



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

**School Committee Minutes**

Wednesday, December 15, 2021  
Cohasset Elder Affairs/ Willcutt Commons  
91 Sohier 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  
John Mills, CMS Principal  
Ms. Stephanie Moriarty, Fine Arts Cohasset Middle/High School  
Ms. Abby Arenstam, Fine Arts Cohasset Middle/High School  
Ms. Isabelle Hegland, Fine Arts Cohasset Middle/High School  
Jake Squatrito, Superintendent Advisory Council Liaison

**Call to Order and Roll Call** - Chairman MacLellan called the meeting to order at 6:01 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 – Student Advisor Update** - Jake Squatrito – Jake spoke about masking becoming optional at the high school. It's really nice once you do it. It's really easy to get through the day. Everyone seems really respectful about people's choices to wear a mask. The arts – Mamma Mia was excellent. Jake's sister was in it and was hilarious. His little brother is at Osgood and loved the holiday tour that came through. Kids watched during lunch and were so excited and smiling and singing along. Seniors are getting information about collage applications now and are doing well.

**Dr. Scollins update on Professional Development** – Dr. Scollins mentions we had a half day and we had some really terrific professional development. At the high school, we had representatives from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education from their safe schools program. They led discussions around our LGBTQ population. The middle school worked with Sarah Shannon on project-based learning. At the elementary level they had math education camps. They worked on Bridges math and collaborated across grade levels and worked with the math specialists.

**Spotlight on student learning-** Fine Arts at the Cohasset Middle School and Cohasset High School (Ms. Stephanie Moriarty, Ms. Abby Arenstam, Ms. Isabelle Hegland).



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- 5<sup>th</sup> grade Band/ CHS Concert Band played First Holiday Concert directed by Stephanie Moriarty
- 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> grade After School Chorus sang White Winter Hymnal directed by Isabelle Hegland
- Cast of Mamma Mia presented Money, Money, Money/ Mamma Mia/ Dancing Queen directed by Abigail Arenstam

**Cohasset High School Improvement Plan** – Mr. Brian Scott – CHS School Council includes 8 student representatives this year!

- SMART Goal #1: Improve the student learning experience and overall student wellness by reducing academic stress and providing personalized learning paths to success.
- SMART Goal #2: Cultivate relationships between students and staff and among students that affirm student identity, build community, and improve culture.
- SMART Goal #3: Empower staff and students to embody equity, cultural responsiveness, inclusivity, and empathy.

**Cohasset Middle School Improvement Plan** – Mr. John Mills

- SMART Goal #1: During the 2021 – 2022 school year, CMS will increase student learning by implementing strategies to personalize learning and increase student engagement. This improvement in student learning will be evidenced by improvement in the Reading i-Ready assessment of at least 10% school-wide.
- SMART Goal #2: During the 2021 – 2022 school year, CMS will implement at least four strategies focused on promoting equitable opportunities for, and social-emotional wellness of our students.
- SMART Goal #3: During the 2021 – 2022 school year CMS will identify three new methods for developing effective communication, engagement, and partnership between home, school, and community.

*Jack Creighton, 23 Cushing Rd.* – at Monday's town meeting, parents got involved and made a big difference with the vote for the fields. He is happy to see the schools providing guidance to get parents involved in the broader community.

**Motion to accept the 2021 – 2022 school improvement plans for Osgood, Deer Hill, CMS and CHS by Ashley Colleary seconded by Lydia St. Onge.**

**All – Aye**

**Masking Policy Timeline** - Dr. Sullivan made the request to delay CMS unmasking until January 18, 2022. The CHS masking mandate was removed on December 6, 2021. Test and Stay has been put in place twice thus far in the district.

CMS has 319 students, 244 (76.5%) are fully vaccinated.

CMS has 49 staff. All staff have attested and 46 of the 49 (94%) are vaccinated.



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Athletes must wear masks indoors per MIAA policy.

*April Silvia, 40 Fair Oaks Lane* – Her child was told, you better get vaccinated or we're all be wearing masks forever. Have we heard from the kids wearing masks about how they are feeling because we need to hear the whole story?

*Jenna Cunningham, Hill Street* – We had a very large case number this past week in a very highly vaccinated town, more than double the number of cases for the same week in December, 2020 when no vaccines were available. Do we know the number of unvaccinated cases in the overall town versus the unvaccinated for the past week? Dr. Sullivan states he doesn't know and he wouldn't know, he is not provided with that. Ms. Colleary states that maybe the public health officials in town would.

