



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

School Committee Minutes

Wednesday, 8/26/2020

Zoom Video Call

Virtual Meeting – 143TV/Zoom/Facebook

In Attendance:

Craig MacLellan, Chairman
Ashley Colleary
Paul Kearney
Ellen Maher
Lydia St. Onge

Also, in Attendance:

Dr. Patrick Sullivan, Superintendent
Dr. Leslie Scollings, Assistant Superintendent
Barbara Cerwonka, Director of Student Services
Susan Owen, Director of Finance and Operations

Chairman MacLellan called the meeting to order at 6:03 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 on Facebook. **Roll Call: Ashley Colleary - Present, Paul Kearney - Present, Ellen Maher - Present, Lydia St. Onge - Present, Craig MacLellan - Present.**

Public Comment- None

Superintendent's Report-Update- Assistant Superintendent Dr. Scollins and Director of Student Services Barbara Cerwonka gave an update regarding the workshops that were held over the last two weeks by Child Psychologist Dr. Plummer and Child Psychiatrist Dr. Bonauto. They have both done extensive work in child and adolescent mental health and presented a wonderful workshop around anxiety, the idea of trauma, normalization, and strategies for families. Mrs. Cerwonka stated that she is looking forward to sharing the presentations with staff and that the families were interested in having them both come back in October for a check-in. Dr. Scollins stated that District Physician, Dr. Steven Golden, along with Public Health Nurse, Mary Goodwin, and Director of Public Health, Pam Fahey, gave presentations for Elementary School and Secondary parents. These presentations consisted of COVID-19 facts and offered ways in which students and staff can remain safe while in school buildings. They also answered questions from families that are concerned with sending their children back to school. Dr. Scollins stated that all of these presentations will be put on the website for the community to view. Superintendent Dr. Sullivan stated that communication is so important during these tough times and that he will be establishing chats on Thursdays to answer questions from parents and the community. He stated that the Friday communications will be back in full force as well. Dr. Sullivan gave an update on the work being done throughout the school buildings which include getting the classrooms cleared out and ready, new tile flooring at Deer Hill. He stated that Cohort information was sent out to families and bus routes will be sent out this coming Friday. Dr. Sullivan stated that all updated protocols from the state have been added to the Fall School Re-Entry Road Map. Dr. Sullivan mentioned possibly having Athletic Director Steve Rotundi on the next agenda to discuss sports and how they will look this year. Assistant Superintendent Dr. Scollins gave an update regarding Professional Development. She met with the



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Professional Development Team and stated that they are taking full advantage of the extra ten days that were given by the Department of Education for the Professional Development of staff. She stated that staff had taken a survey and have asked for more professional development in the following areas: Remote Learning, Social Emotional Learning, and Cultural Competency. Dr. Scollins mentioned that they have secured Ed Tech Teachers who will give workshops to staff related to Remote Learning and designing remote lessons that are engaging for students. Dr. Sullivan stated that there will be narrative tours via video done by the districts school Principles to show what the schools will look like and to help provide a comfortable opening for all staff and students.

Fall School Re-Entry Road Map- Superintendent Dr. Sullivan updated the Committee on the changes to the Re-Entry Road Map in regard to the Middle/High School Models. He stated the main reasons for the changes to these two plans were due to challenges at the high school with spacing because of classroom sizes and relying on synchronous lessons. He stated that in-person learning cohorts will be divided up alphabetically instead of by grade level. Dr. Sullivan discussed daily schedules at both the Middle and High School, which include mandatory mask breaks. Assistant Superintendent Dr. Scollins gave an update regarding TECCA. She stated that the deadline was last Friday for student enrollment. Dr. Sullivan discussed the recommendation made by the Commissioner of Education that districts should look to provide more of an in-person learning model for children of teachers. This would be accomplished by putting those students into two cohorts each week to provide more in-person learning. He stated the contract allows children that live outside of the district but have a parent who teaches in the district to attend Cohasset Public Schools. He stated that at this time there is a lot of interest in this recommendation. The Committee had a lengthy discussion.

