



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

Special School Committee Minutes

Monday, 08/16/2021

Zoom Video Call

Virtual Meeting -143TV/Zoom/Facebook

In Attendance: Craig MacLellan, Chairman
Ashley Colleary
Paul Kearney
Lance Dial
Lydia St. Onge

Also In Attendance: Dr. Patrick Sullivan, Superintendent
Dr. Leslie Scollins, Assistant Superintendent
Barbara Cerwonka, Director of Student Services
Susan Owen, Director of Finance & Operations
Don Roine
Michael Pollastri
Dr. Steven T. Golden
Pam Fahey
Barbara Cerwonka
Mary Goodwin
Ed Savage
Christopher Luvisi
Lynn Doxey

Call to Order and Roll Call - Chairman Craig MacLellan called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m.
Roll Call: Ashley Colleary-Present, Lance Dial-Present, Paul Kearney-Present, Lydia St. Onge-Present, Chairman Craig MacLellan-Present. This meeting is being conducted virtually, by virtue of the extension of certain COVID-19 measures authorized by Governor Baker's office and is being conducted via Zoom and streamed live on Facebook as well as on Cohasset 143TV. Please note, that our next regularly scheduled School Committee Meeting, which is Wednesday, August 18, 2021, will be our first meeting, where we will return to an in-person format. Ideally it will be a hybrid format. We're going to do this Wednesday, August 18, 2021, so please take note of that. Shortly, I will turn the meeting over to Superintendent Patrick Sullivan to give a brief presentation on the DESE and DPH guidance, where we are operationally, and what he recommends as we re-enter the school year. As most people at this meeting are aware, members of the Board of Public Health are also present at this meeting, as well as the district physician, and representatives of the CTA. The Board of Public Health has made some proposed order at its last meeting of last Tuesday, or excuse me, a proposed mandate surrounding masking. We will obviously be turning to them to explain what this means. Thirdly, we will turn to representatives from the CTA who were present a few moments ago, they may, or may not, want to make a presentation. Dr. Sullivan does have a statement from The President of CTA, Bob Erlandsen. Other members of the CTA are watching in the audience today. So, if they wish to make any sort of public statements, they are welcome to do that. Dr. Steven Golden, who is a district physician, is here to provide any insight that he would like to provide and invited him to make any sort of comment, he'd like to make, but he's also here obviously to field questions. Once we have heard from those panelists,



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we will turn the meeting to the School community at large. There's a great number of you in attendance here tonight. That's excellent! Glad everyone saw the email and is here to provide their perspectives. They're all important as we address some of these polarizing topics. We will turn the meeting over so everyone will have a full opportunity to be heard, to share their concerns, and once everyone has had an opportunity to be heard, we will turn the meeting to the School Committee Members and they will deliberate, and we will vote on any matters that require a vote at that time as a result of this discussion tonight. Lastly, because at least one of these topics is extremely polarizing, not just in Cohasset, but nationwide, it's important to remember that everyone has different perspectives, different insights, different concerns, different opinions, different questions, and none of those questions, concerns, insights, perspectives are more important, or meritorious, or justified than any other, and to the contrary, we are here tonight to encourage open discourse, constructive, respectful discourse, to ensure that the community has a voice. Everyone in the School community that wants to be heard and be able to be heard, and that we're able to take the collective perspectives that are shared tonight into consideration and any decision that we're making on behalf of our student's and our staff. Please be respectful as possible. Remember that everyone that is here, whether it's a School Committee, or the Board of Public Health, the school physician, or the CTA, everyone here has the best of interest for our student's in mind, and no one is trying to act to their detriment, or to harm them in any way.

