



## *School Committee*

### MINUTES OF THE CHELSEA SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

**November 6 2025**

**APPROVED 12-4-25**

The Chelsea School Committee held a meeting on October 8, 2025, in the City Council Chambers, City Hall, 500 Broadway, Chelsea.

**Members Present:** Yessenia Alfaro, Mayra Balderas, Katherine Cabral, Claryangeliz Covas Caraballo, Jonathan Gomez-Pereira, Ana Hernandez, Dr. Sarah Neville, and Shawn O'Regan.

**Also Present:** Superintendent Dr. Almudena Abeyta, Chief of Staff & Equity Dr. Aaron Jennings, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Blake-Canty, Assistant Superintendent Michelle Martinello, Innovation, Access, & Opportunity Officer Malik Howshan, Chief Finance & Operations Officer Billie Jo Turner, Communications Manager Michael Sullivan, Student Representatives Daniel Prudencio De Paz, Allison Rivera Colindres, & Natali Sanchez Gonzalez, and School Committee Clerk Veronica Dyer-Medina.

**The meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m.**

#### **Pledge of Allegiance**

#### **Roll Call for Attendance:**

Ms. Hernandez	Present
Mr. O'Regan	Present
Ms. Henriquez	Present
Ms. Cabral	Present
Mr. Gomez-Pereira	Present
Ms. Balderas	Present
Dr. Neville	Present
Ms. Covas Caraballo	Late
Ms. Alfaro	Late

Having 9 school committee members present, the meeting proceeded.

At this time the student poem was skipped due to the student's absence.

**School Committee minutes:** Ms. Henriquez motioned to accept the meeting minutes of the Regular Meeting on October 8, 2025 and Ms. Balderas seconded the motion.

**Public Comment:** None

**Presentations:**

The Chelsea High School Boys Soccer Team and their coaches were honored for their win in the Greater Boston League Championship this fall. Mr. Deleidi and Dr. Jennings shared heartfelt words about the student athletes and the grit and determination they demonstrated this season. Their head coach Mickey was also given a big shot out for his many years as the CHS Boys Soccer Coach.

Dr. Abeyta presented the Name, Strength, & Story Awards to our custodians at each school and our Buildings and Grounds department district wide. She shared testimonies from schools on how our custodial teams know our students and support learning by the work they do each and every day.

**Report of the Superintendent of Schools:**

**Building a Safer Community: Update on School Security & Spring Survey Highlights:** Dr. Abeyta and Assistant Superintendent Martinello shared a [presentation](#) with updates on school security at Chelsea High School and highlights from the Spring Survey. Ms. Martinello reviewed the updated training all security staff were undergoing, such as: de-escalation, CPR, & sensitivity training. She added that the 15 security staff work closely with School Resource Officer and CHS admin and have regular meetings. Their focus is on bathroom supervision, spacing in the building, and lunch safety. She then discussed search wands are in use during random searches and has been helpful in enforcing the cellphone policy. She then provided a procedural overview for entering the building and what happens when students arrive after the late bell at 8am. In addition the team is actively working on making sure every student has updated student I.D.s and have them on them at all times. She then touched on the Yondr Pouches for all technology. Students use the pouches to place their cellphones, ear buds, etc. in the pouch. She said the school is seeing positive changes and feedback.

Dr. Abeyta then moved on to summarize the survey results. There were 1215 responses 60% in English and 40% in Spanish. She explained the top concerns regarding security and safety by the two language groups. The results showed a divided response about metal detectors. She opened it up to question. Mr. Gomez-Pereira discussed how some students have shared that they felt targeted during random searches. Dr. Abeyta said this is something she can bring to the Student Advisory Council and principal to get feedback about how students are feeling. He then followed up about the locking and unlocking of pouches and how this could possibly be making students later to class, etc. Ms. Martinello shared that there were some hiccups in the beginning but students are getting used to the flow now, but they are discussing adding more wall units. Members asked the

student representatives on their opinions, and they all added that yes while there were some hiccups, students are accustomed to the procedures now and the policy has been a positive change in student culture.

