

Cohasset Public Schools
143 Pond Street
Cohasset, MA 02025
Empower Students to Improve Communities
REGULAR MEETING OF THE COHASSET SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Wednesday, October 5, 2022

6:00 PM

Learning Commons

Cohasset Middle and High School

143 Pond Street

Cohasset, MA 02025

Streamed Live on Cohasset 143TV

Virtual Access via Zoom and Facebook

In Attendance:

Ted Carr, Secretary
Lance Dial, Chairman
Paul Kearney
Craig MacLellan, Vice Chair
Lydia St. Onge

Also In Attendance:

Jack Buckley, Cohasset Center for Student Coastal Research (CCSCR)
Barbara Cerwonka, Director of Student Services
Bob Erlandsen
Susan Owen, Director of Finance and Operations
Mr. Ed Savage, Science Teacher, Middle/High School
Leslie Scollins, Assistant Superintendent
Patrick Sullivan, Superintendent

All School Committee Meetings Are Recorded

AGENDA

Call to Order, Roll Call, Pledge of Allegiance, Opening Remarks

Chairman Lance Dial welcomes invited guests to the October 5th, 2022, regular meeting of the Cohasset school committee, promptly at 6:00 PM. Mr. MacLellan will be a bit late, there are 4 of the 5 school members present to represent a quorum. **Roll Call: Ted Carr-Present; Paul Kearney-Present; Lydia St. Onge-Present; Chairman, Lance Dial-Present.**

Opening Remarks

There are some esteemed invited guests here in the audience tonight, and we'll move onto Public Comment.

Public Comment

Jeff Moy from 33 Ledgewood Drive has public comment who is attending in-person to correspondence he had with Mr. MacLellan last spring. *Mr. Moy* sent an email to Mr. MacLellan who at the time was the chair, on a suggestion to offer a self-defense class for females in Cohasset Public Schools.

Public Comment

Mr. MacLellan responded he would get back to him with some thoughts, to which to this day, *Mr. Moy* has not received a response. *Mr. Moy* and his wife brought this attention to the school committee two years ago before being interrupted by COVID on rape threats that were taking place. Mr. Moy had conversations with Dr. Sullivan last spring on this issue, both written and in-person, to which Dr. Sullivan said he would bring this to the wellness committee as well. *Mr. Moy* personally feels that the lack of response to his suggestion was disrespected in some ways, given the idea that he didn't get a response back from members of the school committee. *Mr. Moy* and his wife live in the community, and they care about the kids in the community. On the school's letterhead it states, "empowering students to improve communities," and the suggestion that *Mr. Moy* had was one way to empower young females, both emotionally and physically. *Mr. Moy* came today to the school committee meeting hoping to get a response.

Chairman Dial responds that first he wants to thank Mr. Moy for coming here today, it's great to see the community attending in-person, it really makes a big difference. Secondly, Mr. Dial appreciates Mr. Moy's involvement and care for our kids in the schools. Mr. Dial recalls Mr. Moy's email while on the school committee and reassures him that his note did not fall on deaf ears. There's a lot of empathy to the idea of having something like that in our community and in our schools. Mr. Moy's idea was taken very seriously, and the school committee is working with Dr. Sullivan who has some further information to this. In fact, one of the things that we did over the summer was enacting upon Mr. Moy's particular idea. Over the summer, we had lots of discussions around safety. We talked about how to keep our kid's safe with folks who came to the school committee meetings to do presentations about what they're doing for the overall of student safety, not just physical protection, but also on drugs, alcohol, and those sorts of things. This is an area that the school committee is very focused on, and very attuned too. Mr. Dial apologizes if Mr. Moy felt that his idea did not get the airplay that it deserved, it is under consideration and we're looking at lots of different ways to enhance the well-being of our students.

