



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

School Committee Minutes

Wednesday, 10/07/2020

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

Chairman MacLellan called the meeting to order at 5:15 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.**

The committee entered into Executive Session at 5:16 p.m.
The committee exited Executive Session at 6:09 p.m.
The committee reentered public meeting at 6:10 p.m.

Public Comment-

Christopher Allen, Pleasant Street- When does the Committee plan to meet in person with the public? Chairman MacLellan stated that the Committee still must comply with social distancing guidelines and State guidelines. Mrs. St. Onge would like to keep a Zoom option even after in-person meeting resumes to provide more access to residents no matter their location.

Superintendent's Report- Indigenous Peoples Day Presentation- Superintendent Dr. Sullivan thanked the fifth-grade class for attending tonight's School Committee meeting. Dr. Sullivan introduced Deer Hill Fifth Grade Teacher Erica Parrell. She introduced her students who are in the Teach from the Shore Committee, which started in the Fall of 2019. The committee has volunteered their recess and lunch time doing extensive research and writing letters to School Administration and local State Representatives advocating to change the name of Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples Day in the Cohasset Public Schools. The students presented to the School Committee. Alex Sullivan, Deer Hill Elementary School Principal stated she is so proud of these students and they have worked on this Committee for over a year. Chairman MacLellan thanked the students for a job well done. Mrs. St. Onge thanked the students and applauded them for their wonderful public speaking skills. **Motion by Mr. Kearney to change the Cohasset School Districts calendar to reflect October 12th as Indigenous Peoples Day, Seconded by Mrs. St. Onge. Roll Call Vote: Lydia St. Onge - Aye, Craig MacLellan - Aye, Ashley Colleary - Aye, Paul Kearney - Aye. Mrs. Maher was not present during the vote due to her loss of power from the storm.**



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Student Advisor to the School Committee Update - Student Advisor Caroline Patterson updated the committee on the student experience of being back in the building in a hybrid schedule. She mentioned that she is in Cohort B, which attends in-person learning every Thursday and Friday. She stated that students are getting back into a routine which is nice to see and that Cohasset students are resilient. She updated the committee on the changes to the buildings such as one-way hallways and the new bathroom protocols. Ms. Patterson stated that Principal Scott, along with the Student Council, created a Spirit Month instead of the usual Spirit Week in the High School which her fellow students are looking forward to. She also reported that Fall Sports are going well. Mrs. Colleary thanked Caroline for her participation and for showing the committee how mature and resilient the students are. Chairman MacLellan thanked Caroline for her insight and her resilience and action. Chairman MacLellan asked if there are any glaring shortcomings and how things have been going so far? Ms. Patterson stated that the Zoom classes can get long and tiring. Wednesdays have longer classes because Teachers have both cohorts at the same time. She also stated that mask breaks are a little redundant. Chairman MacLellan asked Ms. Patterson to continue to provide updates on any of the shortcomings and negative aspects to give the Committee as much insight as possible.

Back to School Update - Superintendent Dr. Sullivan updated the committee by providing pictures of the first few days back to school. The pictures showed the social distancing protocols that have been put in place for the safety of students and staff, which include signage, bus stop, and staff welcoming students back into the building. He stated that, to date, there have been no positive cases within the school community. He is advocating for alternatives for Halloween and trick or treating to help keep COVID numbers low and to maintain in-person learning within the district. Dr. Sullivan stated that he will be hosting a Virtual Superintendent's Coffee on October 14th to give the community an opportunity to provide feedback and to listen to community comments. He stated additional information will follow in the next couple of days. Assistant Superintendent Dr. Scollins stated that Open Houses will be different this year as they will be held virtually and done asynchronously. Open Houses for the Osgood School will be on October 15th, Deer Hill will be on October 19th, the Middle School on October 22nd, and the High School on October 23rd. She also stated that conferences will be done at the Elementary Level. Dr. Sullivan stated that Flu Clinics are being held on 10/21, 10/28, & 11/14 by the Town of Cohasset Board of Health for individuals over nine years old.

Christopher Allen – What has the school committee done to assess how the on-line learning is going? What is the committee's impression thus far? What is the committee doing to assess parental input, evaluate teacher's performance, how the students are doing (social and emotional, isolation)? Are you planning a survey before your 6-week update?

Mrs. St. Onge asked to clarify if the Parent-teacher conferences will be conducted virtually or in-person? Dr. Scollins stated that conferences will be done virtually, and Open Houses will be asynchronous to help with scheduling purposes.

Chairman MacLellan stated that trick or treating can threaten the progress that the district has made with getting students back into school buildings.

