



Cohasset Public Schools

143 Pond Street

Cohasset, MA 02025

Empower Students to Improve Communities

Cohasset School Committee Meeting

School Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 2, 2022

Learning Commons

Cohasset Middle and High School

143 Pond Street

Cohasset, MA 02025

Virtual Access via Zoom and Facebook

6:00 P.M.

In Attendance:

Craig MacLellan, Chairman

Ashley Colleary

Lance Dial

Paul Kearney

Also, in Attendance:

Dr. Patrick Sullivan, Superintendent

Dr. Leslie Scollins, Assistant Superintendent

Barbara Cerwonka, Director of Student Services

Student Advisory Council: Jake Squatrito, Mercedes O'Neil,

Nathan Askjaer, Charlie Lankow, Jack Kearney

Call to Order and Roll Call - Chairman MacLellan called the School Committee Meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. **Roll Call: Lance Dial - Present, Paul Kearney – Present as of 6:02, Lydia St. Onge – Not Present, Craig MacLellan - Present.**

Public Comment- *Cassie Muir* of 40 Red Gate Lane - last year DESE implemented the new dyslexia screening guidelines for all elementary students for *math*. How are all students in our district being screened and how can parents see the results of this screening? Assistant Superintendent Leslie Scollins responds to Ms. Muir's question that "Dibbles" has eight series as a strainer in it for dyslexia and also on "I-Ready" that has a dyslexia screening built in it. Individuals or parents who want their screening reports can reach out to their school Principal's. Chairman Craig MacLellan comments onto Mrs. *Muir's* question and to anyone else with similar concerns and he also acknowledges that Mrs. *Muir* is a very active member in our SEPAC as well. We will be hosting a student services public forum in the Spring when everyone's more comfortable with in-person events and obtain optimal participation where we can have an open discourse about all things related to student services special education and hope that people comes with questions of that nature so that we can discuss them. Perhaps we will develop some sort of a way to submit them ahead of time so we can have a little bit more preparation time and a more meaningful discourse at the actual forum.

Superintendent's Report - Great to have our Superintendent's Student Advisory Council members with us here tonight. Things are never boring, we had a fairly significant snowstorm recently, thank all the people who helped to get our schools up and running again. Our DPW of course, our police, first responders and our custodians working throughout the whole storm. We weren't ready on Monday, something that we just have to be cautious and be prepared before we move into a day of school. We are at this point very late in our school year, as late as we can possibly be, with June 30th being our final day and that will hold true moving forward and we'll certainly update our calendar, so that everyone can see it. February is Black



Cohasset Public Schools

143 Pond Street

Cohasset, MA 02025

Empower Students to Improve Communities

Cohasset School Committee Meeting

History month and we'll be making sure we do significant events throughout the month. We're very much in tune with our cultural response of teaching and practices throughout our district, so it's not just something we do in February, but certainly we'll be recognizing Black History month in all of our schools.

COVID testing kits will be offered weekly to staff who will be able to pick them up this week and we're positive at this point that next week we'll be giving testing kits out to the students.

Dr. Scollins addresses that we have started our after-school tutoring program for math for grades 6 through grade 11 and its offered on Monday and Wednesday. We just sent out enrollment for families a couple of weeks ago and we're really excited about it. It's going to start on Monday, February 7, 2022. Our middle school students will come 2 days a week, the high school is going to be structured a little bit differently, our high school teachers in our district that are the tutors, so we're really excited. The unfortunate part is that we had to definitely restrict it this round. In the Summer we were able to let everyone come in, but this is really specific for students who have been identified that need support, so we had to look at special education and all those kinds of things.

Superintendent Patrick Sullivan mentions in conjunction with that and with the school improvement plans, families should be seeing surveys coming in the next few weeks from each school engaging on engagement. Dr. Sullivan is looking at what kind of engagement we're going to have happening with our families and how we can improve that. We're going to talk a little bit about student voice in our strategic plan in a moment.

