



**Cohasset Public Schools**  
143 Pond Street  
Cohasset, MA 02025  
*Empower Students to Improve Communities*  
**Cohasset School Committee Meeting**

**School Committee Minutes**

Wednesday, November 17, 2021  
Willcutt Commons  
91 Sohier 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  
Lydia St. Onge

**Also, in Attendance:** Dr. Patrick Sullivan, Superintendent  
Dr. Leslie Scollins, Assistant Superintendent  
Susan Owen, Director of Finance & Operations

**Roll call:** Chairman MacLellan called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

Ashley Colleary – Present, Lance Dial - Present, Paul Kearney- Present virtually, Lydia St. Onge - Present, Craig MacLellan - Present

**Public Comment:** None

**Superintendents Report** – Very exciting week with a lot of great sports action. Welcome to our eagle scouts to be and middle school students and teachers.

**Student Advisor Update - Jake Squatrito** – really busy 2 months, all lunch tables are back for the seniors, Still feels like there is great energy at school and has been really successful so far.

Ashley Colleary – any feedback about masking and spacing – general understanding that it will end at some point. In terms of compliance and keeping mask over the nose, people are tired of it. When it does, it will be really refreshing. Having face to face connection will be really nice no matter when it comes.

Students Advisory Committee has made a questionnaire for CMS and CHS with questions attached to the 4 guiding points

Many teams still in state tournament as of last week.

Boys Soccer – won in first rounds and lost in state quarter finals

Field Hockey – lost in quarter finals

Cross-country & Cheerleading State competitions

Football – will play Mashpee in state semifinals this Friday against Mashpee at Carver HS at 7PM and will play Hull on Thanksgiving. Both are still in division tournaments.



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Girls Soccer – won yesterday and they are going to state championships this Saturday 11/20 against Hamilton Wenham at 12PM in Lynn

Mama Mia will be the first weekend of December

Eagle Scout Project – Josh Young – Recently finished proposal – Building two benches for the dugouts at the field at newly refurbished softball field. Will be made of aluminum, 15” long benches, current benches are temporary, and CYBSA is currently looking for permanent benches. Steps: 1. Fundraising 2. Order supplies 3. Recruit helpers from troop 28 to aid installation 4. Install benches

What fundraising efforts will he organize? Car washes, donation based.

#### **Motion to approve Josh’s Eagle Scout Project by Lydia St. Onge, seconded by Lance Dial**

##### **All – aye**

Eagle Scout Project – Nora Elwell – Gaga Ball Pit at Deer Hill school to be built by back field play structure, make a gate so that there is access for disabled kids, all money will come from fundraising, the service work will be done by Nora and others can help for service hours. Can help connect Nora with people to make sure it is ADA compliant.

How is the Gaga Ball Pit attached to the ground, can be secured by its own weight or use rebar.

Nora – the first girls in Cohasset to have a scout troop and she’s the first girl to present a proposal Eagle Scout Project in Cohasset.

#### **Motion to Approve Nora’s Eagle Scout Project by Ashley Colleary, seconded by Lydia St. Onge.**

##### **All - Aye**

Spotlight on Student Learning – John Mills – Promoting Student Voice at Cohasset Middle School (Ms. Erin Ryan, Ms. Paula Jewell, and Student council members)

Student voice has a lot of different aspects to it. In a way kids can take on a shared leadership in the schools.

With Safe Harbors help able to partner with PEAR institute were able to access student survey. Survey helps to tease out where strengths and weaknesses are and as a school where we can focus.

Most common strength – emotional control – ability to control one’s self, behavior, make good choices, persevere through obstacles

Most Common Challenge – Assertiveness – confidence to speak up for yourself, putting oneself forward, advancing personal beliefs, wishes or thoughts, and standing up for one’s beliefs

Broke down data with CMS staff and wanted to give opportunity to enhance student voice, CMS Student Council has exemplified this

Kids have identified that they want student council to look different. Kids noticed it is a bit of a popularity contest and what we want it to empower kids who want to be leaders



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1. Vision – our goals for student council moving forward
2. Structure – a new structure to increase membership choice and student voice
3. Roles – descriptions of leadership opportunities in grades 6 - and the electoral process
4. Students Reps – let's hear from the new StuCo representatives

