



Cohasset Public Schools

143 Pond Street

Cohasset, MA 02025

Continuing the Commitment to Excellence

Cohasset School Committee Meeting

School Committee Minutes

Wednesday, 10/28/2020

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 6:02 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 - Reentry Road Map- Superintendent Dr. Sullivan gave an overview of the data collected from the Start of School Six Week Data Survey that went out to all Cohasset Families and Employees. He stated that, as of today, there have been two school community members who have tested positive for the COVID-19 virus. These two cases are not believed to have originated in Cohasset Public Schools and there are no new confirmed positive cases at this time. Dr. Sullivan went through the Cohasset Family Survey results for each school building. The questions that were included in the survey consisted of learning experience during in-person days, student/teacher connection, student/student connection, feeling safe while attending school in-person, student anxiety while in-person, average amount of time spent on homework, lunch experience, recess experience, seating arrangements on the bus, morning meetings during remote days, how many hours per day students are spending on schoolwork on a remote learning day, and if you could change anything about your students remote learning day workload, what would it be. He also went through the survey results from the families of students in full remote with the TECCA program. Dr. Sullivan stated that the results were mixed and consisted of differing opinions regarding workload and rigor. Dr. Scollins continues to work as the Cohasset Public Schools TECCA Coordinator and continues to work closely with TECCA to provide a strong model for the remote only students. He mentioned that Director of Technology and Digital Learning, Lisa Radden, is available to help families who have technical difficulties with the TECCA model. Other factors that were reviewed in the survey included Transportation and Bus Routes, Student Drop-Off and Pick-Up, Boston Student Transportation, Athletics, Food Service, Deep Cleaning Protocols, Special Education, HVAC/Air Change & Air Flow. Dr. Sullivan stated that 170 Portable Air Cleaners have been ordered for classrooms. Dr. Sullivan reviewed the Staff Survey which received 142 Responses. He stated that, based on the data presented, it is recommended that we move towards having all students in the buildings an additional day on Wednesdays alternating each week between cohorts. He mentioned that deep cleaning would happen on the evening between cohorts. It is



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recommended that we provide time for staff, leaders, families, and students to plan for this change. Time is needed to adjust our practices and models to provide students with this additional in-person learning. December 9th is a recommended start date for the first in-person Wednesday. Beginning on December 9th would allow for an even split between cohorts for in-person Wednesdays for the remainder of the 20-21 school year. He stated that it is recommended that the leadership team will come back to the school committee after six weeks of implementing the alternating Wednesdays to discuss the progress and then, working with the Cohasset Teachers Association, make any needed adjustments at that time.

President of the Cohasset Teachers Association, Bob Erlandson, gave a statement on behalf of the faculty to the School Committee. He stated that the Cohasset Teachers Association has met all requests set upon by the district and School Committee and would like to take the opportunity to add their voice to the public record and speak directly to the School Committee and Community. He stated that the CTA's concern is over the loss of the remote learning Wednesdays. Mr. Erlandson stated that 95% of Teachers were in favor of keeping the remote Wednesday as they utilize the remote Wednesdays to attend critical meetings and create robust in-person and remote learning plans. The CTA wants to ensure that the School Committee is aware of the needs of the district's educators. He stated that they request these needs be taken into consideration and any discussion of changes or alterations to the current learning model be taken to the negotiation table to fully discuss the impact the changes may have. The Committee expressed their thanks and gratitude to Mr. Erlandson and to all faculty members.

Patty Gillis of 492 Jerusalem Road- What about two weeks of remote learning after Thanksgiving and Christmas? More than a few Districts are considering this. Dr. Sullivan stated that he looks to the data to decide if the need for remote learning is needed. In response to Mrs. Gillis' public comment Mrs. Jessica DeLorenzo of 132 Chief Justice Highway states if a district makes the decision of remote learning between Thanksgiving and the Holiday break without data to support a closure based on the stop light metric and other data means, DESE has stated that district will be subject to an audit. In other words, DESE is not in support of this without data regarding COVID cases to support the closure.

SB – Will CHS complete the State application for COVID testing in the schools that Governor Baker announced today? Dr. Sullivan stated he has not seen that announcement and would like to gather information before responding. Chairman MacLellan asked this individual to reach out to Dr. Sullivan directly and he will respond once he researches this further.

Cara Lafond of 15 Orchard- Thanks for all your efforts. What are the concrete next steps to improve remote learning - focused on Elementary remote? Dr. Scollins stated that she, along with Director of Technology and Digital Learning, will be teaming up to identify the needs of the faculty and staff as this is a new way of teaching. The survey was sent out to get this information and they will be implementing more professional development to support the needs of all teachers and students.

The School Committee had a lengthy discussion regarding the Re-Entry Road Map Presentation. The leadership team answered questions and listened to recommendations from the School Committee and the community during this discussion.

Laura Soderberg- 16 Black Horse Lane- Would you consider pairing up technology-capable support individuals with teachers/departments to assist them in creating things like multi-model slides/interactive instructional content to help them in those areas (should they not have strong skills in these areas)? This could free teachers up to focus and spend time on student interactions. There might be volunteers in the



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community willing to help mitigate stress for teachers as they are moving to alternating in-person Wednesdays.

Mrs. Deininger- If the Wednesday changes to an in-person day, what is the administration's plan for the planning and creation of in-person or remote lessons?

Motion by Mr. Kearney to accept and implement the recommendations made by Superintendent Dr. Sullivan that remote Wednesdays be converted to alternating in-person learning days commencing on Wednesday, December 9, 2020, subject to ongoing collective bargaining with the Cohasset Teachers Association, seconded by Mrs. Colleary. Roll Call Vote: Ashley Colleary - Aye, Paul Kearney - Aye, Ellen Maher - Aye, Lydia St. Onge - Aye, Craig MacLellan - Aye.

School Committee Comments and Communication- Mr. Kearney stated that there is a Finance and Facilities subcommittee meeting on November 2nd which will be held virtually over Zoom to go over the capital budget list that Mrs. Owen provided to the Board.

Motion by Mrs. Colleary 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 7:57pm.