



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

**School Committee Minutes**

Wednesday, 2/3/2021

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  
Brian Scott, CHS Principal  
John Mills, CMS Principal  
Alexandra Sullivan, Deer Hill Principal  
Lisa Farrell, Osgood Principal  
Jake Squatrito, Student Representative

Chairman MacLellan called the meeting to order at 6:01 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, Paul Kearney - Present, Ellen Maher - Present, Lydia St. Onge - Present, Craig MacLellan - Present.**

**Public Comment** - Mrs. Colleary made an announcement that there is a large amount of synthetic crystal methamphetamine making its way into New England – in her day job she works for a nonprofit and specifically in part, in the area of prevention and diversion around youth substance misuse and addiction. She has spoken to the Special Agent in Charge of the New England Region at US DEA and he urged her to share this information with as many people who will listen: pure synthetic crystal methamphetamine is being trafficked (they have seized alarming amounts throughout New England recently) in many forms, and of specific concern to him: this very dangerous substance is being pressed into pill form and made to look exactly like prescription Adderall. Great resources for conversations about difficult topics with your children can be found here: <http://safeharborcohasset.org/resources/>

**Superintendent's report** - Dr. Sullivan updated the Committee on a variety of programming that is being offered in the schools as it relates to the arts – Mrs. Moriarty was kind enough to update us by email on the activities that are ongoing and Dr. Sullivan shared that information on Mrs. Moriarty's behalf at the meeting. Thank you for the work you're doing in the district to keep Cohasset students grounded in their creativity, Mrs. Moriarty!

Dr. Sullivan and Dr. Scollins shared a leadership document that the district is sharing among educators with resources for Black History Month. The leadership team is conscious that every month should highlight our collective history and that an inclusive curriculum is being taught all year round.



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Jake Squatrito provided a student update and explained that students seem to be settling in well after break, and that the superintendent's student advisory team is going to be delving into data they collected from students about stressors and anxiety moving forward.

Principal Scott shared that two state-level changes (one in sequencing putting US History first with freshmen and sophomores and moves world history back; and implementation of a state law requiring students – beginning with this year's freshmen – to do a civics project) have been implemented. There is also a change in Algebra 2 with trigonometry scope and sequence change. There were also a few changes in name for some foreign language courses. Parents will receive the program of studies shortly and the leadership seeks to get students scheduled by the end of the year.

Principal Mills shared that in their course of studies, they made some formatting and editorial changes that would make the program more user friendly to those who might be less familiar with CPS. There were also changes made to Guidance Services: the term Guidance Counselor isn't used anymore – these professionals are now referred to as School Counselors and the section was updated to include more information about how students can access counselors and related services. A digital literacy and computer science course was added – this is conditional on the hiring of an additional position which we hope to be able to provide!

**Preliminary Plan for Return to In-Person Learning Transition PK-5** - Dr. Sullivan shared a presentation for the district's plan to return to in-person learning at the Osgood and Deer Hill. After a lot of community input, committee feedback, and input from staff and leadership, the committee voted to approve moving forward with the plan to return Osgood and Deer Hill to full in-person with a target date of March 1. This is not final approval to return March 1 - it is approval to continue moving forward with the plan. The committee also voted to approve Dr. Sullivan engaging CIC for faculty/staff testing weekly until vaccination is complete.

**Budget Update** - Mrs. Owen continues to work with town accounting staff and leadership to determine budget forecasting and FY '22 budgets. The committee plans to gather to determine priorities moving forward.

**School Committee Updates** - The Communications Subcommittee met for the first time and decided to begin sending the school committee agenda out by email to families via the Superintendent. The subcommittee looks forward to the new three-year strategic plan that is currently being developed by the district and hopes to be able to create a comprehensive communications plan around that.

The Wellness Committee is working with a DESE Wellness rep who believes that the CPS Wellness Committee plan is strong. Mr. Kearney highlighted the athletic games that are taking place, remarked that he was thrilled to be able to watch them on TV, and inquired about putting the games on YouTube as some other districts do.

There was a meeting to discuss the track and turf, Mrs. Maher is working with AD Rotundi and CPC to determine how best to approach the needed improvements.

Mrs. St. Onge noted that the next AEC meeting will include a presentation about electric buses. As a part of the solar negotiation committee, Mrs. St. Onge met with one of the companies that is bidding on the solar project for school roofs.

Meeting adjourned at 9:23 p.m.