StuCo Vision – CMS student council strives to be inclusive, representative, and effective collaboration among members, teachers

Leadership Roles: President [leader & developer], Communications Officer [creator & ambassador], Press Secretary [writer & reporter], Subcommittee Chair [head of specific event or cause], Student ambassador [listener & Liaison]

#### Selection Process

1. All students attend assembly to announce and define new leadership structure, roles & responsibilities
2. Interested students completed and submitted StuCo application [nearly 80 applications were submitted this year!]
3. Applications reviewed by Principal Mills, Dr. Salas, Ms. Ryan, Ms. Jewell, and previous 8<sup>th</sup> grade StuCo candidate pool
4. Review panel selected and announced StuCo Candidate Pool
5. Students elected new leadership members using ballot.

Ashley Wagner – 6<sup>th</sup> grade student ambassador – ideas: fundraisers to support ocean trash clean up, winter semi-formal dance, beach clean-up field trip

7<sup>th</sup> Grade – google form survey that was rolled out to entire middle school, organize clean-up efforts on the back field after lunch, themed spirit week before the holiday break

Jacob Sasso – newly elected 8<sup>th</sup> Grade President – fun energetic and COVID safe dance, candy treats with notes

Mia – Grade 8 press secretary takes notes and gives updates to the Pond Street Press, school newspaper

- New to Cohasset, peer leader and journalist at Pond street Press – global warming and climate change – Team Seas, Paris Climate, wants Cohasset to join the wagon in term of climate. Optimize our schools for what may happen in the future, connect with Sarah Burgess and Tanya Bodell & Brianna Bennett

Questions – How is this modeling doing in terms of bringing the METCO voice into student government? When the kids are talking about the dance, the challenge was put forward how do we include METCO students? How do we solve transportation? Subcommittee piece allows students who were not originally running to join in on a subcommittee. Kids are looking to establish a diversity subcommittee.

Is StuCo linked to student advisory committee. SAC was looking for ways to include voice. Could they have liaisons to StuCo.

#### **Review of Spacing Requirements for Cohasset Public Schools –**

Presentation – Week by week numbers for in town covid cases

Vaccine Data from 11/11: 85% of eligible



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Staff Vaccination Attestation Requirement: All staff must attest to being vaccinated or not vaccinated by November 19, 2021

OSHA Emergency Temporary Standard Regarding Mandated COVID Vaccination or weekly testing/masking for employees and Potential Impact on Schools – still uncertain, there is a possibility that schools may be held to the above standard. Employees would be required to be a fully vaccinated or would have to test weekly and mask while at work.

It is expected that there will be more clarity regarding this possibility over the next few weeks.

Superintendents are being advised by legal counsel to bargain.

Attestation Data as of today –

CHS 424, 371 vaxed

CHS staff 97, 75 vaxed

76 attestations received, 21 still need to be submitted by Friday

CMS 318, 213 fully vaxed

Staff 49, 44 vaxed

45 attestations received, waiting on 4

Total Vaccination at CMHS is 79%

DH: 63 staff, 60 attested to vax

OS: 68 staff, 66 attested to vax

Spacing changes to CHS:

90 chairs and desks have been moved over to 1/3 of gym and can sit on bleachers

CMS is still using chairs spaced at 6ft

Proposed spacing removal timeline:

- Removal of spacing requirement at CHS ONLY: effective 11/18/2021 (VOTE REQUESTED)
- Potential Removal of spacing requirements at CMS, DH, and Osgood

Rationale:

- High vaccination percentage
- Reduces need for quarantine and reduces risk for contracting COVID 19
- Test and Stay is in place to eliminate any in school exposure quarantines
- Need for room in gymnasium for PE and sports

VOTE will only be for CHS.



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Ashley Colleary – this all makes sense and the data looks great. Do we have families who are concerned about this and CANNOT get their kids vaccinated? No one has reached out specifically and nurses have not reported that.

Lance Dial – One thing that he has heard for teachers and wants to bring to light, the maintenance of spacing has posed a challenge to education. You want to get students together and collaborate. At varying levels, we've had to be artful about how and how long we get students together to avoid quarantine situations.

Ali Andrews – 171 Hull Street – Are quarantine guidelines for all students vaccinated and unvaccinated? No, if you are vaccinated you do not need to quarantine.