Superintendent Patrick Sullivan reassures Mr. Moy that his suggestion was taken very seriously. We met with school safety officials and discussed this issue with the Cohasset Police Department. We're offering a RAD course for our Deer Hill students under the instruction of Officer Taylor. It's starting next week, and the Deer Hill community will be receiving information on this. Dr. Sullivan invites Mr. Moy to come or tune in on the next school committee meeting on October 19th, 2022. Officer Taylor will be here to update us fully on this with plans for high school students as well. Dr. Sullivan also mentions that he and Mr. Moy had conversations about a lot of issues throughout the years and always appreciates Mr. and Mrs. Moy's candor and very much respects him and his wonderful family who has offered a lot to the Cohasset Public Schools. Personally, the last thing that Dr. Sullivan would want to do is not follow through on Mr. Moy's suggestion. This is literally a timing issue, and we're in the moment on putting this together to make sure this happens in the start of the year which was promised. Dr. Sullivan had no information to provide Mr. Moy, until now! We're glad to give Mr. Moy an answer on this today and hopefully this rises to the level of assistance that he's hoping for. Also, Dr. Sullivan apologizes if anyone feels that he's not communicating thoroughly, it's not in his MIO and it's not what he wanted to do in this case. This information was also mentioned in the Safe Harbors coalition to have a safety course for interested students at an age-appropriate level that would be instructed by Officer Taylor, Lieutenant Lopes, and Detective Rose who are collaborating to provide more information on a course for our high school students.

Mr. Kearney would like to address that he also serves on the wellness committee and everybody here, our stockholders have been making sure our kids are always safe. Mr. Kearney worked with the Deer Hill school fitness program, and they've had self-defense classes before, and he guarantees Mr. Moy this will get done! For Mr. Moy to come up here and oil the machine is exactly what we need, and Mr. Kearney thanks him from the bottom of his heart, because Mr. Moy's suggestion could save some lives someday, and Mr. Moy's time was well appreciated and very worthy tonight, thank you.

Public Comment

Chairman Dial states for those who are watching the school committee meeting today, this shows the power of coming here and being in-person to talk with us. We want to hear from the community, and your voice does make a difference.

Invited Guests

Superintendent Patrick Sullivan announces we're very happy with our community partner here in Cohasset and the work that they do with our high school and some of our middle school students, Cohasset Center for Student Coastal Research (CCSCR). It's a great collaboration and the roots of it have spilled over into a lot of what we do in our independent study program at Cohasset high school. Over the summer, Mr. Savage, our department chair of science for grades 6-12 worked with Jack Buckley, founder of CSCR and a retired, obviously a master Cohasset teacher in social studies who filled in for a long-term environmental science program last semester on bacteria monitoring project working amongst students from Cohasset high school. One of the things at the Cohasset high school level is their looking to incorporate more experiential learning, increased learning, and science courses. We have a new curriculum in middle school, that will follow up to the high school to have more authentic learning experiences when it comes to science. The objective is for high school juniors and seniors who select marine science to work with Jack Buckley at the CSCR facility to learn the equipment like YSI which allows students to learn how to test PH, salinity, dissolved oxygen, and other factors in the ocean. Another program offered to students at the high school level is the number of hours they put in at CSCR for their service to receive a certificate if they're able to document their hours and present to the school community of what they've done and share out their results.

Chairman Dial announces, just for the record, Mr. MacLellan arrived and is present at 6:14 P.M.

Independent Study Program at Cohasset High School – Monitoring Bacteria

Hannah Hessian, Bella Gainey, and Gabriel Wilkinson have all completed their 2nd year in an independent study program at Cohasset high school with the Cohasset Center for Student Coastal Research (CSCR). They are here to present a website they've created for CSCR on monitoring bacteria. The bacteria monitoring team is a student-run research group located out of Cohasset, Massachusetts. Hannah and her team worked on samples of bacteria and monitoring this past summer that included some data from other past summers. In particular, the team's primary mission is to monitor and analyze bacteria levels in local watershed locations. In addition to this primary mission, the CSCR bacteria monitoring team also collaborates with local governments, the Massachusetts state government, and the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary to better understand the effects of watershed bacteria has on the environment and in our community. As a student at CSCR, Gabriel and his team documented and reported their findings with the Board of Health to ensure that Cohasset's coastal waters are safe for recreational use. By recording and analyzing the data they collected is to ensure a detailed database for future students to refer to and distinguish any trends or patterns. Some of the factors that cause the bacteria level to increase includes seaweed, algae, surface rainwater runoff and other human involvement. Bella and her team worked on research to deliver quality-assured weekly bacteria counts at public beaches and Cohasset's coastal beaches that included Sandy Beach, Rocky Beach, and Cohasset Harbor. They conducted statistical analyses of CSCR data, including a statistical comparison of CSCR data to a professional lab with whom they split water samples. Their findings are sent to Cohasset's Board of Health and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection. They worked with field equipment that includes YSI probes, sterilized iodized sample containers, sample coolers and ice packs, gloves and other PPE, deionized water for sanitation of YSI and field condition data sheets to record their findings.

