



## Cohasset Public Schools

143 Pond Street

Cohasset, MA 02025

*Continuing the Commitment to Excellence*

### **Cohasset School Committee Meeting**

#### **School Committee Minutes**

Wednesday, 8/5/2020

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 Scollins, Assistant Superintendent

Barbara Cerwonka, Director of Student Services

Susan Owen, Director of Finance & Operations

Chairman MacLellan called the meeting to order at 7:04 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- CPS Fall School Re-entry Road Map 2020-2021-** Superintendent Dr. Sullivan gave an overview of the draft 2020-2021 CPS Fall School Reentry Road Map. He stated that after the completion of the pressure tests within all of the schools, it has been determined that the safest way to integrate students into the learning environment is through a Hybrid Learning Model, which will include in-school and remote instruction. Some of the factors that led to this rationale were lack of adequate space in each classroom and the inability to transport all students by bus. Dr. Sullivan reviewed the two hybrid models – an Elementary Hybrid Model and a Secondary Hybrid Model. The Elementary Hybrid Model will include two days of In-Person Learning and three days of Remote Learning. The Secondary Hybrid Model will include one week In-Person Learning and one-week Remote Learning. Dr. Sullivan stated that all school plans will include masks, social distancing and that all cleaning protocols sanctioned by the CDC are followed. Dr. Sullivan reviewed what the first six weeks of re-opened schools will look like. He reviewed that the goals are to re-establish safety and security, reconnect with fellow students and former teachers, understand expectations in both remote learning and in-person learning, engage in discussions regarding social awareness, and focus on the social emotional learning competencies of self-awareness and self-reflection. Dr. Sullivan reviewed many of the changes to the re-entry road map since the July 24<sup>th</sup> draft was sent out to families. He stated that the District is exploring a fully remote learning only option that will be provided by TEC Connections Academy Virtual School (TECCA) which is a fully staffed synchronous/asynchronous schooling opportunity sanctioned by the State and being offered to districts. Students who enter into this option will still be a Cohasset student but will remain in the program for the full semester to ensure continuity of learning. Assistant Superintendent Dr. Scollins stated that the TECCA semester starts September 1<sup>st</sup> and ends January 25<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Sullivan stated that more information regarding this option will be provided to families for further consideration on Friday. He mentioned that Cohort groupings for each school will be sent out to families on August 24<sup>th</sup>. There was language added about



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cohort grouping, mask breaks and bus stop as well as additional guidance for courses requiring safety considerations to the revised draft. Mrs. Colleary thanked the Leadership team for all their hard work. She asked about MCAS testing, what the students will be responsible for, how will we be preparing them and how that will relate to families who opt for the fully remote model. Assistant Superintendent Dr. Scollins stated that there will be MCAS testing in the Spring. She mentioned that there will most likely be additional information as the date gets closer for any modifications that may be made, and that staff will prepare students in the curriculum and standards that they need to have. Mr. Kearney thanked the leadership team for all of their efforts and hard work. Mr. Kearney asked about the safety and services for children with special needs and IEPs. Director of Student Services Barbara Cerwonka stated that all services will be provided that are on the IEPs, communication with staff and families is already happening and will continue as more rolls out. Health and safety will come first but services will be a close second. Mr. Kearney asked if there will be grades taken. Superintendent Dr. Sullivan stated that there will be grades and graded work from a remote learning perspective. Mr. Kearney stated that the wellness committee will be meeting on Tuesday. He mentioned that any and all suggestions from families and the community regarding wellness are welcome. Mrs. Maher asked about fire and safety drills and how they will look in this new hybrid situation in all four school buildings. Superintendent Dr. Sullivan stated that there is a Safety Day on September 25<sup>th</sup> which is a half day for students and a Professional Development day for staff to go over evacuation plans and safety protocols. He does not see these protocols changing radically. The Committee had a lengthy discussion.

The Committee and Leadership answered questions regarding the draft re-entry plan from parents and the community, questions were in regard to cohorts, TECCA Remote Learning Academy and the re-entry plan at the high school.

