

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

School Committee Minutes

Wednesday, June 7, 2023

6:00 PM

Learning Commons

Cohasset Middle/High School

Virtual Meeting-143TV/Zoom/Facebook

In Attendance:

Ted Carr, Secretary

Lance Dial, Chairman

Paul Kearney

Jennifer Lesky

Craig MacLellan, Vice Chairman

Also, In Attendance:

Kathy Cerruti, CMS Librarian & Research Teacher

Ms. Ashley Hannon, 8th Grade Civics Teacher & Students

John Mills, Principal CMS

Brian Scott, Principal CHS

Barbara Cerwonka, Director Student Services

Sarah Davis & Alison Ryan, SEPAC Co-Chairs

Susan Owen, Director of Finance & Operations

Dr. Leslie Scollins, Assistant Superintendent

Dr. Patrick Sullivan, Superintendent

AGENDA

Chairman Dial called to order the June 7, 2023 regular meeting of the Cohasset School Committee at 6:00 P.M. This meeting is being held at the Learning Commons at the Cohasset Middle High School. Folks may also attend virtually via Zoom and Facebook. The Zoom feature allows live chats for comments and Facebook is watch and listen only. Members of the Cohasset School Committee who are present, please indicate so in roll call. **Roll Call: Mr. Kearney-Present; Mr. Carr-Present; Ms. Lesky-Present; Vice Chair MacLellan-Present; Chairman Dial-Present.**

Opening Remarks – Chairman Dial notes members of the Cohasset School Committee received packets containing two (2) school improvement plans for CMS and CHS to approve at this meeting. We have invited guests with one of our favorite topics, Spotlight on Learning 8th Grade Civics Project, along with a reorganization of the school committee, and calendars that takes quite a bit of time. The chair kindly asks folks to extend their speaking briefly, and to assume materials are read by the school committee, this is a diligent committee to make sure we looked at the materials in advance. If folks are presenting substantive things, just focus on new things, or elements you want to highlight, as opposed to looking through items on the agenda.

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Opening Remarks – The first order of business to the June 7, 2023 agenda is a school committee reorganization. Chairman Dial requests that school committee members motion to delay this later in the agenda to make sure we get to our invited guests here.

Motion made by Vice Chair MacLellan to delay the school committee reorganization later in this meeting, an item topic under School Governance [I-1 materials] on the June 7, 2023 agenda, seconded by Mr. Carr.

Aye - All

Public Comment – Chairman Dial notes the public comment section on the agenda is for individuals to make comments to the school committee about items of interest that are not on the agenda. If comments are to topic items on the agenda, folks can let us know and we will make sure to come back to that comment.

Eileen Norton of 390 Beechwood Street is here today as a concerned parent, teacher, and resident of Cohasset. Ms. Norton has a concern about an issue with the Cohasset Public Schools nurses.

Chairman Dial kindly addresses to Ms. Norton that this an agreement that is under a grievance process in a collective bargaining issue and her concern is going through that process. Public comment forums are for individuals to raise concerns that are not related to a grievance. The chair will gladly take a copy of Ms. Norton's statement to informally note for the record, and that we have engaged with the *CTA President, Bob Rubinson* and offered to discuss these issues with him on numerous occasions and those discussions have been revoked. Chairman Dial welcomes any comments from the Teacher's Union to discuss this important issue. We do take this very seriously, and we noted this grievance denial letter to the record. We do want to have further conversations with the CTA in another public sector, this is not for a school committee.

Invited Guests - Spotlight on Learning: Cohasset Middle School Grade 8 Civics Project (Ms. Kathy Cerruti, Ms. Ashley Hannon, and Students) – The work involved with this grade 8 Civics Project from our teachers and our students was so exemplary that they are happy to share this in a Spotlight on Learning. Invited guests on the panel from CMS grade 8 Civics Project are students with Jasmine Arocho, Cassidy Arocho, Madeleine LeFevre, Eren Tiryaki, Kendell Berndt, Saoirse O'Duggan, Aidan Donnelly and Jacob Tam. The Faculty for CMS for Grade 8 Civics Project are Mrs. Kathleen Cerruti who is the CMS/CHS Librarian and 8th grade Research Teacher and Mrs. Ashley Hannon, Civics Teacher – 8th grade.

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Invited Guests - Spotlight on Learning: Cohasset Middle School Grade 8 Civics Project (Ms. Kathy Cerruti, Ms. Ashley Hannon, and Students) – On November 8, 2018, Governor Charlie Baker signed Chapter 296 of the Acts of 2018, an act to promote and enhance Civic engagement, which includes provisions related to student-led Civics aligned to the History and Social Science curriculum framework. This law basically states that each public-school serving students in the eighth grade shall provide not less than 1 student-led, non-partisan Civics Project for each student, or small group to analyze complex issues, consider differing points of view, reason, make logical arguments and support claims using valid evidence. Engage in Civil discourse with those who hold opposing positions and demonstrate an understanding of the connections between federal, state, and local policies, including issues that may impact the student's school or community. This is well thought out and is really a neat piece of legislation that asks schools to do something special with their 8th grade students. Principal Mills says this year especially between Ms. Cerruti and Ms. Hannon have taken this to a new level as evidenced by the work of the students that are here today.