Independent Study Program at Cohasset High School – Monitoring Bacteria

Each water sample is taken back to the lab to process them. Enterococci is added to help the bacteria in the samples grow, and then poured into iodized trays and placed in an incubator for 24 hours. Each sample at each location is analyzed using a UV light to identify which of the wells in the trays are eliminating. Using an MPN (Most Probable Number) table or a computer-generated program to determine the MPN and the confidence intervals. After collected data they record them onto data sheets and sent to a larger data base through an excel spreadsheet that is used to compare and track that information. Some of their findings throughout the summer, they discovered elevated bacteria counts, most notably near Sandy Beach. Whenever it rains, pollutants fall on homes and enter the water that cause spikes of bacteria that affect the ecosystems. Their honorary theories were on a certain side of Sandy Beach that had more elevated bacteria levels. They theorized that this was the proximity of the harbor was a little closer to the runoff of rainfall had higher bacteria levels, not only this year, but last year especially with the huge amounts of rain in the Summer of 2021. Students attend CSCR for different reasons, but it's all for good reasons. It allows CSCR students to engage with the community and discover different impacts on our ecosystems and human health. They also get to leverage the knowledge from previous science classes and put that into CSCR. Another research by the students was performed over the summer on sampling sea foam. While sampling at Fisherman's Dock, the team noticed a buildup of sea foam around the dock's borders and along the adjacent shoreline. The foam was especially prominent at low tide, which the team believed to be associated with agitation of the water run off due to the exposed rocks and the sun that incubates the bacteria along the mouth of the gulf river. They sampled both the foam and the surrounding water to compare their findings by following a contrast set procedure.

Mr. Ed Savage would like to partner further with CSCR and other local organizations into science courses. We have collaborative leaders that allow us to explore and allow us to share our studies and findings with the school committee and the community.

Mr. Jack Buckley would like to talk about the grant work that is going on because members of the school committee would like to know and certainly should know. There were students from 5 different schools participating in CSCR over the summer and that dovetails other towns that really dovetails nicely into the grant work that they have. The CSCR received a grant from NOAH Education, which is a program called BAWET (Bay Area Watershed Education Training). The BAWET program exists in different regions of the country. NOAH talks about these experiences that students have trying to integrate authentic learning into the curriculum. NOAH uses an acronym called MWEE, which is a (Meaningful Watershed Education Experience), and these students are doing this. The CSCR made an argument that the best time to do this is in the summertime and the argument in the grant was to move the MWEE grant to the summer. This is when there are fewer logistical difficulties of getting students in a sustained inquiry in the field and in the community and don't run into academic year problems. The funding is to engage teachers and understanding how to do that project-based learning work and bridge the summer experience with the established curriculum. The school committee should know that this is something that they're trying to do. Mr. Savage mentioned the work that students are doing and being recognized by the school. Cohasset high school is in that process and CSCR is trying to do this with other area schools like Scituate, Hingham, Hull and engaging these students, engaging teachers, engaging administrators to create these experiences that gives students the opportunity to respond to real questions in the real world the learning that fits the school and for the school to decide what the best way to credential that student learning. We're trying to build a bridge between the summertime learning and academic year learning. The other schools mentioned in the area will obviously take their own unique course. Mr. Buckley thinks that this is an important thing that members of the school committee should know what CSCR has been doing and that CSCR has funding for this program for the next couple of years to fulfill these objectives.