**Motion to remove spacing for CHS only by Lance Dial, Seconded Lydia St. Onge. Roll Call Vote: Ashley Colleary – aye, Lance Dial – aye, Lydia St. Onge – aye, Craig MacLellan – aye**

Removal of mask mandates at CMS and CHS pending bargaining obligations with CTA and state approval of 80% attestation

Requested vote for removal of mask mandate for CMS and CHS and vote to do so pending reaching a final

If Dr. Sullivan has this decision in hand then he can handle this decision operationally once he has fulfilled bargaining obligations and state confirmation of attestation rates.

Lance – What is Dr. Sullivan's thought process up until now – having weighed risks and rewards – walk us through your thinking on the matter. The biggest thing Dr. Sullivan has seen during the pandemic is more silence than he's ever heard before. We should ensure that those who continue to wear masks and those who are not vaccinated are not stigmatized.

How is masking going to be enforced? We are going to have to be able to provide information about who needs to wear a mask without providing medical information. School with work with students and families to ensure that unvaccinated will wear a mask.

Paul Kearney – It's a tough one. Are we going to police kids and pull them out of class to make them wear masks.

Lance Dial – Norwell has hit 80% at NHS. Challenges were addressed from the principal's level. Approval would only apply to vaccinated individuals.

Elizabeth Fraiser, 27 Windy Hill Road – I don't think it's fair to keep the middle school masked if the high school is not masked.

Beth Nelson, 222 Jerusalem Rd. & Kara Norton, Mohawk Way - Parents may choose not to vaccinate their children although it is readily available at local pediatricians' offices, pharmacies, etc., What then... masks until the end of the year? TONS of kids of all ages (vaccinated and unvaccinated) are participating in contact sports, indoors, at multiple local sports complexes unmasked.



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Laura Soderberg, 16 Black Horse Lane: Given the current, supportive, positive environment in our school buildings, along with an encouraging messaging from building principals, that the assumption that there will be bullying on mask wearing is a large assumption. I think you need to address the issue IF and when arises.

**Motion to approve allowing vaccinated students and teachers to forego mask wearing upon receiving formal approval from DESE and CTA bargaining obligations at the high school and all CMS students and staff who are vaccinated beginning January 1 by Ashley Colleary, seconded Lance Dial.**

**Roll Call Vote: Ashley Colleary – aye, Lance Dial – aye, Paul Colleary – aye, Lydia St. Onge – aye, Craig MacLellan – aye**

**Finance – Monthly Update for month of October.** We are 33.3% through the year and 33.48% through spending which is right on target.

New report – utilities by school – heat, electric, water, trash

Capital outlay funds for FY22

We need to have a more in-depth conversation about capital.

Nothing has changed with grants.

Food service – getting quotes for an upgraded serving line and digital screens in the kitchen to show menu choices

Athletic revolving – AD has ordered some goals and other equipment that is needed.

Paul Kearney – concerns about touchless sinks, screens for messaging inside and outside. Osgood did just get a giant screen that is in their lobby for presentation purposes. Deer Hill has one, Middle school has one, CHS could easily get screens in downstairs and upstairs lobbies. In terms of outside signage, it needs to be tasteful and done well and in line with what we currently have. Exterior lighting is a concern for doors and stairways especially to student parking lot. Solar sensors for stairs.

**Motion to approve the budget priorities and calendar as presented by Ms. Owen by Lydia St. Onge, second by Paul Kearney**

**All – aye**

Policy recommendation to School Committee – recommend adopting amended versions of JH, JJF, JRA, and deleting JRA -R

Attendance law has changed, and we need to update the policy to comply.

**Motion to make recommended policy revisions Lance Dial, seconded Ashley Colleary**

**All – aye**

Wellness Committee including students and families – one of the goals is to evaluate the desire for afterschool snacks



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AEC will present at our December 1 meeting.

There is a reason to enter into executive session.

**Motion to move into Executive session relative to reason III, Lance Dial, second Ashley Colleary**

**All - Aye**

**School Committee enters into Executive Session at 9:19 PM**

**Motion to enter back into regular session and out of executive session. Paul Kearney, seconded Lance Dial**

**All – aye**

**Motion to adjourn meeting by Paul Kearney, seconded Lydia St. Onge**

**Meeting adjourned at 9:26PM**