



Cohasset Public Schools

143 Pond Street

Cohasset, MA 02025

Continuing the Commitment to Excellence

Cohasset School Committee Meeting

School Committee Minutes

Wednesday, 11/04/2020

Zoom Video Call

Virtual Meeting – 143TV/Zoom/Facebook

In Attendance:

Craig MacLellan, Chairman

Ashley Colleary

Paul Kearney

Lydia St. Onge

Ellen Maher

Also, in Attendance:

Dr. Patrick Sullivan, Superintendent

Dr. Leslie Scollins, Assistant Superintendent

Susan Owen, Director of Finance & Operations

Barbara Cerwonka, Director of Student Services

Chairman MacLellan called the meeting to order at 6:01p.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- Kara Norton of Mohawk Way – *At the last school committee meeting an additional “in-person” day was proposed, starting December 9th. With the additional day being approved, I would like to see the “in-person” hybrid schedule modified. At this time, Norwell is running on a Monday/Wednesday/Friday and Tuesday/Thursday “in-person” model. With Cohorts alternating weekly. From what I have been told, this model is operating with great success. It is advantageous on many levels including limiting students from being remote for multiple consecutive days, in addition to academics and the social and emotional support of both teachers and peers. Thank you.* Chairman MacLellan stated that Mrs. Norton is welcome to contact the leadership team and the Superintendent of Schools to discuss this further. He thanked Mrs. Norton for her participation in this evening's meeting.

Bob Erlandsen, President of the CTA – *With respect, the Cohasset Teachers Association (CTA) would like to correct the record from the October 28th School Committee meeting. During that meeting the Superintendent is quoted as saying, “From the student, staff, and family data more in-person instruction is paramount and desired by all.” This assumption was used to support the removal of remote Wednesdays in a subsequent vote by the School Committee. In the same presentation, staff was asked how valuable those remote Wednesdays are to the hybrid model, 76% found it valuable while only 4% did not. It is evident from this data that not all the staff support the removal and is a gross misrepresentation of the survey. The CTA conducted a second survey of its members to be more definitive. 89% of faculty responded that Wednesdays should stay remote. As described last week, remote Wednesdays are highly valued for planning and teaching for more robust student learning. 85% of the staff reported that the removal of remote Wednesdays will negatively affect their ability to collaborate, design, and plan remote learning lessons. As explained last week in our presentation, the consequences of altering the hybrid model mid-stream are complex and should be deliberated with due diligence. Also stated in the Superintendent's presentation was, “The majority of staff say they are being supported by leadership.” Breaking it down by building,*



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central office, and school committee, the results are clearer. Most building principals enjoy broad support and averages in the 88% range. However, 88% of staff feel unsupported by the Superintendent and 93% feel unsupported by the School Committee. Chairman MacLellan thanked Mr. Erlandson for his comment. He stated he doesn't believe there was any misrepresentation of information regarding the survey results that were discussed during the on October 28th meeting.

Superintendent's Report-Strategic Plan Process- Assistant Superintendent Dr. Leslie Scollins introduced Dr. Scott Borstel, Ed. D, Edward Lee, M.Ed. and Dr. Gary Maestas, Ed. D, from Teaching and Learning Alliance (TLA), who gave an overview of the Strategic Plan that will be implemented in July 2021. Dr. Borstel stated that TLA will offer leadership coaching, learning walks to improve the teaching, learning, leading, and strategic planning to the Cohasset Public Schools. The reason districts do strategic planning is to set direction for teaching, learning, and leading, develop a common map using common language, simplify decision-making, drive district alignment, and communicate the plan to the school community. The Cohasset Public Schools Strategic Planning Process will consist of a three-phase process. The phases are as follows: Phase one: Building the foundation, Phase two: Building the Plan and, Phase three: Implementing the Plan. Dr. Borstel discussed the timeline for the work stating that Phase I will be worked on from October through December of 2020, Phase II will be from January through April of 2021, and Phase III from May of 2021. The committee thanked Dr. Borstel, Mr. Lee, and Dr. Maestas and discussed that they are excited for starting this process. Superintendent Sullivan discussed the importance of the Strategic Plan and how it guides the building plans, school improvement plans, leadership goals, superintendent goals, and teacher goals.

Student Advisor Update- Student Advisor Ms. Caroline Patterson updated the committee on ceremonies for Fall sports. She discussed composting efforts, the deadline for college application, which is in November. She mentioned the mock election that was held for students to educate them on politics. Mrs. Colleary asked if the students are feeling stressed about the election or are they taking it with stride? Ms. Patterson stated that it can get overwhelming with all the media coverage. The committee thanked Ms. Patterson for her continued insight into the student perspective. Chairman MacLellan asked if the students have heard or reacted to the addition to another in-person day in December? Ms. Patterson stated that there has been some discussion but not much to provide insight on the student opinion on this topic at this point.

