



## School Site Council (SSC)

Agenda/Minutes  
Chelsea Public Schools

**School Name:** John Silber Early Learning Center

**Principal:** Margo DiBiasio

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| <b>Meeting Date:</b> 1/29/26  | <b>Meeting Location:</b> John Silber Early Learning Center |
| <b>Starting Time:</b> 8:51 AM | <b>Ending Time:</b> 9:46 AM                                |

**Participants:** All staff, parents and elected SSC members invited.

| Item/Time Limit                       | Actions Requested | Person Responsible   |
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| <b>1. Call to Order</b><br>(1 minute) |                   | <b>Chair</b><br>Meeting called to order by Margo DiBiasio  |
| <b>Comments/Parent Advice</b>         |                   |  |
| <b>2. Roll Call</b><br>(1 minute)     |                   | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Secretary</b><br/>Roll Call – Margo DiBiasio</p> <p>The following SSC members were present: Margo DiBiaiso, Kim Overbaugh, Krishell Ventura, Hillary Paul Metcalf, Delmy Mejia, Lori Loussedes, Joanna Glennon, Sarah Neville, Vilma Rojas-Lopez, Katie Laundre, Ada Castro, Santo Castro, Rosa Portillo</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Absent:</b><br/>Nahomy Turcios, Tracy Podol</p> |
| <b>Comments/Parent Advice</b>         |                   |  |

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| 3. Additions/Changes to Agenda (1min) |  | N/A<br><br><b>Chair</b> |
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| <b>Comments/Parent Advice</b>                |                        |  |
| 4. Reading and Approval of Minutes (1 min.)  |                        | <b>Secretary</b><br><br>Minutes Approved   |
| <b>Comments/Parent Advice</b>                |                        |  |
| 5. Welcome back Introductions (5min.)        | <b>*Not Applicable</b> | Margo - Welcome back everyone, thank you for taking the time to join us today for our monthly School Site Council meetings. We will go around at this time and introduce ourselves.  |
| <b>Comments/Parent Advice</b>                |                        |  |
| 6. Review of winter safety procedures (5min) | <b>*Not Applicable</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Margo - Drop-off this morning was a bit more complicated due to many staff members and nearby neighbors parking on the street and holding their cleared spots for the 48-hour window.</li> <li>○ DPW has been working very hard with CPS to clear snow as much as possible, particularly to support Special Education and yellow bus drop-offs. At this time, the playgrounds remain</li> </ul> |

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|  |  | <p>fully covered in snow, and we are unable to move additional snow there or create snowbanks due to safety concerns.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ As a result, all classes will continue with indoor recess. Teachers will use their discretion to plan and facilitate indoor recess activities. As you know, our available indoor space is limited, so we appreciate everyone’s flexibility and creativity.</li> <li>○</li> </ul> |
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**Comments/Parent Advice**

**Stephanie - I would like to clarify available spaces for Social Communication classes during open play and recess:**

**Margo - We do have the 3rd-floor multipurpose space available, and teachers may choose to use this area if they feel it is appropriate and safe for their students. Unfortunately, the gym is not available during the school day, as gym teachers are holding classes throughout the day.**

**Joana - Teachers also use the 4th-floor sensory walk space, which provides another option for movement for our students.**

**Margo - Our Extended Day classes use the gym after school. Once ILP transitions to their new location, this will open up significantly more space within the ELC. At that time, we will be able to be more strategic in creating additional safe open-play areas outside of the classroom.**

**We want families to be aware that classes are still able to go outside when weather permits. Decisions are always based on the “feels like” temperature to ensure student safety.**

**\*Under the Open Meeting Law, no action related to public comment may be acted upon at the meeting. Issues raised at the meeting may be scheduled for another SSC meeting, as approved by the council. Public comment is generally limited to two minutes per person.**



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| <p><b>7. Lottery Updates (8min)</b></p>  | <p><b>*Not Applicable</b></p> | <p>Kim - Yesterday, we held our PreKindergarten lottery for 3- and 4-year-olds for the AM, PM, and Extended Day programs. The lottery was conducted via a live Zoom session and had 16 active participants. The session was recorded, and all families will be able to view it on the Chelsea Public Schools website.</p> <p>When families registered for the lottery through the Parent Information Center, they were issued an identification number. This number was used during the lottery to protect student privacy. If a guardian no longer has their identification number, there is no need for concern—the Parent Information Center has all identification numbers securely stored in the system. All placement/waitlist letters will be mailed out by the Parent Information center on Monday, February 2nd.</p>  |
| <p><b>Comments/Parent Advice</b></p> <p>Hillary - That is an awesome crowd for viewing right after school.</p> |                               |  |
| <p><b>8. Discussion of budget for the 2026-2027 school year (20min)</b></p>                                    | <p><b>*Not Applicable</b></p> | <p>Margo - A topic we have to touch on every year but before we do, I will like to give a review. The school is funded by the state per the number of students currently enrolled in the school per year by October 1st. Whatever the state does not grant us, the City fills in the gaps and the Federal are grants requested and granted by a donation. Our current deficit is 5% which is less than last year. This has affected the upper grade levels, middle and high school levels. We have seen such a decrease in transfers and less registrations due to our current Immigration situation throughout our cities.</p> <p>Since January 7th, enrollment has remained largely consistent with last year, with an overall decrease of approximately seven students. It is important to note that children ages 3–5 are not legally required to attend school, whereas enrollment is mandatory for students age 6 and older. As a result, enrollment</p> |