Independent Study Program at Cohasset High School – Monitoring Bacteria

The CSCR created a program for students who have completed 2 years or more of research and can articulate how their work is connected to the mission and concerns to Stellwagen Bank. Students will be recognized as stream to sanctuary, watershed stewards. Mr. Buckley presents these certificates to Hannah, Bella, and Gabriel. Mr. Buckley acknowledges Karl with a certificate for his participation behind the scenes. Karl came to a school committee meeting last spring to present his Eagle Scout Project which was a robotics transport cabinet. Karl is a great kid and obviously, multi-talented. Mr. Buckley invites folks to visit CSCR and please reach out to him with any questions.

Superintendent Patrick Sullivan notes that this authentic type of audience with authentic learning is so essential as we move forward and knows the school committee has articulated their interest with school administrators moving in that direction. Remember when Mr. Buckley, Mr. Savage and students talked about this type of work that really helps communities. Our vision is to “empower students to improve communities,” and Dr. Sullivan can’t express a better example of the type of learning that we want to push towards in a vision sense than what we’ve just seen and heard. Dr. Sullivan looks forward to many collaborations like this. Also, as we think about the construction of our new school and the potential of renovations, we should have learning spaces that facilitate this kind of work in this kind of partnership. There is so much here in the district that is really a catalyst to things we want to do in the future that is worthy to note. Lastly, to make this sort of a holistic picture as to what we’re doing here in Cohasset is a lot of this happens in our student independent study program. Perhaps, Dr. Scollins can mention a word to Jen Scott who runs this program on where this is going and how that’s developing.

Jennifer Scott is a world language teacher who worked hard over the summer on work with CSCR. Jennifer has been working with Dr. Scollins and Principal Scott on looking at an independent study internship program from other schools in the area to see how we can build “ours” out, and how can we make “ours” more robust. As to what Mr. Buckley was illuminating to make sure that these students make that connection to their academic transcripts and how do we make that happen! We’re excited about that and we’re working to create a more standardized program to give even more weight and value when students are moving on, whether it’s to college, or a career. Dr. Sullivan congratulates Hannah, Bella, and Gabriel, their great examples of creative Cohasset students who are going to make a difference and do great things in the future. Principal Scott could not be here, but is watching to congratulate Hannah, Bella and Gabriel for a great job presenting tonight to the school committee.

Mr. Carr asks what other organizations are like this in Massachusetts? Are there others, do schools collaborate outside with local partnerships? Everybody should know where it is and what to do there, it’s sometimes a bit of a mystery. Mr. Carr congratulates Hannah, Bella, and Gabriel, this will encourage them about what they want to do after high school, and colleges love this kind of stuff and hopes they find many things they like to do, like their summer learning experience at CCSCR, it makes them really unique.

Mr. Buckley will email Mr. Carr some other local organizations/partnerships they have. Also, to follow up with Mr. Carr the program is definitely unique, in the sense that students get to do some research that a lot of students don’t get to do until they’re sophomores or juniors in college. Mr. Buckley addresses to the school committee that CSCR evolved out of a professional development program by Cohasset teachers to which Mr. Buckley was one of a team of 5 in 1998. It was a school-initiated program that became a summer institute without a home, it was a program that 4 or 5 teachers were running during the summertime as an independent study with the school committee’s blessing and the story goes on from there. It’s always been one foot in the spool and one foot in the community.

Independent Study Program at Cohasset High School – Monitoring Bacteria

Mr. Savage teaches other courses like biodiversity, ecology and environmental sciences and partners with Holly Hills Farms on local invasive plants, and native plants and how to get rid of these invasive plants. Holly Hills Farm is a land-based course versus a course in marine science where students go out in the harbor and sampling water and why we do that. We could partner with plenty more local organizations and that's really what we need to do as a school community, there's schools and community partners trying to work in this direction.