**Indicators of Success:** Dr. Blake-Canty presented the [Indicators of Success](#) for the month of October. Some highlights from the indicators she presented were:

- Attendance grades 1-8 were in the 90% and grades 9-12 in the 85%.
- Drop out numbers YTD is at 1.19% and the rate has been declining. This shows interventions are working.
- Mobility numbers this month were 60 students in and 36 students out. YTD are 224 in and 193 out. Dr. Neville asked if last year's mobility rates could be compared to this year at this time. Dr. Blake-Canty will look into this request.

### **Student Representative Updates:**

Daniel shared that the senior class has secured the location for their prom and are actively looking for donations. He then congratulated the Boys soccer team on their GBL win and gave a shout out to the Unified Sports team as they wrapped up their season-greatful to see the opportunity for all students to be able to participate in sports. He then announced winter sports opportunities that will be starting. Lastly he highlighted his attendance at the NGLC trip in Washington D.C.

Allison discussed the end of quarter one for students and college applications in full swing. She shared how school counselors and the TRiO program have been very supported in the process. She additionally shared that students had the opportunity to be a part of a panel at the Children's Cabinet Retreat at the end of October.

Natali provided CHS performing arts updates and shared information about the winter play and concerts. She shared that grades amongst students have seen increased changes. She lastly shared her experience during the Congresswoman Ayana Presselys' visit to Chelsea high. She stated it was inspiring.

**Committee Reports:** Dr. Abeyta went over the Personnel and Enrollment reports to commend them to the record. Ms. Covas Caraballo motioned to approve the reports and committee minutes, and Ms. Cabral seconded the motion.

### **New Business:**

At this time Chair Hernandez requested a consent agenda for **Items#25SC66-Items#SC68** and requested one vote be taken for these items as a whole. She then read through each item and asked if anyone had questions.

**Item #: 25SC66:** Consideration and action to accept the awarded allocations for a private grant from the Tides Center in the amount of \$6,000.

**Item #: 25SC67:** Consideration and action to accept a gift of backpacks and school supplies in the estimated amount of \$4,000 from the Family Resource Center.

**Item #: 25SC68:** Consideration and action to approve on the recommendation of the Superintendent an Overnight Field Trip for 20 students and 2 chaperones to ‘camp-in’ at Chelsea High School on Friday November 7, 2025 to Saturday, November 8, 2025, to practice outdoor skills and practice skills in a safe environment.

Chair Hernandez asked for a Roll Call Vote:

Ms. Hernandez	Yes
Mr. O’Regan	Yes
Ms. Henriquez	Yes
Ms. Cabral	Yes
Mr. Gomez-Pereira	Yes
Ms. Balderas	Yes
Dr. Neville	Yes
Ms. Covas Caraballo	Yes
Ms. Alfaro	Yes

Having 9 votes in the affirmative the motions passed.

**Communications:** None

**Announcements:**

- Mr. Gomez-Pereira thanked all those who came out to vote in the November elections. He also mentioned the food drives that were taking place in Chelsea.
- Ms. Covas Caraballo highlighted men’s mental health awareness month and homeless awareness month; adding that folks should be keeping an eye on one another.
- Ms. Cabral shared the opportunity for members and the community to testify on November 18th regarding budget threats.
- Yessenia shared how the loss of SNAP benefits is affecting many in the community and asked the community to think of those who may not physically be able to get food at pantries.

**Adjournment:** At this time Ms. Covas Caraballo motioned to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Henriquez seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:40pm.

Recorded by



Veronica Dyer-Medina  
School Committee Clerk

*Recording of the meeting can be found [here](#), courtesy of the Chelsea Community Cable YouTube channel.*



# Chelsea Public Schools

## School Committee

City Hall  
500 Broadway  
Chelsea, MA 02150  
(617) 466-4477  
(617) 889-8361 (Fax)

### Minutes for a Sub-Committee of the Whole on Thursday, August 28, 2025

#### Approved 9-4-25

**Present:** Yessenia Alfaro, Mayra Balderas, Kati Cabral, Claryangeliz Covas Caraballo, Jonathan Gomez-Pereira, Lucia Henriquez, Sarah Neville, and Shawn O'Regan

**Also present:** Dr. Abeyta, Billie Jo Turner, Adam Deleidi, Christine Lee, and Veronica Dyer-Medina (recorded minutes)

The meeting was called to order at 5:35pm by Vice Chair Henriquez

The committee reviewed the following budget items:

