



Cohasset Public Schools

143 Pond Street

Cohasset, MA 02025

Empower Students to Improve Communities

Cohasset School Committee Meeting

School Committee Minutes

Wednesday, 03/29/2023

Learning Commons

Cohasset Middle and High School

Zoom Video Call

Virtual Meeting-143TV/Zoom/Facebook

In Attendance:

Ted Carr, Secretary

Lance Dial, Chair

Paul Kearney

Craig MacLellan, Vice Chair

Lydia St. Onge

Also, In Attendance:

Marybeth Reardon, Science Teacher CHS

Susan Owen, Director of Finance & Operations

Dr. Patrick Sullivan, Superintendent

Dr. Leslie Scollins, Assistant Superintendent

Chairman Lance Dial called to order the regular meeting of the Cohasset School Committee for Wednesday, March 29, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. **Roll Call: Mr. Kearney– Present, Mr. Carr– Present, Mrs. St. Onge– Present, Mr. MacLellan– Present, Mr. Dial- Present.**

Opening Remarks – Chairman Dial would remiss if we did not start off with a recognition of the terrible tragedy in Nashville, yet another of these unthinkable events that has happened in our country. The Chair knows he can speak for this committee, and overall, our school community, that our hearts definitely go out to the families and that community with that tragedy. This is more of an increasing fact of life that we unfortunately live with, but we're certainly thinking of them.

Vice Chair MacLellan truly appreciates Chairman Dial for recognizing this. These things are the most severe tragedies he can ever imagine. As Mr. MacLellan sadly did last time, he would like to honor the 6 victims of this tragedy by reading the names of the victims out loud.

Evelyn Dieckhaus who was 9 years old, Mike Hill who was 61 years old who served as a custodian at the Covenant School, William Kinney who was a 9 year old student, Katherine Koonce who was 60 years old, a staff member and head of the Covenant School. Cynthia Peak who was 61 years old who served as a substitute teacher and Hallie Scruggs who was a 9 year old student.

Opening Remarks- This is the second time Vice Chairman MacLellan had to do this and seems like the thousandth time we've had a flag flying at half mask outside to recognize these unimaginable tragedies. What is more unimaginable, but is a reality, it's clear that we won't get any meaningful guidance or support from state or federal leadership, relative to these types of tragedies. This terrible phenomenon has happened many times before, but what is going to happen is that this will be reported in the days following this incident and eventually it will become a tragic and horrible memory, and essentially nothing will be done.

Mr. MacLellan says this is time and way beyond its time, he's been too complacent that this is something he's very passionate about. It's way beyond time as a local community that we handle this at a local level by implementing meaningful and substantive security measures in all our buildings. We responded to 9/11 with immediate robust security measures with air Marshalls on planes where we basically eradicated U.S. domestic hijackings overnight. During the war on terror and thereafter we received higher terror threats in public places like museums, government buildings, sports stadiums. We saw an increasing security presence and measures and we responded to police brutality by establishing mass widespread activism that resulted in a complete overhaul of police training and recruitment for procedures and protocols that also resulted in effective civilian oversight and increased government oversight for police departments throughout the nation. We have essentially done nothing when it comes to this. We debate about gun control, whether that's the cause of it, or not. We've done nothing and we have not applied that same practical approach to our schools. What this says about us as a society is that we value getting to Aruba safely, we value being able to watch Tom Brady throw a football more than we value the safety of our children and the people that teach them and keep them safe. This is an unacceptable reality, so Mr. MacLellan is calling upon this committee and the Cohasset Select Board to meet in an emergency executive session in the immediate future in order to discuss the implementation of effective material and purposeful security measures in our schools. Mr. MacLellan would like this to happen with Chairman Dial posting this within the next few business days on this important issue. This is as important as anything that we're confronting right now. This is an emergency, and this is our chance to get it right, we've had far too many chances.

Chairman Dial thanks Vice Chair MacLellan for his candid and heartfelt remarks. Security is a huge issue, again it's not on the agenda, and Mr. Dial dares not to go too far into this right now but knows this will be a commitment from this committee and we'll work with the Select Board on this going forward and reach out, post haste to see what we can get accomplished. No doubt with Mr. MacLellan's passion and leadership in this regard, we will see things move forward and do the right things for our children.

