



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

School Committee Minutes

Wednesday, 5/5/2021

Zoom Video Call

Virtual Meeting – 143TV/Zoom/Facebook

In Attendance:

Craig MacLellan, Chairman
Ashley Colleary
Lydia St. Onge
Ellen Maher
Paul Kearney

Also, in Attendance:

Dr. Patrick Sullivan, Superintendent
Dr. Leslie Scollins, Assistant Superintendent
Barbara Cerwonka, Director of Student Services
Alexandra Sullivan, Deer Hill Principal
Julie Bradford, Deer Hill Teacher
Erica Parrell, Deer Hill Teacher
Karin Johnston, Deer Hill Teacher
Jake Squatritio, Student Representative

The Committee convened for a public hearing on the matter of school choice at 5:51pm – four of five members were present, and all voted to remain a district that does NOT participate in school choice.

Chairman MacLellan called the meeting to order at 6:00 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 Vote: Ashley Colleary - Present, Paul Kearney - Present, Ellen Maher - Present, Lydia St. Onge - Present, Craig MacLellan - Present.**

Public Comment - None

Superintendent's report - Dr. Sullivan acknowledge the teachers in the district – it is teacher appreciation week and we are ALL very grateful to the wonderful educators in our district – thank you!

There are 100 appointments available for Cohasset students at the Marshfield Fair Grounds this Friday. Students will need to be accompanied by a parent/guardian and have a permission slip as well – this information was sent out to families by Dr. Sullivan.

Focusing now in the schools on transitions (Osgood to DH, DH to CMS, CMS to CHS) – adjustment counselors and leadership are working together to get students comfortable with the transition from Deer Hill to CMS specifically. Specialists and teams (foreign language, for example) are working on transitions as well. Principal Mills is also having some open virtual meetings with families that have been widely publicized too. Child study teams are also working closely – we are grateful for everyone's efforts to help our students transition smoothly!

Jake Squatritio provided a student advisor report. He updated the Committee on his transition back into full time in-person learning and said that he's really enjoying the time together with the other students.



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Spotlight on Learning - Deer Hill students and teachers joined the Committee to present a spotlight on learning around Women's History Month. One project was a March Madness Book Bracket that students did at the Deer Hill, this year's theme was "Women Warriors" and the other project was "Women's History Biography Projects" around women in STEM and women who present as global citizens. Wilma Rudolph and Isastou Ceesay were the two women who made it to the final bracket! Jane McNevin and Christian Kondrat shared their love for the book *One Plastic Bag*. Molly O'Carroll and shared their Norah McDonough picked the book *Shark Lady*. Mrs. Johnston encouraged students to research women who may not be as well-known and they created a beautiful display with a scrapbooking theme on the wall at Deer Hill. Liam Baker shared his project about Marie Curie and Jack Clark chose Michelle Obama.

Summer Learning Program - Dr. Scollins notified us that we have been awarded a grant for a four-week summer learning program for grades 1-11. Starting 7/12 – 8/15, Monday through Thursday from 8:30am – 11:30am. There is a cap of 40 students in elementary and 40 at the high School and an emphasis on higher need students. Information was sent out last Monday – 86 families have expressed interest – May 12th will be the deadline for families to notify the district that they are interested in attending. Group sizes will be 10 students per group to ensure individualized instruction. This program will run concurrent with the Extended School Year programming. Elementary will be at Osgood and High School will be at Osgood. There is the option for students to participate in Rec and the Summer Learning Program – Rec and CPS are working together to ensure logistical coordination.

Dr. Scollins asks that if families register, that they absolutely commit to being there for all two weeks. Mr. Kearney asked if we might qualify for more grant funding to expand the programming and Dr. Scollins said that they are certainly keeping an eye on that; and Mrs. St. Onge suggested we might want to look into having to-go lunches go with this as well. Great idea – looking into it! There was a question about why students in ESY wouldn't qualify for this program – Mrs. Cerwonka and Dr. Scollins explained that ESY programming is designed to specifically address IEP requirements in a specialized setting, and Summer Learning is a general ed program that will not include specialized instruction. We encourage any parent who is entertaining these options and confused/concerned about the decision to reach out to Barbara Cerwonka directly: bcerwonka@cohassetk12.org

Special Education Update - Mrs. Cerwonka updated the committee on the ESY program, secondary programs, and SEPAC. ESY will run from 7/5-8/6. It is specially designed for students on IEPs and to prevent summer regressions around learning. There will be secondary programming introduced next year that include more vocational elements and opportunities for students.

On 5/18 at 10am SEPAC will host an outdoor coffee – 234 Forest Ave. All are welcome!

Chairman MacLellan expressed interest in finding more ways to look at data and hear from Student Services more with data and information about where students are excelling and where students might need even more support.

School Committee Comments and Communication -

Alternative Energy Committee Update: Tanya Bodell joined the Committee to review some information and visuals from the bidder (Amaresco) related to solar installations at the schools. Amaresco provided information on car canopies, a bus parking lot with an array, and ground arrays.



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School Committee Goal Progress: The committee reviewed SC 20-21 goals and updated the information to include whether goals were met, are in progress, or have not made progress. School Facilities Committee: Chairman MacLellan is working with Chairwoman Kennedy to create the School Facilities Committee and get the committee operational in the coming months – he anticipates beginning this committee’s work early this summer.

Liaison Reports:

Mrs. Colleary updated the committee on the formation of the Cohasset Pride Project, the date of the Loving movie event at CHS (June 12) and the plans to commemorate Juneteenth by commissioning a piece of art done by an artist in Boston that will be on display at the Middle School/High School and then be displayed at the SS Arts Center after the holiday.

Mr. Kearney shared that SEPAC is active and meeting and invites anyone to join in their important work. He shared that Cohasset Theatre is coming back – and also asked Dr. Sullivan to create a participation report of sorts that would help us gauge what students are participating in which activities.

Mr. MacLellan shared that portraits of seniors will be going up on the common next week – yay!

Meeting Minute Approval - The committee voted to approve four sets of meeting minutes.

The Committee Entered into Executive Session

The meeting was adjourned at 9:02 p.m.