



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

**School Committee Minutes**

Wednesday, 1/6/2021

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  
Brian Scott, CHS Principal  
John Mills, CMS Principal  
Caroline Patterson, Student Representative

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: Ashley Colleary - Present, Paul Kearney - Present, Ellen Maher - Present, Lydia St. Onge - Present, Craig MacLellan - Present.**

**Public Comment - None**

**Superintendent's report** - Given the circumstances that were unfolding in DC during the meeting, Dr. Sullivan shared some information about talking to children about violence – tips for parents and educators. He will share them in his newsletter this week as well. He also shared some good news: Principal Mills shared a project that the students at CMS did to provide support and positive messages to staff at MGH.

Dr. Sullivan shared that there are upward trends in cases in Cohasset but that we are not yet at the point of needing to consider full remote learning. There are spikes around us in surrounding towns, and some districts are transitioning to full remote instruction, but we are not at the point where we would need to consider such a transition. Dr. Sullivan continues to update the community on Thursdays with town/school case numbers and will continue to monitor case numbers in Cohasset. Dr. Sullivan also conveyed his appreciation for our public health officials Pam Fahey and Mary Goodwin.

Principal Mills announced the middle school reps to SC (welcome Ella, Nathan, and Grace!) and we look forward to meeting them in February! Caroline Patterson provided a student update: This year's ceremony that would normally happen to induct students into the National Honors Society won't happen as usual, but they are working to create a video to commemorate the occasion. [Edit – since our meeting was held, the decision has been made to temporarily postpone winter sports in the interest of the health and safety of our students and staff. This will be revisited on January 18th]. The arts department is working to create opportunities for students to have creative outlets during this time as well.



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Principals Mills and Scott shared the findings of the Institutional Climate & Inclusion Assessment Survey, which is administered every two years and overlaps with the student risk assessment survey. For information on the findings of the survey, please watch the meeting – this information is so important! The presentation begins at (approximately) minute 26 of the meeting.

Dr. Scollins provided an update on professional development for us – teachers will do another professional development with Ed Tech on the 11th in conjunction with our Dir of Technology. ESPs from the middle and high school will be working with Barbara Cerwonka around assistive technology, and elementary educators will continue work with the Bridges math curriculum.

**Finance Update** - Mrs. Owen presented a draft version of the FY22 budget to date and will continue to work with leadership and the Committee to revise the budget. Mrs. Owen informed us that there was a meeting with Capital Budget on Monday to review requests and she is pulling together answers to some of the question that arose from that meeting.

**Special Education Update** - Mrs. Cerwonka reported that we are applying for some grants to address some gaps in learning that are exacerbated by COVID. The early education grant was approved, and other grants will be announced soon. DESE is working to create new regulations around screening for dyslexia and other learning challenges – those should be out soon. Mrs. Cerwonka acknowledged that the group ACE is providing additional professional development opportunities that she is ensuring are being brought back into the staff in the district to review.

**School Committee Updates** - The School Committee revised the policy manual by adopting a set of policies related to section B of the manual.

Mr. MacLellan and Mr. Kearney both noted that they would be happy to serve on the School Facilities Committee and they welcome any and all interested community members to apply to join them in that work. If you are interested in joining this work, please visit the town website to apply.

Mr. Kearney did not have a report but thanked the teachers in the district for working so hard to provide quality educational experiences for the kids.

Mrs. Maher suggested checking with Tracey Connors to see if there may have been applicants for Town Committees who were not seated on one, who might be interested in working on the School Facilities Committee. She also provided an update about her meeting with Capital Budget on Monday.

Mrs. St. Onge updated us on the RFP committee from the AEC – the credits may be extended for two years which may allow for roof panels rather than carports. Negotiations are ongoing and Mrs. St. Onge will continue to update us on their progress.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.