*Maura Sherry, 15 Virginia Lane* – Full vaccination is shots and booster and younger kids don't have the opportunity to be fully vaccinated yet. Dr. Sullivan clarified that fully vaccinated means two shots and does not include the booster.

*Meaghan Barry, 11 Tad Lane* – Is there any data around on how many students have been required to quarantine due to being a close contact on a weekly basis over the last few weeks? Dr. Sullivan comments he doesn't have completely accurate data. The last few weeks our numbers went up, as they did for positive cases right after the Thanksgiving break and they went down some last week and it depends on the school we're talking about. We had very, very few quarantines from outside exposure at the middle school and high school. More so at the Deer Hill School and the Osgood School, but Dr. Sullivan doesn't have specific exact numbers on that. Found it a real challenge to track it, because what ends up happening is the folks who are quarantining stretch over into the next week, so it's hard to see week by week. What Dr. Sullivan was trying to offer was a snapshot.

*Jenna Cunningham, Hill Street* – You're treating kids differently, some get to decide, and a minority have no choice, that's discrimination. The community and safety are paramount, why would we ignore the vaccinated child who gets transmitted the virus, just as the unvaccinated. Dr. Sullivan states we're not ignoring that and what we're doing is following the rules set for us by DESE and the Department of Public Health. The school committee has the ability to pull that back if they saw fit and to make it so that everybody masks. Right now, we're following the guidelines we have set for us. Chairman MacLellan comments discrimination really denotes the differential treatment of a particular protected class of individuals based on the fact that they're a member of that class.

*Barb Stefan, 26 Jerusalem Road* - Thank you for this thoughtful discussion and the proposal at hand. Cohasset, unlike some other towns aren't having to go remote, so hooray! Great that our town has such high vaccination rates to help mitigate transmission vaccinated individuals transmit less virus for last time and serious illness. It's a very sensible to delay the middle school unmasking policy after vacation and support Dr. Sullivan's recommendation.

*Jenna Cunningham, 15 Hill Street* - Various courts around the country are deciding in favor of families arguing their 14th amendment as being violated by schools following protocols that treat vaccinated and unvaccinated differently. Dr. Sullivan states that we'll certainly continue to monitor DESE's guidance for us that we're bound to follow.



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*Kristen Quinn, 219 Sohler Street*– Band Concert outside at Deer Hill was excellent; What is the mask policy for sports – kids are required to wear masks at basketball practice at Deer Hill and they are not required at other venues. Why was a whole team quarantined recently? All sports played in public schools require masking. Dept. of Public Health made the quarantine decision.

**Motion made by Ms. Colleary to approve Dr. Sullivan's recommendation to delay the unmasking at the middle school until January 18, 2022, seconded by Ms. St. Onge.**

**All – Aye**

#### **Finance- Monthly Update - FY22 Financial Report November 2021:**

- school budget general fund – As of November 30, 2021 the school department has expended \$6,681,664 out of \$21,684,432 budget awarded (41.16% which is on target. There is a remaining available balance of \$12,757,979 which will be expended by salary accounts and any other school department needs that cannot be anticipated or have not yet been entered as a purchase order.
- SPED Tuitions reported a shortfall of \$426,104 due to collaborative tuitions and private school tuitions
- Budgets were broken down by school
- Other areas reported: Circuit Breaker; Capital Outlay Funds for FY22 - \$1,829,000; DRAFT Capital Outlay Funds for FY23 - \$906,500; FY22. Electric summary & Gas summary; grants; revolving accounts
- Food services had purchased digital screens to display food offerings, a new food service that will extend into a smaller room to expand options, rethinking flow of movement because currently there is one way out, discussed food service revenue funding a generator for the Osgood but today's quote was not a number that would work

#### **Preliminary Draft of FY23 Budget**

- Basic rollover from FY22 to FY23 (projected): steps, lanes, longevity, stipends, etc; increase in circuit breaker funding from FY22-23; increased SPED tuitions; projected retirement savings
- Staffing and other requests: grade 2 teacher at Osgood; add 1.0 math specialist at CMS; continue process to reduce full day K fees; add 1.0 computer science teacher; increase supplies/ materials
- \$21,684,432.00 FY22 budget - \$1,280,534.00 FY23 Increase needed - \$22,964,966.00 Total FY23 Budget Requested - 5.91% increase

Mrs. Colleary – has anyone talked about increasing/ training staff to expand coteaching

Dr. Sullivan can present tiers of budget proposals that are being considered for the future

Mr. Dial – do we want to accelerate some of these needs to put our students first. Let's put these on the list and then consider all of the items when looking at our budget.

