



# Cohasset Public Schools

143 Pond Street

Cohasset, MA 02025

*Empower Students to Improve Communities*

## Cohasset School Committee Meeting

### School Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 13, 2020

Learning Commons

Cohasset Middle and High School

143 Pond Street

Cohasset, MA 02025

Virtual Access 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

Barbara Cerwonka, Director of Student Services

Mercedes O'Neil, Student Advisor

Mrs. Aleisa Gittens-Carle, METCO Coordinator

Kyhla Desire CHS class of 2014

Isley Wilson CHS class of 2022

Aniyah Pierce CHS class of 2024

Raishaun Barboza CHS class of 1998

Mercedes Jackson CHS class of 2007

Beverly Love CHS class of 2006

Chairman MacLellan called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. **Roll Call: Ashley Colleary - Present, Paul Kearney – [Present as of 6:54], Lance Dial - Present, Lydia St. Onge - Present, Craig MacLellan - Present.**

**Public Comment** - None

**Superintendent's Report - Student Advisor Update** – Mercedes O'Neil - CHS just finished the third quarter and everyone is getting acclimated to quarter 4 classes and many are prepping for AP Exams in May. Environmental class has been outside gardening in the courtyard. The high school had a dodge ball tournament. A group of students will be traveling to Europe, but flights are delayed. There will be a 3v3 Basketball tournament with a boy, girl, and teacher on each team. Everyone is excited for April break coming up soon!

**Spotlight on Learning: Cohasset METCO: Voices of the Past and Present (Mrs. Alesia Gittens-Carle)**  
- Mrs. Gittens-Carle shared a poem by 2014 graduate Taylor, Two Sets of Eyes and a slideshow and the six current and past students shared reactions to the poem and shared memories and reflections from their experience of going to school, having host families in Cohasset



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How do you describe your Cohasset Experience? Exhausted, Eye opening

What were some of your most memorable classes? English with Ms. Crimmins and Ms. Berman, Math with Mr. Fortin, Science with Dr. T

When we are thinking about cultural responsiveness it all starts with getting to know the individual students who are in front of you. That's when a place feels like a place of comfort.

Kyhla started in Cohasset and came from private school. In ninth grade, Mr. Fish pulled her aside and said I read your essays and you have so much to say, why do you always bite your tongue in class. You say what you want to say, you control your narrative.

Raishaun went to Mass College of Art and Ms. DeLeon the art teacher had seen his artwork and helped him build his portfolio and told him to apply to Mass Art. Mr. Buckley ran Alt school and Raishaun was in Alt school for junior and senior year. The recommendation Mr. Buckley wrote made him want to do better.

Kyhla shared that when she was at CHS there weren't host families and she didn't feel supported by teachers. Ms. Aleisa, Ms. Michelle, and her parents were her advocates.

Ms. Aleisa took the kids to a conference this morning and the keynote speaker said My legacy is what I leave, my story is what I live.

Currently there are six students in the METCO program in Cohasset whose parents went to school in Cohasset.

Isley made the point that it's hard to join clubs and sports because the bus doesn't allow for that schedule. Also, she would like to see a space to be together and decompress.

Mrs. Colleary thanked everyone for coming and appreciates the format.

Ideas shared:

Bringing in more training and professional development to learn how to best teach and develop relationships.

Doing things with curriculum that makes sure it's inclusive of the different voices. Peer leadership program with older students going down to elementary schools. Taking time to not only speak to each other but also to listen to each other

Having something in the elementary schools about normal things that black children go through.

How did Cohasset affect your college experience? Having the METCO program at Cohasset makes it so that all students

**2022-2023 District Calendar (VOTE)** – At a previous meeting a decision about starting before or after Labor Day was made. If Labor Day is on September 4 or later, we will start before Labor Day and if it is on September 3 or earlier school will start after Labor Day.

Proposed first day of school for grades 1 – 12 is September 6. April 7, 2023 is Good Friday and it is not proposed as a day off. Four full professional development days for teacher – two before school starts and two during the year. The last scheduled day is June 16. Seniors last day of school is June 1 and graduation is June 3. DESE has started that you have to have your seniors last day of school no more than 12 days from your other students last day of school before snow days.

**Motion to approve the draft calendar as presented by Dr. Sullivan by Mrs. Colleary seconded by Mrs. St. Onge Mrs. Colleary – Aye, Mr. Dial – Aye, Mr. Kearney – No, Mrs. St. Onge – Aye, Mr. MacLellan - Aye**

**SSEC Board Member (VOTE) - South Shore Educational Collaborative in Hingham.** We are a part of a consortium of 12 communities on the south shore who pay into this system to help provide programming that is needed by students. With that are monthly meetings that typically superintendents are sent as representatives.



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**Motion to approve Dr. Sullivan as Cohasset Representative for the SSEC by Mr. Dial, seconded by Mrs. Colleary.**  
**All – Aye**

**Student Services Forum Planning – May 18** - when there are areas that parents feel there needs to be improvement – participation in the process and understanding the process

**Special Education Update-** Mrs. Cerwonka – Tiered Focus Monitoring Cycle – the town is at a place in the cycle in which paperwork is being submitted, building walks done and then the State sends an updated report. Everything within the area of special education is at full compliance. Most of our areas in civil rights came out in full compliance. There were two areas in which we were asked to make amendments and updates. One area was the school calendar, the other was I nan area which they recognize as a part of our ongoing curriculum review. Future updates will include a protocol for teachers to individually look at what they are doing.

Parent survey results – this month 100% of the surveys were 100% in the positive ratings. 18 surveys were returned.

The school’s interventions had been timely competent and caring. They felt lucky to have caring teams.

March 2022 Data:

5 initial evaluations this month – 4 elementary – 2 from parents and 2 from MTSS system. 1 initial eval at secondary level. All 5 resulted in eligibility. 3 reevaluations and 20 annual reviews

In the middle of the looking at specialized reading within the school year. A records review has been performed and now parents are being contacted for interviews regarding specialized reading especially as it pertains to the language-based program at the middle school.

**School Committee Comments and Communication-**

School Facilities Committee Update – committee is poised to submit the statement of interest to the MSBA Core Program state by April 29.

**Motion approve the submission of the SOI to the MSBA CORE Program by April 29 by Mr. Dial seconded by Mrs. Colleary.**  
**All – Aye**

Communications Subcommittee – Mrs. Colleary is currently working on draft text for the school committee webpage and will meet with Ms. Radden and her team regarding that draft prior to the next meeting.

Facilities subcommittee – Continue discussion re: grounds maintenance and weather it falls under the purview of the DPW and the schools.

There are concerns about safety of traffic patterns at drop off and pick up and other grounds issues

Communications subcommittee has received feedback from staff survey and will be reaching out to the community to ask for people willing to volunteer.



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Topics not reasonably anticipated – A gift from the Veterans of Foreign Wars. A gift of 64 American Flags, a value of \$2000, to be put in school classrooms.

**Motion to accept the gift of \$2000 worth of American Flags from the Cohasset VFW, by Mr. Kearney seconded by Mr. Dial.**

**All – Aye**

**Adjourn Open Meeting - Motion to adjourn meeting by Mrs. St. Onge seconded by Mr. Kearney.**

**All - Aye**

**The meeting adjourned at 8:16p.m.**

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

District Calendar Draft