Superintendents Student Advisory Council - Dr. Sullivan welcomes and addresses the student advisory council and notes that their the first, official presenters here in our Learning Commons in our school committee meeting tonight at our new location. The individuals here in front of us have a really important role being on this committee. Our presentation today was originally scheduled to be a little bit more summative where we really thought we'd have a lot more work done but like anything else, we're kind of presenting it at mid-point now, where this is work that is ongoing. We definitely need to gather more data, but we do want to present out with the data we have, and this is really a presentation regarding student voice and those 4 compass points. They have met with Mrs. Owen, Mrs. Cerwonka, Mrs. Radden and our Principals, so it's a continual input back and forth and discussion that is really going to pay a lot of dividends moving forward. Jake Squatrito presents names and grades of the SSAC members.

Cohasset High School: Jenna Giglio- Grade 12, Jake Squatrito- Grade 12, Mercedes O'Neil- Grade 11.

Noah McDowall- Grade 10, Charlie Lankow- Grade 10, Nathan Askjaer- Grade 9, Ella Lynch- Grade 9.

Grace Shaughnessy- Grade 9, **Cohasset Middle School:** Jack Kearney- Grade 8, Amara Pierce- Grade 8.

Mercedes O'Neil, presents the role of the SSAC. The Superintendent's Student Advisory Council (SSAC) meets with the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent monthly to advise, to provide feedback, and to present viable solutions on district initiatives and programs. High school students in their junior and senior year on the SSAC will be eligible to serve as student liaisons to the school committee.

Charlie Lankow presents sample topics we have discussed are; approaches to increase student voice, approaches to promote cultural competency, inclusion, and diversity; approaches to help students cope with stress and pressure; approaches to promote student wellness; approaches to increase social opportunities



Cohasset Public Schools

143 Pond Street

Cohasset, MA 02025

Empower Students to Improve Communities

Cohasset School Committee Meeting

for students; approaches to increase academic opportunities for students; approaches to improve transitions between schools; approaches to improve school culture; approaches to improve facilities, technology use, operations.

Charlie Lankow presents the SSAC membership in which members are selected by the middle school and high school Principal's and also comments just for future reference, we'd like to elect an additional two (2) SSAC members from Deer Hill Elementary School to join the team. These students will be selected by the Deer Hill Principal, (attend special meetings TBD). Dr. Sullivan states we're hoping to bring them in the Spring to kind of introduce them to the group.

Next presentation is the SSAC Strategic Plan Review Objectives. To gather and present student voice to building and district leadership, and to help in creating a plan from the students' perspective to improve teaching and learning, social-emotional wellness, resources, and communication and engagement throughout Cohasset Public Schools.

Jack continues their presentation on the SSAC- Strategic Plan Review Timeline. In November, gathered student voice, created survey and sent it to middle and high school students. In December, reviewed results of survey's and shared with building and district leadership. Provided building and district leadership with more student voice regarding decisions concerning the strategic objectives present in the Strategic Plan (2021-2024). In January and February, we continue conversations with leadership and present to school committee, in which we're presenting here tonight. Mr. MacLellan asks Jack did all the students participate in it, or was it voluntary? Was it only a certain group of students? Jack states we sent it out to everybody in the middle and high school. Most of the responses were from middle school students and there weren't too many from the high school. Dr. Sullivan comments it's interesting because we have a lot more high school representatives here so you can get a flavor, but there were over 100 responses, so we did have a good cross section but we need to get more involved, and we recognize that. Mr. MacLellan asks the upper classmen if they have any idea of why maybe the high schoolers weren't interested in participating in it, or is it because you just have more going on? Mercedes O'Neil chimes in that it wasn't broadcasted enough to be taken as well as it could have been, so in the future, we think it should be more mandatory for students to do this, so that we can get better responses from them, but we learned from the past, and hopefully we'll get more results. Dr. Sullivan comments that it was also the timing of it, right around Thanksgiving, so it was kind of a hard time, but still think we have a good cross section. Mercedes O'Neil continues to the survey scale on every question we asked to where we rated 107 responses. Survey scale with questions and results:

1 = strongly disagree; 2 = disagree; 3 = neutral; 4 = agree; 5 = strongly agree

Compass Point #1 - teaching and learning. Question asked: Do you feel you have a voice in classroom rules, culture, discussions and learning practices?

Results were: 2.8% strongly disagree, 12.1% disagree, 23.4% neutral, 39.3% agree, 22.4% strongly agree.

Compass Point #1 - teaching and learning. Question asked: Do you feel that what you are learning in school can be applied outside of school?

Results were: 6.5% strongly disagree, 23.4% disagree, 22.4% neutral, 28% agree, 19.6% strongly agree.