- Consideration and action to accept \$500 from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education for the Performing Arts Department.
- Consideration and action to accept the awarded allocations for the Adult Education & Family Services, Civics Teaching & Learning, Supporting Student's SEL, Behavioral & Mental Health, & Wellness, EA Shelter Supplemental Reimbursement-FY25, and Early College Support State Grants for SY2025-2026 in the amount of \$1,145,451.62.
- Consideration and action to accept the awarded allocations for federal grants for SY2025-2026 in the amount of \$7,072,577.
- Consideration and action to accept the awarded allocations for the listed private grants for SY2025-2026 the amount of \$115,000.

Ms. Turner reviewed some differences between funding and the impacts after a few members had some questions. Dr. Abeyta additionally explained how some carryover from some of the grants will help mitigate losses.

The committee then reviewed the updated hourly wage schedule for SY25-26 and there were no questions.

Ms. Turner then reviewed the FY25 Clean Up Transfer and there were no questions.

Mr. Deleidi then reviewed the Homeschooling Petitions for SY25-26-three Chelsea families total. There were no questions.

Mr. O'Regan motioned to move all items to the next regular meeting to be voted on. Ms. Covas Caraballo seconded the motion.

At this time Ms. Covas Caraballo motioned to enter executive session at 5:59pm and Dr. Neville seconded the motion. The group exited executive session after Ms. Covas Caraballo motioned to do so with a second by Ms. Cabral. Ms. Covas Caraballo motioned to adjourn at 6:18pm and it was seconded by Ms. Cabral.



# Chelsea Public Schools

## Indicators of Success

2021-2026

October 2025

### Monthly:

1. District-Wide daily attendance rate will be 95% (p. 2)
1. The CPS dropout rate will decrease by 2% per year (p. 9)

### Bi-Annual Updates (beginning and end-of-year):

1. # of grade 8 students enrolled in Algebra I (p. 3)
1. # of students enrolled in AP courses (p. 3)
1. # of students enrolled in Calculus courses (p. 3)
1. # of students enrolled in Early College courses (p. 3)

### Tri-Annual Updates:

1. Iready progress for ELA grades K-8 (p. 4-6)
1. Iready progress for Math grades K-8 (p. 4-6)

### End-of-Year Updates:

1. 85% of grade 4 students will exit grade 4 and enter grade 5 with a 3 or better in ELA, Math and Science (p. 8)
1. 85% of grade 8 students will exit grade 8 and enter grade 9 with a C or better in ELA, Math and Science (p. 8)

### Annual:

1. Growth in ELA and Math on MCAS 2.0 will be 2-5% (p. 1)
1. 85% of High School Students in AP courses will attain a 3, 4, or 5 (p. 9)
1. The CPS four-year graduation rate will increase by 2% per year; the five year graduation rate will increase by 2% per year (p. 9)
1. All students will graduate from Chelsea High School with a plan for college, career and life (p. 9)
3. Annual staffing data will show improved teacher retention (p. 11)
  - Retention rate of teachers.
  - Retention rate of administrators
  - % Increase of diversity for teachers and administrators

### Appendix: Additional Relevant Data:

- Mobility and Mobility Rate (p. 12)
- CHS Grade 9 & 10 Failing Grades (p. 13)
- CHS Grade 9 & 10 Retention (p. 13)



