



Cohasset Public Schools

143 Pond Street

Cohasset, MA 02025

Empower Students to Improve Communities

Cohasset School Committee Meeting

School Committee Minutes

Wednesday, March 14, 2022

Learning Commons

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

Jenna Giglio, Superintendent Advisory Council Liaison

Call to Order and Roll Call - Chairman MacLellan called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

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

Public Comment - None

Superintendent's Report – All town concerts are this week. Grades 4 – 12 chorus and band will perform at 7PM on Tuesday and Wednesday. Winter sports state tournament update – girls made it to the elite 8 and boys made it to the final 16 and boys basketball made it to the final 16. The ski team won the ski East title for the first time in school history and the girls alpine ski team won the sportsmanship award.

At the end of the week we have a half day PD of building based time and on Friday we have Raymond Porch who is the DEI for a full day PD for all staff.

Student Advisor Update – Jenna Giglio – This week is an exciting week at CHS! The all school concerts are on Tuesday and Wednesday. These are the first big concerts when people can be mask-less. The semi-formal is on Thursday. All the proceeds are going to prom. A fund raiser, Resources for Refugees, is being set up for the next three weeks. All four grades will be competing, and every dollar donated adds a bean to the jar for your grade. You can also use my school bucks account to donate. The winning grade will have a breakfast on April 1. Classes are still ramped up as they head toward AP exams in April.

Mr. Dial asked Jenna for her perspective about the calendar. She said it didn't make that much of a difference but at the end of the year it's nice to be able to be out and in high school sports start early anyway.

Spotlight on student learning- Technology – Ms. Lisa Radden & Ms. Gail St. Peter – Presenting Pear Deck, an application invested in during COVID.

Using Pear Deck to Increase Student Engagement



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- Pear Deck is an add on to Google Slides
- Transform a presentation into a conversation
- Increases student engagement through participation
- Allows for differentiation of instruction
- Anonymous responses allow students to take risks
- Students get immediate feedback and support from the teacher
- Feedback is private – no names attached to responses
- Students have a view and can give a response. Teachers have a view and can respond to individuals.
- There are different options for student response – drawing and typing
- Makes it so the teacher is not lecturing at the front of the room. They become the guide on the side.
- It tracks participation in real time
- Records lessons and responses
- The platform is easy to learn and use
- Allowed in person and remote students to learn synchronously.
- All presentations are recorded
- Presentations can be paced by the teacher or it can be self-paced so that students can go through at their own pace.
- Presentation is on the screen at the front of the room and kids have the presentation on their own device every day.

Discussion of 2022 – 2023 School Year Calendar and Vote –

Dr. Sullivan presents 2022 – 2023 calendar options with pros and cons for starting before Labor Day.

Liz Shaughnessy, 6 Reservoir Road – Can the date ever shift based on Labor Day? This year it's on the 5th and the it will go earlier. In the year 2025 the date of Labor Day is September 1st. The end of August is hot and is the quality of instruction more valuable in August? The issue of this summer is real because school is ending late this year. Can we revisit this conversation this time next year?

Some contracts say – if Labor Day falls on September 3 or earlier the work year will start the Tuesday after Labor Day. If Labor Day falls on September 4 or later the teachers work year starts

Erin O'Duggan, Great Brewster Trail – Has students in middle school and is a speech and language pathologist in Hull where they have been starting before Labor Day. In Hull all devices are distributed, password, contracts, all logistics are taken care of social emotional stuff. I am here to advocate to start pre Labor Day. Finding summer jobs and being sure that kids are at work when it starts and there. Weather in fall has been very windy and has cancelled days in recent years. In August, people are coming back.

Jacob Harrell, 11 Walnut Hill Lane – this topic has taken us by surprise. Despite the points of support, teachers all appear well prepared, value last days of summer, two days of limited school days

Mrs. Colleary noted that starting a couple days earlier with the promise of an earlier summer is appealing to her. In principle, Mrs. Colleary is in favor of this and is also on the high school council and one thing they hear a lot is that they'd like to have more meaningful connections with their teachers.



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Mr. Dial thinks that going to June 30 is too much. 1. This year the kids have been through a lot and its not fair to take away from summer. He likes the language that Marshfield has included in their teacher contract concerning start date in relation to Labor Day.

Mr. Kearney thinks there are good argumenta for both sides of this issue. He does agree with Dr. Sullivan's recommendations. The teachers think it's better to come in before Labor Day.

