



School Committee

**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE CHELSEA SCHOOL
COMMITTEE MEETING
April 29, 2010**

Approved May 27, 2010

The Chelsea School Committee met on Thursday, April 29, 2010, in the City Council Chambers, City Hall, 500 Broadway, Chelsea.

Members Present: Chairman Lisa Lineweaver, Rosemarie Carlisle, Michael Caulfield, Lucia Colon, Ramona Foster, Ana Hernandez, Morrie Seigal, and Melinda Alvarado-Vega.

Also Present: School Superintendent Dr. Thomas S. Kingston, Deputy Superintendent Dr. Mary M. Bourque, Executive Director of Administration and Finance Gerald McCue, City Council Representative Kathleen Bishop, Student Representative Karla Hernandez, Former City Manager Guy Santagate, and School Business Manager and Clerk to the School Committee Barbara Martin.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance:

School Committee Minutes: The minutes of the March 25, 2010, School Committee were unanimously approved.

Public Comment: At this time, Margarita Perlin, Director of School and Public Nursing made a presentation on School Health Services. A copy of the presentation is enclosed and forms a part of these minutes.

Report of the Superintendent of Schools:

Student Achievement: Dr. Kingston called upon Dr. Bourque to report on student achievement. Dr. Bourque updated the Committee on the Nine Indicators of Success, calling special attention to the district-wide student attendance rates. Dr. Bourque noted that attendance was stable except for grade nine. Dr. Bourque reported that seniors on educational proficiency plans (EPPs) are on the way to being awarded a full diploma if

they continue the current course. A copy of the report is attached and forms a part of these minutes. Questions and discussion ensued.

Next, Dr. Bourque discussed the Iowa test results. Dr. Bourque explained that prior to MCAS, the Iowa test was mandated by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. It helps to measure Grade 3 reading comprehension because it is the only assessment based on national norms, and it predicts student performance on MCAS. For 2010, students in Chelsea scored in the 57th national percentile overall. A copy of the presentation is attached and forms a part of these minutes. Questions and discussion ensued.

Dr. Kingston then continued his report. In order not to eliminate completely the Pre-K three-year-old program, Dr. Kingston announced that one section of Pre-K age 3 will be maintained and one section of Pre-K age 4 cut. He will continue to work with members of the community and the John Silber Early Learning Center staff and look for discretionary grants allowing the district to move forward with the program.

Dr. Kingston reported that three schools in the district, Chelsea High School, Wright Middle School, and Browne Middle School, are eligible to apply for Title 1 “G” grants. The intention is to apply for funding to support the implementation of the “Transformation” model at both Chelsea High School and the Wright Middle School. Currently, the Browne Middle School is an expanded learning site and is already implementing reform. Should the Browne Middle School lose its status as an expanded learning site, it would join the other schools in applying for Title 1 “G” funding.

Next, Dr. Kingston informed the Committee that the Legislature cut state aid by 4%, but the district will only have a small manageable deficit.

Lastly, Dr. Kingston announced that as of now the last day of school for students will be Monday, June 14th; the last day for teachers will be Tuesday, June 15th, provided no emergencies or exigencies arise that would require the closing of the schools.

Enrollment Report: Dr. Kingston commended the Enrollment Report to the record. As of April 23, 2010, the district-wide enrollment was 5,737 students, including 117 students in out-of-district placements. In addition, there are five (5) Chapter 768 students for whom the district has financial responsibility.

Miscellaneous: Two rental fee reductions were granted for the use of school property over the summer.

- EDCO Collaborative – a federally-funded program that provides educational and support services to children of migrant workers. As a publicly funded program serving Chelsea residents, EDCO is charged a reduced rental fee and 100% of the security costs.
- CAPIC- space is made available to run a full-day summer program serving approximately 150 Chelsea residents. The space and security is made available at no charge only if it is not already scheduled for the Chelsea Public Schools summer classes. All other costs are recovered.

Use of school property where the usual rental fee has been waived is reported back to the School Committee.

New Business:

Ms. Hernandez moved approval of an agreement to cease arbitration in the case of a teacher appealing denial of personal leave.

Chairman Lineweaver called for a roll call vote.