Public Comment– None

Invited Guests– Ms. Marybeth Reardon Science Teacher at Cohasset High School is here with details for a trip for 9th grade students to Canobie Lake Park on Thursday June 8, 2023. Past years we've taken students on culminating field trips such as the Museum of Science, but we would like to bring Canobie Lake Park back to them. The last time we took students to Canobie Lake Park was in 2018. Approximately we have 120 students, 3 buses, and tickets cost \$29 online. Ms. Reardon isn't sure if the district can provide 3 buses, but she has a worst-case scenario with a best-case scenario in terms if we have to go in private buses that would cost \$1,100 each. Ms. Reardon was hoping Ray Miscioscia, our transportation supervisor might have drivers that can do this, that would bring down the transportation cost under \$300.

Mr. Carr asks how many chaperones signed up for this trip?

Ms. Reardon says in the past we had a minimum of 2 chaperones per bus. We could bring up to 12 chaperones if all freshman teachers sign up, and we can open it up to parent volunteers too so there would be a minimum of 6 faculty or more.

Mrs. St. Onge asks is this trip just for one grade level or are multiple grade levels invited?

Ms. Reardon replies its generally for freshman who have taken MCAS Physics. We have a couple of sophomores who just transferred in from another school and some students haven't satisfied their MCAS requirement. Given that it has an academic value, we would invite anyone from the freshman class.

Motion made by Mr. MacLellan to approve school field trip to Canobie Lake Park, seconded by Mrs. St. Onge.

All-Aye

School Updates – (Dr. Patrick Sullivan) Superintendent Patrick Sullivan would like to start off first by thanking Vice Chairman for his heartfelt comments. One of the reasons Cohasset Public Schools is special to us is that we genuinely care about doing things to optimize what's best for the kid's, and in this case especially, what's best for the staff. Dr. Sullivan truly believes that safety of the students and the staff is paramount. It's the most important thing that we do, and Dr. Sullivan feels we made strides and very comfortable in completely doing everything we can to make sure that our schools are safe.

We've had some wonderful events in our schools the past couple of weeks that Dr. Sullivan is very proud of, and it shows from our staff their passion to share with the community some of the great work that their students are doing. The first event was Recycled Parts, it's nice to see this back that is led by Nena Berkowitz from our fine arts department and of course Stephanie Moriarty, and all of our teachers. This is much a community vested event where folks take common objects around them and create art with their objects.

School Updates – (Dr. Patrick Sullivan)- It was really wonderful to see all the artwork on display, and some of this artwork is still there on display in the upper lobby. Pictures taken show all the incredible creativity artwork which can be seen in Dr. Sullivan’s newsletter. This year, Dr. Sullivan was very impressed with the art that they put together.

We had a Cupid Shuffle, a Cohasset staple where Mr. Daikus in our Phys Ed Institution here in Cohasset who does such an incredible job with the students and the families. This is a wonderful event where not only are they learning these dances and moving constantly for a whole Phys Ed period, plus when they’re doing it, it’s great fitness and they’re totally in sync with it. Of course, Mr. Daikus gets the families involved, and gets them out there dancing. Dr. Sullivan can say firsthand that students who graduate look back at this as a really special event.

Vice Chair MacLellan along with Dr. Leslie Scollins went to the State House for METCO Advocacy Day which was a tremendous day. Dr. Sullivan was unable to attend, but we were all well represented at that event, with Dr. Scollins, Assistant Principal Salas, Ms. Noise and of course Aleisa Gittens-Carle, our METCO Director, and Vice Chair MacLellan representing us.

Mr. MacLellan says this was a great event, he’s never been part of something like this and he’d do it again! The purpose of this was to get a large constituency together in order to advocate for top level funding for the METCO Program at large. It began with speaking about the METCO program and then broke up where we meet with two sets of State Representatives because you don’t really think about it when you’re in a METCO district, a Boston Representative, and your local Representatives. A picture of all who attended was made possible by Senator Patrick O’Connor who has been a remarkable partner for us in the Cohasset school system. Many of the METCO districts have at least a contingent of students present and were able to cheer on their district. This is a great learning civic opportunity for the civics community for them because they’re able to meet the Representatives and see how that all goes. The most value Mr. MacLellan experienced from this was bringing the kids to a speaking program and hear a very moving, and brave story. This was very empowering for the kids, especially where there’s a State Representative present. Vice Chair MacLellan would love to see a contingent of Cohasset students there next year.

