



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

School Committee Minutes

Wednesday, 9/2/2020

Zoom Video Call

Virtual Meeting – 143TV/Zoom/Facebook

In Attendance: Craig MacLellan, Chairman
Ashley Colleary
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
Steve Rotondi, Athletic Director

Absent: Paul Kearney

Chairman MacLellan called the meeting to order at 6:00p.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, Ellen Maher-Present, Lydia St. Onge-Present, Craig MacLellan-Present.**

Public Comment - Christina Bailey – I have incoming Kindergarten student and am wondering if you will still be charging for full-time Kindergarten given the hybrid model. Thank you for all that you are doing. Superintendent Sullivan stated that the District is providing services remotely and in-person so at this point families will be charged the full amount for full-time kindergarten.

Eric Wellmann, 53 Highland Ave – I am speaking on behalf of a number of parents who would ask CHMS to host an additional SAT on September 26, October 4, or October 14th. I Spoke to the college board and the deadlines have not been missed. Very important to our seniors. I would like the opportunity to be heard tonight as time is tight and the principle sounds resistant. Superintendent Dr. Sullivan stated that he will have to follow up on Principle Scott regarding this question and will reach back out to Mr. Wellmann at a later date.

Jessica DeLorenzo, 132 Chief Justice Cushing Highway – While you have voted on this yet, I did want to share my concern. I am all for supporting teachers as we know they are the heart of our schools, but I would express concern that there is the possibly of adding ESPs to support students in a 4 day model for teachers' children but at the last meeting you discussed not being able to hire additional staff as ESPs to support home learning days. I continue to be concerned about the home learning days for high school students. Along that note, is there an update on what the home learning days will look like at the high school level? Live instruction? Breakdown of synchronous/asynchronous learning. Dr. Sullivan stated that leadership is working diligently to provide staff members with in-depth professional development on how to create synchronous and asynchronous learning modules for remote learning days.

Superintendent's Report - Update on Re-Entry Road Map - Superintendent Dr. Sullivan updated the committee on the virtual opening that was held earlier today. He stated that it went very well, and it was



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great to have a sense of normalcy within the buildings. He stated that HVAC testing was conducted to look at air flow in each of the buildings. Dr. Sullivan mentioned that the initial reports are looking good and that he will update the Committee of the specifics at a later meeting. He stated that on Monday the buildings were filmed by student filmmakers. The film will consist of what the classrooms and common spaces will look like to help students adjust to their new routines. It will show Cohasset specific signage and directional signage that has been put in place to help students and staff maintain social distancing while in school buildings. He stated that the tents have been procured and will be installed within the next week. Dr. Sullivan stated that the leadership team, along with the town and school nurses, will be providing training to all staff on operational protocols. He stated that all spaces are getting ready for the students to come back into the buildings. He stated that bus routes will be up this week and letters will be going out as well. Dr. Sullivan mentioned that a survey went out a few weeks ago to all families regarding the possibility of offering in-person schooling for children of staff members. He would like for the Committee to consider allowing just staff who have students already in the district to attend four day in-person learning. Dr. Sullivan asked if the Committee would consider having a deeper conversation regarding the type of masks that students and staff are allowed to wear while in school buildings. The Committee had a lengthy discussion and answered several questions from the community regarding four day in-person learning for the children of staff members who are in district and the mask policy. Mrs. Barbara Cerwonka, Director of Student Services gave an update to the committee. She stated she attended a SEPAC meeting earlier today and discussed how services are going to look. She discussed that staff would approach services whether remote or in-person and each student will have a set individual schedule.

