



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

**School Committee Minutes**

Wednesday, 12/2/2020

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  
Lisa Radden, Director of Technology and Digital Learning

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 - Student Advisor Update** - Superintendent Dr. Sullivan introduced two additional members of the student advisory council to the Committee, 11<sup>th</sup> Graders, Jake Squatrito and Jenna Giglio. Both Mr. Squatrito and Ms. Giglio provided an update on the student experience. Ms. Patterson stated that she is on the strategic planning committee and is looking forward to participating in the meetings. Ms. Patterson mentioned that Coach A is working with students to raise money for the Cohasset Food Pantry using the Venmo platform.

**Motion by Mr. Kearney to advance the Executive Session from later in the agenda to after the Student Advisor Update, seconded by Mrs. St. Onge. Roll Call Vote: Ashley Colleary - Aye, Paul Kearney - Aye, Ellen Maher - Aye, Lydia St. Onge - Aye, Craig MacLellan - Aye.**

**Motion by Mr. Kearney to go into Executive Session for Exemption #3 - To discuss strategy with respect to Collective Bargaining, seconded by Mrs. Maher. Roll Call Vote: Ashley Colleary - Aye, Paul Kearney - Aye, Ellen Maher - Aye, Lydia St. Onge - Aye, Craig MacLellan - Aye.**

The School Committee went into Executive Session at 6:22 p.m.

The School Committee exited Executive Session at 6:55 p.m.

Chairman MacLellan stated that while in Executive Session, the Committee ratified the Memorandum of Agreement with the Cohasset Teachers Association. He stated that this confirms that Wednesday, December 9<sup>th</sup> is the start for cohorts to being alternating Wednesdays. Cohort A will be the first Cohort to begin the alternating Wednesday.



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Dr. Sullivan updated the committee on health information and data from the State. This information is also included in his weekly newsletter to the community and in his emails. He discussed safety protocols and communication between the schools and public health officials, which has been great.

**Professional Development-** Assistant Superintendent Dr. Scollins stated that staff will have a half day Professional Development day on December 14<sup>th</sup>. Elementary Teachers will get to work with the new math curriculum and the Middle and High School Teachers will work in remote learning techniques and technology-based learning. Dr. Scollins stated that she has been working Cassie O'Brien, along with all the adjustment counselors, to create virtual resources that are believed to be the most helpful to students and their families. These resources can be found under the Community link on the Cohasset Public School Website and have been created by the counselors. Each school has their own dedicated resources.

**RISE Update-** Assistant Superintendent Dr. Scollins gave an update on the RISE Before and After School Program that is available to Deer Hill and Osgood students. Students are given breakfast in the morning, and a snack in the afternoon. She stated the program will be broken up by Cohort A & Cohort B and school leadership has added the program on Wednesdays. Dr. Scollins stated that parents can register their children for the program by going onto the Town's Recreation website.

**Snow Days** - Superintendent Dr. Sullivan stated that Commissioner Reilly has given permission for districts to decide whether snow days will be used as remote learning days or continue to be days off for students. He stated that there will be a draft proposal from the leadership team on December 16<sup>th</sup>, which will include staff input and feedback. The leadership team is advocating for continuous learning during snow days but understand that other factors, such as power outages, must be considered before deciding. The Committee had a lengthy discussion.

**Calendar 2020-2021 Update** - Dr. Scollins presented the updated calendar which included a more user-friendly format. The calendar was also updated to include the alternating in-person Wednesdays. She stated that the updated calendar will be uploaded to the School website once approved. **Motion by Mrs. Colleary to approve and adopt the revised 2020-2021 Calendar, seconded by Mrs. St. Onge. Roll Call Vote: Ashley Colleary - Aye, Paul Kearney - Aye, Ellen Maher - Aye, Lydia St. Onge - Aye, Craig MacLellan - Aye.**

**Full Remote Protocols/Procedures-** Dr. Sullivan asked that the committee discuss how much they would like to be involved in making operational decisions such as transitioning back to full remote learning if that possibility were to happen again. The committee had a lengthy discussion, and all voiced their confidence in Dr. Sullivan's decision making, and in the decisions that he has made so far. The committee agreed that the increased communication and transparency has been helpful, and they would like to have that continue. No vote was taken, the committee agreed to rely on past practice.

**Special Education Update-** Mrs. Cerwonka provided an update on her goals for the 2020-2021 School Year. She stated that the areas of focus for her are as follows; Safety Protocols, Communication, Special Education Programming, Tiered Supports/SEL, Strategic Plan, Collaboration with SEPAC/Community/Staff, Leadership Team Development, Learning Walks and Technology (Assistive Technology). The committee had a brief discussion.

**School Committee Comments and Communication-Solar Update from AEC-** Alternative Energy Committee Chair, Mrs. Tanya Bodell provided a follow-up discussion proposing that the School Committee



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vote to authorize and negotiate a contract with Ameresco to build solar canopies at all three schools with a goal of 60% of total school electric use. She stated the proposal would include car ports being built in each school parking lot. This project would be paid for by the company who builds the structures, and the Town would receive tax credits and resiliency. The decision needs to be made quickly to lock in savings from 2020 ITC and SMART 2.0. The committee had a lengthy discussion. **Motion by Mrs. St. Onge to pursue negotiations with Ameresco for solar panel installation district property, seconded by Mrs. Maher. Roll Call Vote: Ashley Colleary - Abstained, Paul Kearney - Aye, Ellen Maher - Aye, Lydia St. Onge - Aye, Craig MacLellan - Nay.**

**Reports from Sub-Committee and Liaisons-** Mrs. Maher stated that Community Preservation Committee is having a public meeting on Monday evening to discuss the start of application funding. With the committee's permission, she is hoping to attend and discuss the turf and track replacement. She also stated that Actress Kate Bosworth who is a 2001 Alumni of Cohasset High school created a 32-minute video on what it's like to be a Cohasset student. She recommends all who are interested to watch it.

**Motion by Mrs. Colleary to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Kearney. Roll Call Vote: Ashley Colleary - Aye, Paul Kearney - Aye, Ellen Maher - A ye, Lydia St. Onge - Aye, Craig MacLellan - Aye.**

**The meeting adjourned at 9:29 p.m.**

#### **Documents Used at the Meeting**

Calendar 2020-2021

C-1