The 8th grade students, our exemplars recently went to the state showcase at Clark University in Worcester last Friday because their Civics Project was a cut above the best practice. This is Ms. Cerruti's 9th year running this amazing student-led Civics Project that ends with a showcase to parents and community members. This is a 4–6-week project that involves a lot of student choices and student voices. The last few years, DESE is now requiring this type of project for all 8th graders across the state and there's six (6) stages to this student-led Civics Project.

Ms. Hannon is responsible for stages 1-5 to explore different concerns students have locally, statewide, and nationally. The 8th grade students here today picked one specific issue to focus on. In stage 2, students identify an issue they're interested in, but stay in the theme and topics of sustainability which is their project theme. Topics range from conservation, recycling, and diversity curriculum. The important part of this project is the development of an action plan. Students wrote letters where they are making Civic actions in their communities. One group suggested bringing in more diversity to the classroom and providing programs for Safe Harbor that a community runs. Students came up with an action plan they know can make a difference in the community. CMS has 3 local showcases a year where they invite parents, community members, and local experts to see their research and how students interact with their peers about their action plans. On Thursday, June 15th at 1:30 p.m. in the Learning Commons at CMS/CHS the 8th grade students will host a local showcase of their Civics Project.

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Invited Guests - Spotlight on Learning: Cohasset Middle School Grade 8 Civics Project (Ms. Kathy Cerruti, Ms. Ashley Hannon, and Students) –Students in 8th grade go through what they’ve learned as a research process called the Big6 which has been around for decades. The level and depth of these students’ research has been impressive. Students searched for advanced strategic techniques they’ve developed that will help carry them into high school and college.

Mr. Carr thanks the students here today for doing this, it’s great for little towns like Cohasset. We need engagement from people to get stuff done. There’s lots of people we don’t even know what interesting things they do. Mr. Carr says he has a friend named Roger Hill who lives here in town and he’s a beekeeper and makes his own honey locally, and maybe a good person for students to talk with. This school committee works very closely with the Alternative Energy Committee, AEC, and pretty soon we’re going to be the first town of our size to have an electric school bus, and we’re really excited about this. Maybe these students here could be one of our first passengers when we take it for a spin! Some other towns have an electric school bus. We couldn’t have done it, nor afford it, if we didn’t have help from the State of Massachusetts.

All the students excitedly said that would be really cool!

Chairman Dial hopes this pretense Civics Project taught students here that things can get done but have to get involved to get it done. The satisfaction of being involved is to actually make change and learning how to make change along the way. Stay involved especially with communities like ours that are really run by people. Being involved is really key, and congratulations on your great Civics Project. This sort of experiential learning is really critical to building well rounded students. We very much appreciate all the work that our teachers and our students do to allow these opportunities.

Superintendent Patrick Sullivan recalls the first experience he had with Cohasset students and teachers 6 years ago was this real sustainability and was just blown away by it! There is so much potential now because it’s holding the Civics experience. Our vision for the Cohasset Public Schools is to empower students to improve communities. All the data and all the work we came up with as our vision, and this is a perfect example of that. Keep moving in that direction, that whole process of coming up with an idea and having that idea moving forward as you research and talking to experts is how you’re going to make a big difference. Dr. Sullivan looks forward to seeing what they all do as they move through high school.

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School Improvement Plan (SIP) – Cohasset Middle School (Principal John Mills) - D-1

One of CMS school improvement goals is particularly around parent and school relations. This was a big piece that came out from the surveys with school councils. The data showed 72% of parents feel their child's learning needs are being met and 76% felt a sense of their child belonging at CMS as school fit. Learning behaviors showed a majority of people find their children engaged and motivated by their academics. Our school climate results were very positive. We came away thinking that there are more things that we'd like to find out, so once we get into the CMS school improvement plan, Principal Mills says they'll talk more about where that's going to be pursued. The survey brought up some great pieces with a majority of people feeling that CMS is heading in the right direction, yet it left CMS with a lot of questions. We want to know how we can do better, it's not like we've got a trend line for all these things. We want to make sure we're moving in the right direction.

We saw that parents like parent/teacher conferences and how can CMS increase the parent/teacher connection. Next step then would further explore parent's feelings about school fit and barriers to engagement.

