

**CHELMSFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
June 2, 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.”

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of the minutes of the regular school committee meeting of May 19, 2026

Ms. Mackinnon moved to accept the minutes from the May 19, 2026 meeting. Ms. Lebeaux seconded. Motion carries 4-0.

CHS STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Patrick shared that The Lion Club hosted a 24-hour relay May 30th – May 31st. Due to the weather this event was held in the gym. May 28th was “Unified Game Day” which included students from elementary through high school. “It was awesome!” Graduation will be held on June 6th at The Tsongas Center. Finals begin on Wednesday, June 10th.

Richie added that biology MCAS took place today and will conclude tomorrow. The “Senior Internship Program” ended last Monday. Junior class members were able to see the results of the internships to get inspiration for next year. The Senior Prom will be held tomorrow night.

Last Friday the Class of 2028 hosted a “Pickle Ball Tournament” on the brand-new courts with a total of more than 45 teams! Parker and McCarthy awarded PTO scholarships to graduating seniors. The CHS Women’s Lacrosse Team Coach, Ashley Rokas, won “The Coach of the Year” award! Congratulations to Katherine Craig who won the “NBC Conference Division 1 Player of the Year”!

GOOD NEWS

Ms. Mackinnon shared that she along with Dr. Hirsch and Ms. Santos attended “The Future Teachers’ Signing Day” at CHS with 18 students who have committed to majoring in education in college! Honoring these students is part of the Strategic Plan. Dr. Hirsch shared that CHS received “The Early College Designation” which will make dual enrollment classes free to students and their families! Ms. Lebeaux added that she has been impressed with many of the end-of-year concerts performed by our students. Congratulations to the students and our music teaching staff!

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None

NEW BUSINESS

1. Parker Middle School Building Project Status Update

Mr. King could not attend the last committee meeting due to a graduation, so he asked Dr. Lang to share information. Dr. Lang stated that Left Field and Ai3 reviewed the current status of the project. At the next project committee meeting next Wednesday a decision will be needed on whether to go with a “construction manager at risk” or a “design bid build” process for the new school. Also, a successful meeting was held with the facility subcommittee of the MSBA Board. Afterward they provided a summary of the meeting, articulating items on which we need to work. We will appear before the full MSBA Board for “approval to move into the schematic design on June 24th”. Next Wednesday night at 7:00 p.m. we will hold a forum to update the public at The Chelmsford Senior Center and Chelmsford Telemedia will record this and it will be updated to the website.

2. Spotlight on the Schools: Center Elementary School

Principal Donna Omobono introduced her Assistant Principal, Jennifer Hutchinson, who joined the school last August. Center School K & 1st Grade Teachers use explicit teaching in phonics instruction to support reading skills. “Heggerty” is what students need before they actually begin to learn to read. It is multisensory and involves intervals of just ten minutes. Heggerty skills involve: rhyming; blending; segmenting; addition/deletion of sounds; phoneme deletion and substitution. The process is oral and also involves hand motions and consistent rhythm. Ms. Omobono welcomed kindergarten teachers, Ms. Rabideau and Ms. Driscoll, along with student stars: Isabel; Caroline; Arav and Lily, to the table to demonstrate Heggerty. This enlightening and adorable presentation was well-received by those in attendance and received a round of applause! Ms. Omobono next spoke of SRSD Writing Framework which has offered PD for many Center School teachers this year. Ms. O’Keefe came to the table to speak of the processes and benefits of SRSD. It uses writing strategies and self-regulation to build student confidence.

The steps begin with “launch” followed by “modeling” then “support” and finally “mastery”. Students have come to really love writing! Ms. O’Keefe welcomed second-graders Emilia, Sahil and Abby to the table to share their writing experiences. All three student presenters received a round of applause! The students of Center Elementary School wrote “Thank You Notes” to the School Committee members which were distributed at the close of the presentation. To fully appreciate tonight’s presentation, please view it with accompanying slides on Chelmsford Telemedia YouTube.

3. Presentation: CPS School Nutrition Program Year-in-Review

Nancy Antolini, Director of School Nutrition, came to the table to present a review of this school year. This year totaled 190,578 breakfasts served, 506,378 lunches with a grand total of 696,956 meals served. Each year the program continues to grow. The Commonwealth continues to fund student meals! Highlights include new menu items made “from scratch”; continued collaboration with students from Valley Collaborative; great PD training for staff from “White Board”; support for The Wellness Committee during The Wellness Fair and increased catering for the Chelmsford School Community. Several cafeterias have been repainted this year with added murals. Looking toward the future, a new floor will be installed at Harrington and new equipment added to the elementary kitchens. The CHS cafeteria will be repainted and murals will be added. Finally, the School Committee and administrators will be invited to lunch!