Student Services Update - Chairman MacLellan stated the Student Services Update will need to be postponed until the next meeting due to Mrs. Cerwonka losing power from the storm.

Professional Development Update - Assistant Superintendent Dr. Leslie Scollins updated the committee on how the first 12 Days of Professional Development for staff went. She mentioned that the following



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trainings were completed by all teaching staff: New Educator Orientation, Trauma Sensitive Training, Cultural Competency, Intro to Remote Learning, and Creating & Designing Digital Experiences. Annual Mandatory Training for all staff was completed by September 21st. Dr. Scollins stated that she will be meeting with the Professional Development Team tomorrow to go over the evaluations and to determine the process for professional development for the rest of the year. The committee had a brief discussion.

Hiring Update - Superintendent Dr. Sullivan reviewed the hiring update and stated that staffing is in a good place. There have been a lot of new hires recently which include a part-time Custodian and school Nurse, and a Director of Technology and Digital Learning, who starts on October 13. Dr. Sullivan stated that there are three positions that are still vacant, these positions include a part-time Elementary School Psychologist, a High School ESP, and a part-time Activity Aide at the Osgood School.

Finance - Finance and Grant Update - Director of Finance and Operation Susan Owen updated the Committee on the CARES Grant allocation. She stated that they district was allotted \$328,000. This allotment was able to help hire several staff members which included four part-time custodians and part-time temporary activity aides. The grant was also used for TECCA Remote Learning expenses which totaled approximately \$60,000. Mrs. Owen stated that they have spent over \$100,000 on supplies and materials which include signage, tents, partitions, PPE, and cleaning supplies. She stated that a more detailed finance report will be presented at the next meeting to go over the grants, revolving funds, and the school budget. Dr. Sullivan thanked Glenn Pratt and the Emergency Management Department for all of their hard work over the last several months.

School Committee Comments and Communication - School Facilities Committee- Chairman MacLellan stated that the School Facilities Committee has been reconstituted to evaluate the current facilities within the district. He thanked Mrs. Maher for promoting the existence of this committee to get the word out to the committee. Chairman MacLellan asked if Mrs. Maher has communicated with the Select Board/Town Moderator. Mrs. Maher stated that the Chair of the Select Board has received two applications for the committee so far. She discussed how one can apply to by going onto the Town website and filling out the Committee Application. The committee had a brief discussion regarding the Town's Committee Application process, scheduling two workshops for Goal Setting and Capital Budget requests.

Reports from Sub-Committees and Liaisons - Mrs. Colleary attended a Safe Harbor meeting and she mentioned that October 23rd – 31st is National Red Ribbon week for drug awareness, on October 24th there is a DEA Take Back Day at the Cohasset Police Department from 10am-2pm, and there was a free Virtual Narcan training that was held this past Monday and it was sponsored by Safe Harbor. Mr. Kearney thanked everyone for all their hard work and wanted to reiterate that everyone should continue to wear their mask, social distance and we will get through this and hopefully begin to reopen things up. Mrs. Maher stated the Finance and Facilities sub-committee meeting met and discussed completed and in-process projects. She stated that during the meeting Mrs. Owen came up with an idea to replace the bubblers in the school cafeterias with hydration stations and utilize the money in the cafeteria revolving account and get three more hydration stations in each building. **Motion by Mr. Kearney to allocate the funds in the Cafeteria Revolving Account for three additional Hydration Stations in each of the building cafeterias, Seconded by Mrs. St. Onge. Roll Call Vote: Ashley Colleary - Aye, Paul Kearney - Aye, Ellen Maher - Aye, Lydia St. Onge - Aye, Craig MacLellan - Aye.** Mrs. Maher stated she will be attending the Alternative Energy Committee meeting tomorrow night and that there is a Post-Employment Benefit meeting on 10/15 that she will be attending. Chairman MacLellan asked Dr. Sullivan to add the Facilities Department progress report of all ongoing school projects in the next



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Superintendent Newsletter. Mrs. St. Onge stated that she and Mrs. Colleary attended the Policy Subcommittee meeting this past Monday. They discussed the Mask policy after hearing some concerns and questions from members of the community. She stated they took language directly from the CDC website to amend the policy to include what to do and what not to do regarding masks. The committee had a brief discussion. **Motion by Mrs. Colleary to adopt the revised version of Policy EBCFA relative to Face Coverings in the district, 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 Mrs. Colleary to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Kearney. Roll Call Vote: Ashley Colleary - Aye, Paul Kearney -Aye, Ellen Maher -Aye, Lydia St. Onge - Aye, Craig MacLellan - Aye.

The meeting adjourned at 8:17pm.

Documents Used at the Meeting

Professional Development

D-1

Hiring Update

D-2