



**Cohasset Public Schools**  
143 Pond Street  
Cohasset, MA 02025  
*Continuing the Commitment to Excellence*  
**Cohasset School Committee Meeting**

**Special School Committee Minutes**

Monday, 6/28/2021

3:00 p.m.

Zoom Video Call

Virtual Meeting – 143TV/Zoom/Facebook

**In Attendance:** Craig MacLellan, Chairman  
Ashley Colleary  
Lance Dial  
Lydia St. Onge  
Paul Kearney

**Also, in Attendance:** Dr. Patrick Sullivan, Superintendent

**Call to Order and Roll Call** - Chairman MacLellan called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. He stated the meeting is being held remotely under the Town's Declaration of Emergency. All votes will be taken by roll call vote. This meeting is being live streamed on Cohasset 143TV and Facebook. **Roll Call: Ashley Colleary – Present (3:10 p.m.), Lance Dial – Present, Paul Kearney - Present, Lydia St. Onge - Present, Craig MacLellan - Present.**

**Mask/ Face Covering Policy** – Recent revisions to the state's guidance are shared by Dr. Sullivan –

For summer programs: Masking indoors and maintaining other health and safety guidance is not required but is encouraged. The DESE summer guidance is in alignment with state guidance encouraging unvaccinated individuals to continue to mask. The DPH mask advisory advises unvaccinated residents to continue wearing masks in indoor settings and when they can't socially distance.

For the fall: At this time, all health and safety guidance including masking and physical distancing will be lifted. The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education will collaborate with the Department of Public Health (DPH) to issue and additional health and safety recommendations over the summer should they become necessary.

ESY starts on July 6 and summer learning program begins on July 12 so if the School Committee determines that students will be allowed to participate without wearing masks, we will have to adjust that now as the next School Committee meeting is on July 14.

This implicates Policy EBCFA, Face Coverings Policy. Chairman MacLellan proposes revisions to the policy and the committee discusses additional revisions to make the policy applicable to changing guidance and future pandemics.

Revised language: *The Cohasset Public Schools are committed to promoting the health and safety of students, staff, families and the community during public health emergencies. During such public health emergencies, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), the Governor of the Commonwealth, and state and local public health officials (all of the aforementioned entities collectively referred to as "Authorities") all issue guidance*



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*relative to various safety measures that the public should employ in preventing widespread infection. Said guidance may, from time to time, require the use of face masks and/or face coverings. During any public health crisis or emergency, throughout which the Authorities (or any one of the individual entities that make up the Authorities) expressly require the use of face masks and/or face coverings, the Cohasset Public Schools will, in the interest of safeguarding the well-being of all members of our school community and the community-at-large, adopt the then-issued guidance and/or requirements.*

*If any of the guidance or requirements between one or more of the Authorities is/are in conflict with one another, The Cohasset Public Schools shall adopt the guidance/requirements issued by DESE.*

*If the Authorities do not expressly define the term “mask” or “face covering,” then the following definition shall apply:*

*A cloth, fabric, or synthetic covering, which does not contain holes or vents and that entirely covers a person’s mouth and nose, which is held in place using ear loops or an elastic or fastening cord that runs around the back of the head.*

*Unless otherwise mandated, an individual may be excused from the requirement for any one of the following reasons:*

*The individual:*

- has trouble breathing;*
- is unconscious;*
- is incapacitated;*
- cannot remove the mask or face covering without assistance;*
- is under the age of two.*

*Exceptions to this policy may be made under certain circumstances, such as for an individual with medical, behavioral or other challenges who is unable to wear a face mask or face covering, or for whom it is unsafe to wear a mask or face covering. A written note from the individual’s physician is required for a requested exemption. Parents/Guardians may not excuse their child from any face mask requirement by signing a waiver. Any such exceptions must be approved by the building principal in consultation with the school nurse or local Board of Health. Face shields or physical barriers may provide an alternative in some instances.*

*In circumstances where the Authorities require face masks or face coverings, masks or coverings will not be required when appropriate social distancing is enforced during the following activities:*

- during mask breaks;*



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- while eating or drinking;
- during physical education classes while outside; or
- during any time(s) or activities that are expressly excluded from mask requirements issued by the Authorities

*While the School Committee acknowledges the developmental challenges associated with mask-wearing for children in grades 2 and lower, we prioritize the overall health and safety of all who learn and work on school grounds and on school transportation. For this reason, more frequent mask breaks will be scheduled for these students and building staff and leadership will work with students and families to uphold these safety standards in a developmentally appropriate way.*

*A student's mask or face covering is to be provided by the student's family. Staff members are responsible for providing their own face coverings. However, the district will supply disposable face covering for individuals who arrive at a building, or board school transportation, without one.*

*If a non-exempt student declines to wear a face covering appropriately, or is otherwise in violation of this policy, the student may be removed from in-person instruction and school transportation. The building principal will consult with the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) to determine whether an exception is appropriate.*

*Violations of this policy by staff will be handled in the same manner as other violations of School Committee policy.*

*Visitors in violation of this policy will be denied entry to the school/district facility.*

*Nothing in this policy shall be interpreted or construed as prohibiting masks or face coverings, which are employed for health-related concerns, if any student wishes to wear one despite the absence of any requirement to do so. Cohasset Public Schools reserve the right to implement any safety protocols, procedures, and/or measures available to it, regardless of any explicit guidance from the Authorities if, in the determination of the Superintendent, in collaboration with the School Committee, any particular safety protocol, procedure, and or measure is deemed necessary to preserve the health and safety of students, staff, families and the community.*

**Motion to approve the revised policy EBCFA with regards to face coverings, motion by Mr. Dial, seconded by Mrs. St. Onge. Roll call vote: Ashley Colleary – Aye, Lance Dial – aye, Paul Kearney - Aye, Lydia St. Onge - Aye, Craig MacLellan - Aye.**

**Those changes pass unanimously and are immediate adopted and will apply to the summer programs.**

**Adjourn Open Meeting –**

**Motion to adjourn by Mrs. Colleary, seconded by Mrs. St. Onge. Roll call vote: Ashley Colleary – Aye, Lance Dial – aye, Paul Kearney - Aye, Lydia St. Onge - Aye, Craig MacLellan - Aye.**

**Meeting adjourned at 3:16 p.m.**