



## *School Committee*

### MINUTES OF THE CHELSEA SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

**January 8, 2026**

**APPROVED 2-5-26**

The Chelsea School Committee held a meeting on January 8, 2026, in the City Council Chambers, City Hall, 500 Broadway, Chelsea.

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

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

**The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m.**

#### **Pledge of Allegiance**

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

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

Having 9 school committee members present, the meeting proceeded.

At this time Chelsea High School senior Maria Adam read an original poem: “Garden of Voices”

**Special Recognitions:** The Chelsea School Committee Recognized the following groups and people.

- **Chelsea High School’s Interact Club:** Dr. Jennings and Mr. Howshan recognized the students who had outstanding volunteer performances at the Chelsea Reads event and the Ringing the Bell event with the Salvation Army. Students who participated were recognized and applauded for their service.
- **Name, Strength, & Story Awards:** the following people/groups received this month’s Name, Strength, & Story Awards.
  - Bryan Pinales-Hooks School Principal Clerk
  - Isari Chang-Wright Middle School Special Education Teacher

**School Committee minutes:** Mr. Gomez-Pereira motioned to accept the meeting minutes of the Regular Meeting on December 4, 2025 and the Special Meeting on December 18, 2025; Ms. Henriquez seconded the motion.

**Public Comment:** Kathryn Anderson of 15 Powderhouse Terrace in Somerville, and the Chelsea Teachers Union president shared her excitement about looking forward to working creatively with the district heading into budget season.

**Presentations:** None

**Report of the Superintendent of Schools:**

**Indicators of Success:** Dr. Blake-Canty presented the [Indicators of Success](#) for the month of December.

Some highlights from the indicators she presented were:

- Attendance: Pre-K through 8 strongly holding at 90%. The high school on average is at 77%
- Drop out numbers YTD is at 1.196%; this represents the lowest rate across 6 years of tracking.
- Mobility numbers this month were 6 students in and 4 students out. YTD are 297 in and 169 out.
  - Mr. Gomez-Pereira asked if these numbers were compatible to the year prior. Dr. Abeyta answered that they are comparable; last year was 104 retained versus 128 this year. She added it is important to see where we lose students and the patterns of immigration.

Ms Cabral asked what initiatives were in place to help with the drop in high school attendance. Ms. Martinello answered that she has been working closely with the social work and school counseling teams with hosting house meetings to provide more interventions at Tier 3 level and will be including the attendance team to look at more proactive ways to tackle attendance. Ms. Covas Caraballo mentioned that health issues like flu, etc. can also factor into the numbers. Ms. Martinello said that this will be factored in and the team will be looking closely at students who are truly absent versus those who are skipping; looking at period by period attendance and patterns. Mr. Gomez-Pereira asked if there were trends around the holidays. She answered that yes, they

did see an uptick around the holidays. Dr. Blake-Canty added that this was a trend seen nationwide with holidays and flu season.

### **Student Representative Updates:**

Daniel shared updates on the prom theme this year-masquerade ball. He also highlighted the boys basketball team who are undefeated-stating that Chelsea sports are on the rise. He additionally shared his experience at Senator DiDomenico's successful toy drive and how powerful it was to be a part of.

Allison shared experience at a recent field trip to Staples Headquarters with BHCC early college class. She shared how interesting it was to meet the business staff and hearing about their experiences. In addition she shared some senior life updates like college acceptances and commitments.

Natali shared the recap from the winter play-Rumors and how well received it was by the CPS community. She also shared the stressors some students are experiencing around post-grad transitioning, AP exams, etc. She stressed the importance of students feeling supported during these times by teachers and peers

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

**New Business: None**

**Communications: None**

### **Announcements:**

- Mr. Gomez-Pereira shared information about the MLK event with Boston Children's Choir at Symphony Hall on 1/19/26.
- Natali Sanchez Gonzalez shared the upcoming Spring Musical: Willy Wonka from April 9th to April 11th.
- Ms. Balderas encouraged community members to attend meetings to hear their voices. She also welcomed Mr. Small and stated she was excited to work with him.
- Chair Hernandez additionally welcomed Mr. Small; and shared that the goal was to work together with City Council so that students see they are supported; noting that nothing stands alone or works by itself.
- Mr. Small thanked members for their warm welcome and hopes to honor Ms. Alfaro's legacy.