Cohasset Public Schools

143 Pond Street

Cohasset, MA 02025

Empower Students to Improve Communities

Cohasset School Committee Meeting

Compass Point #1 - teaching and learning. Question asked: Do you feel that the curriculum promotes inclusivity, cultural diversity and critical thought?

Results were: 1.9% strongly disagree, 5.6% disagree, 28% neutral, 33.6% agree, 30.8% strongly agree

Compass Point #1 - teaching and learning. Question asked: Do you enjoy your learning experiences in school?

Results were: 3.7% strongly disagree, 15.9% disagree, 23.4% neutral, 32.7% agree, 24.3% strongly agree.

Compass Point #2 - Social Emotional Wellness. Question asked: Do you feel that the culture of your school encourages inclusivity, empathy, equity and global citizenship?

Results were: 0.9% strongly disagree, 3.7% disagree, 20.6% neutral, 45.8% agree, 29% strongly agree.

Compass Point #2 - Social Emotional Wellness. Question asked: Do you feel that you have strong and positive relationships with your teachers?

Results were: 0% strongly disagree, 4.7% disagree, 28% neutral, 43% agree, 24.3% strongly agree.

Compass Point #2 - Social Emotional Wellness. Question asked: Do you feel that you are supported within your school in acting independently and making your own free choices?

Results were: 3.7% strongly disagree, 9.3% disagree, 22.4% neutral, 46.7% agree, 17.8% strongly agree.

Compass Point #2 - Social Emotional Wellness. Question asked: Do you feel that your school offers useful resources that help students deal with stress and that support student wellness?

Results were: 7.5% strongly disagree, 19.6% disagree, 18.7% neutral, 32.7% agree, 21.5% strongly agree.

Compass Point #3 - Resources. Question asked: Overall, do you feel that the facilities (classrooms, collaboration spaces, dining areas, physical education areas, and learning commons) are beneficial to student learning and experience?

Results were: 0% strongly disagree, 8.4% disagree, 15% neutral, 42.1% agree, 34.6% strongly agree.

Compass Point #3 - Resources. Question asked: Do you feel that the technology within your school supports optimal teaching and learning?

Results were: 2.8% strongly disagree, 5.6% disagree, 13.1% neutral, 38.3% agree, 40.2% strongly agree.

Compass Point #3 - Resources. Question asked: Do you feel that the furniture within your classrooms and school supports optimal teaching and learning?

Results were: 7.5% strongly disagree, 6.5% disagree, 25.2% neutral, 34.6% agree, 26.2% strongly agree.

Compass Point #3 - Resources. Question asked: Do you feel that the common learning areas are optimally used to support collaboration opportunities between students and staff?

Results were: 1.9% strongly disagree, 10.3% disagree, 17.8% neutral, 41.1% agree, 29% strongly agree.



Cohasset Public Schools

143 Pond Street

Cohasset, MA 02025

Empower Students to Improve Communities

Cohasset School Committee Meeting

Compass Point #4 - Communication and Engagement. Question asked: Does your school communicate effectively with students?

Results were: 0% strongly disagree, 13.1% disagree, 19.6% neutral, 40.2% agree, 27.1% strongly agree.

Compass Point #4 - Communication and Engagement. Question asked: Does your school celebrate a wide range of student academic and extra-curricular achievement?

Results were: 2.8% strongly disagree, 6.5% disagree, 18.7% neutral, 42.1% agree, 29.9% strongly agree.

Compass Point #4 - Communication and Engagement. Question asked: Is your voice included in the decision making within your school?

Results were: 5.6% strongly disagree, 18.7% disagree, 30.8% neutral, 27.1% agree, 17.8% strongly agree.

Compass Point #4 - Communication and Engagement. Question asked: Are you proud to be a student at Cohasset high school and Cohasset middle school?

Results were: 2.8% strongly disagree, 4.7% disagree, 15% neutral, 36.4% agree, 41.1% strongly agree.