Mr. Kearney thanks Hannah, Bella, and Gabe, it reminds him how blessed we truly are in this beautiful ocean community. He appreciated hearing about the program and studies from CSCR. This is so important that we try to integrate that in with their studies, especially for their future endeavors. Mr. Kearney was glad to hear Dr. Sullivan talk about the new school approach, so any kind of help that they could do to convince the community that this would be one of the foundations that we're trying to build these learning spaces because this is going to be a challenge to get funding for the next couple of years. This will give us a great understanding of where and why the money is going because this is not only educational, but also, this is our future. Bringing in this program as a study is genius, and he's onboard, whatever he can do to help.

Mr. MacLellan congratulates Hannah, Bella and Gabe for sharing their presentation with us, this is exactly the type of an enriching and meaningful experiential based learning experience that he would like to see more of in our schools. He's sure that students know it's much more meaningful, than perhaps in a classroom instruction that this team of students will remember the highlights from this for a long time, and hopefully for most of their life. Doing what Mr. Buckley extracted from it, as opposed to something that was instructed in a classroom setting. This is why we need more product-based learning, and more experiential based learning in this district, in every district, but this is the district that Mr. MacLellan is concerned about. He loved this, and when he started hearing what CSCR was doing, he said to himself, this is exactly what we need to do. Getting out there and utilizing our natural resources in our coastal community to extract some meaningful academic experiences from. Mr. MacLellan echo's Dr. Sullivan's sentiment that future facilities should we end up building new schools, we should absolutely accommodate and foster this type of marine biology, marine science, and coastal education. We could advance to what we might accomplish through experiences like this.

Lydia St. Onge thanks invited guests and was very impressed by their work by all. It's so exciting to have your own questions to what you're researching on is way more thrilling than just going through a textbook. Their getting to do the science and actually live in the scientific method. Awesome job and loves their google site, aesthetically pleasing!

Chairman Dial comments so we know sea foam is gross! We suspected that, but their experience experiments validated this. Mr. Dial wants to echo to what Vice Chair Mr. MacLellan stated earlier, this is what we should be doing, and it seems like Hannah, Bella and Gabe enjoyed it, they're clearly learning. One thing that Mr. Dial may have picked up on from a veiled mask is, are there some asks that are needed from the school committee with respect to accreditation? Mr. Savage responds they have the capability to present a Watershed Stewardship Certificate, these students with us tonight definitely have enough hours to document. Mr. Savage can work with Principal Scott and Jen Scott to figure out the credentials around the revision of the school and this is going to be an evolving conversation. It has always been on the program of studies since Mr. Savage has been here but thinks they can do a better job of promoting that, publicizing that, and going further with it. Chairman Dial states not only do you need to have the offerings, but you also need to have the incentives to make sure kids take those offerings that they don't know, it's extractable. Thank you all for coming tonight and giving us your helpful and enlightening experiences, we really like where this is going.

Invited Guests

Bob Erlandsen is our virtual invited guest to talk to us about the upcoming 8th grade Cohasset school trip to Arizona on April 15th – April 19th, 2023. They've already done some surveying from students and parents to see if there's interest, and there's a lot! They're hoping to get 24, maybe as many 26 students, but they'll wait to see what the numbers are. They're heading out to the Grand Canyon. They have a couple of changes this year, instead of a 6-day trip, make it a 5-day trip. The goal is to have Saturday to Wednesday with the loss of 1 day maybe in Sedona, AZ but will add a few things to do. We're going to have an off-road vehicle tour out to a slot in the canyon which will be a nice way to see some of the off-road places that most people don't get a chance to see. Other than that, this school trip will be pretty much the same trip as they've had in the past. The cost of this trip will be \$2,850 per student. Mr. Erlandsen would like to use the school facilities for a parent night that they've already scheduled but wanted to wait for the school committee's approval before he sends this information out to parents. Also, they'll need the use of the school facility for after school time to meet with the students as this gets closer to the date.