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|  |  | <p>for our younger students can fluctuate, and in some cases, final enrollment numbers are not fully accurate come October. During the previous school year, teachers and staff members agreed to new collective bargaining agreements that included significant salary increases. These increases have a direct impact on the current year's budget. At that time, the Superintendent and the Finance Department were transparent about how these contractual changes would affect the district's budget in the years ahead.</p> |
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| <p><b>Comments/Parent Advise</b></p> <p><b>Rosa</b> - A lot of families have to leave back to their country, personally I am from El Salvador and I know a lot of friends who have had to make difficult decisions and go back or more so have been caught by ICE and sent back.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><b>Rosa</b> - Will salary increase impact student support?</p> <p><b>Margo</b>- We will work hard for things not to impact student education and support services. A survey for valuable input was sent out to Staff and Parent School Site Council Voting members. I will look at all when proposing the priorities needed here at the ELC. We are hoping that the City Manager of Chelsea will off set the buffer needed to not hit each school as hard.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><b>Sarah</b> - When are your proposal recommendations due?</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><b>Margo</b> - February 10th I will meet with Almi.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><b>Sarah</b> - Will all schools across the board cut the same amount of positions?</p> <p><b>Margo</b> -As requested, we will submit our proposal outlining five prioritized recommendations, indicating the order in which reductions could be considered. From my perspective, the district will review all submitted proposals collectively to determine the most appropriate course of action.</p> <p>In some cases, reductions may not necessarily involve eliminating a position. Instead, we may identify instructional resources or materials that could be reduced across the board. While personnel reductions are sometimes considered, they are always difficult decisions. Every staff member is a valued resource, and we strive to utilize each individual to their fullest potential in support of our students.</p> <p>Our primary goal throughout this process is to ensure that students do not experience any drastic changes that would negatively impact the structure or quality of their education. We remain committed to minimizing disruption while maintaining the integrity of our instructional program.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><b>Sarah</b> - We invite all families to be a part of Budget hearings and voice their opinions.</p> |  |  |
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| <p><b>9. Transition to the Complex (9mins)</b></p> | <p><b>*Not Applicable</b></p> | <p>Margo - We would like to begin proactively advertising and informing our families about the transition to the complex. Our goal is to generate excitement among our Kindergarten families about continuing on to the complex rather than considering charter school options. As you know, there has been growing concern within the city about why families are not consistently choosing to remain in our public school system, and we believe</p> |
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|   |                               | <p>earlier and stronger communication can help address this.</p> <p>Traditionally, we hold our Parent/Principal Information Meeting with the complex in the spring. However, we are proposing that we move this event earlier in the year—potentially as early as January—to provide families with timely information and reassurance.</p> <p>We have also discussed the possibility of creating a short introductory video that allows families to “meet” each of the complex principals. This could be an effective way to build connection and confidence in our schools.</p> <p>To support these efforts, we will invite our Communication Specialist, Michael Sullivan, to join next month’s meeting so we can collaboratively plan our outreach strategy. Additionally, our Assistant Principal, Kim Overbaugh, will be reaching out to all complex principals to coordinate and set a date for the Transition to the Complex meeting.</p> |
| <p><b>Comments/Parent Advise</b></p> <p><b>Stephanie</b> - It would be helpful to families if someone from the Special Ed Department could be present for these informational meetings to give specifics as to where their students have the choice to go or if there is a specific set school that gives the best academic support for our children.</p> |                               |  |
| <p><b>10. Issues/concerns /comments (3min)</b></p>  | <p><b>*Not Applicable</b></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Lori</b> - We are working with the union and will hold a parent family meeting to speak upon Budget. If you would like to participate and attend please submit your name to me so we are able to send you an invite and inform you of the date/time.</li> <li>○ <b>Sarah</b> - we believe this is also an important opportunity to create a supportive space for our families. We recognize that topics such as immigration and concerns surrounding ICE can create uncertainty and fear within our community. This can also be a time to discuss how we, as a school community, can organize and develop clear plans to support one another in emergency situations particularly in understanding how we can ensure the safety and well being of our students.</li> </ul>   |
| <p><b>11. Adjournment (1 min.)</b></p>  |                               | <p><b>Chair</b></p> <p>Motion to adjourn meeting by Margo DiBiasio at 9:46AM. Motion seconded by Krishell Ventura. All in favor. No objections. Meeting adjourned at 9:46 AM</p>   |

Prepared By: Krishell Ventura  
Date: 2/12/26