**Adjournment:** At this time Ms. Henriquez motioned to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Balderas seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 7:58pm.

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

## Indicators of Success

2021-2026

**December 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	Month	Month	YTD	Month	Month	Month	Month	Month	Month
Grade 1	93.8%	91.0%	90.0%	91.8%	91.8%	93.7%	94.0%	93.2%	89.7%	92.8%						
Grade 2	94.4%	91.2%	91.2%	92.0%	92.2%	94.1%	94.6%	94.5%	91.0%	93.6%						
Grade 3	95.2%	92.2%	91.6%	92.0%	92.1%	94.2%	94.9%	94.3%	92.2%	93.9%						
Grade 4	95.5%	92.5%	91.9%	92.4%	92.7%	94.1%	94.7%	94.5%	91.9%	93.8%						
Grade 5	91.9%	91.7%	93.1%	93.1%	92.9%	95.4%	94.8%	94.8%	92.2%	94.4%						
Grade 6	93.1%	91.1%	92.8%	92.9%	93.2%	94.3%	94.6%	93.9%	91.5%	93.7%						
Grade 7	91.0%	91.2%	91.8%	93.5%	93.5%	94.0%	93.2%	93.0%	90.5%	92.8%						
Grade 8	90.7%	90.7%	90.9%	91.9%	92.4%	94.1%	93.0%	93.3%	91.3%	93.1%						
Grade 9	88.8%	85.4%	85.0%	81.2%	79.0%	86.9%	84.6%	81.1%	76.5%	82.6%						
Grade 10	85.3%	81.4%	82.6%	82.0%	81.3%	84.6%	83.0%	82.5%	76.4%	81.7%						
Grade 11	81.0%	75.5%	77.8%	81.9%	82.3%	85.5%	83.9%	81.6%	76.6%	81.9%						
Grade 12	78.2%	48.1%	74.8%	77.3%	80.4%	86.2%	83.2%	82.0%	78.7%	82.9%						
Post-Graduate	93.8%	90.3	88.8%	94.7%	87.0%	87.3%	90.4%	89.7%	88.8%	89.7%						
Kindergarten	93.1%	89.4%	88.7%	90.8%	90.2%	93.5%	92.4%	91.1%	86.5%	91.2%						
Grade PreK	91.5%	89.8%	89.5%	90.8%	90.2%	93.5%	91.9%	91.0%	87.2%	91.0%						
District Total	90.8%	88.1%	88.0%	88.8%	87.3%	91.6%	90.9%	90.0%	86.6%	89.9%						

**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	1683
# of Drop-Outs	18	54	49	58	45	33
Drop-Out %	1.16%	3.34%	2.78%	3.13%	2.46%	1.96%

**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	928	435	201	119
# of Drop-Outs	43	86	44	79	50	96	8	10	32	71	10	4	6	22	2	3
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%	0.6%	5.0%	1.0%	2.5%

**12/01/25 - 12/31/25 DROPOUT NOTES:**

- 1 Students has withdrawn
- 1 Location Unknown
- Grade 9 = 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		
ELC (K)	78	30	73	43	72	37	89	63	7	2	5	2	2	2	6	4													20	10
Elementary	218	104	161	97	210	120	218	180	43	15	16	15	9	10	18	8													86	48
Middle	182	100	149	96	202	86	169	131	35	13	18	11	9	8	12	7													74	39
High School	338	209	337	215	287	245	249	247	79	27	21	8	11	24	6	13													117	72
District Total	816	443	720	451	771	488	725	621	164	57	60	36	31	44	42	32													297	169

\*District-wide mobility rate (sum of transfers in and transfers out divided by October 1 enrollment (5749) is 8.11% year to date.

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

Year	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Rate	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
Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020**	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026				
Rate	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