1	Rosemarie Carlisle	Y
2	Ramona Foster	Y
3	Morrie Seigal	Y
4	Michael Caulfield	Y
5	Lisa Lineweaver	Y
6	Lucia Colon	Y
7	Melinda Alvarado-Vega	Y
8	Ana Hernandez	Y
9	Edward Ells	Absent

On a roll call vote the motion was approved.

Ms. Hernandez moved that the School Committee appoint Mr. Gerald Lewis of Hanover, Massachusetts, as its uncompensated delegate to Board of the Shore Educational Collaborative for the period of May 1, 2010, through April 30, 2011.

Chairman Lineweaver called for a roll call vote.

1	Rosemarie Carlisle	Y
2	Ramona Foster	Y
3	Morrie Seigal	Y
4	Michael Caulfield	Y
5	Lisa Lineweaver	Y
6	Lucia Colon	Y
7	Melinda Alvarado-Vega	Y
8	Ana Hernandez	Y
9	Edward Ells	Absent

On a roll call vote the motion was approved.

Mr. Caulfield moved endorsement of the Party Agreement for the FUEL Program

Chairman Lineweaver called for a roll call vote.

1	Rosemarie Carlisle	Y
2	Ramona Foster	Y
3	Morrie Seigal	Y
4	Michael Caulfield	Y
5	Lisa Lineweaver	Y
6	Lucia Colon	Y
7	Melinda Alvarado-Vega	Y
8	Ana Hernandez	Y
9	Edward Ells	Absent

On a roll call vote the motion was approved.

Mr. Caulfield moved approval of the language about bullying that would be added as an amendment to the elementary student handbook.

On a voice vote the motion was approved.

Mr. Caulfield moved approval of the District Pediculosis Policy as part of the Healthcare Policies and Procedure Manual.

On a voice vote the motion was approved.

Mr. Caulfield moved approval of the Documents Required as Proof of Residency at Registration and the accompanying Implementation Guidance.

On a voice vote the motion was approved.

Mr. Caulfield moved approval of the revised Computer and Internet Policy.

On a voice vote the motion was approved.

Ms. Foster moved to approve the new textbook proposal for the AP Art Class at Chelsea High School.

Chairman Lineweaver called for a roll call vote.

1	Rosemarie Carlisle	Y
2	Ramona Foster	Y
3	Morrie Seigal	Y
4	Michael Caulfield	Y
5	Lisa Lineweaver	Y
6	Lucia Colon	Y
7	Melinda Alvarado-Vega	Y
8	Ana Hernandez	Y
9	Edward Ells	Absent

On a roll call vote the motion was approved.

Under suspension of the rules Ms. Foster moved that the Committee review the current policies, practices and initiatives with respect to diversity outreach in the hiring and promotional activities of the Chelsea Public Schools (CPS).

On a voice vote the motion was approved.

Under suspension of the rules Ms. Colon moved that the Committee hold a public hearing on May 27, 2010 at 6:00 pm. to discuss yellow bus transportation and the implications surrounding potential service reductions for the 2011-2012 school year.

On a voice vote the motion was approved.

Committee Reports:

- **Curriculum and Instruction:** Ms. Forster reported that the subcommittee last met on March 25, 2010. A copy of the report is attached and forms a part of these minutes.
- **Human Resources:** Ms. Hernandez reported that the subcommittee last met on April 13, 2010. A copy of the report is attached and forms a part of these minutes.
- **Student Representative:** Ms. Hernandez reported that most seniors have completed their college applications and are waiting to hear if they have been accepted. She also reported that both Bunker Hill Community College and North Shore Community College will be at Chelsea High School on May 17, 2010, for on-site admissions. Lastly, Ms. Hernandez noted that at this time eight seniors are in danger of not graduating.

Announcements:

- Mrs. Carlisle wished to thank Principal Mullaney, the staff at Chelsea High School, Chelsea Rotary, Interact Club members and advisor Ilana Ascher, Kayem Foods, Chelsea Police Department and Wyndham Hotel for a very successful Student Government Day.
- Ms. Alvarado-Vega donated the Book for the Month for April *Song Yet Sung* by *James McBride* to a student at Chelsea High School.
- Mrs. Carlisle volunteered for the Book of the Month for May.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8.30 p.m.

Recorded by

Barbara A. Martin
Business Manager
Clerk to the Chelsea School Committee