Superintendent's Report - Covid-19 Safety Measures and Practices for 2021-2022 Academic School Year

Thank you to our panelists. I am proud of the way that we've gone about deliberating and considering some really difficult issues with multiple perspectives throughout the entire pandemic. The goal today is to go over the guidance and to talk a lot about the operational considerations. This represents the collective thinking of the leadership team. Also, we will be presenting this with full knowledge that we have bargaining obligations with the CTA and the Custodial Union and The Food Service Union, but we absolutely want to collaborate and get their thoughts on it. This is part of an effort to get the school committee's feelings on these operational issues. Then, eventually to get a vote tonight on those issues, pending collaboration and bargaining obligations with the unions, but I also want to be really crystal clear and deliberate with the guidance that was issued, exactly what that guidance says, so that we are all talking about the same things, and as part of that guidance which was issued on July 30th by the department of elementary and secondary education. It was a joint effort with the Department of Public Health. So, the guidance that you're getting is a joint effort of both those groups. In many, many ways it reinforces and, in some cases, changes the guidance that was issued on May 27th. The main objectives today is sharing all of this in terms of our efforts is to keep student's, families, and staff safe. That is our overriding, most important objective, no matter what, even if COVID wasn't here. That's what we want to make sure we do. Six weeks into the new school year is a good point to stop to reflect. It will put us into the middle of October and we will be able to really decide where we are with everything, and if we are moving in an appropriate way. Of course, that's barring whatever kind of landscape we're dealing with. If the landscape requires us to come together before that to add wherever we are today to add more stringent measures, we'll do that. All things being equal, a six-week check in is a healthy time period check in.

Superintendent Patrick Sullivan introduces the health department to this meeting. The chair of the Board of Health, Michael Pollastri. We have Lynn Doxey, who's also a member of The Board of Health. We also have Pam Fahey and Mary Goodwin who is our district nurse. We also have Dr. Steven Golden who is a district physician.

Michael Pollastri responds to a question from Chairman MacLellan - The Board of Health met last week, the intent was to have a conversation about where we were, standing on the basis of the current



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status on the ground. It became pretty clear through the course of the discussion that things have been accelerating in the wrong direction, and so it was decided that we would develop a policy regarding a mask mandate, primarily for unvaccinated citizens of town. This meeting with the School Department, as you know, was already on the books and the chairman and I connected and discussed a plan for how we could take these two conversations into account with each other. We agreed that it would be a good idea and really meaningful to hear about the operational impacts of such a mandate, to hear about the student's well-being, the teacher's opinions on this such mandate so that when the Board of Public Health meets tomorrow night to finalize any such mandate it would take into account the feedback that we heard tonight, as well as the feedback we'll have from our own hearing tomorrow night. We are coming in with an open mind. We have a position on what we think the right thing to do is, but we're coming in before we finalize any policy in terms of what we hear tonight. Dr. Sullivan comments, no matter what the school committee and Board of Public Health decide in terms of masking, we want to be respectful of those folks who want their kids to mask and those students who want to mask, we don't want to put them within one foot of another student at lunch where they have to take off the mask to eat obviously. When indeed they've chosen to mask in the context throughout the school building. We feel that will be unfair to them. That's our thinking around distancing. Tents will be put up again, and we're going to really emphasize the use of outdoor spaces we did when all possible. That was one of the things that came from COVID-19 that we found was productive. Having students be able to go outside and it certainly allows us more flexibility from a learning perspective. Dr. Sullivan finished his presentation and comments. After all is said and done before the end of the meeting, he will be asking the School Committee for a vote on those operational considerations so that we can move them forward pending our bargaining obligations with our unions.