Mrs. St. Onge is asking if we can look at

Meghan Whoriskey, 11 Sankey Road – Do the PD days have to be full days? Could a couple of PD days be added to the beginning

Jennifer Dial, 21 Rocky Lane – how does this affect Kindergarten? Would they go one day and then go back after the long weekend?

Motion to go forward bargaining to explore the option of a pre labor day start for the 23-24, 24 – 25 school years with similar language to that presented from Marshfield's contract [If Labor day falls on 9/3 or earlier teachers work year will start on Tuesday after labor day if labor day falls on 9/4 or later, teachers work year will begin the Monday prior to Labor Day} and revisit the 22-23 calendar with a post labor day start by Mrs. Colleary, seconded by Mrs. St. Onge

Roll Call Vote: Mrs. Colleary – Aye, Mr. Dial – Aye, Mr. Kearney – No, Mrs. St. Onge – Aye, Mr. MacLellan - Aye

Student Services Forum Planning – At the last meeting we picked a tentative date of Wednesday, May 18.

Finance- Monthly Update - FY22 Financial Report February 2022: Mrs. Owen updated the committee on the school budget (general fund)

Another tuition has gone from a day program to a residential program resulting in an additional \$164,628. There will be a cost savings to transportation as a result of that placement.

Individual school budgets are all in the 51% - 57% area.

Capital outlay funds for FY22

Track and turn bids open on April 4. Only one vendor has come through but many other vendors came through for the walk through last year.

Have been working remotely with capital and fieldling questions and sent upgraded information. Everything that has been requested has been sent.

Gas and electric updates were shared

FY22 Grant increases have been shared.

Revolving accounts – school insurance recovery has changed. \$25,000 has been received to replace the press box. The estimate of the structure is understood but the estimate for the contents is not yet settled.

Cafeteria is looking into high top tables for senior area

Add school bus parking to agenda

Special services – how are special services determined and monitored? The building of a therapeutic program could help the district as well.



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FY23 Budget Presentation

Budget priorities, request for school budget, total budget request is \$1,016,122.00 a 4.69% increase. Advisory asked if the sped stabilization fund could be used to help with the increase in sped tuitions? Each school's priorities were presented, and data supporting budget priorities.

Enrollment & Class size projections

Public forum for the budget on March 30 at 5:30PM

Review of substitute teacher pay rate – motion to amend our budget for next year to include a raise increase to support an increase substitute teach rate to \$100/ day by Mr. Dial, seconded by Mrs. Colleary.

All - Aye

Kate Rennie – 9 Forest Notch – The pandemic has been so disruptive to student learning

For the current fiscal year, do we have a substitute line item?

Request for a more detailed discussion at the finance & facilities subcommittee meeting

School Committee Comments and Communication-

Policy subcommittee revisited policy EBCFA and has presented changes to the committee.

Motion to accept amended policy EBCFA by Mr. Dial, seconded by Mrs. Colleary.

All – aye

Webpage outline presented to committee for discussion so that changes can be brought to Mrs. Radden to develop webpage.

School Facilities Committee – will be presenting to us at our next meeting on March 30. At the following meeting there will be a presentation of the SOI and request for a vote.

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 – Wellness committee met and reviewed the vending machine that is being built for the school. Shelving will be adjustable to be able to fit different healthy options. Finished assessment with state health coach and HS rep is working with Mr. Ford to look at how exercise can be incorporated during utility.

Superintendent eval will mean we have an executive session at our next meeting.

Approval of Minutes – Minute from 3.3.2021 presented to the committee.

Motion to accept the minutes by Mr. Kearney, seconded by Mrs. Colleary

All 4 eligible - aye



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Mr. Dial - abstain

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

Executive Session - none

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

All - Aye

The meeting adjourned at 9:37 PM

Documents Used at the Meeting

PEAR DECK Presentation - Ms. Radden, Ms. St. Peter

Pre-Labor Day Start vs Post-Labor Day Start For Students - Superintendent Patrick Sullivan

Draft Pre-Labor Day Start Date 2022-2023 Cohasset Public Schools Calendar - Superintendent Patrick Sullivan

Monthly Finance Update - Ms. Owen

FY23 Budget Discussion - Ms. Owen

Review of Substitute Teacher Pay Rate - Ms. Owen

Public Health Emergency or Crisis EBCFA - Mrs. Colleary

Revised School Committee Webpage Outline - Mrs. Colleary

Approved March 3, 2021 Public Budget Hearing and School Committee Minutes - Mrs. St. Onge