



Cohasset Public Schools

143 Pond Street

Cohasset, MA 02025

Empower Students to Improve Communities

Cohasset School Committee Meeting

Public Hearing & School Committee Minutes

Wednesday, March 30, 2022

Learning Commons

Cohasset Middle High School

143 Pond Street

Virtual Meeting – 143TV/Zoom/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

Jake Squatrito, Student Advisor Liaison

Roll Call - Chairman MacLellan called the Public Hearing to order at 5:36 p.m. **Roll Call: Ashley Colleary - Present, Lance Dial – Not Present, Paul Kearney – Present as of 5:38PM, Lydia St. Onge - Present, Craig MacLellan - Present.**

Public Hearing on Fiscal Year 2023 School Budget Presentation –

The FY23 Budget Priorities consists of teaching and learning, social emotional wellness, resources and communication and engagement. All of these work into our strategic plan which we worked on over the past last year and a half. Our FY22 appropriated budget is \$21,684,432 and going forward our contractual salary obligations, which is steps and lanes is approximately \$780,732. We had \$53,323 to increase our circuit breaker funding and that helped offset some of our expenses, but then we also had an increase in special education tuitions which is \$215,606. Our priority requests are \$763,015. We need to add a grade 2 teacher at the Joseph Osgood Elementary School, we also need to add a Math Specialist at our Cohasset Middle School based on our MCAS scores and working on some of our learning gaps. A few weeks ago, the school committee voted to increase our substitute teacher pay scale rate from \$80 per day to \$100 per day, increasing an additional \$45,000 there. Increase of supplies and materials at one point was \$108,000, we worked diligently this week to drill that number down and work with just what we felt we needed to have to get things rolling and to move forward which is \$50,018. We started this process last year and we'll continue the process of a full day kindergarten which is \$25,000, so our additional recommendations are \$220,018. Total additions to the budget this year was \$983,000, however we had to make the fiscal year 2023 reductions to the school FY23 budget. We did not lose any positions, we did not lay off any staff, we did not cut anyone's salary. Between the town's collaboration with the school department, we currently fund three IT Support Staff and the town is transferring the funding of one of those IT Support people back to the town side budget and that was a savings of \$69,308. We met with the town accountant, the town manager, the town advisory and school committee and the increase in our tuition total was about \$215,000. In our policy, we could utilize up to \$200,000 in the special education stabilization fund to offset unbudgeted special education tuitions and we are going to ask the school committee to vote to use the \$200,000 and select what also needs to have a vote. Currently, our Athletic Trainer is funded



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completely from the school budget account because the Athletic Trainer is in our Athletic Revolving account and it makes sense that portion of this salary should be paid for through the Athletic Revolving account which we just transfer from one account of this salary being paid from. As much as we didn't want to, we agreed to remove the additional \$25,000 reduction from the Full Day Kindergarten, at least for this year. Our hope is that at some point, we'll have free full day Kindergarten and we're chipping away at it as best as we can. Our Fiscal Year for 2023 budget reductions are \$322,113. When you put it all together, we have the FY22 Appropriated Budget of \$21,684,432. The original additions to the FY23 Budget of the \$983,033, the FY23 Budget Reductions of \$322,113 and our FY23 Requested Increase is \$660,920 which is the exact amount the town is allocating to the school department. That is equitable to a 3.05% increase over the current year bringing us to a total of our FY23 Budget Requested of \$22,345,352.

The Joseph Osgood Elementary School Priorities are to support the social emotional well-being for students. To strengthen Cultural Competency and Responsiveness throughout the Osgood School community. To format MTSS-Multi-Tiered System of Support, academic and social emotional, ensure all stakeholders can access and understand MTSS. Continue to support Co-Teaching and inclusive practices, Pre-K to grade 2. To implement math curriculum and support grades K-2. To establish and evaluate assessments being used and analyze data to drive instruction for students to close any achievement gaps. To continue to upkeep of the facility and increase the number of classroom teachers in grade 2 based on enrollment. Principal Farrell of the Osgood Elementary School has the data supporting our budget priorities and our district strategic plan and school improvement plan is to implement social emotional learning and cultural competency. School based assessment data and schedule of summer painting continues to be in effect and replacement of ceiling tiles on the main floor. The enrollment and class size of Pre-K is 13 students in the morning session and 15 students in the afternoon session for the school FY21-22 and the school FY22-23. Kindergarten there are 127 students for the school FY21-22 and the school FY22-23. Grade 1 there are 107 students for the school FY21-22 and 127 students for the school FY22-23. There are 104 students enrolled in grade 2 for the school FY21-22 and 107 students enrollment for the school FY22-23, an increase in projected Kindergarten grade enrollment of 17 students.

Principal Sullivan at the Deer Hill Elementary School Priorities are ELA curriculum and instructional model; math curriculum and instruction; Alignment of curriculum assessment (grading and feedback); Family and community engagement; Social Emotional Learning (SEL), and student (mental health & wellness); MTSS-Multi-Tiered System of Support and school facilities improvement (Capital). Principal Sullivan's priorities are in line with our strategic plan. The enrollment for grade 3 is 102 students for FY21-22 and Projected Enrollment is 104 students for FY22-23. Grade 4 is 100 students for the school FY21-22 and 102 students for Projected Enrollment school FY22-23; Grade 5 is 112 students for the school FY21-22 and Projected Enrollment is 100 students for the school FY22-23.