Chairman MacLellan invites the Board of Public Health to make their presentation. Representatives in the Board of Public Health are present. The current chairperson, Mr. Michael Pollastri and other Board of Public Health vice chair, Lynn Doxey. Chairman MacLellan would like to also mention Pam Fahey who is also a representative of The Board of Public Health and has been absolutely instrumental in addressing this for the community of Cohasset over the past, better part of two year's here. Pam worked tirelessly and certainly deserves an introduction if nothing at the very least. Michael Pollastri presents his presentation. First up, the take home message, up front. Proposed town-wide plans for masking leading into Fall. A mandate for mask wearing for all unvaccinated individuals in indoor town buildings. A strong recommendation for mask wearing for vaccinated individuals in indoor public buildings. This is in line with the CDC recommendations. Vaccinated individuals in areas with high or substantial Covid 19 transmission should resume wearing masks indoors. Unvaccinated individuals should continue masking until they are fully vaccinated. Public Forum to Discuss and Finalize Text of the Final Order Town Meeting will be held on Tuesday night 08/17/21 by the Board of Public Health. Why a Town Mask Mandate Now? This is intended to get ahead of a potentially serious outbreak in the coming months. The Delta Strain is changing the game. We don't know enough about the emergent strains to be able to predict how things will unfold. Town & State vaccination rates of eligible individuals shows Cohasset has higher vaccination rate than the state overall. 79% of eligible Cohasset residents are fully vaccinated. 88% of eligible residents are within 2-3 weeks of complete vaccination. The vaccination rate in the town of Cohasset is going to be approaching 90% within a month or so. The situation has changed over time- Delta strain now makes up the vast majority of new infections. Delta Strain Versus Vaccinated Individuals-Breakthrough Infections Are Rare, But Important to Consider.

Summary-We are doing great, but now is not the time to let down your guard.

Chairman MacLellan thanks Mr. Michael Pollastri for his well thought out planned presentation.



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We would like to turn the meeting to any of The CTA Members. President, Bob Erlandsen communicated to Dr. Sullivan prior to this meeting. Dr. Sullivan would like to recognize that Ed Savage and Christopher Luvisi are here representing the CTA. Mr. Erlandsen was not able to make the meeting and did want the community to know that the CTA position is that we support any Board of Health decision on what they feel is in the best interest of student's safety. That is the CTA statement regarding everything here. Chairman MacLellan would like to invite Dr. Steven Golden to share his thoughts as a district of position. Dr. Golden would like to state that one of the things that we can find out and practice in the communities is that there's a lot of false information, a lot of jaded information that people look at and then we have to kind of undo things for them. Going with the CDC and The Department of Public Health recommendations has always been an important thing for us to do. Dr. Golden texted Dr. Todd Ellerton this morning and told him he was going to be participating in this panel this evening. Dr. Todd Ellerton is an Infectious Disease Specialist out of The Brigham and Women's Hospital. He has been in a lot of national media discussions and really a bright and intelligent guy with respect to all things of infectious disease and in particular with the coronavirus pandemic. Dr. Golden asked Todd for some inside information to discuss. He recommended universal masking, vaccinate all 12-17 year olds, symptomatic individuals should stay at home and get tested. None of this is out of line with what's already been discussed. Unvaccinated, close contacts stay at home. Quarantine until day 7, assuming test negative at day 5. Vaccinated close contacts should be tested too and need to stay masked.

Lots of stuff is measured in interpretation. It's a really difficult position that all of them are in. Trying to look out for the safety of the community, the safety of the student's, the safety of the staff, and other individuals in the building, and it's not easy, and feel always safer to air on the side of caution and yet it's complicated. There is the need of students have social interactions and be able to look at the teacher's face. These are the comments we get in the doctor's office all the time. My child hasn't seen their teachers. We haven't seen our student's, and it's not going to be forever. At least, he hopes it's not! I don't think any of us thought it was going to last that long in medicine and I think that looking at the DESE recommendations, looking at the recommendations that Mr. Pollastri presented from The Board of Public Health, they are all good and wise things to do. I don't think they're overly cautious, or too ambitious to implement these things.

From Dr. Sullivan's point of view, it's not going to be a difficult implementation. Dr. Golden's information comes mostly from what he reads, what he hears, but looks at an evidence based medicine. Dr. Golden is not a social media person and wish that a lot of other people would pay a little less attention to some things that are just out in the environment and not evidence based.