Grand Canyon Trip Safety Measures (Mr. Bob Erlandsen) - Mr. Erlandsen states we're looking to take our 8th, 9th, and 10th grade kids to Arizona. As we're getting closer, we're looking how we can do this as safely and as successfully as possible. To that effect, what we'd like to do is, on that Thursday, before we leave which is April 18, 2022. We are not requiring vaccinations but would like to know the traveler's vaccine status. This is not an exclusionary request; we would like parents to submit an attestation of test results on the Thursday before travel. With the long Easter weekend right after, any positive test should be able to clear, and they should refrain from gathering with any other travelers. On that Wednesday or Thursday before we have a final trip meeting for all the participants. One of the things we'd like are the tests kits that are coming in from that state and Mr. Erlandsen thanks them very much, is have parents do a self-test at home and attest to us the results of that.

Motion made by Mr. Kearney for approval on a voluntary attestation vaccination status in our current policy for the Grand Canyon Trip Safety Measures, seconded by Ms. Colleary. Roll Call Vote: Ashley Colleary-Aye, Lance Dial-Aye, Paul Kearney-Aye, Craig MacLellan-Aye.

FY22 Substitute Nurse Rate Correction (Ms. Susan Owen) - Ms. Owen mentions there was an error on what our current daily rate is for a substitute nurse. Our current daily rate was \$120, (not \$80) as stated from 01/19/2022 school committee meeting and as of now we're offering a rate of \$160 per day for a substitute nurse. Superintendent Patrick Sullivan states the rate of \$160/day for a substitute nurse is our competitive marketing rate. List of surrounding school districts substitute nurse rates, here are current benchmarks of a few:

Hingham	\$175/day	Rockland	\$130/day
Hull	\$150/day	Old Rochester	\$200/day
Norwell	\$150/day	Plymouth	\$175/day
Scituate	\$127/day	Marshfield	\$175/day



Cohasset Public Schools

143 Pond Street

Cohasset, MA 02025

Empower Students to Improve Communities

Cohasset School Committee Meeting

Pembroke

\$120/day

Holbrook

\$150/day

Motion made by Mr. Kearney to approve the request of an increase for a substitute nurse from our previous daily rate \$120/day to our current daily rate \$160/day, seconded by Ms. Colleary. Roll Call Vote: Ashley Colleary-Aye, Lance Dial-Aye, Paul Kearney-Aye, Craig MacLellan-Aye.

Mr. Dial comments just for the record that this resolution is intended to replace last week's documentation that reflects correction of what was previously listed \$80/day in which should have stated \$120/day.

Capital Budget Prioritization (Ms. Susan Owen) - (Vote Needed)

At our 01/19/22 school committee meeting we prioritized **16 items** within a group of tiers and as discussed from last meeting, we ranked them in an order for needing attention first, then second, etc. which is indicated as follows: **#1**-School Bus Lease, **#2**-Safety automatic window shields at the Osgood School, **#3**-Install AC/Heater split for middle school health clinic, **#4**-Create hallway at middle school to access bathroom in RM 223, **#5**-Locker mechanisms for middle school, **#6**-Replacement of aging chromebooks, **#7**-Middle/High school paging zones, **#8**-Field lights, **#9**-New scoreboard(s), **#10**-Continue roofing at Deer Hill, **#11**-Replacement furniture/Student & Staff, **#12**-Replace all ceiling tiles at Osgood School, **#13**-Replace old base in gym entry way on 1st and 2nd floor, **#14**-Fifteen (15) passenger vans for athletics, **#15**-Asphalt road from Pond Street needs to be resurfaced, **#16**-Replace sidewalk and curbing on entry road to CMHS. The total request is \$1,024,500.00. Ms. Colleary asks for consideration that areas closer on Sohier Street to the schools sidewalk, maybe the DPW can salt them better as they remove the snow. Dr. Sullivan states he can discuss this at the Actions meeting. Mr. Dial comments whoever did all the work to get this in together in order, is phenomenal. Mr. Kearney states he could advocate on all these as being listed as **#1** because all these 16 items need to be done. Mr. Dial comments this was brought up at the sub-committee, the ranking exercise we're doing is we're required not to because we thought that anything necessarily is not able to be ranked. This is not meant to be at a sub-committee level, certainly a reflection on some things are not important and others are. This is a response to a request, and we did it, but all of these **16 things are worthy and necessary expenditures.**

Motion made by Ms. Colleary, to approve the ranked request for FY23 Capital Budget, seconded by Mr. Dial. Roll Call Vote: Ashley Colleary-Aye, Lance Dial-Aye, Paul Kearney-Aye, Craig MacLellan-Aye.