**Indicator 2: District-Wide daily attendance rate will be 95%**

	%2021	%2022	%2023	%2024	%2025	Sept	Oct		Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June
						Month	Month	YTD	Month	Month	Month	Month	Month	Month	Month	Month
Grade 1	93.8%	91.0%	90.0%	91.8%	91.8%	93.7%	94.0%	93.9%								
Grade 2	94.4%	91.2%	91.2%	92.0%	92.2%	94.1%	94.6%	94.4%								
Grade 3	95.2%	92.2%	91.6%	92.0%	92.1%	94.2%	94.9%	94.5%								
Grade 4	95.5%	92.5%	91.9%	92.4%	92.7%	94.1%	94.7%	94.4%								
Grade 5	91.9%	91.7%	93.1%	93.1%	92.9%	95.4%	94.8%	95.1%								
Grade 6	93.1%	91.1%	92.8%	92.9%	93.2%	94.3%	94.6%	94.4%								
Grade 7	91.0%	91.2%	91.8%	93.5%	93.5%	94.0%	93.2%	93.6%								
Grade 8	90.7%	90.7%	90.9%	91.9%	92.4%	94.1%	93.0%	93.5%								
Grade 9	88.8%	85.4%	85.0%	81.2%	79.0%	86.9%	84.6%	85.3%								
Grade 10	85.3%	81.4%	82.6%	82.0%	81.3%	84.6%	83.0%	83.8%								
Grade 11	81.0%	75.5%	77.8%	81.9%	82.3%	85.5%	83.9%	84.9%								
Grade 12	78.2%	48.1%	74.8%	77.3%	80.4%	86.2%	83.2%	84.9%								
Post-Graduate	93.8%	90.3	88.8%	94.7%	87.0%	87.3%	90.4%	90.1%								
Kindergarten	93.1%	89.4%	88.7%	90.8%	90.2%	93.5%	92.4%	92.9%								
Grade PreK	91.5%	89.8%	89.5%	90.8%	90.2%	93.5%	91.9%	92.6%								
District Total	90.8%	88.1%	88.0%	88.8%	87.3%	91.6%	90.9%	91.3%								

**Indicator 10:** The high school dropout rate will decrease by 2% per year

Data for each year is period to date

	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026
October 1 Enrollment	1558	1616	1764	1852	1827	1686*
# of Drop-Outs	7	21	32	55	33	20
Drop-Out %	1.45%	1.30%	1.80%	2.96%	1.81%	1.19%

**Programmatic Breakdown**

	2021-2022 End of Year		2022-2023 End of Year		2023-2024 End of Year				2024-2025 End of Year				2025-2026 Year to Date			
	Students	EL Students	Students	EL Students	Students	EL Students	SWDs	Dual-ID	Students	EL Students	SWDs	Dual-ID	Students	EL Students	SWDs	Dual-ID
High School Enrollment																
October 1 Enrollment	1079	537	1164	600	1008	567	193	84	960	556	213	98	932*	436*	201*	117*
# of Drop-Outs	43	86	44	79	50	96	8	10	32	71	10	4	2	15	1	2
Drop-Out %	3.99%	16.01%	3.78%	13.17%	4.96%	16.93%	4.15%	11.9%	3.3%	12.8%	4.7%	4.1%	.2%	3.4%	.5%	1.7%

\*Unofficial enrollment

**10/01/25 - 10/31/25 DROPOUT NOTES:**

- 3 Students have withdrawn
- 3 Location Unknown
- Grade 9 = 1  
Grade 10 = 1  
Grade 11 = 1

**%APPENDIX:**

**Mobility**

	21-22 Total		22-23 Total		23-24 Total		24-25 Total		Sep		Oct		Nov		Dec		Jan		Feb		March		April		May		June		Total	
	In	Out	In	Out	In	Out	In	Out	In	Out	In	Out	In	Out	In	Out	In	Out	In	Out	In	Out	In	Out	In	Out	In	Out	In	Out
ELC (K)	78	30	73	43	72	37	89	63	7	2	5	2																	12	4
Elementary	218	104	161	97	210	120	218	180	43	15	16	15																	59	30
Middle	182	100	149	96	202	86	169	131	35	13	18	11																	53	24
High School	338	209	337	215	287	245	249	247	79	27	21	8																	100	35
District Total	816	443	720	451	771	488	725	621	164	57	60	36																	224	93

\*District-wide mobility rate (sum of transfers in and transfers out divided by October 6 enrollment (5765) is 5.5% year to date.