Chairman MacLellan opens up the discussions to include the members of our school community at large. He reads questions and concerns from members of the community in the order that was received in virtual attendance for the meeting. Over 100 questions are submitted from the community.

A sample of the questions are below:

Christopher Allen from 21 Pleasant Street. Question for Mr. Pollastri. Does Mr. Pollastri feel that the Board of Public Health should overrule the School Committee or seed to their decision making. Mr. Pollastri answers, it depends. The School Committee has a pretty wide mandate in the interest of protecting the public health of the town at large, the community at large. So, on principle that the board could overrule what the school committee says; however, the School Committee is made up of very smart people who are going to be making risk benefit analysis of their own using a lot of the DESE and DPH guidelines that Superintendent Patrick Sullivan described. Mr. Pollastri doesn't know and is curious to see the outcome of the School Committee's deliberations and their vote regarding masking mandates on the campuses, and then depending on how whether the Board of Public Health feels that



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is going to mitigate the risks efficiently to protect public health. Then we'll make that decision at the August 17, 2021 meeting.

The next question is from Ryan and Karen McGrath, no address given. In the presentation by Mr. Pollastri, it says masks are strongly recommended, not mandated. Is this a choice, or are the terms being used interchangeably? Superintendent Patrick Sullivan answers, no, they're not being used interchangeably, and it is a choice. Strongly recommended, is underlined to point out that the words are being chosen. The Federal mandate is in there about masking on buses. Other than that, it's a strong recommendation from DESE and DPH as you've heard from Governor Baker. The effort was for us to have the discussions we're having right now. That's exactly what was planned by the Governor, and certainly followed up on by that guidance. The words are specifically chosen to say strongly recommended in almost every case, except for the buses.

Mike Silva from 40 Fair Oaks Lane states, I'm not sure parental choice is the only choice here. Parents should decide whether or not, their child needs to wear a mask. Chairman MacLellan thanks Mr. Silva for sharing his perspectives. It's important that everyone shares these candid perspectives and opinions because everyone's position is important here. Statements like that are absolutely valuable.

A question from Jessica Cataduella. Jessica asks, how broad is the behavioral needs, and medical conditions exception, from wearing a mask while indoors, what is included in these two areas? Superintendent Patrick Sullivan responds, well it's an excellent question, don't actually know the answer too. Possibly, Barbara Cerwonka our Director of Student Services, will be able to assist me on this. Barbara Cerwonka is happy to share what she knows to date, as of today. She will research this for Ms. Cataduella a little bit further to make sure that she is completely up to date. What she can say is that when the original guidance came out through DESE, regarding special education for student's and conditions from COVID-19 restrictions. There were a couple of considerations and none of them were terribly black and white. Some of the considerations were for students who fell into a category, for example, they spent more than 75% of their in-school time outside of the general population. Those students were considered high needs when we were making all kinds of decisions around student's and COVID-19 restrictions. There are students who fell into very high needs categories of medical or behavioral impacts. All of those are taken into consideration through everything that we use when determining needs for student's including outside evaluations. As of right now, all of the students who are currently within our school system worked very hard with their teacher's and did a wonderful job in terms of mask wearing, increasing their tolerances, and we worked very proactively and there was no one in our current population barring the new move ins and the new pre-kindergarten or Kindergarten students who might be coming who fell into this category to date. As always, we take all of these things very individually and we are always open to those conversations and those changes as they happen with students and we will continue to do so and look very carefully at our new incoming students and some of those restrictions they may have or if things have changed for some of our current students and she's keeps up with the DESE updates of any new updates regarding anything that's more clear on those particular categories. She doesn't believe there is anything but will look into it some more.