SMART Goal #1 has to do with an area with the curriculum. Part of the school district improvement plan calls for an increased project-based learning opportunities for our students. We're still at a place where we have to review our curriculum to make sure we're aligned with the frameworks and the resources we're using are fully effective. CMS goal for next year will be ongoing evaluations of the curriculum instruction and assessments across all content areas, specifically our action plan that calls for each of the CMS Departments to develop, redesign, or enhance curriculum utilizing the CPS Curriculum Review Cycle. There are different places in it that includes the Math Department, the Wellness and Counseling Departments. The Visual & Performing Arts Departments are in phase II and looking at redesigning the curriculum next year. Overall, Principal Mills feels this will get CMS in a place later in the year for faculty to begin training on project-based learning. CMS focus for next year is continuing to work on the curriculum, evaluating it, and then CMS will be in a position to begin training, the implementation on project-based learning.

SMART Goal #2 is around students social & emotional wellness development. The action plan is to administer the PEAR Institute Holistic Student Assessment, a partnership between Clint Hospital and Harvard that partners with Cohasset Safe Harbor. Students take this assessment twice a year that indicates areas of strengths, and areas of challenge for certain developmental SEL stages.

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The second goal once again is the use with PEAR, we use the data, as well as other data to identify either classroom level, or even school-wide strategies to help student's strengths in areas of challenges. CMS goal would be to have the four (4) strategies focused on promoting those equitable opportunities for some social emotional wellness for our kids.

Principal Mills says they had a similar goal this year, but as we fold in the next year, this year's kids and the student body is going to have kids from three (3) grades of kids who had different experiences with COVID at different ages. We've already noticed through PEAR and through observation at the 6th grade class are very different than the 8th grade class when they were in 6th grade. So, this allows us a flexible way to help kids where they are.

SMART Goal #3 goes back to the parent's survey. During the 2023-2024 school year, CMS will identify three (3) new methods for promoting more effective communication engagement, partnerships between home, school, and community. If the action plan includes development opportunities for parents/teachers to continue to meet to discuss and support student growth. Parent/Teacher conferences will continue next year.

Mr. Carr says this is a great thing to do on a regular basis to go through these things. We all learn a lot from them and can see where we're doing well. This is a lot of work from the principals at our schools, but this is really important because it gives us some direction to make sure we're accountable for that.

Mr. Kearney loves the surveys that the schools send out to parents. The information that we get back seems to work compared to 5 years ago when they did them. The only concern Mr. Kearney has with these surveys is that folks can remain anonymous. If somebody feels that their kids are not doing well, and feel left out, there should be a component within the survey so parents can have these conversations with us.

Ms. Lesky says that Principal Mills SMART Goal #1 is a huge undertaking, and she is wondering if Principal Mills anticipates whether or not people in his departments review and revise their curriculum. Would that include purchasing new curriculum materials or programs and how that would roll out? Does professional development get involved getting all the teachers on board with new curriculum? Will CMS need new materials for a new curriculum for the upcoming budget?

Principal Mills works with the school facilities and this school committee on the work that deals with curriculum instructions, which has been great.

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School Improvement Plan (SIP) – Cohasset Middle School (Principal John Mills) - D-1

We've worked really closely around the curriculum process to make sure that the findings of the curriculum reviews were able to take steps to ameliorate the issues and put resources in place. Principal Mills feels very confident that CMS is in a good place.

School Improvement Plan (SIP) - Cohasset High School (Mr. Brian Scott) D-2

Principal Scott says they did several surveys this school year with the school councils. They did a NEASC survey and received all different rates of responses. The NEASC survey this year was the most influential for targeting goals that align directly with CHS strategic plan. A couple of things that stuck out, was one, you can never over communicate and what that looks like at the high school level. We want students to advocate for themselves and they don't always necessarily report home with those conversations are. There's a different level of engagement with parents that we need to have. We do need to do a better job of onboarding new families and that's a place where we can work with the PSO just so they know kind of the local capacity and things like Safe Harbor to get involved with. Feeling disconnected came out in a couple of surveys and it's one of those things that's going to require more work because it's an anonymous survey and we don't know who they are and why they feel disconnected. We need to create more avenues for people to find information, have a voice, reach out, whether that's us being proactive. Those are some of the things that we'll be working on. CHS commitment to safety has trended most positively since 2019. Our students and parents feel very safe came through consistently from the surveys. Our improvements in terms of inclusivity and ways students are engaging in those conversations was really impressive to Principal Scott. At some point we'll publish the data from the School Council Family survey. CHS just received this and it's being finalized by Safe Harbor. The mental health of our student's trend lines is great. The substance abuse program is keeping all of the trend lines in our favor right now. Social and emotional security is still a big issue for the kids. It's not so much the supports that are in place for them, it's their trust of one other, being their authentic selves is where we need to develop some programming ways that coax that out.

We practiced NEASC's guidance, and we haven't received the final report. There were three (3) big areas, two (2) of which made it into the CHS improvement plan. The first has been a recommendation for several years that we need to **shore up**. There's a variety of reasons why, and it's a little all over the place right now. Neither of the two (2) school improvement goals are one-year fixes.