**Student Mobility Rate September 1 – June 30 (10-month calculation)**

<b>Year</b>	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
<b>Rate</b>	32.0	32.4	33.7	33.5	23.9	36.0	28.6	37.5	23.6	32.0	28.5	25.0	24.8	17.0	20.0	17.6	20.6
<b>Year</b>	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020**	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026				
<b>Rate</b>	17.0	18.7	17.0	20.8	21.9	24.0	16.86	18.04	20.73	19.03	20.5	22.1					

\*\*Because of the stay at home order, students who moved out of district were kept in district until the end of the school year and were officially transferred out in the summer



# SAFETY AND SECURITY CHELSEA HIGH SCHOOL

November 6, 2025

# SECURITY

- We have a total of 15 security staff
  - All security receive Safety Care training (De-escalation Training) w/Viyan Jasim, CPR Certification w/Suffolk County Sheriff's Dept Michael Brennan, and Sensitivity Training with Brenda Pena
  - Also have School Resource Officer (SRO) on site
- CHS Admin has established regular meetings with Lead Security to improve communication and collaboration
  - Focus is on bathroom supervision, spacing out throughout the building, and keeping students in designated areas during lunch
- We partner with CPD to provide training to our staff on the following (per our MOU):
  - Run, Hide, Fight drills
  - De-escalation Training
  - Identifying criminal activity with the assistance of CPD Youth Taskforce

## RANDOM SEARCHES

- There are no set days or times for searches
  - Interim Principal consults with Assistant Principal of Operations to decide when searches will take place and AP of Operations communicates with necessary staff
  - The admin or security working the door picks a number that designates which student is searched (example: if the number is 5 then every 5th student will be asked to go to the search table)
  - When at the search table admin, security, deans, etc search student bags and ask students to empty their pockets
  - We have also started to use wands to further check some students who go through the search line



# PROCEDURE WHEN ENTERING CHS

- Doors for CHS open to students at 7:30, unless a student has permission to meet with a designated staff member prior to this time
- Once inside the building students are expected to go to the cafeteria for breakfast or the library where a staff member is present to provide supervision
  - Students head to their classes for an 8:00 start
- If students arrive at 8:00 or later they are asked to through the tardy line to check in and have their arrival time stamped in Aspen
  - Tardy students are given a yellow pass and are expected to immediately head to their 1st period classroom
- If students arrive after the closure of the tardy line (around 8:45) they are asked to check in at the security desk to have their arrival time stamped in Aspen, are then given a yellow pass, and are expected to head to class



# STUDENT IDS

- Students must have their ID on them at all times so we can identify students faster
- This is new this year.

## STUDENT ID CARD

NAME : SAMIRA HADID

ID : 123-456-7890

ADDRESS : 123 ANYWHERE ST.,  
ANY CITY



# CELL PHONES

- School Committee passed the cell phone policy this school year (December 2024)
- The cell phone policy was fully implement this next year
- Feedback for teachers and students is overwhelmingly positive
  - Students are talking to each other.
  - Students are more engaged in classroom.
  - Teachers are loving the engagement of the students in the classroom.
  - Less students in the hallways.
  - Less negative interactions between students, including less physical altercations.



# Chelsea High School Redesign(HSR) Survey Results

# High School Redesign Survey Sections

- Community Themes
- **Safety**
- Mascot

# Demographics

- 1215 responses (32% completed all sections of the survey)
  - 60% English
  - 40% Spanish
- Respondents self-identified into groups of parents, students, educators, other CPS staff, and members of the community
- Survey was analyzed separately by language and group identification
- Results are provided overall
  - Practical or statistical differences across questions are noted as well

# Summary Results: Safety and Security

- English language respondents reported that mental and behavioral health support was the most important category of security
- Whereas Spanish language respondents reported that physical building security was most important.
- Spanish language respondents held consistently more favorable views towards security awareness and effectiveness than English language respondents.
- Respondents indicated that they believe that students would be safer if metal detectors were installed.
  - \*The design of the survey does not allow for determination of why respondents believe CHS would be safer if metal detectors were installed, or whether metal detectors are more or less effective than any other security measure.
- Spanish language respondents were comfortable with the negative impacts of metal detectors while English respondents were strongly divided, with a substantial fraction uncomfortable.

# Notable subgroup differences - by group affiliation

- Safety
  - Parents more likely to say everything is important in security, and least likely to say behavioral health is important (particularly compared to educators)
  - Students dislike searches and surveillance
  - Parents less aware of safety protocols and procedures
  - Parents believe metal detectors will make campus more safe; small percent of students and staff believe they will make campus much less safe
  - Parents are more comfortable with metal detectors, educators less comfortable

Q & A