We had our all-town choral event and our all-town band event that took place in our middle high school gymnasium. Stephanie Moriarty our department chair of arts, foreign arts and music was there with grades 6-12 who all did a fabulous job. The John T. Stalker Institute was the highlight. We had some Mediterranean food with some chefs teaching our staff how to cook fabulous Mediterranean meals. From what Dr. Sullivan was told it was fabulous and this has already incorporated into our school lunch menus.

We’re moving into transitions where we have Pre-K transitioning to kindergarten, 11th grade transitioning to 12th grade. The CHS guidance staff presented an informational “College Night” for parents and students. Thank you, Assumption, Boston University, UCONN, and UNH. The CHS guidance counselors presented to the 8th graders on choosing classes for next year.

School Updates – (Dr. Patrick Sullivan)- We have a couple big events coming up from 2 very important groups. First, we have our Cohasset Basketball Showdown against the Harlem Wizards. This event will be on April 4th at 6:30 p.m. and Dr. Sullivan has been told tickets are sold out. Our Food Service Department will be doing the concession stands and it should be a wonderful event.

Mrs. St. Onge says if people volunteer through the PSO Sign-up Genius application, they can get a ticket. Seats aren't guaranteed, but admission is, so volunteer!

The CEF is having their 14th Annual Deer Hill Spelling Bee in May, 2023. The buzz is that team registration (2 students) opens April 7th and closes May 1st. Monday, May 10th - 3rd grade; Tuesday, May 16th - 4th grade; Wednesday, May 17th - 5th grade. This will be held at the Deer Hill School cafeteria, this has always been a fun event. Dr. Sullivan usually plays a part in this, and hopes he spells the word correctly! We also had our Read-A-Thon that is sponsored by our PSO, at the Osgood School. We had "Dress Like a Character Day," where we have students dressing as their favorite character. Dr. Sullivan wanted to make sure this was noted, Mr. Humus one of our teachers at Deer Hill School put in a grant for bikes. This is for a class of 30 students to learn about bike safety and an enrichment program with these bikes and use our campus between Deer Hill and Osgood School. Dr. Sullivan promises Mr. Kearney an invitation when these bikes start rolling.

We have an MCAS testing schedule for Spring 2023 that is upcoming and we're all well prepared and ready for that. We had a walk through on Friday for the finished product of the alumni field turf. It looks beautiful and a lot of work went into that. Thank you to Susan Owen for her persistence and effort, thank you to Mr. Rotondi for all his support, and from the committee for their patience on behalf from the staff, the coaches, students, parents, families, and the Town for supporting us as well.

Dr. Sullivan is excited to announce that Rock Roberts has accepted the newly created position that Dr. Sullivan advocated for the Director of Data, Curriculum, and Evaluation. Rock is currently the Director of English and Reading, from PreK to grade 12 in Braintree, MA. Mr. Roberts comes to us with over 25 years of experience as a teacher and educational leader. He is also currently in a doctoral program at the University of South Carolina regarding Educational Practice and Innovation with a Concentration in Education Systems Improvement. Rock Roberts will be a wonderful addition to the staff. We look forward to communicating opportunities to meet Rock as this year progresses. His position begins formally on July 1, 2023 and shortly thereafter, Dr. Sullivan will have the school committee meet Rock. Thank you to the Search Committee for their excellent work.

We're also happy to announce that we have finalized contracts with Susan Owen, Director of Finance and Operations and Barbara Cerwonka, Director of Student Services through the end of June, 2026.

Teaching and Learning

- **After School Activities District Wide 2022-2023- (Dr. Patrick Sullivan)-** We always want to make sure we have school activities before school and after school that extend the learning experience, socially and emotionally, and educationally which also helps engagement with families. It's important that we continue to grow these after school activities. The list of these activities hopefully shows some growth, we also recognize room for more growth, and we very much appreciate input that folks may have to add to our after-school activities district wide 2022-2023 list. Obviously, there are more activities at the high school because of the 4 grades there with the comprehensive nature of the clubs and sports. We can see some diversity happening at all grade levels, where we've added some Inclusivity Clubs across the board, with a high percentage of high school students involved in sports.

Within our contract that obviously is agreed upon by CTA and the school committee. One of the areas of stipends that does stipulate is the first year a club is put into place, it's typically not paid only with a gathering of support for a club. This could be something that Dr. Sullivan could deemed necessary to pay, but these are all new clubs, so this means that we are not paying the staff.

