



Cohasset Public Schools
143 Pond Street
Cohasset, MA 02025
Continuing the Commitment to Excellence
Cohasset School Committee Meeting

School Committee Minutes

Wednesday, February 16, 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

Brian Scott, CHS Principal

Jenna Giglio, Superintendent Advisory Council Liaison

Call to Order and Roll Call - Chairman MacLellan called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

Roll Call: Ashley Colleary – Present as of 6:24, Lance Dial - Present, Paul Kearney - Present, Lydia St. Onge - Present, Craig MacLellan - Present.

Public Comment – Jocelyn Thomas, 27 King Street – because you are planning to remove the distancing at the Joseph Osgood School. I would appreciate an option to allow children to remove masks to eat, to have distance while singing in music. I would like to allow six feet of distance.

Dr. Sullivan has operational discretion over spacing and DESE has not mandated spacing in schools. We did that ourselves as an extra safety measure at times when we felt we needed to. The goal right now is to move back to a socially emotionally appropriate format. We will work individually with people to help out as much as we can but we want to keep eating confined to the cafeteria and have gym in the gym. Families should contact their schools' principal to accommodate individual needs.

Superintendent's Report – National Counselors Week and National School resource officer's day. Thanks to our school counselors and to our school resource officer, Officer Greg Taylor.

February 23 is national bus driver's day. At the last meeting we went mask optional at Deer Hill and the staff and students have been very respectful, without a stigma. The transmission rate was less than 1% in all buildings with masks optional at Deer Hill, CMS and CHS.

Student Advisor Update - Jenna Giglio – February has been a great month. There is no stigma in the high school. Jenna feels comfortable wearing a mask or not. Some teachers have been taking them off too. Sitting at lunch tables in the senior cafeteria feels like it's back to normal. Last week there was a fun ping pong tournament that happened during utility period. On Monday, Valentine's Day, the CHS had candy-grams. Friday is anything but a backpack day. Be creative and bring your books in something else. Sport teams have been doing great and senior nights have been fun to be a part of. A lot of the student have been showing respect and the kids in the stands are being respectful to everybody and wearing masks and cheering



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respectfully. This week was more stressful academically, lots of tests and essays with break coming up. The new term started and have switched classes, but the transition has been smooth.

Mr. Kearney has asked about lockers. Jenna has never had a locker assigned at CHS. She likes having her backpack. Mr. Scott provided history on lockers – maintenance, turn over, etc. It is announced that lockers are available and optional, but kids do not use them. It is common to use lockers at CMS.

Four boys and two girls made it to states for swimming at Boston University. A lot of the parents have been having prom meetings. Lots of text chains among families or whole grade to get excited and plan for prom and graduation.

Spotlight on student learning- 143TV – Mr. Brian Scott & Madison Gould – Madison is a senior. 143TV operated within the CHS building. The station has taken on a different and more involved position during COVID.

143TV and CHS – Cohasset 143TV is a nonprofit funded by subscribers to Comcast and Verizon. They contribute to various shows and also help out Cohasset drama club and school drama production. Freshman year – Madison was a student volunteer for Cohasset 250 and fell in love with the station and got her foot in the door. She gained a lot of communication and time management skills. Sophomore year she was only able to do half a semester of work. During COVID gave time to do a few zoom meetings but being home a lot gave her time to develop the idea of a sports reporting show. Junior year, Madison was able to get a yearlong internship at the studio through an independent study which gave her in school and after school time at 143TV. Created a COVID documentary interviewing administrators, custodians, and staff about how things changed due to COVID. Senior year – Madison has another year long independent study period. She is a producer on the show Food143. First show was about Alecco Bread and was done at Holly Hill Farm. Now they are working on a show about Red Lion Inn. This has been a big steppingstone in her career that she hopes to have in production. A current sideline project is a documentary about the football team.

How did you find out about the nexus between 143TV and the school and pursue an independent study? There are always a couple of students per grade who are involved and they're always very vocal and very positive about their experience. Madison spoke with administration and expressed her interest.

143TV has a YouTube channel and website and Facebook and they are on TV – Comcast and Verizon.