Athletics Update - Athletic Director Steve Rotundi updated the Committee regarding Fall sports. He stated that with the guidance that was recently sent out, the district will be able to offer the following sports: Boys' and Girls' soccer, Field hockey, Cross Country, and Golf. He stated that the sports the district cannot currently offer are Football and Cheerleading. He stated that MIAA has created a fourth season. The new season will be held between February 22nd to April 24th. The idea behind creating this additional season was due to the fact that Football and Cheerleading are currently not safe to play. This timeline will be for any sport that is not able to be held throughout this year due to safety concerns. Mr. Rotundi mentioned that the MIAA Guidelines are currently just for the Fall season. He stated that sport modifications came out this week and sports will look different this Fall. He stated that the MIAA communications and guidelines are link on the athletic page on the school website. Mrs. Maher stated that the MIAA said the football can practice in the Fall. Will we participate in that? Mr. Rotundi stated that yes they may, if the Football or Cheerleading Team wanted to participate in an out of season volunteer training or work out based on the guidelines. Chairman MacLellan asked if masks will be worn by the children while participating in athletic activities. Mr. Rotundi stated athletes will be required to wear masks and each sport has their own modifications and guidelines regarding mask wearing. Coaches and athletes sitting on the sidelines are required to wear their masks at all times. Mrs. St. Onge asked if will be a full game schedule for sports this year? Mr. Rotundi stated that for the Fall itself there will be no MIAA tournament, playoffs, or State Champion. He stated there is an option to do a league tournament and a regional tournament.

Professional Development Update - Assistant Superintendent Dr. Scollins gave an update on TECCA, the districts remote only learning option. She stated that the enrollment process has begun, and students will be starting on September 14th. Dr. Scollins updated the committee on the professional development that staff and teachers have participated in over the last ten days. Mrs. St. Onge asked what the final



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number for TECCA ended up being. Dr. Scollins stated that 47 students are enrolled in the TECCA program.

Ken Balazs – 15 Ledgewood Farm Drive, it seems like teachers take 90 minutes to 4 hours of training per day. Why couldn't this be condensed to fewer days? Dr. Scollins stated that the trainings are in blocks of an hour to two and a half hours of trainings. The Commissioner provided an additional 10 days of Professional Development Days for staff to prepare.

Before and After School Update - Dr. Scollins stated that there is a predicted start date of September 28th for the Before and After School Program. She stated they are still recruiting for a Director of the program. There will be an elementary program being held at Osgood. Drop off will be at 7am and pick up will be at 6pm. There is also a Middle and High School program. Both programs will offer breakfast and will be held outdoors as much as possible or in the school cafeteria at both buildings.

Finance - Monthly Update- Director of Finance and Operations, Mrs. Sue Owen updated the committee on the August finances. She stated that the voted school budget for FY21 is \$20,960,856. Through the end of August, the District has expended \$690,974 and encumbered purchase orders in the amount of \$128,585. This leaves an available balance of \$20,141,297. Mrs. Owen stated that the District has spent 3.9% of the operating budget to date – this compares to 10.97% in FY20. She stated there are no areas of concern at this time.

Update on Grant Expenditures - Mrs. Owen gave an update on grants. She stated that the FY21 Allocation for the following grants were: METCO Grant - \$310,931.00, School Improvement Grant - \$22,538.00, SPED Early Childhood - \$9,844.00, SPED IDEA - \$346,443.00, Title I - \$54,958.00 and Circuit Breaker is to be determined. There are three new grants that have been allocated, the School Emergency Relief grant, School Reopening Grant, and Remote Learning Technology Grant. The Committee had a lengthy discussion.

Laura Soderberg, 16 Black Horse Lane – Can you please stipulate whether and how much of the \$404,000 has already been spent or earmarked for implementing the plan as it stands today? Mrs. Owen stated that none of the money has been spent as of yet.

Christopher Allen – Simply put, are the staff for the teacher's children in the large grant application. Mrs. Owen stated that they are not.

School Committee Comments and Communication-Attendance Policy - Mrs. Colleary stated the Policy Sub-committee did meet but they did not feel they had the ability to make decisions about this policy at the time but will address the attendance policy at the next meeting which is scheduled to be held on September 10th at 6:00pm. Mrs. Colleary stated that they will also address the Mask policy during the September 10th meeting as discussed.

Chairman MacLellan asked for a Motion to go into Executive Session for Exemption #3- To discuss strategy with respect to Collective Bargaining. Motion moved by Mrs. Maher and seconded by Mrs. Colleary. Roll Call Vote: Ashley Colleary-Aye, Ellen Maher-Aye, Lydia St. Onge- Aye, Craig MacLellan-Aye. Ellen Maher recuses herself from the Executive Session.



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

The meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.

Documents Used at the Meeting

Monthly Update D-1

Attendance Policy E-1