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School Improvement Plan (SIP) - Cohasset High School (Mr. Brian Scott) D-2

There's a process in place right now of taking it out where it was and reformatting where it's going to be. That will take some time to resources, and we'll go department by department, this is one of CHS big goals.

NEASC asked what we were doing well in, informally looking at data, and what data we were looking at. NEASC asked for a consensus of what consistent timeline is in process and other reporting out procedures to how that is used to drive instruction. NEASC is the grassroots report, it comes from the faculty, both of these things are identified in the faculty's work. We're looking right now with the new data curriculum instructor coming in to have some direction with that.

The third thing was the physical plan that didn't make it into CHS improvement plan. Principal Scott says they'll do what they can and see what NEASC struggled with because they had the AI3 report and from what Principal Scott understands they didn't know where the building is, and don't like to recommend things that may impact budget or contracts. NEASC will figure out what they want to do with that.

Superintendent Patrick Sullivan wants to take this time to thank Principal Scott for an amazing graduation in its entirety. Principal Scott did a wonderful job, it was really student centered. Congratulations to Mr. Carr with his daughter graduating and anyone out there who watched their child graduate. It was a wonderful and classy celebration for a great group of students who graduated from Cohasset High School.

SMART Goal #1 is to develop a written curriculum in a consistent format for all courses and departments that includes units of study with guiding/essential questions, concepts, content, and skills that integrates the school's vision of the graduate.

SMART Goal #2 is to develop processes for formal collaboration and professional development to improve student learning and well-being. Processes should include curriculum, instruction, assessment, professional development, and other student programming.

Mr. Carr says the CHS graduation was excellent and Principal Scott's remarks were beautifully done. It was really well written and very well received. The event was really nicely done,

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School Improvement Plan (SIP) - Cohasset High School (Mr. Brian Scott)

D-2

Mr. Kearney would like to thank the students and the faculty for putting this year's graduation together. Mr. Kearney is on a lot of committees and that one has always been his favorite. It was great to see the students engage. There is one concern that Mr. Kearney feels that CHS should offer Arts & Theater to students every year. It's been said that we're only about sports, but he would like to see an Arts program offered at CHS, maybe that's something that we can work on together as a community.

Ms. Lesky seconds to Mr. Kearney's sentiments of more Arts/Theater offered to students at CHS. Ms. Lesky asks Principal Scott if faculty is simultaneously reviewing their curriculum while documenting and checking it against best practices to get rid of what they don't like. This just seems like a great opportunity to see what CHS is digging into the deepest. What are we teaching and what do these lessons look like? What materials do we have on hand?

Principal Scott says it depends on the departments, some of the standards have changed. Arts, Foreign Language, US History, and school sequence change is more than a skill. Those have to be reworked on as the state changes them. Some of the other curriculums CHS needs to constantly look at is our English Department where we need to constantly look at our content.

Chairman Dial asks about the NEASC comment to **shore up** the curriculum and would like a little more explanation of what that means **to shore up** and create a written curriculum.

Principal Scott says the document will be the evidence. It was a problem that was identified in the last report which was just before Principal Scott started. It was a curriculum with paper documents in 3 ring binders. Most of the high school and middle school at that time were tasked with recreating and identifying not just the standards, but the units of study with the essential questions that drive it to the universally designed measures that incorporate into it. At one point, it was the culturally responsive methods that were put in lessons, a revamping of the curriculum cycle.

Approval of all School Improvement Plans (SIP)**

D-3

The school committee has heard from the elementary schools, Deer Hill, and Osgood School at last school committee meeting held on May 17th on their 2023-2024 school improvement plans. Today we heard from Cohasset Middle School and Cohasset High School on their 2023-2024 school improvement plans, and now it's through this school committee to vote to approve the School District Improvement Plans.

Motion made by Vice Chair MacLellan to approve the Deer Hill, the Osgood School, CMS and CHS School District Improvement Plans as presented at the June 7th meeting of the Cohasset School Committee, seconded by Mr. Carr.

Aye – All

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SAT In-House During the Day Possibility (Mr. Brian Scott) – The College Board has decided to make their SATs electronic, similar to MCAS, which is great. It should make the admissions process simpler for the students. The challenge we have with MCAS is that it requires a lot of back-end work to what we used to do, and currently do. We offer SATs on a Saturday to whoever wants to sign up for a test. At the most, we get 30 students in a sitting, but to continue that with an electronic format raises a couple of questions. Are we using our computers, or do students bring their own computers? How do we know if the devices have the requirements? Do we have to hire IT staff to come and support it like we do for the MCAS?

What we've decided is when students go to a computer-based class in Spring 2024, we will do what's called the SHE school day which is a prescribed date. It limits the test to just students in Cohasset, and it's done during the school day.