Do you see a future for filming and broadcasting CHS sports games? Currently, student volunteers film games and share it with coaches and it's posted on Huddle a space where school sports film can be viewed. Students can talk to student volunteers and Don at 143TV in order to talk about an idea. It is very independent so if you have a plan and an idea, it's up to you to make it happen.

Program of Studies for Cohasset High School – Mr. Brian Scott – Substantive changes to the 2022 – 2023 Program of Studies:

1. Updated courses to reflect opportunities to complete the new Civics Project Endorsement (class of 2024)
2. Re-aligned scope and sequence of World History and US History to reflect changing guidance from the state.
3. Replace introduction to Chemistry with introduction to Physical Science
4. Removed 452 Ecology (was replaced with Biodiversity ecology)
5. Removed Intermediate Art



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6. Reduced Art major and portfolio art to quarter classes to increase enrollment
7. Create two new computer science courses:
 - a. Video Game Design
 - b. Mobile App Design
8. Create new leadership course, Leadership studies (under Special Programs)
9. Added a section titled “Digital Literacy and Computer Science”

Leadership studies is a great opportunity to bring community members into the class!

Is the Student Council at CHS structured like CMS? Mr. Scott has been discussing student council with Mrs. Norton and they are thinking about the election process and what it will look like going forward.

Motion to accept the CHS Program of Studies by Paul Kearney, seconded by Lance Dial.

All – Aye

Lifting Mask Mandate 2/28/2022 – discussion & vote – Dr. Sullivan continues to track COVID case numbers at each school. Number of cases are going down at the schools and in the town.

Commissioner of Education Riley sent a notice to Superintendents on February 9 that the DESE Mask mandate will be lifted as of 2/28/2022 and masking requirements will be determined at a local level.

Masking will continue to be required on busses because it is a federal mandate.

Matters for consideration and vote: Will we follow the DESE lifting of the mask requirement on February 28 at Joseph Osgood? Deer Hill, CMS and CHS are all currently mask optional.

Joseph Osgood Vaccination Status is at 71%, 306/433.

Will we allow visitors in all of our buildings to opt to wear or not wear masks?

Are we going to follow the DESE/DPH Protocols for Responding to COVID-19 scenarios – SY 2021 – 2022, which include strongly recommending mask wearing when returning from 5 days of quarantine?

In accordance with DPH recommendations, it is strongly recommended that masking be required in nurses’ offices.

Community Questions:

Katie & Ted Lubitz, 103 Border Street – Thank you for putting our children first . This committee should be consistent with following DESE Guidance

Leslie McGeever, – Absolutely agree with the removal of masks.

Jocelyn Dana Thomas, 27 King Street – I would like to request respectfully that masks be continued. Our children may not be able to show as many symptoms and may reduce spread. Masks give a level of coverage that is not protected by our testing program. To follow the recommendations of the CDC and the DPH.



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Mrs. Colleary notes that with elementary schools there is a higher likelihood that there are younger unvaccinated kids in the house. I am a person who is likely to advocate for the people least able to advocate for themselves.

Mr. Dial expressed that he too is concerned about individuals' health and is, at the same time, concerned about the academic implications. He tends to think that making masks optional may be the best thing for children's social emotional well-being.

Mr. Kearney does not like masks and feels that they create many challenges for children at school.

Mr. MacLellan feels that mask restrictions no longer have a place in our schools.

Motion to accept DESE Guidance and make masking optional in the district Paul Kearney by seconded by Lance Dial.

All – Aye

Chris Barrett, 4 Cedar Acres Lane – please allow people to decide

Elizabeth Frasier, Windy Hill Road – we want to watch our children at events and to see our smiling faces

Jeff Chubb, 56 Black Rock Road – we ask that adults entering the school are allowed to have mask choice

Motion to have masks optional for all visitors by Paul Kearney, seconded by Lance Dial

All – Aye

The protocol recommends that we require masking for days 6 – 10 after a student returns from a 5 day COVID quarantine. Mrs. Colleary feels that we should adhere to the guidance. Mrs. St. Onge agrees that we should follow the guidance. Mr. Dial asked questions about the operational questions of continuing to implement this protocol.

