



School Committee

MINUTES OF THE CHELSEA SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

September 3, 2026

Approved 10-1-2026

The Chelsea School Committee held a meeting on September 3, 2026, in the City Council Chambers, City Hall, 500 Broadway, Chelsea.

Members Present: Mayra Balderas, Kati Cabral, Claryangeliz Covas Caraballo, Jonathan Gomez-Pereira, Lucia Henriquez, Ana Hernandez, Dr. Sarah Neville, and JAKE Small

Also Present: Superintendent Dr. Almudena G. Abeyta, Chief of Staff & Wellness Dr. Aaron Jennings, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Blake-Canty, Chief Academic Officer Adam Deleidi, Officer of Innovation and Opportunity Malik Howshan, Communications Manager Michael Sullivan, Human Resources Director Dr. Christine Lee, Chief Finance & Operations Officer Billie Jo Turner, and School Committee Clerk Veronica Dyer-Medina.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call for Attendance:

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

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

Special Recognitions: The Chelsea School Committee Recognized the following:

- **2026 Butterfly Award Recipient:** Lori Loussedes-Early Learning Center Educator
- **Name, Strength, & Story Recipients:** Kathryn Anderson-Browne Middle School Educator & CTU president, and Veronica Dyer-Medina-Executive Assistant & School Committee Clerk received the NSS award for the month of September.

At this time Vice-Chair Cabral motioned to move out of order to vote on the Protect Act Policy and Dr. Neville seconded the motion.

Item #:26SC49: Consideration and action to adopt the Chelsea Public Schools Protect Act Policy.

Chair Hernandez requested a roll call vote:

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

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

Ms. Balderas motioned to move back in order and Ms. Henriquez seconded the motion.

School Committee minutes: Ms. Balderas motioned to accept the meeting minutes of the Regular Meeting on June 4, 2026, and the Sub-committee of the Whole on August 27, 2026 and Ms. Henriquez seconded the motion.

Public Comment:

Zachary Ryan-resident of Gillooly Road in Chelsea addressed the committee regarding conversations he's had with parents and teachers over the summer regarding transparency and failing rates. He asked for the

committee to tell parents what they can do to make it better, stating they want to know what's going on. He also asked what more can be done taking the Protect Act one step further and if there is a plan to pivot to remote if needed. He then mentioned starting the budget earlier and encouraged members to start asking now about cuts and asked to keep the community informed.

Presentations: Professional Teaching Status recognitions: Human Resources Director Dr. Lee shared recognition in her [presentation](#) for 48 educators who have achieved professional status. She stated this showed retention of teachers and this was the highest number of PTS status recipients in the time she has been here.

Report of the Superintendent of Schools:

Indicators of Success: Dr. Blake-Canty presented the [Indicators of Success](#) for the month of June-End of School Year 2025-2026. Some highlights from the indicators she presented were:

- Attendance district wide at the year end was 89% where the goal was 95%.
- Drop out numbers YTD is at 5.17% with a total of 87 students.
- Mobility rate for YTD was 479 in and 367 out-holding on to 112 students for the year.
- Dr. Blake-Canty reviewed end of year numbers for the number of students who took algebra, AP courses, calculus, and early college classes from the beginning of the year versus the end of the year. While most numbers dropped a bit towards the end of, the number of students who took early college increased from 264 to 343. She additionally reviewed the number of students who received a 3, 4, or 5 on their AP exams adding that the number of students taking the exams increased from the year prior.
- Dr. Neville asked if the district was in a strategic planning year and Dr. Abeyta answered that the district would work on a refresher but keep the priorities the same. A few members discussed tweaking the data and the using whole numbers instead of percentages to reflect the data. Ms. Covas Caraballo asked follow up questions around early college and credits. Dr. Blake-Canty discussed the increase in partnerships with BHCC, Salem State, and MAss Art. Ms. Covas Caraballo also asked about LaVida scholars to which Dr. Abeyta explained that this program focuses on first generation college student support. Mr. SMALL added insight around the data in Indicator #7 regarding the number of students meeting AP scores of 39%. He stated that while the number is small, but incredible; stated he'd like to take a deeper dive in how they are getting there. Dr. Blake-Canty credited the teams tutoring on the weekends.