Gift (Ms. Susan Owen) - Dr. Leslie Scollins comments we're looking into a couple of programs and one is *Pete* and they do a couple of programs and we're going to do another one at the elementary and the middle school. *Pete* is actually a leadership program for coaching kids on how to be leaders around substance abuse



Cohasset Public Schools

143 Pond Street

Cohasset, MA 02025

Empower Students to Improve Communities

Cohasset School Committee Meeting

and make positive decisions, social responsibility, confidence. This fund will go towards the leadership program that helps students gain confidence, gain security towards leadership.

Motion by Mr. Dial to accept gift of \$1,500.00 from the Norfolk County District Attorney's Office to fund the leadership program, seconded by Ms. Colleary. Roll Call Vote: Ashley Colleary-Aye, Lance Dial-Aye, Paul Kearney-Aye, Craig MacLellan-Aye.

Chairman Craig MacLellan states before we go onto our next item on the agenda, he wanted to ask the school committee to bump up the **Topics not reasonably anticipated by the Chairman 48 hours in advance of meeting** given Dr. Sullivan's email to the community at large last night regarding the 80% vaccination threshold that was reached at the Deer Hill Elementary School and Mr. MacLellan would like to discuss how that impacted that school at this time.

Motion made by Ms. Colleary to request to move up Topics not reasonably anticipated by the Chairman 48 hours in advance of meeting, in batting order, seconded by Mr. Dial. Roll Call Vote: Ashley Colleary-Aye, Lance Dial-Aye, Paul Kearney-Aye, Chairman Craig MacLellan-Aye.

Topics not reasonably anticipated by the Chairman 48 hours in advance of meeting - Superintendent Patrick Sullivan has numbers with our confirmed positive COVID cases. The trending is down, we're still in a tough spot with Omicron as our nation and as a community, as a school where you can see high numbers coming off the break and then you can see the numbers moving down, maybe not in a rapid way, but steadily. There has been 339 COVID positive cases this year that includes both students and staff.

Vaccination Attestation as of 02/01/2022. At CHS we have 425 students. Students fully vaccinated - 389, student vaccination- 92%. The number of staff at CHS (includes all bus drivers) - 96. Staff attestations received - 90; staff attestations -94%. Total number of students and staff at CHS - 521. Student vaccine data, staff attestation CHS-470; Total building at CHS - 92%. Dr. Sullivan states we made the 80% threshold just recently at the Deer Hill School. We've been looking at this and he thought today at the school committee meeting would be a good day to report this. The nurses report these numbers and put these statistics together for Dr. Sullivan. At CMS we have 317 students. Students fully vaccinated-276; student vaccination 87%. Number of staff at CMS is 49; staff attestations - 46; staff vaccination attestations - 94%. Number of students and staff at CMS is 366; students vaccinated and staff attestations at CMS -322; Total building at CMS is 88%. Deer Hill School we have 315 students. Number of students vaccinated-241; student vaccination - 77%. Number of staff at Deer Hill is 63. Staff attestations - 62; staff vaccination attestations - 98%. Number of students and staff at Deer Hill School are 378. Students vaccinated and staff attestation at Deer Hill are 303; Total building at Deer Hill School is 80%. At the Osgood School, number of students - 365; students vaccinated 226; student vaccination - 62%. Number of staff-68; staff attestations-66; vaccinated staff attestations - 97%. Total number of students and staff at the Osgood School - 433; students vaccinated plus staff vaccination attestations at the Osgood School - 292; Total building at the



Cohasset Public Schools

143 Pond Street

Cohasset, MA 02025

Empower Students to Improve Communities

Cohasset School Committee Meeting

Osgood School is 67%. Superintendent Patrick Sullivan states the point of the matter here is that we make 80% vaccination threshold which is the vaccination threshold set by DESE under the guidance of the Department of Public Health that we are permitted to make a local decision to allow students and staff in those buildings both vaccinated and unvaccinated to unmask. It is highly recommended that unvaccinated individuals in those buildings to remain masked, but it is not required.

