



Cohasset Public Schools

143 Pond Street

Cohasset, MA 02025

Empower Students to Improve Communities

Cohasset School Committee Meeting

School Choice Hearing and School Committee Minutes

Wednesday, May 11, 2022

Learning Commons

Cohasset Middle and High School

143 Pond Street

Cohasset, MA 02025

Virtual Access available via Zoom and Facebook

In Attendance:

Craig MacLellan, Chairman

Ashley Colleary

Lance Dial

Paul Kearney

Lydia St. Onge

Also, in Attendance:

Dr. Patrick Sullivan, Superintendent

Dr. Leslie Scollins, Assistant Superintendent

Susan Owen, Director of Finance & Operations

Lisa Radden, Director of Technology & Digital Learning

Adam Sasso, CHS Teacher

Jenna Giglio, Superintendent Advisory Council Liaison

Call to Order and Roll Call - Chairman MacLellan called to order the Public Hearing on School Choice at 5:56 p.m.

Roll Call: Ashley Colleary - Present, Lance Dial – Present as of 5:58, Paul Kearney - Present, Lydia St. Onge - Present, Craig MacLellan - Present.

Dr. Sullivan explained the purpose of the hearing – to invite public comment as the law requires on the School Committee’s deliberation on School Choice. In the past Cohasset has not opted into school choice.

Mrs. Colleary points out that there are a lot of complexities surrounding school budget and while she’d love to vote for school choice, she does not believe that our facilities could support extra students.

Mr. Dial in general likes the concept of opening the district for other students to come. He asks what Dr Sullivan’s thoughts on how we would be able to take on more students coming in.

Dr. Sullivan noted that it’s a limited scenario due to staffing and class size in small rooms.

Mr. Dial asked for clarification, if we are accepting new students, we are receiving revenues.

There is not enough space. It is our facilities that limits our capacity.

Do you have an idea of what our capacity is as far as additional students?

Do you have thoughts on whether the additional revenue that would come in with new students would it compensate for the additional needs of the district that come with additional students?

Mr. Kearney asked if there is a limit on the number of students who can come in. It is limited to a percentage.

Mr. Kearney wants to make sure that if this does happen, it is not driven by recruiting for sports. He hopes that in the future as we hopefully have the facilities to fit more students that we could become a leader in special ed that would support our students and it would be attractive to having other students join us.



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Public Comment on School Choice Hearing– none

Motion to opt of school choice for the 2022 – 2023 school year by Mrs. St. Onge, seconded by Mrs. Colleary.

4 – Aye, 1 – Nay

Motion to adjourn public hearing on school choice by Mrs. Colleary, seconded by Mr. Dial.

All - Aye

Regular School Committee Meeting

Call to Order and Roll Call - Chairman MacLellan called the meeting to order at 6:19 p.m.

Roll Call: Ashley Colleary - Present, Lance Dial - Present, Paul Kearney - Present, Lydia St. Onge - Present, Craig MacLellan - Present.

Public Comment – None

Recognition of Vice Chairperson Ashley Colleary - Mr. Dial thanked Mrs. Colleary for her participation and for the input and perspective she has brought to the committee. Mr. Kearney thanked Mrs. Colleary and her family for all of the time she has dedicated to this committee and our town. Her ideas about inclusion, inclusivity, fair, the best person they can be and her belief in what's good in everyone and what this town can be has kept Dr. Sullivan centered. Your belief system is making sure that we do things that are audacious. Equity and culture of competency

Superintendent's Report – **Super Intendent's Student Advisory Council (SSAC) Recognition** - This is a group of students who are audacious. Their voice has been heard loud and clear and they have a powerful impact on the perspectives that the committee is considering for a variety of decisions that impact the school community. Your role has with it a lot of responsibility and none of you look at it as just your input, you look at it as what your peers and community are thinking too.