Mr. MacLellan asks what is the anticipated ratio of students through chaperones for this trip? Are there evening security plans to supervise the students for their night accommodations and how do they manage the segregation of the genders? Mr. Erlandsen says their goal is to have 20 students with 3 chaperones but hoping to get 24 students with 4 chaperones. Beside Mr. Erlandsen, with Principal Mills who volunteered to come along with us this year. There are 3 female staff members as chaperones as well, an equal representation of males/females, for a 6 to 1 ratio. Hotels have their own security that they hire to be on the floors, usually they give us 2 floors with one gender on one floor and the other on another floor. Thank you, Mr. Erlandsen, for doing this, it's great and really a great experience for the students.

Chairman Dial comments this is not necessarily in Mr. Erlandsen's core job description, this is something he does above and beyond, and the school committee very much appreciates that. It's so valuable for students to have these experiences.

Motion made by Mr. Carr to approve the 8th grade school trip to Arizona as presented here at the school committee meeting, seconded by Mr. MacLellan.

All-Aye

School Updates

• School News (Dr. Patrick Sullivan)

Today we met as a food and nutrition sub-committee group at the middle and high school. We observed a full middle school and a full high school lunch and dined on a good amount of offerings. We met with Marilyn *Harriton*, Director of Food Services along with Sue Owen, Paul Kearney, and Craig MacLellan. We saw the vast amount of offerings that students can choose from.

We have a Professional Development Day this Friday, and it's a full building-based day. The high school will be focused on the NEASC, a self-evaluation, and someone from NEASC is coming in to kick off with them on Friday morning and we'll do a presentation with them in the afternoon. At the middle school their studies are broken up into several parts with curriculum associates from the company that owns iReady which is our diagnostics. Their coming in to do some professional development on the math diagnostic to teach teachers how to look at the data, how to read the data, and what to do with the data. This is part of a grant we received from the Department of Veterans last year. They'll be coming to the schools October 12th and October 13th, 2022, and the following week they'll go to the Osgood and Deer Hill School to do the same training with all our staff. Teachers will be able to take what they've learned and then look at the ELA data.

School Updates

• School News (Dr. Patrick Sullivan)

Also happening at the middle school, students have a new curriculum in science, called open Sci. They're glad to have the time to continue their work and build out their units and lessons. All the other departments will be looking at one unit and lesson and the materials that go with it through a culturally responsive lens, using a checklist in the pick and review process and Principal Mills is going to roll that out with them.

At the elementary school it's literacy, literacy, literacy, and more literacy! The TLA (Teacher, Learning, Alliance), a consulting group they've been with are coming in for half-a-day at each school. On the flip side of that time, they'll be working on the curriculum. Dr. Scollins received a scholarship from TLA that will give us an additional 3 days that will add to our embedded professional development for our staff.

Dr. Sullivan has a couple of updates for the school committee. Mr. Kearney had asked about the financial literacy timeline and process and right now its slated for February 10th, 2023. The school committee will receive invites to that, it's a great event. There were concerns around our breakfast program with questions from the school committee was this impacting instruction and instructional time. Dr. Sullivan met with Marilyn Hart, Principal Sullivan, and Principal Farrell about this, and they didn't feel it was. In fact, they felt it was more of an adjustment, particularly at the Osgood School. Teaching younger students to remember what their code is delays the serving lines a bit, but both principals are seeing a huge difference and didn't think this was an issue moving forward. Families do know what their balance is on their student's school bucks, there's no purchase for the breakfast program, it's free and Officer Taylor, our school resource officer will be presenting safety protocols with us next week. We had a virtual Superintendent's coffee meet last week and Superintendent Patrick Sullivan extends a thank you to the parents who watched that. For folks who couldn't attend virtually, this is streamed live on Cohasset 143TV.