Diane O'Leary from 16 Woodway Road with 2 Deer Hill School children comments, is a robust discussion even warranted on this? Even if I didn't favor optional masks from a procedural angle, I can't think of a basis that the school committee would have to deviate from its decision on this from the middle high school over the past 6 weeks or so. This was debated and decided a lack of district uniformity across eligible schools makes no sense, especially given better trending numbers now. While I appreciate transparency, different views and open public input, extended revisiting of the merits of masks on versus masks optional in the content seems unnecessary.

Megan Barry from 11 Tad Lane comments, we are no longer in March 2020, we have one-way masking that works very effectively for those who want it. High vaccination rates throughout our community and readily available rapid testing. Our town has placed some strictest restrictions on the age groups with the least COVID risk. We need to give our children some relief when COVID rates are declining because unfortunately that number may never get to zero. There's a lot of talk in our town among the adults about how kids don't mind masks and kids are resilient. As a frequent classroom volunteer, I've witnessed the profound effect masking has made at school. My own kids have admitted that it's easier to hide using their mask and not participate in classroom discussions. Our kids have sacrificed so much over the past 2 years to keep our community safe. It's time to stop thinking of our children as disease factors and to start prioritizing their social emotional activities.

Donna Knoll from 49 Walnut Hill Lane comments, I have two points to make. First question, the move to rescind the mask mandate in the school at this time, although Omicron cases are declining, it does seem a little premature to make this change right now as we are still on the back end of the surge, plus the new home testing system hasn't even started yet. My child is fully vaccinated and although I don't love that he's masked all day, every day, I firmly believe it has kept him safe from COVID thus far and for the record he has not once complained about having to wear a mask. Waiting until we get out of this seems prudent. If you look at the data, this could just be a few weeks away. Second, I don't understand the logic behind allowing unvaccinated students and staff to go unmasked. If the committee does in fact vote tonight to rescind, should not mandate I do not like the prospect that my vaccinated child could potentially be sitting amongst unvaccinated children all day. I've worked hard to keep my child and family safe throughout this pandemic. We got vaccinated and wear masks not only to protect ourselves but others who are more vulnerable in this community. If the committee does vote to rescind the mandate, is there a possibility that those who are unvaccinated still be required to mask to protect the community in the same way?

Kelly Dunn from 55 Windy Hill Road comments while I support moving to optional masks, I would ask that we wait a few more weeks until numbers continue to fall and after vacation travel has concluded, everyone is no doubt ready to move on but we should do it in a way that makes sense.



Cohasset Public Schools

143 Pond Street

Cohasset, MA 02025

Empower Students to Improve Communities

Cohasset School Committee Meeting

Gina Zeilwiski from 7 Hull Street. Can we wait a few months before we lift the mask mandate for Deer Hill? I would be less worried if my youngest was also vaccinated.

Jenna Cunningham of 15 Hill Street comments there seems to be little to debate. Masks are optional in the high school and middle school. We have met the metric at Deer Hill that DESE made us use the mask mandate. Universal masking is not a tenable long-term solution and as a parent of 4 children at elementary and pre-school level, I've watched them suffer physically from dehydration, headaches, chapped lips and facial rashes, causing increased anxiety and loss of normal social interaction and access to facial expressions and acoustics. All of this has resulted in significant academic achievement gaps especially for children with learning impairments. I'm hoping this committee shows consistency in previous votes for Cohasset Public Schools and leads all the way for all elementary schools especially as the data makes masks optional.

Courtney Ness from 210 Lamberts Lane comments great that infection rates are trending down in the middle high school. Unmasking has not resulted in an increase in numbers, Deer Hill has successfully reached 80%. I agree with Diane O'Leary that uniformity is essential to our town. We can always revisit our decision, we will never know, unless we try.

Sue Greenbow from 21 Ledgewood Farm Drive comments, I agree with Ms. Colleary's comment and personally have a child at Deer Hill and an unvaccinated 4-year-old at home. I would appreciate it if the school committee would wait until younger children are eligible or consider following Franklin's school committee's decision where unmasking requires high vaccination and low town positivity. They chose less than 4%.

Chairman Craig MacLellan comments he also agrees with Ms. O'Leary's comments. The conversations have been had a number of times and as a committee, we've purposely adhered to DESE guidance throughout this pandemic. In conjunction with the Department of Public Health this is not a haphazard policy, this is developed deliberately and with a great degree of care. A restriction to ensure safety makes sense so long as it serves that purpose.