Principal John Mills at our Cohasset Middle School Priorities are development of our Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) to support students at different academic and social-emotional levels; develop curriculum, teaching practices, and learning opportunities distinguished by personalized learning and project-based learning; promoting equitable opportunities and social emotional wellness for all our students. Principal Mills proposal is a creation of a CMS Math Interventionist (1.0) position for development of our Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) to support students at different academic and social-emotional levels from our MCAS shown that we need some help at our middle school. The enrollment at the middle school for grade 6 there are 94 students for the school FY21-22 and Projected



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Enrollment for the school FY22-23 would be 114 students. For grade 7 there are 105 students for the school FY21-22 and Projected Enrollment for the school FY22-23 would be 94 students. Grade 8 there are 317 students and Projected Enrollment for the school FY22-23 would be 313 students. Principal Mills proposal is to create and implement a new CMS Coding/Robotics Course for the school year 2022-2023. This would align with our strategic plan to develop curriculum, teaching practices and learning opportunities distinguished by personalized learning and project-based learning.

Principal Brian Scott at Cohasset High School Priorities align with our strategic plan in Compass Point #1 to implement personalized learning and project-based learning into the curriculum, teaching and learning. School Improvement Plan Goal #1 is to improve the student learning experience and overall student wellness by reducing academic stress and providing personalized learning paths to success. Ms. Owen comments the theme on all our schools, they all tie back to our strategic plan. The enrollment for this school year and the following school year at Cohasset High School are grade 9 there are 105 students for the school FY21-22 and Projected Enrollment for the school FY22-23 would be 118 students. Grade 10 there are 103 students for the school FY21-22 and Projected Enrollment would be 105 students for the school FY22-23. Grade 11 there are 118 students and PE for the school FY22-23 would be 103 students; Grade 12 there are 101 students and PE for the school FY22-23 would be 118 students.

School Committee and Select board need to vote on using \$200,000 Sped Stabilization fund to offset Sped tuition increase

No questions from the community.

School Committee Deliberations –

Mrs. St. Onge is disappointed that there will not be further reduction the kindergarten tuition this year. She noted that she hopes that future goals include adding reading and math specialists to the high school in future years.

Meaghan Barry, 11 Tad Lane – Does the proposed budget include 6 teachers for the incoming kindergarten class.

Yes, there will be 6 teachers.

Mr. MacLellan shared the disappointment about the kindergarten tuition but gives credit to the budget subcommittee and the work done with the advisory committee so that positions that need to be added are being added.

Motion to adjourn to the Public Hearing by Mrs. St. Onge, seconded by Mrs. Colleary.

All – Aye

School Committee Meeting Call to Order and Roll Call - Chairman MacLellan called the School Committee Meeting to order at 6:07 p.m. **Roll Call: Ashley Colleary - Present, Lance Dial – Not Present, Paul Kearney – Present on Zoom, Lydia St. Onge - Present, Craig MacLellan - Present.**

Public Comment – None

Superintendent's Report –



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Student Advisor Update (Jake Squatrito) – Going back to normal has been nice and it feels like he only has to worry about going to school and learning. Last week, Jake did Project Adventure during Health Class and he thought it did everything it was supposed to do. It consisted of team building activities and challenges. People are hearing from colleges and figuring out where they are going to go.

Student Opportunity Act – In 2019 the Student Opportunity Act was passed with the goal of reducing the achievement gap.

Targeted Sub-group – students with special needs

- Students determined to have a specific learning disability in the upper grade
- Lower ELA MCAS scores and growth

Instructions Materials

- Reading Street
- Foundations (K – 3)
- Lexia (K – 5)
- Wilson Training (K-5 Tier 3 instruction)

Monitoring Success of Outcome

- DESE Outcome Metrics- students achievement in ELA ; Student Growth ELA mean student growth percentile (SGP)

Elementary Literacy Review and Adoption

- Convened the Literacy Committee met in Spring and Fall of 2021
- Participated in an informal review of elementary reading by Te

Professional Development

- Full day workshop about science of reading
- Differentiated training in Foundations phonics program
- Embedded professional development in science of reading and conferring with students
- Yearlong coaching workshops for reading specialists

Stakeholder Engagement

Next Steps

- The SOA requires that the School Committee be informed about the 2022 amendment to the SOA Plan
- Plan will be shared on the website

School Facilities Committee Presentation –

Jason Earls, Chair of School Facilities Committee

There are 8 other members of the committee: Craig MacLellan, Paul Kearney, Kathleen Burns, Doug Shultz, Martin Nee, Dr. Paul Shubert, Nan Roth, Jen Lesky

Ai3 Architects presentation Cohasset Public Schools: Existing Conditions Study 2022

Ai3 architectural firm designs schools exclusively. They have designed 75 school over the past 20+years.

