



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

School Committee Minutes

Wednesday, 7/22/2020

Zoom Video Call

Virtual Meeting – 143TV/Zoom/Facebook

In Attendance:

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

Also, in Attendance:

Dr. Patrick Sullivan, Superintendent
Dr. Leslie Scollings, Assistant Superintendent
Susan Owen, Director of Finance & Operations

Chairman MacLellan called the meeting to order at 7:03 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 Facebook. **Roll Call Vote: Paul Kearney-Present, Ashley Colleary-Present, Ellen Maher-Present, Lydia St. Onge-Present, Craig MacLellan-Present.**

Public Comment- None

Superintendent's Report- Update on Re-Entry Planning- Superintendent Dr. Sullivan gave an update on the Re-Entry Plan. He stated that on July 10th there were productive sub-committee meetings that produced a lot of good thinking. He met with staff members from each building and the meetings were all well attended. He stated that there is on-going bargaining with the CTA that will continue throughout this process. There is a comprehensive draft of the Re-Entry Plan, which includes a more concise executive summary. He stated that the Zoom Forum Presentations for families of each school are scheduled and instructions on how to login will be included in the draft plan and that is being sent out on Friday July 24th. The presentations will be held on Tuesday, July 28th from 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. for the Deer Hill School, Wednesday, July 29th from 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. for the Cohasset High School, Thursday, July 30th from 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. for the Cohasset Middle School and Monday, August 3rd from 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. for the Joseph Osgood School. He stated that the community presentation of the Cohasset Public Schools Fall Re-Entry Road Map for 2020-2021 will be presented at the August 5th School Committee Meeting at 7:00 p.m. and any adjustments made to the Re-Entry Plan will be from feedback received at the forums and presentation. The committee had a brief discussion.

Assistant Superintendent Dr. Scollins informed the committee of a webinar that was hosted by Prince George County Library and Community College, the webinar included a presentation by American Author Ibram X. Kendi on "How to Be an Antiracist". This was a 50-minute presentation with a Q&A that the entire leadership team attended. Dr. Scollins updated the committee on two grants that were received in the sum of \$22,000 for programs to help mitigate some of the impact of academics and the social emotional learning of students. The first is a Jump Start Program intended for younger students for Reading and SEL. The second is a vacation program for ELA, Math and SEL for Elementary and Middle School Students, and Mathematics for students in 9th – 12th grade. This program will run during school vacation weeks only. Dr. Scollins also informed the committee of a \$95,000 Technology grant that the Leadership Team applied



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for to help better the connectivity with families. The grant will include Chromebooks for younger students, document cameras for Teachers, and professional development for staff members. Dr. Barry Plummer and Dr. Steve Bonauto will be doing a virtual 90-minute interactive workshop presentation for families on August 21st at 1:00 p.m., that workshop will consist of strategies on how to bring students back to school. It will be recorded and posted on the school website for people to view who are unable to attend.

Finance- Budget Surplus Report- Mrs. Owen updated the Committee on the FY20 budget which totaled \$20,337,135. She stated the schools utilized 98.96% of the budget, with a surplus of \$210,443.23. Mrs. Owen reviewed the transfer options for the remaining balance of the surplus with the Committee. Mrs. Owen reviewed FY20 Grants and Revolving Accounts stating that the grants fortunately carryover to the next fiscal year. She stated that Early Childhood and the Title IV – Student Support/Academic Enrichment grants were both utilized within FY20. Mrs. Owen updated the committee on the following major projects: The 7D vehicle, which was delivered in June, the Middle School Entrance Upgrades, PPE, Water Fountains installation, Osgood Playground, CMHS Auditorium Projector, Sidewalk Repairs, Trash Collection & Disposal Contract, HVAC/AC, FY21 Bus Fees & Routes and Fee Reimbursement. Chairman MacLellan asked about the status on the Middle School Entrance. Mrs. Owen stated that the project is almost completed but will follow up with Facilities and come back with further information at a later meeting. Mrs. Maher asked when the Town/School will close the FY20 budget. Mrs. Owen stated she spoke with the Town Accountant and his goal is to have the budget closed within the next couple of weeks. The Committee had a lengthy discussion.

School Committee Comments and Communication- Mr. Kearney asked if the Committee and Leadership team would be willing to look into procuring messaging boards to get information out to the school community. Chairman MacLellan asked Mr. Kearney to discuss this request at the next Facilities Sub-Committee meeting to see if this request is feasible.

Mrs. St. Onge mentioned having signage put up that advertises the Zoom information around town to get the word out about the presentation regarding the re-entry of school. Mrs. Maher suggested reaching out to Police Chief Quigley to see if the Police Department would be willing to loan one of their signs to assist with this request.

Approval of Minutes- Motion by Mrs. St. Onge to approve the minutes of 5/20/2020 School Choice Meeting, seconded by Mrs. Maher. Roll Call Vote; Ashley Colleary-Aye, Ellen Maher-Aye, Mrs. Madden-Aye (provided written approval), Paul Kearney-Abstained, Lydia St. Onge-Abstained, Craig MacLellan-Abstained.

Follow Up and Updates-None

Topics not reasonably anticipated by the Chair 48 hours- Motion by Mrs. Colleary to move the start time of the weekly School Committee Meetings to 6:00pm, while the meetings are done remotely on the Zoom Platform, 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. Colleary proposed having a set Roll Call order for all votes to bring consistency to the meetings. Chairman MacLellan stated that he thought that was a great idea and will create and set out the order to all members of the Committee before the next meeting.



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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 8:00pm.