



School Committee

MINUTES OF THE CHELSEA SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

December 18, 2025

APPROVED 1-8-26

The Chelsea School Committee held a special meeting on December 18, 2025 virtually.

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

Also Present: Superintendent Dr. Almudena Abeyta, Chief Finance & Operations Officer Billie Jo Turner, Chief Academic Officer Adam Deleidi, JAKE Small incumbent district 8, Communications Manager Michael Sullivan and School Committee Clerk Veronica Dyer-Medina.

The meeting was called to order at 5:33p.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	Present
Ms. Alfaro	Absent

Having 8 school committee members present, and 1 absent the meeting proceeded.

At this time Chair Hernandez requested a consent agenda for Items: 25SC86-25SC91. Ms. Balderas made a motion to vote on the consent agenda and Mr. O'Regan seconded the motion. Chair Hernandez read each item and asked if there were any questions before a vote was taken.

Item #: 25SC86: Consideration and action to accept \$1,336.91 from the University of Massachusetts for the SNAP Outreach Plan for FY2026.

Item #: 25SC87: Consideration and action to accept an increase of \$24,609 in the Adult Education Service Grant for FY26 from the Department of Elementary & Secondary Education for a total of \$516,789.

Item #: 25SC88: Consideration and action to accept \$100,000 for SY2025-2026 from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) for the Special Support Earmark Grant for SY2026.

Item #: 25SC89: Consideration and action to accept \$2,000 from the Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools to encourage and support inclusion and start the UCS program with Chelsea Public Schools.

Item #: 25SC90: Consideration and action to accept \$500 from Mary Anna Mattoon of the Hestia Foundation for central office appreciation.

Item #: 25SC91: Consideration and action to accept a gift of \$2500 in gift cards from Project Elf.

Chair Hernandez asked for one 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	Absent

Having 8 votes in the affirmative and 1 member absent the motions passed.

Discussion & Review of Rules & Regulations and Operating Protocols: Members then discussed if there were any recommendations or amendments to the Rules and Operating Protocols. Dr. Neville suggested a few topics like: establishing a finance committee, and bringing rules up to date with the committees practices. For example the guidelines regarding absences are not being followed, and may not necessarily be legal. Chair Hernandez agreed that some are guidelines and may not be necessary; Ms. Covas Caraballo added that they do

not have to be followed to a tee. Chair Hernandez recommended working on these at a retreat later in the year so the group can spend some time on them together and have a lawyer present to assist. The group agreed that it made sense to revisit and work on amendments to align with best practices. Chair Hernandez asked that everyone come prepared for this so the group can be proactive; she hopes to attack this after budget season. In addition she asked that delegates to City Council and Shore collaborative begin reporting out to the whole committee on their outside meetings.

Acceptance of Nominations: Discussion to accept nominations for Chair, Vice-Chair, Delegate to City Council, and Delegate to the Shore Collaborative for calendar year 2026. These nominations were not final until the Special Inauguration meeting on January 5, 2026 with City Council members. All nominations were accepted.

Chair: Mr. O'Regan nominated Ms. Hernandez and was seconded by Ms. Covas Caraballo. Mr. Gomez-Pereira nominated Dr. Neville and was second by Dr. Neville. Ms. Hernandez received 5 unofficial votes of the 9 from: Ms. Balderas, Ms. Covas Caraballo, Ms. Henriquez, Ms. Hernandez, & Mr. O'Regan. At this point Dr. Neville requested that the votes be unanimous for Ms. Hernandez.

Vice-Chair: Mr. O'Regan nominated Ms. Henriquez-she declined. Mr. Gomez-Pereira nominated Ms. Cabral and Ms. Cabral seconded. All were in favor of Ms. Cabral

Delegate to City Council: Ms. Cabral nominated Ms. Covas Caraballo and Mr. Gomez-Pereira seconded. All were in favor of Ms. Covas Caraballo.

Delegate to Shore Collaborative: Mr. Gomez-Pereira nominated Ms. Covas Caraballo and seconded. All were in favor of Ms. Balderas.

2026 Roll Call Draw: Numbers were spun for each member by district to establish the order of roll call.

At Large	Ms. Cabral	Roll Call 7
1	Mr. O'Regan	Roll Call 4
2	Dr. Neville	Roll Call 6
3	Mr. Gomez-Pereira	Roll Call 9

4	Ms. Balderas	Roll Call 5
5	Ms. Covas Caraballo	Roll Call 2
6	Ms. Hernandez	Roll Call 8
7	Ms. Henriquez	Roll Call 3
8	Mr. Small	Roll Call 1

Before seating draw was taken Mr. O'Regan asked if members thought they should be sat by district. Members did not feel that this needed to change at this time; but it could be discussed when the Rules & Regulations are reviewed.

2026 Seating Draw: Numbers were spun for each member by district to establish the seat numbers.

1	Mr. O'Regan	Seat 5
2	Dr. Neville	Seat 4
3	Mr. Gomez-Pereira	Seat 2
4	Ms. Balderas	Seat 3
5	Ms. Covas Caraballo	Seat 1

7	Ms. Henriquez	Seat 7
8	Mr. Small	Seat 6

Adjournment: At this time Ms. Balderas motioned to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Covas Carabalo seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 6:29pm.

Recorded by



Veronica Dyer-Medina
School Committee Clerk

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