has created a spreadsheet of over 100 updates which have taken place since 2022. He will be meeting with Ms. Santos this summer for the updates which will be presented to The Committee in the new school year.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

ADJOURNMENT at 6:45 p.m.

Ms. Mackinnon moved to adjourn. Ms. Lebeaux seconded. Motion carries 4-0.

*Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Giglio, Recording Secretary*