Mr. Kearney says this is a wonderful idea to do this during the school day. He appreciates Principal Scott coming up with a solution to something that has his full support in.

School Updates

School News (Dr. Patrick Sullivan) -Superintendent Patrick Sullivan would like to thank Principal Scott for an amazing graduation ceremony in its entirety. Principal Scott did a wonderful job, the day was really student centered. Congratulations to Mr. Carr to his daughter graduating, and anyone who watched their child graduate. It was a wonderful and classy celebration for a great group of students who graduated from Cohasset High School this year. It was a nice community celebration that had a really nice homespun feel to it that you can only get from a wonderful town like Cohasset.

The Cohasset Public Schools talked with Astronaut Stephen Bowen from the International Space Station. The students were fantastic, it was one of the highlights of Dr. Sullivan's career he has to say! This experience was absolutely amazing and was really surreal.

The Cohasset High School Prom was beautiful at the Red Lion Inn and Dr. Sullivan can't think of many towns that can do this. They had a red-carpet event outside our beautiful town hall to watch students walk over to the Inn to the Prom. They all looked so sophisticated, and the town did a really great job. Thank you.

June is Pride Month, and we celebrate diversity. We really stress the idea that's a way of celebrating everybody! Everyone belongs here at Cohasset Public Schools.

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School Updates

School News (Dr. Patrick Sullivan) – All our sports teams had tournaments, and our school concerts that happened were fantastic. The Arts Nights for our students in each of our buildings were wonderful. We're finishing the school year with a lot of good events that are both socially and emotionally appropriate, a combination of this school year.

2023-2024 Hiring Updated (Dr. Patrick Sullivan)

E-1

We have some new or existing positions with new positions that this school committee funded. All our new hires have signed on the dotted line. Dr. Sullivan wants to thank all the committee's and everyone who served on a subcommittee, it's really a comprehensive and collaborative process. We don't have a lot of turnovers here in terms of teachers leaving, unless they're retiring. Once in a while we'll have teachers who want to move on to a different level, particularly at our elementary schools because their licenses are elementary.

Ms. Lesky asks when a staff moves within positions within the district, are those initiated by staff members themselves? Are they suggested by the administration within the buildings or combination? Is there a philosophy to accommodate those desires to do a voluntary transfer?

Dr. Sullivan says there's a process for voluntary and voluntary transfer. We always want to get the best person for the position, but we also want to be respectful of our faculty staff. They would certainly be offered an opportunity for that position. All these new hires did emerge from our hiring process.

Teaching and Learning

Academic Initiatives / Updates (Dr. Leslie Scollins) – We're closing out Math and the Arts curricular reviews, and we're finishing up those documents. Those will be shared with the school committee in the Fall when all completed. Everyone is finishing up assessments, and MCAS is complete. Another assessment we do in Spring, those are still in process at the elementary level and will be closing out. Family reports on Dibbles and i-Ready assessments will go home to families next week prior to the end of school.

Our school summer hours for all our buildings will be in Dr. Sullivan's newsletter. We're offering the community an ice cream social again like we had last year.

Kindergarten is moving their progress reports from semester to trimester that will be happening next year. We're also going to have a new vendor for our school website that they'll be running over this summer.

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Teaching and Learning

Student Services Update (Mrs. Barbara Cerwonka) Introduction to SEPAC - Alison Ryan and Sarah Davis, who are co-chairs of SEPAC present a little overview of this year as well as looking forward. This year SEPAC partnered with the PSO to do an MTSS presentation, in which they received a lot of positive feedback. SEPAC started the school year in September with a basic rights presentation. They're hoping to also combine that next year with a joint presentation with the PSO, so it can really hit a wider audience. The presentation goes through the whole IEP process such as regulations with the entire school district. SEPAC does a lot of work on school campuses here to make it a little easier for some families to show up and they'll do more of that next year because parents seemed to like it.

Ms. Ryan says they had a lot more members onboard this year and it would be nice for them to come up with some sub-groups within the SEPAC group. They noticed parents want to get together to talk about specific issues that they may or might not have that will add an extra layer of support for parents. They heard from a bunch of different parents who have an interest in particular areas.

Ms. Davis did bulletin boards at the elementary schools this year for dyslexia awareness, so parents are more informative to the population in this area. This is one of SEPAC goals for next school year and they're hoping to hear what other parents want.

Mr. Kearney says this promotes great energy to the community. It's good to see how SEPAC really engaged with Student Services. He also loves the idea of branching out with subcommittees. This will be a good way for parents to get a sense of how to engage with other parents and teachers. When people start to bring this in, they can really make a difference. Mr. Kearney finds this to be a fabulous way to get more people involved. Also, if there's anything that this school committee can do with any new ideas SEPAC comes up with, please let us know.