Assessment goals

Physical Building Assessment

- An informed review of the integrity of the existing conditions by architects, engineers, and consultants



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- An informed review of the existing documentation, including previous

and Educational Program Assessment

April is the month that they will be seeking approval from school committee and select board

Existing Conditions Study

Initial Draft includes all 3 schools

Summary of Physical Building Assessment:

When you first walk in it doesn't seem like anything is wrong with it which is a testament to the school facilities, maintenance, custodians who keep the schools looking the way they do.

CMHS – the score fell at 2.8 [potentially critical] as an average of multiple categories

Much of the school does not comply with ADA standards which were put in place after original construction of the school

The interior environment – some rooms were hotter and some colder, air felt moist, finishes deteriorating in some places, smell of mildew which is a sign of standing moisture.

Speculate that exterior systems – walls and roofs – aren't performing as well as they could. Much of the exterior is original construction. There is not continuous insulation, there is no air space between wall and brick

Electrical and plumbing systems scored low because they have not kept up with code and energy standards that are now in place

Interior finishes are well maintained

Deer Hill School – 3.6 [Not Yet Critical]

A lot of the analysis shows recommended upgrades and accessibility are as prevalent because it's one story. Recommendation – fulfilling the floor replacement throughout the classrooms as has been done in the corridors

Electrical and plumbing would need to be updated for code and energy efficient requirements

There is evidence starting to collect on masonry surfaces. Recommend that it is cleaned and removed and sill pan flashing, sealants and mortar maintenance

Joseph Osgood School – 4.2 [recommended upgrades]

Interior environment is pleasant and finishes are clean, it is overall accessible as the building was built in the 90s.

The lowest score is the exterior envelope and the district is aware of replacement needs of windows and roof.

Recommended upgrades for plumbing and electrical fixtures.

Roof sheet metal is beginning to oxidize

The Osgood is well oriented for solar panels

Summary – Educational Program Assessment –

Average Scores:

CMHS – 1.7 [critical]

- Critical space deficiencies



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- Classroom size flexibility FAIL – no appropriately sized core classrooms or options for flexibility, no sufficient storage,
- Academic neighborhoods FAIL – no ability to logically organize classes into academic neighborhoods at MS level, no signage
- Project based learning lab FAIL – no modern project labs for students
- Collaboration Space FAIL –
- Display and Visual Connections FAIL –
- Indoor/ Outdoor Connection – FAIL
- Socialization Space – FAIL – not adequately sized, no differentiation, no natural daylight,
- Community Resource – FAIL –

Because of the inability to meet 21st century educational needs through minor renovations of the existing building: Cohasset – Middle High School should be considered for a comprehensive renovation and addition or new construction as defined by the Massachusetts School Building Association and its core program.

This report is to help the town develop a road map for future planning for all three school buildings as well as to put together and SOI for a new middle High School to the MSBA CORE Program.

The Statement of Interest (SOI) is able to be submitted to the Massachusetts Building Authority once a year based on the eight categories.

The select board has taken on a PR firm that is going to help the committee to run a website and get a message out to the community.

This report is the result of a fact-finding mission.

School Facilities Committee Page has this presentation posted

Student Services Forum Planning –

Gift (Ms. Susan Owen) – Received a gift of \$1000 from Awesome Blossom to the Fine Arts Department.

Motion to accept the gift by Mrs. Colleary, seconded by Mrs. St. Onge

All – Aye

Finance

FY23 Budget Vote for the additional increase of 3.05%, \$660,920, from the town

Motion to approve FY23 Budget of \$21, 684,432 by Mrs. St. Onge, seconded by Mrs. Colleary

Roll Call: Ashley Colleary - Aye, Lance Dial – Not Present, Paul Kearney – Aye, Lydia St. Onge – Aye, Craig MacLellan - Aye.

School Committee Comments and Communication-

Policy Subcommittee – The subcommittee recommends deleting the current version of Policy AC, adopting Policy AC-R, deleting Policy ACAB and adopting MASC version, adopting Policy JICK

Motion to approve all of the proposed revisions to the policy binder by Mr. Kearney, seconded by Mrs. Colleary

All - Aye



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Reports from Sub-Committee and Liaisons-

Mrs. Colleary reports that the webpage outline has been shared with Lisa Radden and created a plan for putting content into a draft online before it is published. Also, the communications sub-committee has worked with Lisa Radden to develop a survey that has been sent out to staff to ask how they would like support and volunteers to help from the community. The subcommittee will meet on April 7 to discuss the results.

Mr. Kearney is excited about spring sports starting and asked for an update on the screens in the CMHS.

Mr. MacLellan commented that collective bargaining is ongoing with the CTA.

**Motion by Mr. Kearney to move into Executive Session at 7:56, reason 2, seconded by Mrs. Colleary
All – Aye**

**Motion to adjourn executive session at 8:22 by Ashley Colleary, seconded by Paul Kearney
All – Aye**

**Motion to adjourn regular school committee meeting by Ashley Colleary, seconded by Paul Kearney
All – Aye**

Meeting adjourned at 8:23 PM

The meeting adjourned at 9:29 p.m.

Documents Used at the Meeting

FY23 Budget Proposal