Silva Family of 40 Fair Oaks Lane asks that if Mr. Pollastri can please explain what you mean by things have accelerated in Cohasset? Chairman MacLellan points out that this refers to Mr. Pollastri's third slide presentation. Mr. Pollastri responds when we look at that histogram from his presentation, you can see that we've gone from the gray to the green category. Looking at the June numbers, there were 2 cases. In May there were 4 cases, June there were 2 cases, in July there were 7 and in August it is 8. The reason that the word accelerating is used is that it's not a big difference in the numbers, but consider that the Delta variant is the primary circulating variant in the United States right now. Eight (8) people can now infect five (5) people each, so, forty (40) people. A year ago, eight (8) people would have



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infected sixteen (16) people. What we're going to see, unfortunately, is that these numbers are not going to go up slowly but predicts that they're going to go up pretty steeply once the infections start to take hold. This is exactly what we're trying to reduce and also, if I may Chairman MacLellan, the second point is the second following question was if there's such an acceleration, why are places, like the South Shore Music Circus able to bring people in from all over, and continue to be mask free? That is exactly right. That is why we would like to place in businesses in Cohasset, the strong board of health recommendation that they require masking in their facility. When you think about the fact that the South Shore Music Circus for example, attracts people from counties all around us in every county in Massachusetts is at the high or significant transmission rates. That is exactly what we're here for to accomplish is to address that particular situation.

Next question is from Mr. John Fox which was actually answered during Mr. Pollastri's presentation. Mr. Pollastri is attending the Board of Health meeting this week in an open meeting. If so, can he tell us where, and when it is to take place? Mr. Pollastri responds, yes, the Board of Health Meeting is tomorrow night 08-17-21 at 6:30 p.m. This will be on Zoom and the agenda is available on the town website.

Rob Johnson from 27 Linden Circle asks the data provided on the increase in cases in children over the past month is alarming, particularly because we are in the Summer months when most kids are spending the majority of their time outdoors. Can one of the medical professionals please comment on what might happen to this transmission rate when the kids, especially the unvaccinated kids are indoors in school for 8 hours a day. Michael Pollastri responds, it's almost a rhetorical question. We're talking about the transmission rate. We're talking about the number of cases that result is clear. If you have a bunch of unvaccinated kids who are in a space that are unprotected, where one is infectious, they can infect you, between 2 and 5 people depending on the strain they have and in most cases, it'll be the Delta strain! So, this is exactly what we're looking for. Our goal is also really to make sure that kids are able to stay in school. If that scenario happens, it will be hard to keep the students in school for in school learning.

Jamie Kupsc from Arrow Street asks, there will be some children in the Cohasset community who are under the age of 12 years that do not yet meet vaccination requirements. Similarly, there will be children who will be eligible for vaccination, but have yet to be vaccinated due to personal or medical reasons. How will the children not yet vaccinated feel when they are masked, but their peers are not! Superintendent Patrick Sullivan touched on this point not too long ago. It's a solid question, don't know if there's a solid answer to it. It's certainly something that should be considered and factored into the overall calculus.

Karen Ketchum from 15 Ledge Farm Drive states, apologies if this question is redundant, we switched devices midstream. Our grateful appreciation is extended to the School Administration, School Committee for tackling these challenges. We are wondering now that the Supreme Court has ruled against the validity of a local mandate. Then, how can the School Committee vote or Board of Public Health to impose these guidelines? We wonder if a Special Town Meeting would capture the local majority of opinion and align the community in the safety endeavors and help us work better together. Chairman MacLellan remembers Ms. Ketchum's prior question and states we did answer that. Don't know if their saying they missed the answer, but very, very briefly, Mr. MacLellan stated we are in the position of making that decision in Massachusetts Supreme Court to his knowledge is not overturned for any sort of mask mandates. We are trying to collaborate with the entire community, some medical professionals, the Board of Public Health in making the most informed decision possible that benefits our student's in our public schools and that is how our town and governance is set up. Don't think it would make sense to have a town meeting to talk about this particular issue. Chairman MacLellan



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comments, Ms. Ketchum is welcome to go back and look at the recording after the meeting to see what response was, but it was basically something to that effect.

