



School Committee

There will be a regular meeting of the Chelsea School Committee on Thursday, May 6, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. to discuss and take action on the items in the following agenda. The meeting is **closed** in order to observe social distancing guidelines. The meeting will be livestreamed for the public at Chelsea cable TV and, <https://www.facebook.com/ChelseaPublicSchools/>

AGENDA

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Pledge of Allegiance:**
3. **School Committee Minutes:** Approval of the minutes of the Regular Meeting on April 15, 2021. (Enclosure A)
4. **Public Comment:** Anyone wishing to speak during the public comment period can email superintendent@chelseaschools.com to receive the Zoom Link and instructions. You can choose to have your comment read by sending your comment to the same email. Public Comments can also be telephoned in and will be read into the record at 617-466-4456.
5. **Presentations:** Chelsea Virtual School
6. **Report of the Superintendent of Schools:**

Student Achievement: Indicators of Success to be emailed the day of meeting.

Covid-19 Update:

Student Representative Update:

Personnel Update: (Enclosure B)

Enrollment Reports: (Enclosure C)

Committee Reports: Budget & Finance (Enclosure D)

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7. Unfinished Business: None

8. New Business:

- Consideration and action to accept an increase of \$16,950 in the gift from Harvard University for the placement of Teaching Fellows at Chelsea schools during FY2021. *Item #:* 21SC39 (Enclosure E)

Explanation: Last August, the School Committee accepted a gift of approximately \$194,000 for the salaries of eight Harvard Teaching Fellows for the current school year. Harvard University has since offered to fund the cost of the CPS mentors who support the Fellows in the amount of \$16,950. These funds will be added to the original gift for a total amount of \$211,374.

Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 71, Section 37A provides for the acceptance of gifts for educational purposes only with the approval of the Chelsea School Committee.

- Consideration and action to accept \$472,802 for FY2021 and FY2022 from the Executive Office of Education for the Pre K-3 Remote Learning Partnership grant and to issue sub-grants to partner organizations. *Item #*21SC40 (Enclosure F)

Explanation: The State has released grant funds to help school districts and partners coordinate support for students in pre-kindergarten to grade 3 whose schools were in operating in hybrid or fully remote in January 2021. CPS is the lead agency for this two-year grant and will pass the funds to our partners who will provide programming to prevent learning loss, bolster social-emotional skills development, and promote learning recovery. The grant partners are East Boston Social Centers, Jordan Boys and Girls Club, and For Kids Only.

Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 71, Section 37A provides for the acceptance of grants for educational purposes only with the approval of the Chelsea School Committee.

- Consideration and action to approve a budget transfer in the amount of \$366,841 in Transitional Relief for Impact of Change in Low Income Measure (“pothole”) funding to move funds from Facilities Management to Technology Services. *Item #*21SC41 (Enclosure G)

Explanation: In October 2019, the School Committee authorized the acceptance \$366,841 in Transitional Relief for Impact of Change in Low Income Measure (“pothole”) funding. In a prior budget transfer, the funds we dedicated towards lease and tenant improvements for a new space for the Chelsea Opportunity Academy and the Intergenerational Literacy Program. Regrettably, the District has not yet been able to identify a property to meet the needs of those programs. As a result, it is now recommended that the funds be transferred to Technology Services where they can be committed to computer hardware and software, and other technology expenses in support of in person and remote learning.

- Consideration and action to authorize the prepayment of up to \$1.5 million in special education out-of-district tuition fees to the Seem Collaborative and/or Shore Collaborative for FY2022. *Item #*21SC42 (Enclosure H)

Explanation: Massachusetts state law allows school districts to prepay special education tuition, using current year dollars to pay for future year tuition costs. In June 2020, the School Committee authorized

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the prepayment of \$1 million in tuition to Seem Collaborative using savings that were generated that year. Careful management of tuition and other special education expenses during the current school year is expected to generate approximately \$1.5 million in savings. It is recommended that the School Committee approve the prepayment of up to \$1.5 million to Seem Collaborative and/or Shore Collaborative to take advantage of the savings that exist in the current year budget.

- Consideration and action to approve a budget transfer from multiple departments to Facilities and Transportation for FY2021. *Item #21SC43 (Enclosure I)*

Explanation: Savings are available in Benefits & Payroll Adjustments due mostly to savings in Employee and Retiree Health Insurance. Salary savings at schools have been calculated based upon current staffing. However, since the District continues to hire short term staff to support in person learning and certain accounts are only used when students are present, this budget transfer is asking that the School Committee authorize transfers in amounts “not to exceed”. This will provide Central Office with flexibility to transfer funds as the end of the school year approaches while ensuring that schools do not go over budget. The funds are being transferred to Facilities & Transportation to fund one-time expenses such as additional building improvements. Funds may also be PPE and cleaning supplies, and contractual services in support of reopening.

- Consideration and action to authorize the District to enter into a lease agreement of up to twenty-five (25) years with first right of refusal to acquire property. The authorization is to negotiate with the owner(s) for leased space for District administrative and/or academic programs including, but not limited to the Chelsea Opportunity Academy and the Intergenerational Literacy Program. *Item #21SC44 (Enclosure J)*

Explanation: In November 2019, the School Committee authorized the District to enter into a lease agreement for up to 10 years for a space for the relocation of the Chelsea Opportunity Academy and the Intergenerational Literacy Program. Since that date, staff have issued two Requests for Proposals (RFP), but have not been able to find an optimal site with a 10-year term. Staff is requesting that the School Committee modify the parameters for the potential lease including: a) allowing a term of up to 25 years; b) increasing the allowable uses so that other programs or classrooms could potentially be located there; and c) requesting the first right of refusal to acquire the property should it become available. Any purchase would require a separate action of the School Committee and City Council should the opportunity arise in the future.

9. Communications: None

10. Announcements:

11. Adjournment:

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