Ms. Lesky thanks Ms. Ryan and Ms. Davis for coming here. She is also a special education parent and we're extraordinarily lucky in this town to have members of SEPAC that we do. There is a high level of expertise within that group with a high level of involvement and willingness to learn more to educate others. We're an extremely well caring district to have parents who are willing to advocate for their children. We would like to tap into SEPAC's resources as often as we can as a school committee for the benefit of our children.

Vice Chair MacLellan says he is now the liaison with SEPAC. He has gone to numerous SEPAC meetings within the last few years.

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Teaching and Learning

Student Services Update (Mrs. Barbara Cerwonka) Introduction to SEPAC

Mr. MacLellan finds these meetings to be singularly valuable with the experiences he has had and bringing a lot of value back to this school committee to this table so we can improve the district, the community, and our stakeholders. Under the leadership role of Ms. Ryan and Ms. Davis this is starting to truly come back to that advisory council.

Chairman Dial comments all that needs to be said, has been said. Thank you for this SEPAC presentation. This school committee is sort of the eyes and ears to what's going on and any input to us is really valuable so that we can help steer things for the students who need them. It's also a priority for this school committee to make sure that parents and students are getting the support they need. The one thing that Mr. Dial has learned in his role as Chairperson is the special education process is an incredibly complicated maze until you go through it and how difficult it can be. To have SEPAC and people like Ms. Ryan and Ms. Davis who are willing to volunteer their time and help other parents through that process is huge.

Director of Student Services Update (Mrs. Barbara Cerwonka)- Data Sharing

MAY 2023				
<u>Meeting Type</u>	<u>Elementary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Out of District</u>	<u>Total Meetings</u>
Annual Review	16	13	1	30
Re-Evaluation	2 (1 Eligible; 1 not Eligible)	3 (All Eligible)	0	6
Initial Evaluation	14	3	0	17
Independent Evaluations	0	0	1	1
TOTAL				54

Current Special Education Percentages and Numbers

285 students with Active IEP District Wide

Joseph Osgood
Active IEP = 19.5%

DeerHill
Active IEP = 16.99%

Cohasset Middle School
Active IEP = 21.07%

Cohasset High School
Active IEP = 13.4%

Autism: 8.42%
Communication 16.14%
Developmental Delay 13.68%
Emotional 5.96%
Health 22.45%

Intellectual 1.75%
SLD 24.21%
Multiple Dis. 0.7%
Neurological 5.6%

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Director of Student Services Update (Mrs. Barbara Cerwonka)- Data Sharing

Student Services presents this information to the school committee every September, January and at the end of every school year. Specific learning disabilities is the largest category, followed by Health and then Communication. The Communication and developmental delay categories tend to be at Osgood School with our younger students. We're pretty much in line with the communities around us.

Information for Upcoming School Year - Looking Back, Moving Forward

Staffing

School Psychologists MS/HS
Social Worker MS/HS
Special Education Reading Teacher
DeerHill

Programming

Doubled Pre-K Program
Therapeutic Programs MS/HS
TLC – Therapeutic Learning
Centers with 1 MS Teacher and
1 HS Teacher

Initiatives

MTSS Task Force
Parent Surveys & Agendas
Clinical Consults

Development

ASE Membership
Process Guide Updates
Transportation Training
BRYT, William James Interface

Training

Process Guides
New IEP
Progress Reporting
& Data Collection

Parents & Community

SEPAC
Safe Harbors
Raising Harts

Student Services has been really targeting the Therapeutic Programming and case loading students with a particular teacher in that area of disability that is the focus area for students' ability to access curriculum and make effective progress in school. Next year Student Services will officially offer Therapeutic Programming at CMS and CHS that will be called TLC. Mrs. Cerwonka is thrilled to be able to bring Therapeutic Programs to fully pledge to the Cohasset Public Schools.

Mrs. Cerwonka's administrative assistant has been able to set up a Facebook page where they have partnered with Cohasset 143TV. New families coming into our district can go to Cohasset 143TV or our school website and see postings for our preschool registration. Student Services will also use this for opportunities to reach out in other ways to the community and the public, so they can get all this information to people who are not already part of our school system.

Vice Chairman MacLellan commends Mrs. Cerwonka on all the responsiveness that Student Services has demonstrated to this school committee throughout the year. Her department has been evolving from previous years with Preschool and a Facebook page which was an immediate turnaround and really impressive.

Cohasset Public Schools

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Empower Students to Improve Communities

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Teaching and Learning

Information for Upcoming School Year - Looking Back, Moving Forward

Chairman Dial echoes onto Vice Chair MacLellan comments, especially looking back and moving forward is always a great reminder of where we started from and where we're going. The chair has definitely recognized a lot of improvements and a lot of responsiveness in the Student Services Department. Thank you, Mrs. Cerwonka, for all that you're doing, and we look forward to another year of growth.