➤ MSBA Senior Study Visit

Last week we had a visit from the MSBA (Massachusetts School Building Authority) in which Dr. Sullivan had mentioned in his newsletter several times that followed that course. Dr. Sullivan, Dr. Scollins and Susan Owen met with four members from MSBA along with some architects. We had a great contingent with Mr. MacLellan as our school committee representative, our district leadership team, members of the select board, member from the capital committee, and obviously Principal Mills and Principal Scott there looking at the middle and high school. We started with a brief presentation what we did to our SOI (Statement of Interest) and Dr. Sullivan outlined clearly what they wanted to hear which were on the facilities challenges, as well as the academic educational challenges that are created by the facility challenges. The MSBA were able to ask us questions, and the architects found clarification that included pictures, so they knew what we were looking at. Michelle Leary our assistant Town manager and Nick Berardi our facilities manager was also there to converse the Town's funding system. It was important to have those folks there and we really appreciated their support, the work they did and the time they took to be there for that meeting. We went on a tour with a smaller group around the facility really pointing out the areas we had noted in our SOI. These were areas we're proud of and we wanted to make sure the MSBA understood, we take pride in the appearance of the building and in our classrooms, like the learning commons we're in right now. Unfortunately, there were few and far between within our building that the MSBA could see plainly on what we had mentioned in our SOI. Also, to make it clear we're not in the MSBA, we haven't been invited to be part of that program and we were told we would know about that within the next couple of months which will include technical steps that lead up to a feasibility study if indeed we are accepted. Dr. Sullivan will keep the school committee and the community in the loop through the next steps and where we stand.

➤ **MSBA Senior Study Visit**

Mr. Kearney would like this out to the community and if anybody's listening this is the time that they need to act. Honestly, parents are complaining about what we have now and in Mr. Kearney's little area, the middle/high school where we were 4 years ago! Mr. Kearney states he is fully supportive of this because it's what our children need and it's what's this community absolutely needs to be able to give our children what they need, and that's some elbow room and some new labs to work in. We have a good group of students that could really elevate, we have to give them that elevation to do that. Mr. Kearney's plea to the community is for them to get involved in these steps and have more collaborative school members do whatever telling the community about this. Whether it's holding a big stop sign telling the community, there's a meeting for a new building, he would like to see more of that communication put out there.

Chairman Dial thanks Mr. Kearney for his comments, their well founded. As we get more focus of what this process looks like and how we go there is absolutely a required element of community engagement. We'll be resting heavily on our communication sub-committee, and we'll figure out ways to make sure this community is aware of the benefits of this and get the community involved.

• **Superintendent's Student Advisory Council Report**

Dr. Sullivan is starting the Superintendent's Student Advisory Council later this month, so we'll have a rotation of student voice.

Teaching and Learning

- Superintendent's Goals for 2022-2023 School Year**

Motion made by Mr. MacLellan to approve the Superintendent's Goals for 2022-2023 school year that was presented at the September 26th, 2022, and the October 5th, 2022, school committee meeting(s), seconded by Mr. Carr.

All-Aye

• **MCAS Updates (Dr. Leslie Scollins)**

The results of the MCAS tests were released last week. They had some raw data prior to that, but the information embargoed in there. Last week they collected the data with the results, in which were released. They haven't had a huge opportunity to dive into all of it yet, but Dr. Scollins has some overviews from the state itself. When they were looking at some of the English, they saw signs of recovery in English for across the state. They saw some little losses in Math, but data shows that we had a good growth. We want to make sure that we have a growth window of 40 to 60 and we did, everybody pretty much fell in there, so that was good. We still have to look at some things that we need to improve. We did have a pandemic, so we need to find out where those pieces are, and we'll be doing that. Dr. Scollins will be working with the reading specialist and the math specialist next week to go over the data analysis with them, teachers have their data. We'll be working with all grade levels that administer this, they'll dive into the data and look for trends and patterns. They'll be looking at the 2019 data and looking at all the collected data. If looking at what the state did, they took the 2019 data and then looked at the 2022 data because there wasn't any data for 2020 because of the pandemic. In 2021, it was an odd assessment time, they're not eliminating it or not giving it value, they are! It's just that the state wants to see where we were in 2019 and where we are now in 2022. We're not doing that, the state is showing us how they projected it. In general, we had some nice movement and Dr. Scollins is happy about that. We're pretty much, mostly above the state on a lot of things and she'll have this information ready to present to the school committee at another time to take us through all the data.