Committee Reports: Dr. Abeyta went over the Personnel and Enrollment reports to commend them to the record. She shared that the fill rate during the summer was 88% and almost all positions were filled at the start of the year. Most classroom positions were hired early which helps provide more quality candidates. Dr. Abeyta then reviewed the enrollment data and shared that there was a 300 student drop and this will have budget implications. She explained that the district will be starting the budget early this year to reconcile. She explained how looking at the budgets closely to make sure FTE's match payroll to they can look for possible cuts. Dr. Neville asked about what schools are doing to recruit students. Dr. Abeyta stated that public education is losing students and that the district needed to work on getting it's story out and share the right

narrative because there is competition especially in the middle schools. She ended by saying that her interns from Harvard are working on a report around this data and a middle school re-design will be a part of the strategic plan refresh. Vice-Chair Cabral motioned to approve the reports and committee minutes, and Ms. Balderas seconded the motion.

New Business:

The following item was motioned to be tabled by Vice-Chair Cabral and seconded by Ms. Balderas so that further amendments can be made and reviewed by the City Solicitor.

Item #:26SC48: Consideration and action to adopt the Chelsea Public Schools Public Comment Policy.

Chair Hernandez requested a roll call vote to table **Item #:26SC48:** Consideration and action to adopt the Chelsea Public Schools Public Comment Policy.

Mr. Small	Yes
Ms. Covas Caraballo	No
Ms. Henriquez	Yes
Mr. O'Regan	Absent
Ms. Balderas	Yes
Dr. Neville	Yes
Ms. Cabral	Yes
Ms. Hernandez	Yes
Mr. Gomez-Pereira	Yes

Having 7 votes in the affirmative, 1 no vote, and 1 member absent, the item was tabled.

The following items were motioned to vote on via consent agenda by Ms. Balderas and seconded by Mr. Small.

- **Item #: 26SC42:** 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.
- **Item #: 26SC43:** 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.
- **Item #:26SC44:** 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.
- **Item #:26SC45:** Consideration and action to authorize the prepayment of up to \$5 million in special education out-of-district tuition fees for FY2027.

Chair Hernandez requested a roll call vote:

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

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

Item #:26SC46: Consideration and action to approve home schooling petitions for a total of 13 families and a total of 15 students for SY2026-2027.

Item #:26SC47: Consideration and action to approve the Student Representative Role description.

Chair Hernandez requested a roll call vote:

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

Having 7 votes in the affirmative, 1 present vote, and 1 member absent, the motion passed.

Announcements:

- Ms. Balderas invited the audience to an event on Friday 9/18 at Tu Casa-Fronteras Sin Barreras.
- Mr. Gomez-Pereira announced office hours on 10/15/26 at 6pm-location TBD.
- Ms. Covas Caraballo reminded the audience about bus safety and traffic and upcoming iReady scores that would be announced, and ParentSquare trainings.
- Vice-Chair Cabral shared a Charter review committee update-sharing that she is serving as the school committee representative on the committee and to reach out with any questions or concerns that she can bring forward.
- Clerk Dyer-Medina invited the community to the 26th Annual Chelsea Kiwanis Track & Field event on 9/19.
- Chair Hernandez shared that she would be having surgery on 9/24 and will be back in November.

Adjournment: At this time Ms. Covas Caraballo motioned to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Balderas seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm.

