



Cohasset Public Schools

143 Pond Street

Cohasset, MA 02025

Continuing the Commitment to Excellence

Cohasset School Committee Meeting

School Committee Minutes

Wednesday, 7/8/2020

Zoom Video Call

Virtual Meeting – 143TV/Zoom

In Attendance: Craig MacLellan, Chairman
Ashley Colleary
Lydia St. Onge
Paul Kearney
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

Mrs. Maher called the meeting to order at 7:07p.m. **Roll call vote: Craig MacLellan-Present, Ashley Colleary-Present, Lydia St. Onge-Present, Ellen Maher-Present, Paul Kearney-arrived @7:11p.m.**

School Committee Reorganization- Superintendent Dr. Sullivan asked for a motion to entertain nominations for Chairman. **Motion by Mr. MacLellan, seconded by Mrs. St. Onge. Roll call vote: Craig MacLellan-Aye, Ashley Colleary-Aye, Ellen Maher-Aye, Lydia St. Onge-Aye.**

Motion by Mrs. Maher to nominate Craig MacLellan as Chairman, seconded by Mrs. St. Onge. There were no other nominations. Roll call vote: Paul Kearney-Aye, Ashley Colleary-Aye, Ellen Maher-Aye, Lydia St. Onge-Aye, Craig MacLellan-Abstained.

Motion by Chairman MacLellan to nominate Ashley Colleary as Vice-Chairman, seconded by Mr. Kearney. Roll call vote; Paul Kearney-Aye, Craig MacLellan-Aye, Ashley Colleary-Aye, Ellen Maher-Aye, Lydia St. Onge-Aye.

Motion by Chairman MacLellan to nominate Lydia St. Onge as Secretary, seconded by Mr. Kearney. Roll Call Vote: Paul Kearney-Aye, Craig MacLellan-Aye, Ashley Colleary-Aye, Ellen Maher-Aye, Lydia St. Onge-Aye.

Public Comment- Hollis Hunnewell wrote “I put out the petition that may have seen a few weeks back that calling for a more directed approach towards addressing the issue of racism in our schools. If you think it is appropriate I, alongside Teddy Craven, would be happy to introduce ourselves to the committee during the meeting. Also, as far as a singular question, it was put to our attention by Suzanne Waters and Betsy Crumley that there is currently no late bus for Metco students, making it very difficult for them to engage in afterschool activities and to be



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a part of the CPS Community. I remember that this was offered when I was a student and think this is important thing that the school should most definitely bring back.” Superintendent Dr. Sullivan stated that they are now partnering with Scituate. The partnership offers more flexibility. There is a financial possibility of leasing our own bus due to the re-entry.

Superintendent’s Report-Update on Fall Re-Entry Timeline- Superintendent Dr. Sullivan reviewed the Fall Re-Entry Timeline with the Committee. He stated that the leadership team sent out the guidance received from the State to the community. The guidance asked for three plans and to present the plans to the Commissioners Team in August. The first option is a remote learning structure, the second is a hybrid model with in-person instruction, with social distancing restrictions, as well as remote learning to minimize the number of children in the schools. The third option would include everyone back to in-person instruction with social distancing protocols put in place. The guidance also asked for a pressure test, which they have not received full information on yet. He stated that the Commissioner is asking for schools to look at a three-foot distance as well as a six-foot distance. He stated that the Steering Team will be meeting tomorrow, and they will be creating operational templates. On July 17th, the templates will be completed, and they will consist of what the operational plans will be for each school. Virtual forums will take place on August 3rd and 4th for input from parents of students at each school level. He stated that the completed reopening plan will be presented at the School Committee Meeting on Wednesday, August 5th. The Committee had a lengthy discussion.

School District Culture and Climate Update- Superintendent Dr. Sullivan stated that the entire Leadership Team has signed up to attend an online seminar on “How to be an Antiracist” hosted by Ibram X. Kendi on July 20th. He mentioned having ongoing professional development for staff and getting more speakers for the beginning of the school year. He stated he could create forums to get feedback and gather information on how to continue to improve. This will help forge their strategic plan. The Committee had a lengthy discussion.

Faculty Hiring Update- Superintendent Dr. Sullivan stated that he has been impressed with the candidates that have been coming his way. He stated that the following positions have been filled: A Middle School Counselor, Middle School Special Education Teacher, High School Science Teacher, Kindergarten Teacher, High School Secretary and a Deer Hill Special Education Teacher. There are a few ESP positions that need to be filled as well as a High School Guidance Counselor position, Middle/High School Adjustment Counselor and Middle/High School Custodian.

School Committee Comments and Communication-Subcommittee & Liaison Definitions- Subcommittee & Liaison Assignments- Chairman MacLellan gave an overview of the School Committee Subcommittee and Liaison definitions. The Committee reviewed the sub-committee/liaisons assignments. The committee had a lengthy discussion.