Student Advisor Update – Jenna Giglio – The past two weeks at CHS have been pretty stressful because of AP testing and today was the last day. All of the students have been feeling really accomplished and they felt prepared this year. Tomorrow is college t-shirt day! It's kind of a surreal moment that tomorrow she'll be the one wearing the college t-shirt. One more week and then prom, activities and then graduation on June 4. This committee has taught Jenna a lot about what she wants to pursue in college. She is going to study communications. It's great to see work being done in the community and knowing she has been a part of it. The committee wished Jenna the best in school and beyond and complemented her on her participation, impact and perspective

Spotlight on student learning- Technology: Coding (Ms. Lisa Radden & Mr. Adam Sasso) – Digital Literacy and Computer Science offerings at CHS

This year Mr. Sasso teaches Intro to Tech and Coding and Web Design to grades 9 – 12.

He has taken the lead in crafting two new courses for next year – Mobile App Design and Game Design.



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Mr. Sasso has been teaching coding and technology for the past 9 years and in the recent years he teaches Java script coding and starts with the basics and moves on to more advanced concepts.

Three students have joined Mr. Sasso tonight: Alex Sturdy, Dean Livermore, Katherine Brisbane

Alex used Kahn academy which has an engine for coding in java script. He designed a maze game. His favorite part was finally getting something to work. He also created a cheat code so that he could beat the game!

Dean remade the classic game Frogger which he grew up playing. Coding is a language and when you learn coding it doesn't mean you have to become a coder you can design a site for whatever career you want to be in and you can save money because you don't need to hire someone to code for you.

Katherine has taken a class with Mr. Sasso each year at CHS! Katherine wrote code to make a picture of Notre Dame Cathedral with moving animation in the image. It took time to learn how to use a lot of basic concepts in order to build a more complex drawing.

The final project for the class involves creating at least 150 lines of java script coding and having an animation or an interactive element.

Student Services Forum Planning – We want to make sure we have transparent conversation while respecting confidentiality. The Tiered Focus Monitoring survey, the reading assessment for special education and the surveys that go out with IEPs are all being used to gather questions and themes in order to best prepare for the forum on Wednesday, May 18 at 6:00PM.

Cassie Muir, 40 Red Gate Lane – What are the common themes that have been raised that will be discussed next week at the forum?

Dr. Scollins added that MCAS ELA for grades 3 – 8 is complete, Math MCAS and STEM will be happening over the next few weeks.

68 students have signed up for the summer learning program in grades 1 – 11.

School Committee Comments and Communication- Reports from Sub-Committee and Liaisons (Policy & Standards, Budget Finance, Special Ed. PAC, Legislative Liaison, Facilities/Capital Projects/Technology/AEC, Collective Bargaining, Security, Superintendent Evaluation

Policy IC/ICA Recommendations – School Year and School calendar. Addition that have been made include the number of days in the school calendar (185) and the number of days before school ends that seniors get out of school.

Motion to approve the policy recommendations as presented by Mr. Dial, seconded by Mr. Kearney.

All – aye

Mrs. Colleary is working on the website and has asked if the committee approves of her continuing to work on the website and communicating with Ms. Radden so that they may complete the website updates.



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Mrs. Colleary also attended the Safe Harbor at the CHS auditorium last night and it was a wonderful presentation.

Mr. Dial and Mr. Kearney will be meeting with the DPW and with Athletic Director Rotundi. They will report back at the next regular School Committee meeting.

Approval of Minutes - None

Topics not reasonably anticipated by the Chairman 48 hours in advance of meeting - None

Executive Session - We need to move into executive session for the reasons stated which is number 2 to discuss strategy relative to collective bargaining negotiation.

Motion to move into Executive Session for reason #2 by Lydia St. Onge, seconded by Mrs. Colleary at 7:43 p.m.

All – aye

Motion to adjourn executive session by Mr. Dial seconded by Mr. Kearney.

All – aye

Executive session adjourned at 8:02 PM

Motion to adjourn Regular School Committee meeting by Mrs. St. Onge, seconded by Mr. Kearney.

All - Aye

The meeting adjourned at 8:02 PM

Documents Used at the Meeting

Technology - Student Spotlight on Coding in CHS - Lisa Radden and Adam Sasso

Digital Literacy and Computer Science offerings at CHS - Lisa Radden and Adam Sasso

Digital Coding Maze Game created by Alex Sturdy

Digital Coding Wide Screen Frogger Game created by Dean Livermore

Notre Dame Cathedral Animation created by Catherine Brisbane

School Year/School Calendar - Dr. Scollins