Nicole Johnson from 27 Linden Circle comments, I agree with Ms. Colleary, it's great hearing from the community. How about hearing from an infectious disease doctor? Would it be possible to invite a doctor to a meeting so we can ask questions?

Mr. MacLellan states it's possible to do that and he's not going to do that because we've already had a 6-hour meeting with the Board of Health who is a scientist with some impressive credentials. We've had a discussion about this, and these policies are developed in conjunction with the State Department of Public Health. These are just blindly done, and word hearing, and putting trust in those policies which by way, their working! It's not like we have a 50% infection rate in the high school and middle school, and we have a 3% rate in the elementary schools. In fact, most recently, the elementary schools had more infections and their masked and distancing than they had in the middle school.

Motion made by Mr. Dial to approve a mask optional policy at the Deer Hill Elementary School seconded by Mr. Kearney. Roll Call Vote: Ashley Colleary, Nay. Lance Dial-Aye, Paul Kearney-Aye, Chairman Craig MacLellan-Aye. That vote passes 3 to 1. Superintendent Patrick Sullivan has



Cohasset Public Schools

143 Pond Street

Cohasset, MA 02025

Empower Students to Improve Communities

Cohasset School Committee Meeting

operational discretion to implement that and to inform the community when DESE has formally approved the mask optional policy.

Special Education Update (Mrs. Barbara Cerwonka) The IEP data that is going on for the school year and Mrs. Cerwonka states that the active IEP's in each school we've seen a very slight increase in them about a 1% across the board. Corresponding with that on one of the things that Ms. St. Onge who's interested in also, was our rates and disability areas remain fairly consistent that specific learning disabilities and health continue to be the leading areas of disability in terms of qualifying and those are followed by communication and developmental delay, all of which is pretty consistent and makes sense and continue to follow that pattern, so there is some consistency there. During the month of January, we held 29 total IEP meetings. There were 6 elementary initial evaluations and 2 at the middle high school level who were found eligible. There were 3 at the middle school high school level who were not found eligible. The sources of those vary, some were from early intervention, some were from parents and some were from the MTSS process. Student services conducted a total of 7 re-evaluations, 5 at the middle high school and 2 at the elementary level. We had one independent evaluation that was reviewed. We did not have additional evaluations this month to review meetings. We had 7 at the elementary level and 9 at the middle high school level to total 16 to total 29 meetings we've had in January. After each meeting we have, a survey goes out and that survey takes a look at our school's efforts to partner with parents, our teachers and administrators engagement with families, our school partnering with families, how special education has helped families and how parents feel about their participation in the process and parents are asked whether they strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree. Out of those 29 meetings we received back 15 surveys. Out of those 15 surveys, 7 of them 100% strongly agreed with all of those category areas, 3 of them solidly landed in the agreed category, 4 of them were mixed between strongly agreed and agreed and 1 of those surveys strongly disagreed. Believe more work with stability are actually the process of what Student Services is working with prior information for families. These are some of the things that are actually some of the processes that we are working on across the district right now. As Mrs. Cerwonka always states in these meetings that we need to learn and that we take these surveys very seriously into consideration, and we will continue working on those to improve in those areas.

Mr. Dials asks Mrs. Cerwonka if student services are seeing a lack of trends that are telling anything about how the schools are doing? The trends have been very much positive, and areas in which we need to do some more work. Mr. Kearney likes how families engage in the surveys and part of this is our communication and glad that student services does this. Ms. Colleary comments that part of the frustration that she hears is some grown-ups with children who says my child needs help, my child needs help, please evaluate my child, and then the child is evaluated by the people who are evaluating them. Some families are getting independent evaluations and coming back to the district. That's a source of frustration, it would be valuable to know how many of those cases there are over a school year. How many of those children are then found to be eligible for services after that intended evaluation. That is what Ms. Colleary is hearing most often from families, people are frustrated because they feel like they spend all their energy and time and costs are exhausting, when they know it shouldn't be that hard. If a child is being tracked through our MTSS system and an evaluation is needed, we would move forward if we suspect a disability and move



Cohasset Public Schools

143 Pond Street

Cohasset, MA 02025

Empower Students to Improve Communities

Cohasset School Committee Meeting

forward on an evaluation. If a child is responding to some of the interventions, then we might say, we've got some traction here and if we lose that traction and we see that the child is no longer responding, then we will move on.