The Committee and Leadership answered over forty questions regarding the Re-Entry Road Map from parents and the community, questions were in regard to Cohorts, TECCA Remote Learning Academy, the Re-Entry Plan and the Recommendation made by the Commissioner of Education.

Motion by Mrs. Maher to approve the Cohasset Public Schools Fall School Re-Entry Road Map, Seconded by Mr. Kearney. Roll Call Vote: Ashley Colleary - Aye, Paul Kearney - Aye, Ellen Maher – Aye, Lydia St. Onge – Aye, Craig MacLellan - Aye.

Calendar Adjustments for 2020-2021- Superintendent Dr. Sullivan reviewed the proposed calendar adjustments for the 2020-2021 school year. He stated the proposed changes will be put in place to abide by the Memorandum of Understanding between the Massachusetts Teachers Association and Commissioner Riley regarding providing training days at the beginning of the year for teachers before students begin school, and to provide equity with time on learning between the elementary, middle, high school cohorts. The changes will keep the time on learning equal for the hybrid groups in each building. The proposed changes include the following: Teachers will have ten days before the start of school from September 8 – September 21 to prepare and receive professional development and training; kindergarten screening by appointment will take place September 22nd, 23rd, and 24th; kindergarten hybrid cohort B will begin classes on September 25 and hybrid cohort A will begin classes on September 28; hybrid cohort A, at all buildings, will go to school in-person on 11/23 and participate in remote learning on 11/24; hybrid cohort B, at all buildings, will participate in remote learning on 11/23 and go to school in-person on 11/24; deep cleaning will take place on the evening of 11/23; the half-day Professional Development will move from 12/11 to 12/14; hybrid A, at all buildings, will go to school in-person on 12/21 and participate in remote learning on 12/22; hybrid B, at all buildings, will participate in remote learning on 12/21 and go to school in-person on 12/22; deep cleaning will take place on the evening of 12/21; the half-day Professional Development will move from 1/15 to 1/11; and the half-day Elementary Conferences will



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move from 3/25 to 3/23. The Committee had a brief discussion. **Motion by Mr. Kearney to approve the proposed changes to the 2020-2021 Academic Calendar, 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-Mask Policy- Mrs. Colleary reviewed the updated changes to the Policy EBCFA regarding Face Coverings. The Committee had a brief discussion. **Motion by Mrs. Colleary to approve Policy EBCFA relative to Face Coverings, Seconded by Mr. Kearney. 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 gave an update from Safe Harbor that there is a Youth Ambassador training on Monday, September 14 from 10am to 1pm and it is mandatory for any student interested in joining the Youth Ambassador Program for the upcoming year. Mr. Kearney stated that all three of his children participate in the Youth Ambassador Program and he thinks it is a wonderful and great way for students to stay involved. Mrs. Maher gave an update regarding the Finance and Facility Sub-Committee meeting that was held earlier today, they discussed the CARES Grant, which is a federal grant related to COVID-19 expenses in a school district to be used for personnel, staffing, training, supplies, or materials that are encumbered because of COVID-19. The leadership team discussed the final outline for what they would like to do since the application for the grant is due by this Friday. The allocation would fund a full-time middle school nurse and assistance to the custodial staff. Superintendent Dr. Sullivan stated that this grant would also help fund a Director of Technology and Digital Learning and build upon the platforms needed for Remote Learning. **Motion by Mrs. Maher to approve the new position of Director of Technology and Digital Learning, Seconded by Mrs. St. Onge. Roll Call Vote: Ashley Colleary - Aye, Paul Kearney - Aye, Ellen Maher - Aye, Lydia St. Onge - Aye, Craig MacLellan - Aye.**

Chairman MacLellan asked for motion to go into Executive Session for Exemption #3-To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining. Motion moved by Mrs. Colleary and seconded by Mr. Kearney. Roll Call Vote: Ashley Colleary - Aye, Paul Kearney - Aye, Ellen Maher - Aye, Lydia St. Onge - Aye, Craig MacLellan - Aye.

The Committee went into Executive Session at 9:09pm.

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:52 pm.