Dr. Scollins gave an update and overview on the virtual professional development day that was based on cultural competency. There were five presenters that Aleesia Gittens-Carle pulled together. She stated that the feedback from the staff was great. Dr. Scollins thanked Dan Kelly from the IT department for making sure that there were no technology issues. Mrs. Colleary asked if there was a survey conducted for staff to provide feedback. Dr. Scollins stated that there was a survey, and she has received 133 responses.

Portable Air Cleaner- Superintendent Dr. Sullivan gave an overview of the Portable Air Cleaners presentation that he and Mrs. Owen recently gave to the Town Advisory Committee. He stated that the Cohasset Public Schools is requesting funding for the acquisition of approximately 170 portable air cleaners for use in various learning spaces within the district. The request is being made in anticipation of the winter months and in an effort to mitigate the air quality concerns within the buildings. PACs can simulate a higher air change per hour, can improve air quality, and can be used to reduce airborne contaminants. He presented different models of PACs with detailed information on the amount and cost of the models and filters. He stated that the total cost would be \$77,063. Mrs. St. Onge asked if the air quality will be checked once the air cleaners arrive, to make sure they are doing what they are supposed to do. Dr. Sullivan stated they are always willing to check to make sure they are working.



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District Handbook- Dr. Sullivan stated that there have been several changes to the District Handbook and asked if the committee had any question regarding these changes. Mrs. Maher thanked Dr. Sullivan for the improvements on the district technology page. The committee thanked Dr. Sullivan and team on their hard work updating the handbook.

Special Education Update- Director of Student Services Mrs. Barbara Cerwonka stated that the SEPAC will be shifting their meetings to two times a month starting on Thursdays at 1pm. She updated that she would continue to work with building principals and staff as well as with Ms. Owen. Mrs. Maher asked how many students in Special Education? The committee asked questions regarding in-district and out-of-district Special Education enrollment, and if she has noticed an increase in parents requesting testing. Chairman MacLellan asked how the overall operations on providing services to families that have students in need of additional services. She stated that she has seen an increase of requested services due to remote learning and that she has been in close communication with families.

School Committee Comments and Communication- New Schools Committee- Chairman MacLellan stated he is still trying to find support for this committee. If anyone in the community is interested, please go to the Towns website, and download the committee application.

Review of Policy DJE- Procurement Requirements- Mrs. Colleary reviewed the updated language of Policy DJE with the committee. **Motion by Mrs. Maher to approve the revised language as drafted by the policy subcommittee of policy DJE, seconded by Mrs. Colleary. Roll Call Vote: Ashley Colleary-Aye, Paul Kearney-Aye, Ellen Maher-Aye, Lydia St. Onge-Aye, Craig MacLellan-Aye.**

Reports from Sub-Committee and Liaisons- Mrs. Colleary stated the Policy Sub-committee met and they are in the process of reviewing the contents of the Policy Manual. She stated that the subcommittee will continue to report back on their progress. Mr. Kearney asked if there is a scheduled walkthrough of the schools. Mrs. Maher stated that a walkthrough of the schools is scheduled for Thursday, November 12th at 4pm. Chairs of the Advisory and Capital Budget committees as well as Select Board chair, School Leadership, Town officials and School Committee Members are invited to participate. Mrs. St. Onge stated that the RFP Committee for the solar project met to review and rate the nine bids that were received. They are now looking at the pricing. The information will be presented at the November 18th School Committee Meeting. She also attended the Deer Hill school council meeting last Thursday. Principal Sullivan presented the school improvement draft plan with three goals. Mrs. St. Onge stated that this meeting fell on the day after the School Committee voted to add the in-person Wednesday and that it was discussed that the decision was a huge hit on morale. She stated that teachers are feeling that it is not sustainable.

Approval of Minutes- **Motion by Mr. Kearney to approve the August 19, 2020, Meeting Minutes as drafted for the Cohasset School Committee, seconded by Mrs. Colleary. Roll Call Vote: Ashley Colleary-Aye, Paul Kearney-Aye, Ellen Maher-Aye, Lydia St. Onge-Aye, Craig MacLellan-Aye.**

Motion by Mr. Kearney to approve the August 26, 2020, Meeting Minutes as drafted for the Cohasset School Committee, seconded by Mrs. Colleary. Roll Call Vote: Ashley Colleary-Aye, Paul Kearney-Aye, Ellen Maher-Aye, Lydia St. Onge-Aye, Craig MacLellan-Aye.

Topics not reasonably anticipated by the Chairman 48 hours in advance of the meeting- Superintendent Dr. Sullivan asked for the permission for the disposal of 126 science textbooks. **Motion by**



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Mrs. St. Onge to approve the request for the Disposal of Surplus Materials, seconded by Mrs. Maher. Roll Call Vote: Ashley Colleary-Aye, Paul Kearney-Aye, Ellen Maher-Aye, Lydia St. Onge-Aye, Craig MacLellan-Aye.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:03pm.

Documents Used virtually at this meeting:

<i>Portable Air Cleaner (PAC)</i>	<i>C-1</i>
<i>District Handbook</i>	<i>C-2</i>
<i>Review of Policy DJE- Procurement Requirements</i>	<i>E-1</i>