The Chair says this means we're not paying staff, the staff volunteers to step up and decides to take a chance at a club. Chairman Dial expresses a sincere thanks from the committee to all the staff who are working with our kids on that basis.

Dr. Sullivan presents some enrichment after school programs where we have a Winter and Spring program at the middle school and at the elementary school a Fall and Winter enrichment program. We're working on these and it's becoming more comprehensive, and more diverse. Dr. Sullivan would like to thank the staff and of course the leaders and families for investing in this.

Mrs. St. Onge would like to thank all the teachers for taking the time, she knows some of them are psyched about everything. She would like to acknowledge that there's an actual time of the enrichment class, but then prepping and getting materials also sharing skills outside of the typical academic day. For some kids going to Hook an Eye program, dance, or French programs, that's going to be the best half hour of their day because school is hard or whatever is going on is going on and that's something they have a shared connection on what they learn about their teacher, more as a human and they have this common interest. This really adds so much to their day, it's also really nice especially from the elementary level to have an element of choice which usually they don't get to experience until middle high school or college. To be able to choose something on what you feel strongly about, is really an important addition to our academic program.

Mr. MacLellan thanks Mrs. St. Onge for making that really nice point. One of those activities on that list changed Mr. MacLellan's life when he was on the debate team to advocate and serve the community.

Teaching and Learning

- **After School Activities District Wide 2022-2023- (Dr. Patrick Sullivan)** - Mr. Kearney says these programs help kids to do something. Safe Harbors has been a blessing with the ambassador program. Mr. Kearney serves on the wellness committee and also attended a student council committee. These things come up all the time and it's so nice to offer the kids so many programs. He would like to advertise these programs a little bit better on the website on more specific descriptions to the programs, so parents can navigate their kids to what appeals to them.

- **Academic Initiatives / Updates (Dr. Leslie Scollins)** – Chairman Dial notes that Dr. Leslie Scollins is not here, but we have a brief summary update about what's to come and a notification that Dr. Sullivan will share. Dr. Scollins will be doing a deeper dive on literacy initiatives on some of the effective changes we've recently made. We wanted to use this as a placeholder to give the school committee a preview of this. Dr. Scollins can elaborate a bit more on this when she comes back so we're actually prepared to a more robust update on this. Dr. Sullivan just wanted to keep the school committee informed so they have a timeline that shows the outline on what we've done over the last few years in terms of literacy and what our approach has been. We can talk more specifically and maybe take some more specific questions about the direction we're moving at the next school committee meeting.

In 2019-2020, we began to implement the Wilsons Foundations Phonics Program for grades K-3. Our staff received basic training, which is a huge part to the Foundations Phonics Program at the elementary level. We began a more intensive MCAS analysis process that we've had in the past in 2019-2020. Then we were hit with COVID, in a hybrid year, where we did an informal review of where we were with TLA, Teaching Learning Alliance, who came and reminded us of Readers Workshop for all our students. We implemented the use of *Lexia*, a personalized reading program for students in grades K-5 which provides good information for students and families. We started targeting reading choices that students can make, and making sure we push them within the zone of where they are to further their reading development. We started a Mini Institute of Professional Development in 2021-2022 for our staff, particularly for grades 3-5. The creation of the elementary Instructional Literacy Team, the ILT which involved teachers, reading specialists and principals that was facilitated by TLA, Teaching Learning Alliance. We continued and offered more opportunities to our staff at a Wilsons Foundations Phonics Program meeting. Just to note, this was the idea that the word **comprehensive** became very important. We're approaching literacy from many angles that ties into Science and Reading and that the literature ties into the motivational aspect of it as well.

We did a lot of work with our reading specialists, coaching TLA to determine the resources for where we're going with Foundations Phonics, but also recognizing the phonemic awareness, which is Hegarty, a great program that is very welcomed by all our staff and something that is really helping us see data growth.

Teaching and Learning

- Academic Initiatives / Updates (Dr. Leslie Scollins)- Mrs. St. Onge really thinks this is nice. We're asking our teachers to fit this in during the day and a Hegarty lesson is 10 minutes which we're asking people to work within the parameters of a school day, and 10 minutes seems doable. It's a nice little, bite sized fit, and it has a really big impact in that short term of time.