Melissa McDonough from 306 Fair Oaks Lane comments she agrees with Ms. Colleary's point for each month children are being identified eligible for initial services that are not being brought up through the MTSS system, there appears to be a gap. Is there analysis done on the children determined eligible and weren't identified through MTSS. Mrs. Cerwonka states that certainly we get parents referrals and we move on those and we might find a child eligible through that parent referral. We also do get MTSS referrals, not at probably the same degree that we are getting here at referrals, we have an MTSS task force and we started meeting at the end of December, we met again in January. It's a wonderful task force it's a very good cross section of representation from all 4 of the schools and from all of the different players in our school department. There are administrators, there are teachers, there are school psychologists, there are school adjustment counselors, there are therapists, there are general education teachers and it's from all of the schools across our district. What we look at the district tiers through the MTSS process. Look to where it aligns with the district and how is that data being reported and how does it support the expectations on how effective. Reach out to other schools on their weaknesses. We're going to fine tune the timing and turn to our referrals. Continue to grow possibly through referrals. In our tier monitoring process, one of the things that our district needs to improve in is therapeutic services. Happy to know people have the right mind set for it. Superintendent Patrick Sullivan comments it's foundational, and the tiers help all students. Reporting this year mirrors the other responsibilities. We're going to revisit our MTSS process. Move forward in our testing and our intervention when needed. Wanted to bring up to school meeting today, we hired a who hit the ground and running. He has been joining in our bright horizon's structure. February 8th at 7:00 pm, we'll be holding a CPAC meeting. Talking about our anxiety and where we're at. Mr. Dial has question on the student's input from the survey? What is it that Student Services is hearing? Ms. Colleary comments that time management is good for some students. Is there a possibility for students to approach this? Dr. Scollins that we do have a program already in place which talks about how students plan out month to month agenda, especially our juniors.

School Committee Comments and Communication

School Facilities Committee - Mr. MacLellan gave a comprehensive update at last meeting, in that we had engaged a designer to an existing condition survey on all the buildings. That's underway right now. Their conducting that right now actively meeting with a bunch of different school representatives and staff members and it's going really well.

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 - Lisa Radden drafted a survey to send out to the staff to see what they would like to have included in this directory for the community that we're talking about putting together. Ms. Colleary drafted the introduction for it and our communications sub-committee is thinking about possibly meeting on February 8th at 6:00 PM. Mr. Dial states that the capital committee met yesterday and the results of that meeting we're discussed earlier. In addition, we did still discuss transportation issues, and one thing that came out of it was our appreciation for our existing bus driving staff and management they've had over



Cohasset Public Schools

143 Pond Street

Cohasset, MA 02025

Empower Students to Improve Communities

Cohasset School Committee Meeting

the difficulties to just distress that. We are also going to embark on a discussion to explore options for a wellness center and further investment in our capabilities, facilities there and initiatives as well. We are still working on our school lunches, air conditioning. Mr. Kearney comments it's nice to see our students validate everything in order, they see it first-hand. For them to talk about a wellness center and you can see how excited they are to do that and it's going to be great to be able to work with them on that.

Approval of Minutes - None

Motion by Ms. Colleary to adjourn meeting, seconded by Mr. Kearney. Roll Call Vote: Ashley Colleary-Aye, Lance Dial-Aye, Paul Kearney-Aye, Chairman Craig MacLellan-Aye.

Meeting Adjourned - 8:51 PM

Documents used at meeting:

SSAC Presentation - Student Voice Regarding Strategic Plan [Strategic Objectives: 2021-2024]

Presented by Mercedes O'Neil, Jack Kearney, Nathan Askjaer, Charlie Lankow, Jake Squatrito

Middle/High School Trip Safety Measures To The Grand Canyon - Bob Erlandsen

FY22 Substitute Nurse Rate Correction - Susan Owen

FY23 CAPITAL List Prioritized - Susan Owen

Gift from the Norfolk County District Attorney's Office For Team Rival Peer Leadership - Susan Owen

Confirmed Positive COVID Cases Weekly Update - Dr. Sullivan

Vaccination Attestation as of 02/01/2022 - Dr. Sullivan

IEP Data for School Year 2021-2022 - Mrs. Barbara Cerwonka