Courtney Ness, 210 Lamberts Lane – If someone is asymptomatic

Motion to adopt the guidance and make masking required on days 6 – 10 of a return of a COVID quarantine by Mrs. Colleary, seconded by Mrs. St. Onge.

Mrs. Colleary, Mrs. St. Onge, Mr. MacLellan – aye

Mr. Dial, Mr. Kearney – Nay

Should masks be required in the nurse's office?

Mrs. Colleary is wondering about mask availability. Mr. Dial thinks it makes sense to wear a mask if one goes to the nurse because they're not feeling well. Mr. Kearney feels that the CMS. Mrs. St. Onge feels that it makes sense

Stefanie Sonders, 10 Stratford Terrace - Are reusable masks allowed in the office? Yes, but disposable masks will be allowed in the office.



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Elizabeth Frasier, 10 Windy Hill Road – I don't think that it makes sense to wear a mask in the nurse's office.

Motion to accept the guidance and to require wearing masks in nurses' offices at all building by Mrs. St. Onge, seconded by Mrs. Colleary

All - aye

Bus Shortage Update – Ms. Susan Owen – We did have a shortage of two bus drivers. One resigned and one had a medical leave. The driver on medical leave returned. One bus route is being covered by other busses in the am and pm.

We have three drivers in training. They have to complete 60 hours of training and then take their road test with the RMV. We are hoping that by Mid-March every bus route will be covered and then two more will come on board to cover athletics and field trips.

Stefanie Saunders, 10 Stratford Terrace – Will we adopt a mobile app to track the busses?

Yes, we don't have it yet, but we do have a new transportation supervisor and new routing software. That software has an option to expand to enable a tracking app. This may be available as soon as September 2022.

Finance- Monthly Update - FY22 Financial Report January:

School budget as of January 31, we have expended \$10,463,828 out of \$21, 684,432 (55.59%) and we are 58% through the year. SpEd Tuition is stable as of right now. Budgets by school were presented.

A progress update for Capital Outlay projects for this year was delivered. Capital outlay draft for FY23 was shared with the Capital Budget committee and priorities will be reorganized. FY22 electric and gas summaries updated utilities for each school. Grants and revolving account balances were shared. Athletic Revolving and Cafeteria Revolving are being used for improvements and upgrades.

Mr. Dial asked if there is a pro forma for a surplus at the end of the year.

FY23 Budget Discussion – Town Manager and Town Accountant have allocated \$660,920.00. We went back as a group and looked at our costs. This is a very lean budget. There isn't anywhere to cut. The bottom line now is about a \$350,000 shortfall. We need to meet with the advisory board. A copy will be sent to them and we will meet with them in March. An updated copy will be sent to the town accountant. A public Forum is hosted and then the budget goes to select board and then town meeting.

Substitute Teacher Pay Review – Mrs. Owen did a quick survey on a list serve to gather information from nearby districts. CPS's current sub rate is \$80 per diem. Mrs. Owen does not recommend increasing pay this budget cycle but possibly FY23?

Mr. Dial asked if there is a possibility to find \$5000 and implement an increase this year. Mrs. Owen will present a plan at a future meeting that would include details about what a potential soft freeze would include.

School Committee Comments and Communication-



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School Facilities Committee – AI3 presented to the School Facilities Committee last night. The meeting will be posted on 143TV and the public will be brought into this conversation through a variety of pathways now that there is more substantive information to share.

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 will have to meet to review the mask policy. Safe Harbor will run a guiding good choices workshop for parents. Event at Gates Middle School in Scituate. There is more information on their website.

Budget and Finance committee discussed the information that presented tonight.

Approval of Minutes – Minutes from 10/7/ 2020 & 12/15/21 reviewed by school committee.

Motion to accept the minutes for October 7, 2020 by Mrs. Colleary, seconded by Mr. Kearney.

Mrs. Colleary, Mr. Kearney, Mrs. St. Onge, Mr. MacLellan– aye; Mr. Dial - abstain

Motion to accept the minutes for December 15, 2021 by Mrs. Colleary, seconded by Mr. Dial.

All - aye

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

Executive Session - none

Motion to adjourn School Committee meeting by Mr. Kearney seconded by Mr. Dial.

All - Aye

The meeting adjourned at 9:08 PM