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

June 2026

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	Month	Month	Month	Month	Month	Month	YTD
Grade 1	93.8%	91.0%	90.0%	91.8%	91.8%	93.7%	94.0%	93.2%	89.7%	89.4%	91.4%	90.9%	92.2%	92.1%	91.1%	91.9%
Grade 2	94.4%	91.2%	91.2%	92.0%	92.2%	94.1%	94.6%	94.5%	91.0%	92.0%	92.2%	91.9%	93.9%	93.5%	92.3%	93.1%
Grade 3	95.2%	92.2%	91.6%	92.0%	92.1%	94.2%	94.9%	94.3%	92.2%	91.1%	92.8%	92.6%	94.1%	93.9%	93.0%	93.4%
Grade 4	95.5%	92.5%	91.9%	92.4%	92.7%	94.1%	94.7%	94.5%	91.9%	91.8%	93.3%	91.8%	94.1%	93.9%	91.9%	93.2%
Grade 5	91.9%	91.7%	93.1%	93.1%	92.9%	95.4%	94.8%	94.8%	92.2%	92.9%	93.1%	93.0%	94.0%	94.5%	93.8%	93.9%
Grade 6	93.1%	91.1%	92.8%	92.9%	93.2%	94.3%	94.6%	93.9%	91.5%	91.4%	93.4%	92.2%	92.9%	93.4%	92.6%	93.1%
Grade 7	91.0%	91.2%	91.8%	93.5%	93.5%	94.0%	93.2%	93.0%	90.5%	90.0%	91.6%	91.8%	92.7%	92.6%	92.7%	92.4%
Grade 8	90.7%	90.7%	90.9%	91.9%	92.4%	94.1%	93.0%	93.3%	91.3%	91.5%	93.3%	91.8%	93.3%	93.4%	94.2%	93.1%
Grade 9	88.8%	85.4%	85.0%	81.2%	79.0%	86.9%	84.6%	81.1%	76.5%	77.6%	78.9%	79.6%	77.9%	76.2%	76.3%	79.2%
Grade 10	85.3%	81.4%	82.6%	82.0%	81.3%	84.6%	83.0%	82.5%	76.4%	78.1%	82.6%	83.7%	82.8%	79.2%	79.8%	80.1%
Grade 11	81.0%	75.5%	77.8%	81.9%	82.3%	85.5%	83.9%	81.6%	76.6%	78.8%	85.5%	85.6%	86.4%	80.5%	83.1%	80.6%
Grade 12	78.2%	48.1%	74.8%	77.3%	80.4%	86.2%	83.2%	82.0%	78.7%	81.1%	82.2%	83.0%	81.6%	80.3%	84.6%	80.9%
Post-Graduate	93.8%	90.3	88.8%	94.7%	87.0%	87.3%	90.4%	89.7%	88.8%	88.1%	91.9%	90.9%	89.6%	93.5%	89.4%	89.8%
Kindergarten	93.1%	89.4%	88.7%	90.8%	90.2%	93.5%	92.4%	91.1%	86.5%	88.1%	90.7%	90.5%	91.6%	91.8%	91.7%	90.9%
Grade PreK	91.5%	89.8%	89.5%	90.8%	90.2%	93.5%	91.9%	91.0%	87.2%	87.2%	90.3%	89.7%	91.4%	90.4%	90.9%	90.5%
District Total	90.8%	88.1%	88.0%	88.8%	87.3%	91.6%	90.9%	90.0%	86.6%	87.2%	89.4%	89.1%	89.9%	89.0%	89.2%	89.0%

Indicator 3: Priority 1 - Rigorous and culturally relevant instruction of all students**# of Grade 8 students enrolled in Algebra 1**

	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026
Beginning of the SY	0	63	104	73	82
End of the SY	0	67	104	77	64

of Students enrolled in AP courses

	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026
Beginning of the SY	255	282	391	399	442
End of the SY	236	273	390	384	427

of Students enrolled in Calculus courses

	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026
Beginning of the SY	138	138	90	90	115
End of the SY	131	121	92	91	110

of Students enrolled in Early College courses (committed to Early College pathway/complete 4 or more college courses by graduation)

	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026
Beginning of the SY	214	325	211	226	264
End of the SY	303	317	217	317	343

Indicator 7: 85% of High School Students in AP courses will attain a 3, 4, or 5

	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026
# Students enrolled in AP courses	248	282	391	384	442
# AP tests taken	269	375	541	598	719
# of tests scored 3, 4, or 5	110	132	164	251	278
% of tests scored 3, 4, or 5	41%	35%	30%	42%	39%

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	44	98	94	134	117	87
Drop-Out %	2.82%	6.06%	5.33%	7.24%	6.4%	5.17%

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			
High School Enrollment	Students	EL Students	Students	EL Students	Students	EL Students	SWDs	Dual-ID	Students	EL Students	SWDs	Dual-ID	Students	EL Students	SWDs	Dual-ID
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	27	47	6	7
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%	2.9%	10.8%	3.0%	5.9%

6/1/26 - 6/30/26 DROPOUT NOTES:

- 3 Students have withdrawn
- 1 Job Corps, 2 Location Unknown
- Grade 9 = 1
Grade 10 = 1
Grade 12 = 1

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	2	2	6	4	8	2	5	5	3	3	2	0	1	2	0	2	39	24
Elementary	218	104	161	97	210	120	218	180	43	15	16	15	9	10	18	8	19	10	11	13	11	16	9	7	10	4	1	2	147	100
Middle	182	100	149	96	202	86	169	131	35	13	18	11	9	8	12	7	9	6	10	3	7	10	4	6	2	3	2	3	108	70
High School	338	209	337	215	287	245	249	247	79	27	21	8	11	24	6	13	19	34	11	10	18	10	7	7	8	33	5	7	185	173
District Total	816	443	720	451	771	488	725	621	164	57	60	36	31	44	42	32	55	52	37	31	39	39	22	20	21	42	8	14	479	367

*District-wide mobility rate (sum of transfers in and transfers out divided by October 1 enrollment (5749) is 14.7% 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	14.7				

**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