Kristen Quinn of Sohier Street chimes in with question. In an absence of a survey sent from the district as to where parents stand on this issue, multiple people ask to voice their opinion for parent choice. We are attaching a link to a petition which represents almost 200 signatures for parent choice. These parents represent multiple children, important to note, it is not an anti-mask petition. We wonder if a survey sent to all members of the district would help guide decision going forward. Chairman MacLellan thanks Mrs. Quinn. Also, answers to her question. We did see the petition and Superintendent Patrick Sullivan, and Assistant Superintendent Leslie Scollins did consider a survey at some point, but we decided not to do that in this particular case. We have done it in the past obviously for other issues like bus ridership.

Mr. Cunningham of Hill Street asks, if masks and vaccines are trying to eradicate COVID-19, can we also try to eradicate the seasonal flu as well? Would like to hear from the experts what the differences are between the two viruses, and which is more deadly to children? Michael Pollastri reiterates, don't think that we are trying to eradicate COVID-19. Don't think that's going to be possible, as mentioned, it's going to be endemic and it's going to be something we have to manage moving forward presumably with having high vaccination rates and boosters over time for the next coming years. We suspect that we will be managing, just like we do with the seasonal flu. Do not have the answer to the question at the fingertips about the difference between the two viruses or which is more deadly to children. Mr. Pollastri apologizes for that.

The Volcom Family of 91 Avenue states and asks. Thank you all carefully sticking to science-based approach. We fully agree with masks until all children have the opportunity to get vaccinated. Our kids have taken masks in stride and will continue to do so.

Tara Volungis of 234 Forest Avenue asks. My unvaccinated 8 and 10 year old children want everyone to wear masks to keep them safe until kids can get the vaccine. The children of my friends have had no problems wearing masks either. This really seems to be an adult created problem.

Rob Johnson of 27 Linden Circle asks, does the Board of Public Health members or The School Committee Members look at the number of positive cases in the Florida schools during their first week back to school. It seems that understanding how the disease has spread in these student's in an unmasked environment would be quite relevant to this discussion. Mr. Pollastri answer's that he has not. Also, will say, that it's an apples to oranges comparison and the much lower vaccination rate in Florida. A lot of other mitigating circumstances. Not sure that would be a meaningful comparison, but there might be some meaningful comparison we could find with other states. That is definitely worth asking that question.

Cassey McCaffrey at 60 Reservoir Road asks and states. Thank you to all for your time this evening. She has heard throughout this meeting that masks are not intended to protect yourself, but to protect others. Further, the Delta spread is infecting vaccine individuals. These points seem to contrast the idea that vaccinated teacher's may not be required to wear masks. Can you please clarify? This question is redirected to Mr. Pollastri, this is targeting the latest proposed mandate from The Board of Public Health and that can still carry it as a vaccine individual and then the masks are primarily protecting other's, not the wearer, as we discussed earlier. Dr. Golden stated earlier that it does protect the wearer to some extent, but primarily others. The evidence behind the current status of the proposed mandate. Superintendent Patrick Sullivan also mentions, well also the guidance, the DESE and DPH guidance says that vaccinated individuals should not be required to wear masks, just putting that out there. That's where that comes from guidance. That would include teachers. Not saying that is what the School Committee will do, or what we're going to do with Board of Public Health, not necessarily. That was the guidance, that's where that comes from.