Budget, Resources and Governance

Gifts**

G-1

We received a gift for a replacement of a weather station and a lightning detection piece of equipment that is stationed on the roof of Cohasset High School that we'll fully operate once again. Some folks may have heard throughout the years a whistle that alerts anyone who's in the area. Dr. Sullivan says this is really a nice safety measure. Thank you to Ron Ford who is our Physical Education Health and Wellness Teacher. A letter accompanies this gift that Dr. Sullivan reads. Please find enclosed a security grant from South Shore Playhouse Associates and the Clark Chatterton Memorial Fund to replace the equipment and set up, along with a 5-year maintenance agreement to make the weather station and lightning detector equipment that is stationed on the Cohasset High School to make it fully operational once again. The South Shore Music Circus as well as the town's recreational programs that play sports and organizations for our schools, especially our athletic programs will all benefit greatly by having a weather station lightning detection system that will alert our school staff, coaches and student athletes whenever severe weather is approaching and allow everyone to take shelter safely. The bonus is that our teachers at all levels can use the weather station data in their classroom curriculum and the horn can be incorporated as part of the school safety plan. *Mr. Luongo* from the South Shore Music Circus informed Ron Ford that South Shore Playhouse Associates has approved a donation of \$14,900. This donation was made by a non-profit organization for the Clark Chatterton Memorial Fund. The only cost the school will incur is \$1,500 for a yearly software subscription fee. We already pay to run the software to display the weather program on two (2) monitors currently in the high school.

Our PSO recently presented to the school committee a gift of \$606.42 for the Dykas and Youman grants which was approved at our last school committee meeting. The **PSO** graciously gave us an additional gift of **\$4,109.05** to cover several different grants. The PSO sent a separate check in the amount of **\$550** to reimburse Deer Hill School for the 4th grade Whale and Dolphin Conservation Program.

Motion made by Mr. MacLellan to approve both gifts as presented at the June 7, 2023 school committee meeting, seconded by Mr. Kearney.

Aye - All

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Budget, Resources and Governance

Budget and Finance – N/A

Food Service – We’re continuing to update the school menu specials in the Navigator. Our Food Services did a nice job updating that.

Transportation – This is a standing agenda item and the operations of the schools. The schools are like restaurants, a transportation company, and also a building management company. There are opportunities for the school committee to highlight some of the challenges and efforts that the school administration makes to achieve these goals as well.

Report from School Facilities Committee – Mr. MacLellan says there are actually three (3) members of the facilities committee and those three (3) are also members of this school committee. The updates are for others to replace us with an issue that was recently raised with that. Mr. MacLellan says that Mr. Kearny and himself initially volunteered to be on the School Facilities Committee because we couldn’t due to COVID, and we needed to get a forum together so we could get the school facilities committee off the ground. The nominating board doesn’t have members serving as the appointees. It could be construed as a liberation on school issues.

There are members of the community who applied to serve on the School Facilities Committee which there is a process for people to go through to apply for a committee position. There are some residual individuals that haven’t been offered opportunities or would be interested in this one.

Mr. Carr says it’s the practice of the town that you continue to serve until you are replaced. If there are committee members that are either appointed by the select board or the selectmen, there is a process that people are encouraged to apply. They send a letter of interest and once the board feels you can move yourself, it’s almost instantaneously, but you continue to serve them.

Mr. Carr would also like to say it’s been fun to watch Sue chase everybody to get their bills in on time. If people are not hearing loud and clear, especially from the school committee, please get your finances in order for the end of the year and follow Sue’s excellent direction on this matter. Thank you for listening.

Community Relations / Communications

Reports from School Committee Sub-Committees and Liaisons – Mr. Kearney sits on the Wellness Committee and says this year was a year of action. From the vending machines, working with the Nutrition Committee with Food Services being part of it, which was one of the action goals they were able to accomplish on the Wellness Committee.

Cohasset School Committee Meeting

Community Relations / Communications

Reports from School Committee Sub-Committees and Liaisons -The other action goal was to make the new fitness center available for after-school programs. Keeping the Learning Commons open on Tuesday and Thursday and make sure that we continue that. Mr. Kearney says he is really proud to serve on the committee.

School Committee Governance

School Committee Reorganization and Liaison and Subcommittee Assignments I-1**

The first officer's position is the Chairperson. Mr. Dial doesn't know if there's been any discussions as to whether anyone wants to be Chairperson, but Mr. Dial is willing and happy to continue serving as the chair for the Cohasset School Committee.

Mr. Carr has one general question to the officer's category unless somebody is jumping up and down to do it! Mr. Carr has enjoyed being the secretary for this school committee and he'll be glad to continue that capacity. Kathy has been wonderful to work with, and we would be lost without her, we're in the home stretch of catching up with the minutes. If somebody really wants to do it, Mr. Carr would gladly give this position up, and he doesn't know if he'd ever run again for a three (3) year term. There are two (2) things that strike him when he approaches his third-year term. Mr. Carr would like to maybe be the chair or vice chair, but especially the chair. One thing that Mr. Carr really wants to be very involved in is starting the collective bargaining process again, he has a lot of experience there. Also, Mr. Carr watched the role that Mr. Dial recently held at the CHS graduation, and especially graduation with Mr. Carr's third year term, that year will be his last child who will graduate from CHS and that would be something he would be very interested in.