School Facilities Committee- Chairman MacLellan stated that the document was voted on, adopted and approved by a unanimous vote by the Cohasset Board of Selectmen on June 23,



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2020. The charge is revitalizing an existing bylaw. He stated that this document will govern the direction that the School Facilities Committee will be taking. The committee hasn't been constituted since the 1970s but is being reconstituted to evaluate and explore the need for any additions, renovations or construction of new school facilities in the Town of Cohasset. **Motion by Mr. Kearney to adopt the School Facilities Committee Charge, seconded by Mrs. Colleary. Roll call vote: Paul Kearney-Aye, Ashley Colleary-Aye, Ellen Maher-Aye, Lydia St. Onge-Aye, Craig MacLellan-Aye.**

Negotiated Rates for Special Education Transportation Providers- Superintendent Dr. Sullivan gave an overview of the negotiated reduction rates for the out of district Special Education Transportation Providers. Mrs. Maher stated that State guidance was given to pay service providers during the COVID-19 Pandemic even if services were not rendered, which is in violation of a Mass General Law. She stated that Don Piatt, Town Finance Director indicated that payment for services rendered could be made based on a vote by the Board of Selectmen, School Committee and his agreement. **Motion by Mr. Kearney to approve the Negotiated Rates for Special Education Transportation Providers, seconded by Mrs. Maher. Roll call vote: Paul Kearney-Aye, Ashley Colleary-Aye, Ellen Maher-Aye, Lydia St. Onge-Aye, Craig MacLellan-Aye.**

Approval of Minutes- Motion by Mrs. Maher to approve the minutes of 5/20/20, seconded by Mrs. Colleary. Roll call vote: Ashley Colleary-Aye, Ellen Maher-Aye, Lydia St. Onge-Abstained, Craig MacLellan-Aye.

Motion by Mrs. Maher to approve the minutes of 6/3/20, seconded by Mrs. Colleary. Roll call vote; Ashley Colleary-Aye, Ellen Maher-Aye, Craig MacLellan-Aye, Lydia St. Onge-Abstained.

Follow up and Updates- Mr. Kearney asked about the Kindergarten, School Bus and Athletic reimbursements to families. Director of Finance and Operations Mrs. Owens stated that the reimbursements have been sent out in the last warrant. There may be some additional athletic reimbursements that need to be sent out. Mrs. Maher stated due to the pandemic, Superintendent Sullivan and herself as Chairman have been attending bi-weekly Monday meetings with Town Managers and Leaders for Emergency Management Updates. Mrs. Maher advised Justine Hunt to add Chairman MacLellan to these meetings. Chairman MacLellan also asked for Mrs. Colleary to be included as well.

Topics not anticipated- Chairman MacLellan thanked Mrs. Maher for her dedication and hard work as former Chairman. He also welcomed new member Lydia St. Onge to the Committee. He welcomed and congratulated Barbara Cerwonka and Susan Owen to the Team.

Gifts- Superintendent Dr. Sullivan stated that the schools received a few gifts: the first is a gift of seventy-one books that promote Anti-racism, Diversity and Social Justice from Kristen Banning who is a former Cohasset Public School student. **Motion by Mrs. Colleary to approve the gift**



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of books \$925.21, seconded by Mrs. Maher. Roll call vote: Paul Kearney-Aye, Ashley Colleary-Aye, Ellen Maher-Aye, Lydia St. Onge-Aye, Craig MacLellan-Aye.

Motion by Mrs. Maher to approve the gift \$3,500 from the Soccer Boosters to go towards the Assistant Coaches' salaries, seconded Mrs. St. Onge. Roll call vote: Paul Kearney-Aye, Ashley Colleary-Aye, Ellen Maher-Aye, Lydia St. Onge-Aye, Craig MacLellan-Aye.

Motion by Mrs. Maher to approve the gift of \$5,700 from the Cohasset Basketball Boosters for the Assistant Coaches' salaries, seconded by Mrs. Colleary. Roll call vote: Paul Kearney-Aye, Ashley Colleary-Aye, Ellen Maher-Aye, Lydia St. Onge-Aye, Craig MacLellan-Aye.

Motion by Mr. Kearney to adjourn the meeting at 9:00pm, seconded by Mrs. Maher. Roll call vote: Paul Kearney-Aye, Ashley Colleary-Aye, Ellen Maher-Aye, Lydia St. Onge-Aye, Craig MacLellan-Aye.

The meeting adjourned open session at 9:00pm.

Documents Used at the Meeting

Cohasset School Committee Secretary Role & Responsibilities	B-1
Faculty Hiring Update	D-1
Subcommittee & Liaison Definitions	E-1
Subcommittee & Liaison Assignments	E-2
School Facilities Committee (Vote)	E-3
Negotiated Rates for Special Education Transportations Providers (Vote)	E-4