



School Committee

MINUTES OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

August 27, 2026 (Approved 9/3/3/26)

The Chelsea School Committee held a meeting on August 27, 2026, in the City Council Chambers, City Hall, 500 Broadway, Chelsea.

Members Present: Mayra Balderas, Kati Cabral, Claryangeliz Covas Caraballo, Lucia Henriquez, Ana Hernandez, Dr. Sarah Neville, Shawn O'Regan, and JAKE Small

Also Present: Superintendent Dr. Almudena G. Abeyta, Chief of Staff & Wellness Dr. Aaron Jennings, Assistant Superintendent Michelle Martinello, Chief Finance & Operations Officer Billie Jo Turner, MASC Field Representative Alicia Mallon, and School Committee Clerk Veronica Dyer-Medina.

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

Roll Call for Attendance:

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

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

Agenda:

Review of FY26 YTD Finance Summary: Ms. Turner reviewed the YTD budget clean up report from FY26 that was

performed by the business office during their end of year reporting. There were no questions.

Consideration and action to increase special education pre-payment of up to \$5 million dollars: Ms. Turner requested that the board increase the pre-payment for special education tuition to \$5 million instead of the \$3 million previously voted on. Mr. O'Regan motioned to move this item to the regular meeting for vote, and Ms. Balderas seconded.

Ms. Hernandez read the following grant items for review. There were no questions. Mr. O'Regan motioned to move the items to vote at the regular meeting and Ms. Henriquez seconded the motion.

- Consideration and action to accept the awarded allocations for federal grants for SY 2026-2027 in the amount of \$653,789 for the ILP, Early College Support Grant, & PRISM II.
- Consideration and action to accept the awarded allocations for federal grants for SY 2026-2027 in the amount of \$6,165,702 for the Title Grants, IDEA, Early Childhood Special Education, ILP, TAG, & MassGrad Promising Practices.
- Consideration and action to accept the awarded allocations for the listed private grants for SY 2026-2027 in the amount of \$444,000 for the Barr Foundation grant for Chelsea High School.

Review of home school petitions for SY2026-2027: Mr. Deleidi reviewed home schooling petitions received for 15 families with a total of 13 students. He explained that this was double of what he typically sees this time of year and petitions vary for reasons like religion and personal. Mr. O'Regan motioned to move this item to the regular meeting for vote and Ms. Baldersas seconded the motion.

Review of the student representative role description: Dr. Neville reviewed the highlights and changes that were in the representation of students adding 2 from CHS, 1 from COA and 1 from CVLA, and updating the selection to a student election process. Vice-Chair Cabral asked about the turnaround time with the election process. Both Dr. Abeyta and Dr. Jennings stated it would be tight but they would work with the secondary principals to get it going asap; assuring students would be ready by November the latest, but would hope to have them in October. Ms. Mallon also provided the group with MASC guidelines for review and stated that students should be elected. Ms. Covas Caraballo shared that she wasn't comfortable moving forward just yet because of questions around the student attendance issue. Chair Hernandez stated that issue may be rare and Vice-Chair Cabral added that central office staff can assist in managing this. Vice-Chair Cabral motioned to move the policy for vote at the next regular meeting, and Mr. Small seconded it. A roll call vote was called.

Chair Hernandez requested a roll call vote:

Mr. Small	Yes
Ms. Covas Caraballo	Yes
Ms. Henriquez	Yes
Mr. O'Regan	Yes
Ms. Balderas	Yes
Dr. Neville	Yes
Ms. Cabral	Yes
Ms. Hernandez	Yes

Mr. Gomez-Pereira	Absent
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Having 8 votes in the affirmative, and 1 member absent, the motions passed.

Review of the public comment policy: School Committee Clerk Dyer-Medina reviewed the drafted public comment policy. She compared what already existed on the cps website to research she found from other districts. Some things that were added were: sign up guidelines and options to sign up, time limits for 20 or more sign ups, and rules of conduct. There were a few areas that were requested to amend like: adding city council chamber capacity information, re-wording ability to sign up the day of the meeting, and editing section in public hearing section that states public hearing instead of public comment. Vice-Chair Cabral asked that we reiterate the policy at the first three meetings so folks become accustom, and Ms. Mallon advised to run the conduct section by the legal department. With these recommendations, Dr. Neville motioned to move to the policy for vote at the next regular meeting, and Mr. O'Regan seconded it. A roll call vote was called.

Chair Hernandez requested a roll call vote:

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

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

Review of operating protocols: Vice-Chair Cabral requested to amend the protocols on page 2 to add language about how members can add items to the agenda.

Vice-Chair Cabral motioned to move to the policy for vote at the next regular meeting, and Ms. Balderas seconded it. A roll call vote was called.

Chair Hernandez requested a roll call vote:

Mr. Small	Yes
Ms. Covas Caraballo	Yes
Ms. Henriquez	Yes

Mr. O'Regan	Yes
Ms. Balderas	Yes
Dr. Neville	Yes
Ms. Cabral	Yes
Ms. Hernandez	Yes
Mr. Gomez-Pereira	Absent

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

Review of Protect Act Policy: Dr. Abeyta and Mr. Deleidi shared the Protect Act policy that districts with the guidance of DESE have been asked to adopt. They explained that as a district, they have already been following most of these guidelines. Mr. Small suggested taken a more aggressive approach with the protection in the policy and Dr. Abeyta stated that the procedures is where they can focus on that language. He stated he would work on some suggestions.

Mr. O'Regan motioned to move to the policy for vote at the next regular meeting, and Ms. Balderas seconded it. A roll call vote was called.

Chair Hernandez requested a roll call vote:

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

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

Adjournment: Mr. O'Regan motioned to adjourn the meeting and Ms. Balderas seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 7pm.

Recorded by



Veronica Dyer-Medina
School Committee Clerk

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