Chairman Dial states there's a lot that we give as school committee members. One of the perks that we get is that special moment. So, wherever we wind up that year on graduation day, that will be Mr. Carr's Day to embrace that moment.

Motion made by Mr. Kearney to nominate Lance Dial as Chairperson for the Cohasset school committee, seconded by Mr. MacLellan.

Aye - All

Motion made by Mr. Kearney to nominate Craig MacLellan as Vice Chairperson for the Cohasset school committee, seconded by Mr. Carr.

Aye - All

Motion made by Mr. MacLellan to nominate Ted Carr as secretary for the Cohasset school committee, seconded by Mr. Kearney.

Aye - All

Cohasset School Committee Meeting

School Committee Governance

School Committee Reorganization and Liaison and Subcommittee Assignments** I-1

These motions will take effect at the end of this meeting, June 7, 2023.

SUBCOMMITTEES

• **SCHOOL GOVERNANCE**

Lance Dial and Jennifer Lesky

- Policy & Standards
- Collective Bargaining
- Superintendent Eval

• **COMMUNICATIONS**

Ted Carr & Jennifer Lesky

• **BUDGET & RESOURCES**

Paul Kearney and Ted Carr

- Finance & Facilities
- Security
- Projects & Technology

• **FOOD SERVICE & NUTRITION**

Craig MacLellan & Paul Kearney

REPRESENTATIVE & LIAISON ASSIGNMENTS

School Councils

Osgood -	Craig MacLellan
Deer Hill -	Jennifer Lesky
Cohasset Middle School -	Lance Dial
Cohasset High School -	Paul Kearney & Ted Carr

PSO -	Craig MacLellan
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Elder Affairs -	Paul Kearney
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Special Ed PAC -	Craig MacLellan
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Legislative Liaison -	Ted Carr & Paul Kearney
CEF -	Paul Kearney & Jennifer Lesky
Emergency Management-	Lance Dial & Ted Carr
PEB -	Ted Carr
AEC -	Ted Carr
LRP -	Lance Dial
Diversity -	Paul Kearney & Jennifer Lesky
Wellness -	Paul Kearney
Selectboard -	Ted Carr
Safe Harbor -	Paul Kearney

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School Committee Governance

School Committee Reorganization and Liaison and Subcommittee Assignments** I-1
Chairman Dial states these motions will take effect at the end of this school committee meeting held on June 7, 2023.

Motion made by Mr. Carr to approve the Subcommittee Assignments as presented at the June 7, 2023 Cohasset School Committee meeting, seconded by Vice Chair MacLellan.
Aye - All

Motion made by Vice Chairman MacLellan to approve the School Councils & Liaison Assignments as presented at the June 7, 2023 Cohasset School Committee meeting, seconded by Jennifer Lesky.
Aye - All

Motion made by Vice Chairman MacLellan to approve the Representative & Liaison Assignments as presented at the June 7, 2023 Cohasset School Committee meeting, seconded by Mr. Kearney.
Aye - All

Approval of Policy JFABD-Homeless Students: Enrollment Rights and Services

Chairman Dial would like to table this topic item on the agenda for the next school committee meeting on June 21, 2023.

Chairman Dial notes for the record that Mr. Kearney is departing from this school committee meeting at 8:45 PM to attend a Wellness Subcommittee meeting.

Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair - Place on the next school committee meeting agenda, topic item Executive Session¹: #3-To discuss strategy in anticipation of collective bargaining and litigation – Mr. Carr

Approval of Minutes - None

Future Agenda Items–[Arts/Theater @CHS-Mr. Kearney.] [School Facilities Committee Reorganization- Mr. MacLellan.]

Executive Session¹: #4- To discuss the deployment of security personnel or devices, or strategies with respect thereto.**

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¹ Chapter 30A, Section 21(a) mandates that in order to go into Executive Session the Committee must:

1. Do so on a roll call vote.
2. State the purpose for executive session.
3. Indicate whether the body will reconvene in public session.

Motion made by Mr. Carr to move into Executive Session¹: #4 - To discuss the deployment of security personnel or devices, or strategies with respect thereto, seconded by Vice Chair MacLellan. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Carr -Aye; Ms. Lesky -Aye; Mr. MacLellan -Aye; Chairman Dial -Aye.

The June 7, 2023 regular meeting of the Cohasset School Committee adjourned at 8:49 PM

**Requires Committee Vote / Action

All School Committee Meeting Are Recorded.