**Motion by Mr. Kearney to approve the CPS Fall School Re-entry Road Map 2020-2021 draft, Seconded by Mrs. Colleary. Roll Call Vote: Ashley Colleary-Aye, Paul Kearney-Aye, Ellen Maher-Aye, Lydia St. Onge- Aye, Craig MacLellan-Aye.**

**Amendment to the 2020-2021 School Calendar-** Superintendent Dr. Sullivan stated that the calendar needs to be amended to show that the first day of school is Tuesday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> to provide Teachers the 10 days (agreed upon in the MOU between the MTA and Commissioner Riley) to receive training and professional development and to get their classrooms prepared between September 8-21<sup>st</sup>. The last day of school is Wednesday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>, which is a half day. He stated that there is a shift in Kindergarten and Preschool, which will now also start on Tuesday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>. Dr. Sullivan stated that Preschool screening is still planned and scheduled to take place between September 8-18<sup>th</sup> and will happen in-person and outside.

**Motion by Mrs. Maher to approve the Amended 2020-2021 School Calendar to reflect the first day for students is September 22, 2020, seconded by Mrs. St. Onge. Roll Call Vote: Ashley Colleary-Aye, Paul Kearney-Aye, Ellen Maher-Aye, Lydia St. Onge- Aye, Craig MacLellan-Aye**

**Finance- End of Year Update-** Director of Finance and Operations Susan Owen gave an overview of the End of Year update. She stated that the FY20 end of year balance is \$89,443 after transfers were made from several different accounts. Mrs. Owen asked for the Committee to vote on what to do with the remaining FY20 balance of \$89,443. Chairman MacLellan asked Mrs. Owen to specify and describe the two options available. She stated that the first option would be to return the money to the town, which would turn into free cash. The second option would be to take a vote in the Fall at Town Meeting to transfer the money into



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the SPED stabilization fund. Mrs. Maher mentioned a third option, which would be to allocate a portion of the end of year balance to be deposited into the SPED reserve fund. The committee had a brief discussion.

**Motion by Mr. Kearney to vote on allocating \$49,443 back to the Town and \$40,000 to the SPED Reserve Fund, Seconded by Mrs. Maher. Roll Call Vote: Ashley Colleary-Aye, Paul Kearney-Aye, Ellen Maher-Aye, Lydia St. Onge- Aye, Craig MacLellan-Aye**

**School Committee Comments and Communication-** Mrs. Colleary and Mrs. St. Onge gave an update on the Policy Committee Meeting that was held on Tuesday, August 4th. Mrs. Colleary stated she along with Mrs. St. Onge have read through the Remote Learning specific policies on which MASC had provided guidance. She stated that they will reconvene at an already posted meeting that will be held on Friday, August 7<sup>th</sup> to discuss the suggested edits that they both have. They also discussed the possibility of creating a Student Advisory group that would help provide input about policy. The idea would include convening a group of older students from the district to collaborate with the Policy Committee regarding already reviewed policy and will be a last phase of the policy review process. Mrs. Maher gave an update that Mr. Kearney and herself met with Dr. Sullivan and Mrs. Owen at a Finance and Facilities Subcommittee meeting last week regarding the Year-End balance and COVID-19 expenses, which include transportation, additional staff, the re-opening schools, and cleaning. Mr. Kearney updated the committee that Mrs. Colleary and himself met with several firms for new legal counsel representation. They have narrowed the search down to two leading firms that will be interviewed by the entire Committee at a later meeting. Chairman MacLellan stated that that the interviews will be added to an upcoming Agenda. Mrs. Colleary proposed adding a Communications Subcommittee and asked what the process would entail. Chairman MacLellan asked Mrs. Colleary to draft a charge for this Subcommittee and add it to a future agenda to further discuss.

**Topics not reasonably anticipated by the Chairman 48 hours in advance of the meeting-** Superintendent Dr. Sullivan stated that there is a \$6,000 gift from Cohasset Education Foundation for the replacement of twenty-five Chromebooks. **Motion by Mr. Kearney to approve the gift of \$6,000 from the Cohasset Education Foundation for the replacement of twenty-five Chromebooks, Seconded by Mrs. Maher. Roll Call Vote: Ashley Colleary-Aye, Paul Kearney-Aye, Ellen Maher- Aye, Lydia St. Onge- Aye, Craig MacLellan- Aye**

Mrs. Colleary stated that as of the next School Committee Meeting, meetings will start at 6:00pm as previously voted upon.

Mrs. Maher stated that the committee should be open to the idea of having interim meetings to address the re-entry plans if the Chairman or Superintendent feel the need to do so. Chairman MacLellan stated that this a great point as things will be happening more quickly from this point forward.

**Motion by Mrs. Maher 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 9:52pm.**

### **Documents Used at the Meeting**

End of Year Update

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