Mr. Kearney – thinks there should be a math specialist added at the high school too – our schools need to be well funded.



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Ms. St. Onge asks Ms. Owen about survey from Ms. Bodell of AEC. This survey was requested to be filled out so that electric buses could be discussed and asks Ms. Owen if she received that? Ms. Owen comments she filled out that survey and sent it to AEC the next day. Ms. St. Onge asked Ms. Owen if she could resend that survey and cc to her as well.

Mr. Kearney stats that there is a safety/legal issue, the external lighting for the stairwell at CHS. Can't a simple solution like solar lighting for the stairwell be installed?

**Food Services Discussion** – Mr. Kearney explained that he would like to see the plan for more food lines in the Deer Hill and Osgood School. He would like to see more education on good eating habits. Dr. Sullivan states that at the Osgood School they've developed a lunch table service, like a restaurant station and it adds more flow with the lunches. Mr. Kearney would like to see more direction with Food Services and he inquired about a job description of Food Services Director. Mr. MacLellan states we can be creative. Dr. Sullivan states in order to change things, we have to help with Food Services Director with options, there are restrictions with suppliers, limited supply of food. Ms. St. Onge comments, we need to look through appropriate lens and focus on it as a programmatic issue and not like an attack on a person issue which is what it felt like at the beginning.

We need to understand the regulations, and we need to put this on the sub-committee agenda just so that is at the forefront, it's that important.

*Kristen Quinn, 219 Sohier Street* - Revolution Foods is an excellent free opportunity, that she has brought up before, kids inspired chef approved, a free Boston services, they include different foods from a variety of cultures as well.

*Maura Sherry, 15 Virginia Lane* - comments soup would be great!

### **School Committee Comments and Communication-**

**School Facilities Committee** - Chairman MacLellan states we haven't had the school facilities meeting since the last updates, there is no update there. Mr. Kearney comments the \$250,000 grant was approved for the school facilities committee wish for a feasibility study. The vote was tied with the \$750,000 town. The vote was 2-5. Mr. Kearney asks why did the select board put our school in the town meeting. We need to have this discussion at a school facilities committee and Mr. Kearney can ask the select board that question directly at one of the town select board meetings.

**Reports from Sub-Committee and Liaisons (Policy & Standards, Budget Finance, Special Ed. PAC, Legislative Liaison** - Ms. Colleary comments the policy still continues to work with the binder and that communications met and we will continue to work with Lisa Radden this week coming up on December 20, 2021.

Chairman MacLellan states that we need to schedule a meeting around the Superintendents evaluation in the Sub-Committee.



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**Facilities/Capital Projects/Technology/AEC, Collective Bargaining, Security, Superintendent Evaluation** - Ms. St. Onge attended the AEC meeting and saw a presentation from a company who can offer a proposal on electric buses on more specific information to share with us.

**Approval of Minutes** - None

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

**Executive Session** - We need to move into executive session for the reasons stated which is number 3 to discuss strategy relative to collective bargaining negotiation.

**Motion to move into Executive Session for reason #3 by Lydia St. Onge, seconded by Lance Dial at 8:57 p.m.**

**All – aye**

**Motion to adjourn Regular School Committee meeting by Lance Dial seconded by Paul Kearney.**

**All - Aye**

**The meeting adjourned at 9:24 PM**

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

Cohasset High School Improvement Plan C-1

Cohasset Middle School Improvement Plan C-2

Finance Monthly Update D-1

Spotlight on Student Learning-Fine Arts at the Cohasset Middle School & Cohasset High School -Ms. Abby

Arenstam, Ms. Isabelle Hegland, Mrs. Stephanie Moriarty

Masking Policy at Cohasset Middle School - Dr. Patrick Sullivan

Monthly Update - Ms. Susan Owen

FY23 Draft Budget Worksheet - Ms. Susan Owen