We still implement Lexia and we implemented iReady reading diagnosis which gives us a really good data source to track student growth. In reading, we do this 3 times a year, and again we do dibbles 3 times a year. We then review, evaluate, and make recommendations for yearly benchmark practices, and a benchmark assessment schedule.

In 2022-2023, we implemented phase one, full implementation of Readers Workshop for grades 3-5 and early adopters for grades K-2 as is true, most things we do in Cohasset, adopters are pretty much for every teacher, which is wonderful.

We brought some staff to the Manamet Elementary School to see what they've been doing for a long time with Readers Workshop, and they've developed a really strong expertise that was really centered around our staff to see them in action. From what Dr. Sullivan was told, this was a collegiately growing experience to see what they're doing and mirror some ideas around that.

Then in 2023-2024, as we're moving forward, we're looking at phase 2 of this and continuing our partnership with TLA to improve Readers Workshop, continuing to grow our phonics program and the Wilson Foundations Phonics Reading program.

There are a couple of things happening in the State that the school committee should be aware of that there is a bill, an act to promote a high quality, comprehensive, literacy instruction on Massachusetts schools. Dr. Sullivan reads this that says, literacy has been a focus in the State for many years. This bill is asking for a Department of Elementary and Secondary Education a literacy strategic plan and logistics to create and align a literacy strategic plan focusing on a comprehensive approach to literacy. Dr. Sullivan says we've already implemented many of the components of this proposed bill and we'll adjust if needed when this bill is approved. However, Dr. Sullivan was a bit umbrage to some of the things on this bill because he does feel that districts should have developed this right, working with school communities to determine the best approach for their children and for their students. The description isn't necessarily a good one, but Dr. Sullivan says he's always open to hear ideas from school community leaders and to look at data and to have those discussions. Not sure how this bill is going to spin, Dr. Sullivan wanted to be transparent with that when the time is appropriate.

Mrs. St. Onge comments on this and it's something we really need to keep our eye on, and also as consumers of the information to be really aware of the language and the tone that is being presented in a professional capacity. We're looking at the Massachusetts literacy guide for families and communities and Mrs. St. Onge feels it was a little bit alarming on how it was presented.

Teaching and Learning

- Academic Initiatives / Updates (Dr. Leslie Scollins)- Mrs. St. Onge says, perhaps this puts people in a position that feels like things aren't being done, when in fact they're going a little further. Have we've been perfect here with everything, no. Are we working on it, yes. We're reflecting and trying to make changes accordingly. We've made some great additions to our academic program the past few years and we're ahead of that.

Dr. Sullivan notes there's a link on the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education website to look at the Massachusetts literacy guide for families and communities. Dr. Sullivan encourages folks to do so, to see what the state is looking for in districts to do. To what Mrs. St. Onge just described is put into verbiage here about what we've done. We've talked about a comprehensive literacy approach, Hegarty phonics awareness, Foundations for phonics, systematic instruction with those programs along with the use of decodable readers, iReady reading diagnosis and dibbles assessments. We've invested a lot in Professional Development, we built up libraries, and we're committed to building up teacher techs and libraries. We have a very articulated curriculum review cycle, and we have read aloud books with language rich text that is an important phase. Students have the opportunity to read books of their choosing that are appropriate just for their grade level. We saw how Spotlight on Learning was demonstrated at our last school committee meeting, how students would take a book and write about that book. We saw how the teacher was handing the books with all the frameworks. We have our teachers for ELA show and model their expectation. Teacher and students proactive together and how students apply their learning skills in both their reading and writing.

Chairman Dial thanks Dr. Sullivan for that update and proposes to keep this topic item maintained on our next agenda. This is the core offerings of our schools, and this mission is incredibly important. Also, noted there is some political machinations going on there with Dr. Sullivan expressing some concerns, we don't know whether Dr. Sullivan has reached out to our Representatives and if he received any feedback from them on this? Let's see what this school committee can do to help Dr. Sullivan in that regard.

Dr. Sullivan reiterates they're aware of it, both Dr. Scollins and Dr. Sullivan put their signatures on a response along with Lexington, Newton, Duxbury, and other schools in the area who believe that the bill that is out there is misrepresenting the actions of many of the districts trying to be comprehensive. Dr. Sullivan doesn't know what support we need yet, and he also wants to be very transparent with what's happening, so that he can get feedback. We give feedback to the community to ensure that everyone understands the direction of a truly comprehensive approach to this.