4. Recognition of LGBTQ+ Pride Month – June 2026

Ms. Lebeaux read the following proclamation to be included in the minutes of tonight’s meeting:

Chelmsford Public Schools

PROCLAMATION

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer + (LGBTQ+)

Pride Month June 2026

WHEREAS, the Chelmsford Public Schools is a welcoming learning community; and

WHEREAS, the Chelmsford Public Schools recognizes the importance of equality and freedom; and

WHEREAS, the nation was founded upon and is guided by a set of principles that includes that every person has been created equal, that each has rights to their life, liberty and pursuit of happiness and that each shall be accorded the full recognition and protection of law; and

WHEREAS, the Chelmsford Public Schools’ Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer + (LGBTQ+) community are a vital part of all fields and professions and contribute to a stronger community; and

WHEREAS, The Chelmsford Public Schools is dedicated to fostering acceptance of all its members and preventing discrimination and bullying based on sexual orientation and gender identity; and

WHEREAS, the Chelmsford Public Schools is strengthened by and thrives upon the rich diversity of ethnic, cultural, racial, gender and sexual identities of its residents; all of which contribute to the vibrant character of our system; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recognizes that LGBTQ + teens are at higher risk to be the victims of violence and have increased suicide rates; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative that young people in the district, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity, feel valued, safe, empowered, and supported by their peers, educators, and school leaders.

NOW, THEREFORE, we the Chelmsford School Committee and on behalf of the Chelmsford Public Schools, hereby proclaim and recognize June 2026 as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer + (LGBTQ +) Pride Month in the Chelmsford Public Schools and urge all members to recognize the contributions made by members of the LGBTQ + community and to actively promote the principles of equality and liberty.

Signed this 2nd day of June 2026

Dr. Jay Lang, Superintendent

Chelmsford School Committee

Ms. Mackinnon moved that The School Committee proclaims and recognizes June 2026 as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer + (LGBTQ +) as Pride Month in The Chelmsford Public Schools. Ms. Lebeaux seconded. Motion carries 4-0.

5. DMGroup: Historical Budget Analysis & Benchmarking

Dr. Lang shared that a lot of work is done with DM Group for The Strategic Plan and the Special Education Opportunities Review. He has engaged their services to work with us on an upcoming project that will be historical budget analysis and a benchmarking exercise looking at the past ten years. This will help us in the fall with the creation of our next five-year Strategic Plan. DM Group has already started interviewing our Central Office Team and will conduct focus groups with staff and administrators before the end of this school year. School Committee members will also be asked to share regarding the school budget. The findings will be presented to us in early September. The cost of this is covered in the 2026 Budget. This plan was well-received by the School Committee.

6. FY2026 Recommended One-Time Budget Purchases

7. FY2026 Recommended Budget Transfers

Ms. Johnson-Collins has included a memorandum in tonight's agenda packet with new recommendations for one-time budget purchases requested by Dr. Lang. The five requests total \$51,406.

Ms. Mackinnon moved to approve the fiscal year 2026 local operating budget transfer totaling \$51,406 for the Chelmsford Public Schools as presented. This budget transfer is shifting from one DESE category that is favorable to one DESE category where items should be purchased. Ms. Lebeaux seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carries 4-0.

8. 2025/26 Superintendent's Evaluation Process

Ms. Santos shared that one of the key functions of The School Committee is to evaluate the superintendent. Dr. Lang shared a memorandum including the full evaluation tool in tonight's packet. At the meeting on June 16th, he will present his "Year in Review Summary". He asks The Committee members to complete the evaluation tool and forward it to The Chair by July 8th. She will then draft the "narrative summary" and forward it to The Committee by July 17th. It will be an agenda item for the meeting on July 28th. This being completed in July will allow the group to focus on the new school year during our August meetings.

REPORTS

1. Liaison Reports

Mr. King attended the virtual SEPAC meeting with their new board that is "raring to go"! There were over 20 attendees.

Ms. Santos reminded all that the CHS PTO is running its "After Prom". Lots of contributions toward this event have already been made. She also thanked the Center School PTO for purchasing new classroom floor rugs on which the students sit.

ACTION/NEW ITEMS

None

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

ADJOURNMENT at 7:12 p.m.

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

*Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Giglio, Recording Secretary*