



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

School Committee Minutes

Wednesday, 4/28/2021

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
Susan Owen, Director of Finance & Operations
Alexandra Sullivan, Deer Hill Principal
Lisa Farrell, Osgood Principal
Caroline Patterson, Student Representative

Chairman MacLellan called the meeting to order at 6:02 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 shared a few pictures of the last phase of full time in-person re-entry. There are a number of tents and outdoor structures that have been erected to accommodate outdoor learning, eating, and mask breaks for students. While there was an uptick in cases in the HS after April vacation, this was not a result of contact in schools and the schools plan to continue to follow state guidance on contact tracing and quarantine. Wellness Wednesdays will take place over the course of the next six weeks. Safe Harbor will be communicating with parents and families about ways to communicate with young people, aimed at reducing youth substance misuse.

Dr. Scollins provided an update on a virtual job fair that reached a diverse group of candidates where the administrators were able to meet candidates and speak with them online.

Student Update - Caroline Patterson updated us on a variety of class/senior activities that the students were able to participate in. Caroline voiced the concern that students are feeling over scheduled and suggested that perhaps a longer break in the morning would be helpful. Sports are going well. Caroline also voiced a concern about health curriculum – she believes there is room for improvement in mental health resources and advocated for updates to the curriculum.

Senior events: Prom at Alumni Field - 5/21; Senior Celebration - 5/27; Graduation at Alumni Field – 5/28

Elementary Operations Update – On March 1st our elementary schools went back into full in-person learning. Principals Farrell and Sullivan provided updates – all is going well! Staff felt supported by the CEF and PSO (thanks to CEF and PSO!). Principal Sullivan shared updates on programming that is



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happening at the Deer Hill from Holly Hill and yoga that she plans to continue. Lots of information from our elementary principals about re-entry to full in-person learning – please watch the video of the meeting for the full update!

Calendar Update - The school committee voted to amend the 21-22 school calendar to begin school on Wednesday, September 8th and end school on Thursday, June 23rd. This change was made to ensure that the first day of school does not fall on the first day of Rosh Hashanah (9/7/21) and allows for the observation of Juneteenth on Monday, June 21st. The new calendar was distributed to the school community and has been posted on the website.

Athletic Update - AD Rotundi joined us to update us on the athletic seasons that we've had to date. Spring seasons are in full swing and this will be the first season in about a year and half that the MIAA will have tournaments. Student athletes are doing a great job respecting COVID protocols. There are four-sport athletes for the first time due to the redistribution of seasons because of COVID.

Private School Enrollment - There was a notable (and not completely unexpected) uptick in private school enrollment this year as compared to years past. We will continue to keep an eye on these numbers, as we want to make sure our families' and students' needs are being met in CPS.

SSEC Board Member - The committee voted to approve Dr. Sullivan continuing to act as a Board member at the South Shore Educational Collaborative.

Finance Update - Mrs. Owen provided an update on the budget and spending to date.

School Committee Comments and Communication:

Mr. MacLellan reminded those watching that the School Facilities Committee will be constituted early this summer to begin meeting. If you have any interest in the work of this committee please reach out to Chairman MacLellan (cmaclellan@cohassetk12.org).

Mrs. Colleary updated the group on discussions at the HS School Council meeting. In reference to the uptick in cases as the HS after April vacation, Mrs. Colleary encouraged families to remember that senior events and end of year celebrations are dependent on our town working together to keep COVID transmission/cases down. She is tracking legislation co-sponsored by Rep. Kearney of Scituate related to tuition free Kindergarten – she will follow up with Sen. O'Connor for an update and will report back.

Mr. Kearny shared that he is working on a Cohasset Schools Appreciation Committee and looks forward to sharing his ideas with the Committee. He looks forward to continuing his work on the Wellness Committee.

Mrs. St. Onge shared that the Deer Hill will have a Star Wars Day on 5/4 that was driven by student work. May the 4th be with you! AEC will be coming to our meeting next Wednesday to give us an update on solar options and electric busses.

The Committee moved into Executive Session.

Meeting adjourned at 8:52 p.m.