The Chair states if it should ever come to a point where Dr. Sullivan needs help from this school committee as a whole, so to speak. We can discuss whether or not we have the community's view, and if we do, Chairman Dial says we'd be happy to support this school administration and making sure he has the tools available with the freedom necessary to provide the education that he has given to our students.

Teaching and Learning

- Academic Initiatives / Updates (Dr. Leslie Scollins)- Dr. Sullivan thanks the Chair and appreciates that and he would absolutely lean to Dr. Scollins to guide the school committee a little more thoroughly on some of the ins and outs of it.

Chairman Dial encourages school committee members and anyone participating at home to take a look at this legislation and form an opinion of it. Please let your elected officials know if you have views or concerns, not only directly to Beacon Hill, but also here to this school committee. This is literally our job as a school committee to help out in this situation.

Budget, Resources and Governance

Preschool Fees Vote**

<p><u>Cohasset Current Tuition: \$2,800</u></p>	<p><u>COST TO SUPPORT PROGRAM AT CURRENT RATE:</u></p>	
	<p><u>FY23 with 18 peers @ \$2,800</u></p>	<p><u>FY24 with 32 peers @ \$2,800</u></p>
<p><u>Town Private Preschools</u></p> <p>½ day – 4 days a week</p> <p>Carriage House - \$6,409</p> <p>South Shore - \$5,505</p> <p>Community Center</p>	<p>Cost: \$ 161,000</p> <p>Revenue: \$ 44,800</p> <p>Difference: \$ 116,200</p>	<p>Cost: \$ 263,000</p> <p>Revenue: \$ 89,600</p> <p>Difference: \$ 179,400</p>
<p>*Supporting 1 whole class</p>	<p><u>FY24 with 32 peers with increase @ \$3,000</u></p>	<p><u>FY24 with 32 peers with increase @ \$3,200</u></p>
	<p>Cost: \$ 263,000</p> <p>Revenue: \$ 96,000</p> <p>Difference: \$ 167,000</p>	<p>Cost: \$ 263,000</p> <p>Revenue: \$ 102,400</p> <p>Difference: \$ 160,000</p>

<p><u>Other Public Preschools</u></p> <p>½ day – 4 days a week</p> <p>Weymouth - \$3,485</p> <p>Norwell - \$3,330</p> <p>Duxbury - \$3,180</p> <p>Kingston - \$3,000</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>With Tuition Increase</u></p> <p>Hingham - \$2,700</p> <p>Marshfield and Scituate - \$2,500</p>	
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An increase from \$2,800 to \$3,200 for Preschool tuition, per school year is recommended by the sub-committee. Mr. Kearney says he does wish this was free, he knows other states offer free preschool, Massachusetts is just not there yet. He would love to see legislations help pay for this. This is something that we take very seriously, and we do recognize the high cost living here in Cohasset. This was carefully, and very well thought out, and he appreciate his colleagues for working on this.

Budget, Resources and Governance

Preschool Fees Vote**

<p><u>Cohasset Current Tuition: \$2,800</u></p> <p><u>Town Private Preschools</u> ½ day – 4 days a week Carriage House - \$6,409 South Shore - \$5,505 Community Center</p>	<p><u>COST TO SUPPORT PROGRAM AT CURRENT RATE:</u></p>	
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Mrs. St. Onge says this seems to be a reasonable increase, it’s still significantly less than a private preschool and the fee literally falls in the middle of the surrounding towns. This was well thought out and balanced, and it’s a lot less expensive than a private preschool, it’s fair as it can be.

Mr. MacLellan asks sub-committee members and Ms. Owen would we not consider expanding the program if we didn’t raise the tuition? Right now, we have one (1) Preschool classroom and we’re going to expand that to two (2) Preschool classes. Would we not consider doing that if we stayed with the \$2,800. Are we only considering that because of the contemplated revenue increase?

Ms. Owen say no, this program will bring in a lot more kids, which is great. To Mr. MacLellan’s point that would have happened anyway.

Chairman Dial says from his perspective, he never likes to see any increase impeded. We’ve had this presented to this school committee twice for any comments, concerns from the community that suggests this is not going to have a significant impact.

Motion made by Mr. Carr to approve the increase as recommended by the administration and the sub-committee for the Preschool Tuition cost from \$2800 to \$3200, seconded by Mrs. St. Onge. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Kearney-Aye; Mr. Carr-Aye; Mrs. St. Onge-Aye; Mr. MacLellan-Aye; Chairman Dial-Aye.

