

Chelsea Community Schools Advisory Board Meeting

Recreation & Cultural Affairs Division

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, June 13, 2017 6:00 – 7:30pm

Williams School Building, 180 Walnut St, Chelsea, MA

Members: Daniel Padilla -Chair, Camila Bernal, Recorder, Mohamed Qasim, Kevin Sandoval, Alice Murillo, Rosemarie DeFelice

Absent: Camila Bernal, Carolina Anzola

Staff: Bea Cravatta- Director, Recreation & Cultural Affairs Division

I. Review and Approval of 5/23/17 minutes – 1st: Rosemarie DeFelice 2nd: Mohamed Qasim. Unanimous Rosemarie offered to record the meeting's minutes in Camila's absence.

Following the articles of the Chelsea Community School By Laws, the members voted unanimously to terminate Carolina Anzola's membership to the board due to nonattendance (3 or more consecutive absences within a six months period). This will allow the City Manager to appoint a new member to fill the seat.

II. Use of CPS Facilities

The Director will be meeting with Joe Cooney, Gerry McCue, and Dave Ferraro on 7/12 to discuss issues that have evolved due to the constant use of the Williams Building after student dismissal (4:20pm). Because there is very little turnover time to get the classrooms and other spaces ready, Community School students are coming into classrooms that haven't had time to be cleaned or had trash removed. Hopefully, a plan of action will be developed.

III. Branding/Social Media/Website

Renee D'Amico (Management Asst; Communications / Graphic Designer) is working on ways to rebrand our programs. Hopefully, by September, a new website will be up and running. She is working on an "umbrella" logo for the Recreation & Cultural Affairs Division that includes community schools and recreation. The Facebook page will also see changes. Enrollment was down slightly for the summer session and we are looking towards developing seasonal flyers to make the community more aware of our offerings. We discussed having 3 distinct seasons –fall, winter/spring/summer.

IV. Summer & Fall Programs

All groups asking to use Chelsea Public School space via Community Schools must apply through the Community Pass site. HiSet enrollment has been low. This could be because it is limited to Chelsea residents only. It was suggested that it be opened to others living outside the community for a higher fee and that Chelsea residents continue to receive a stipend. It was also suggested that the fee could be reimbursed as an added incentive to pass the exam.

There is also a \$20,000 scholarship fund that will hopefully be available to residents in new fiscal year.

The board is working on a guest speaker series for the fall called "Gears of Chelsea". A letter has been sent to Arthur Demoulas inviting him to be our first speaker. A follow-up call will happen next week, if we have not heard back from his office.

We are looking for new activities and courses for the fall. Suggestions were ceramics, water marbling, computer literacy, workforce development, "tech goes home" on-line curriculum.

It was suggested that trained interpreters be at the Splash program with parents. Also, Bea is looking into other pools to partner with so that residents can continue to swim during the year. The board discussed pros and cons of using YMCA facilities such as Charlestown and Malden.

V. Events

The Chelsea Lunch Marketplace will be held outside City Hall on from Wednesdays, beginning July 12, 12-2pm and running through September.

VI. Announcements

Camila Bernal will be taking a leave of absence from the board through December to attend school in Chile. Daniel Padilla has been accepted to Harvard Graduate School for Urban Planning.

The meeting adjourned at 7:25p.m.

Next meeting: Tuesday, July 11, 2017

Respectfully submitted: Rosemarie DeFelice