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Comment from someone with the screen name, Galaxy 8 states. Sharing the petition with us. The Parent Choice Petition, and Chairman MacLellan states we have received that and have seen it. Thank you. Paul Kearney asks Chairman MacLellan with all due respect, can we read exactly what that petition was. If there's 100 families and 185 people that sign that petition, each person has 2 or 3 kid's that go to the school. We're talking 20% to 30% of the school district and what they think. Paul Kearney would like to hear from Superintendent Patrick Sullivan exactly what that petition states if that's okay? Superintendent Patrick Sullivan states that he hasn't actually seen the petition. Chairman MacLellan reiterates it's fairly brief. He has looked at it and will try to see if he can bring it up on his screen and read the headline of the petition. It's entitled, "Keep Masks Optional in Cohasset Public Schools." This petition reflects the beliefs of parents whose children attend Cohasset Public Schools who believe in parent choice. Masks should be optional for all children with the upcoming Cohasset School Board Meetings August 4th and August 18th. In addition to any other Special School Board Meetings. Cohasset Public Schools parents want transparency and decisions regarding the upcoming school year and a voice in mask choice as parents of children in Cohasset Public Schools. Many of us are active members of local community. We know first-hand that our school board has always had the best interest of our children. Over the last year and a half, we have all done the best we could in making necessary and sometimes difficult decisions for our communities, our families, and specifically our children. We are now in a position where we have much more information and data than we did a year ago, given the fact that not one child has died of COVID-19 in Massachusetts. They cite their source as being the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and the new data that children are not spreading the virus coupled with the fact that we live in a high vaccination area. It would seem to only make sense to keep the current policy that masks are a choice, and not a requirement. This Summer, hope was given back to our children, when they were told they would get to experience school like we all got to experience school as young kids with their faces unmasked. It's important to know they all have enjoyed the last couple of months in camps together. Mask free without issues. It should not be understated that masks are a medical treatment with real risks and not a one size fits all treatment. Families that choose to not mask, should be given the same respect as those that do. These are families who potentially have dealt with harmful, mental, physical, emotional and social effects in their kid's for over a year now. Extensive science and research outlines these very serious risks to our young and developing children. Many believe in another school year with both teachers and students in masks would have serious long-term consequences for our children. Physical, social, emotional health and academic progress. It is critical that each family individual is able to decide whether or not to mask their child based on parent's assessment of risks, versus benefit for their individual child. By signing this petition, you are stating that you would like Cohasset Public Schools to allow masks to be optional for the upcoming 2021-2022 school year for public schools. The petition invites spouses to sign as well if they're so inclined. Our district has unique challenges, we don't have ac in building, no ventilation. Mr. Dial comments, this is a great process working. Loves how the community engage. We need to react to this as a community. Has a child with problems wearing masks. Equally important how parent's express this passionate issue. Relates to issues on both sides. One silver lining, is about can accommodations be made to student's who struggle. A way to help maximize. One question, if we are to explore flexibility, is this a fruitful deliberation. We will take considerations from the school committee, a response to support our data and The Board of Public Health is here and we are in a good place. Paul Kearney echoes how The Board of Health helps out this great community.

The committee deliberates and revises the language of the proposed documents before going to a vote. Revised language for Masks/ Face Coverings (Guidance):



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All students in pre-kindergarten through grade 6 are required to wear masks when indoors, except students who cannot do so due to medical conditions, behavioral needs, or other educational factors as determined by a school-based team.

Unvaccinated staff in all grades, unvaccinated students in grades 7 and above, and all unvaccinated visitors are required to wear masks indoors.

Masks are not necessary outdoors and may be removed while eating indoors.

Schools will allow vaccinated staff and students to remain unmasked; however, masks are strongly recommended.

Motion to approve revised Superintendent's Masks/Face Coverings (Guidance), as drafted, by Lydia St. Onge, seconded by Ashley Colleary. Roll Call Vote: Ashley Colleary - Aye, Lance Dial - Nay, Paul Kearney - Nay, Lydia St. Onge - Aye, Chairman Craig MacLellan - Aye.

Motion carries with a vote of 3 – 2 pending bargaining obligations with the CTA and this guidance will be revisited in six weeks.

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

The meeting adjourned at 12:10 A.M. Tuesday, August 17, 2021

Documents used at the meeting:

Superintendent's Operational Guidelines

DESE, DPH, Operational Considerations for Cohasset Public Schools

Masks/Face Coverings (Guidance) (Revised)

Board of Public Health Presentation