Budget, Resources and Governance

Food Service- We interviewed a candidate today for the position of Assistant Director of Food Services / Culinary Specialist and Kim Irving accepted the job offer and she will start her new role as of April 1st, 2023. It's a win, win and a great advancement opportunity for Kim, she's really excited about it, she has great energy and she's very passionate with her expertise in the Food Service Department.

The Chair would like to extend a special thank you from our PSO on the support that Food Services has given with our sports basketball games.

Transportation - This is mercifully a less contentious update than it has been in prior parts of the school year. Ms. Owen says there's still one (1) issue that we're still trying to work out with the GPS for the two (2) First Student school buses. They believe it can be done, it's just a little more complicated to get their software to work with our software to work. Ms. Owen says she has not heard any complaints from parents.

Megan Barry from 11 Tad Lane chimes in and asks will parents of the contracted buses, First Student buses be notified when the GPS is up and running?

Ms. Owen says absolutely yes, parents will be notified.

Report from School Facilities Committee – It's been an effort to advocate for money for a special purpose stabilization funds which were to address our ongoing repair maintenance issues as well as the feasibility study issue which would help gather information for the Cohasset community relative to what solutions might be available for the middle high school. It's a complex topic because we're not the only people seated at that table. A lot of departments in town with physical plans is coming to a head, and the Select Board recognizes this. It's been part of a large discussion. There may be a continuation of the feasibility study discussion relative to a special town meeting coming that the Select Board may opt to hold a special election in early Fall, earlier than normal. There's no real answer as to whether or not the feasibility study issue will go to the board for a town meeting, but it doesn't look like it's going to at this time. It does appear that the special purpose stabilization fund will be on the town warrant. There are some emergency expenditures that we would like to simultaneously approve. We're trying to figure out if that is allowable by law to do that. We have to establish the special purpose stabilization fund at a town meeting. Then also have to then go back and request specific expenditures from that fund at a town meeting whether or not can do both those things, establish it and request specific expenditures at the same time at a town meeting, remains to be seen. Mr. MacLellan doesn't have a clear answer that looks like an answer, maybe yes, we'll see. Mr. MacLellan missed the meeting last night, but Jason Earl who is the chairperson of the school facilities committee was there, and it doesn't appear after speaking with him that we have consensus on that issue yet. A few members of the Select Board have been active collaborators with the schools on this and we're trying to fashion a solution that will work best for our community.

Report from School Facilities Committee -Mr. Dial proposes that the special purpose stabilization fund will be kept on our agenda for our next school committee meeting.

Community Relations / Communication

Reports from School Committee Sub-Committees and Liaisons

Mr. Kearney attended a Student Council Committee yesterday. We'd like to see specific emails to the newsletters that Dr. Sullivan sends out. The students brought up they'd like to see more parents participate on our PSO. We really need more parents to commit some time with the schools.

Mrs. St. Onge would like to point out to Mr. Kearney that we do have people watching and listening because we have a hybrid model. People are tuning in on Facebook and on Zoom. We have people who actively participate on Zoom who are listening to us and staying abreast of what we're talking about. Perhaps send out a survey to the community to see what they would like the meeting to be about.

Mr. MacLellan would like to reiterate to Mrs. St. Onge point there is more audience than we've had before.

Mrs. St. Onge mentions she attended the Recreation Fair and students there are trying to get more community involvement.

School Committee Governance

Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair -None

Approval of Minutes ** -None

Future Agenda Items – Town Meeting Strategy; Literacy update; The Beechwood Playground; Parent Forum; Security update on the next agenda to make sure that we have an executive session between the Select Board and the school; Special Purpose Stabilization Fund update.

The Chair states we do have reasons to move into Executive Session for: #3. Strategy in anticipation of collective bargaining and litigation; and #4. Discuss the deployment of security personnel or devices, or strategies**

Motion made by Vice Chair MacLellan to have a 5 minute recess and enter into Executive Session and adjourn the Executive Session and the meeting at the conclusion of Executive Session for reason #3, seconded by Mr. Carr. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Kearney-Aye; Mr. Carr-Aye; Mrs. St. Onge-Aye; Mr. MacLellan-Aye; Chairman Dial-Aye.

We'll move into a 5 minute recess and we will adjourn Executive Session for reasons #3 and #4.

The March 29, 2023 regular school committee meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m.