



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

School Committee Minutes

Wednesday, 1/20/2021

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
Barbara Cerwonka, Director of Student Services
Jake Squatrito, Student Representative

Chairman MacLellan called the meeting to order at 6:06 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 that sports have resumed with caution after a review of the data that indicated that sports weren't directly contributing to the rise in cases. He also shared that the Superintendent's Advisory Council met and reviewed some data. Student representative Jake Squatrito, who is a junior at CHS, provided an update. He shared some information about a survey that the council administered that found that a major challenge for students is stress.

Dr. Scollins shared the District's approach to addressing reading achievement gaps through the Student Opportunity Act. The committee voted to approve the Student Opportunity Act Plan as presented.

Dr. Sullivan reviewed the considerations being weighed to consider bringing elementary students back to in-person school full time. The discussions have included moving students to within 3 ft of each other when masked and 6 ft when eating lunch. The most pressing issue is transportation – Dr. Sullivan stated that we do not have enough busses to transport students differently than we are now. He will send a survey/email to parents to determine whether or not transportation issues will prevent us from being able to implement this change. The committee voted to support this exploratory process.



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Dr. Sullivan notified us that CPS has sent a letter of interest for Cohasset to participate in the state's pool testing program. He noted that it is logistically and financially challenging for a small district to participate in the program, but that we are exploring it.

Special Education Update - Mrs. Cerwonka reported that two grants have come in – one for Pre-K, and one for evaluating programming in the district. Mrs. Cerwonka has been joining child study teams, other observation teams, and has been working closely with principals. Michael Stapleton also joined us for a presentation about expansion of co-teaching and SEL.

Budget Update - Mrs. Owen presented FY '22 budget planning progress. This included the budget that she is working with leadership to develop, capital requests, and also included a presentation from Dr. Scollins, Mrs. Cerwonka, and Michael Stapleton about requested additional positions within the district. The committee prioritized the list of requests for Capital Budget requests.

The committee also approved generous gifts from the CEF (\$62,059.50) and PSO (\$5,500 and \$6,537.65) for a variety of projects and initiatives. Many thanks to all who are working to raise funds and contributing to these amazing organizations – we are grateful for their support of our schools, staff and students!

School Committee Updates:

The School Committee revised the policy manual by adopting a set of policies related to section D of the manual. Changes will be reflected in the CPS Policy Manual online shortly – and changes to section B are reflected in the online manual now.

The communications subcommittee of the SC will meet on Monday this coming at 6:30pm directly after the Policy Subcommittee meeting which starts at 6pm.

JV girls' basketball team beat Rockland tonight – congratulations to them!

Mrs. St. Onge said that there is more info coming on electric busses from AEC.

There are four applicants for the School Facilities Committee – perhaps five according to Mr. Kearney. More to report next meeting on hopefully beginning the work of this committee.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.