- **Special Education Update (Mrs. Barbara Cerwonka)**

Student Services has a new format for data sharing in special education. The month of September of 2022 shows active IEPs in each school and percentages of the current disability category percentages. If one wants to know where dyslexia falls within the current disability categories, where would one look, asks Chairman Dial. Mrs. Cerwonka says that would fall under the SLD category which is (Specific Learning Disability) and tends to be in the area of reading which tends to be a predominant one, followed by math. Also, we have a pop up on writing skills which is our biggest disability category, this is for most in the school system with reading that falls under that category. Student Services collected data for the month of September 2022, with new format that shows meeting types for students on an IEP in elementary and secondary schools in our district. Student Services had 2 reevaluation meetings so far at the middle school, and 1 initial evaluation at the elementary level. They also had 3 initial evaluations at the middle school/high school level. When looking at their referral sources where the initial evaluations came from, there was 1 from elementary that came from MTSS and 2 at the secondary level and 1 came from a parent. The MTSS meetings support services that can be put in place for students, sometimes through MTSS. Those tiered supports are enough for students, but sometimes they will go through the different tiers in MTSS and ultimately end up with a referral to special education. This is neither good, nor bad, but if a student stays in tiers or ends up with a special education referral through MTSS, it's just one way to get there. Another way is collaborating with parents and having parents concerned to a point to which we need to move to a special education evaluation. Student Services had a total of 10 meetings so far during the month of September 2022. Students who are already on IEP's, independent evaluations are looked at by parents for a wide variety of reasons. They might look at them through medical or a clinical lens than a school does and go in different areas that Student Services doesn't go because they look at it strictly through an educational lens. Student Services then takes that information and incorporates it into their IEP's. Sometimes students who were not on IEP's, parents seek out independent evaluations. At the building level Student Services look at those and see if they need to simply know this information to screen into a 504, or does it lead into an initial evaluation through the IEP process. In which case, Student Services would then conduct their own evaluation as well and move forward with that.

Mrs. St. Onge suggests a list of the sub-categories under SLD for instance would be helpful to the school committee so that we can see indented sub-categories described. If parents request testing for their child and there hasn't been any testing yet, does the school have to legally, within a certain number of days request this evaluation? Should a parent go outside the school and have an evaluation and bring this report to the school and share it? The point is that in both cases, the parent is taking an initial action to see some sort of evaluation take place. Mrs. Cerwonka replies that sometimes a parent is taking that action and sometimes the school through MTSS is taking that action. Mrs. St. Onge asks if Mrs. Cerwonka's document can be shared with the school committee when they receive packets and share with Jennifer Scott beforehand? We can preview the course, so we have eyes on it before the moment. Mrs. Cerwonka reiterates absolutely, thank you.

There are several different areas that can fall under health category, such as physical health impairment for a student. This can be described as attention deficit disorder, anxiety disorder which can be a qualifying area for a 504 program. The difference between a 504 program and an IEP is that the IEP identifies students and is a requirement that students receive specialized instruction as opposed to the 504 program, where students need specific accommodations to access the curriculum.

Mr. MacLellan wants to know if it's a parent originated identification? Mrs. Cerwonka states, it is, through an evaluation. If the school identified a student through MTSS for an initial evaluation, in both situations where the parental referral source is requesting the district to do that. In another situation where there's an independent evaluation in both cases the parent is initiating that situation. If a parent requests the district for an initial evaluation, can the school say no? Mrs. Cerwonka says no they wouldn't, it's illegal.

- **Special Education Update (Mrs. Barbara Cerwonka)**

Chairman Dial asks where does that independent evaluation fit with a result for an initial evaluation? If that did, would that initial evaluation represent a meeting with the parent? Mrs. Cerwonka says if the student has an initial evaluation, student services would incorporate their own testing.

- **District Curriculum Accommodation Plan (DCAP)**

There is a section for the district curriculum accommodation on Student Services website which has been there since 2018. Student Services updated that through some of their initiatives. Some are being presented in our district but also some of the work that the MTSS Steering Committee did last year. We're charting the course with our compass and Student Services talks about it through the Massachusetts General Law, so everybody has a good understanding of that. What this ensures under the Massachusetts State Law is the Cohasset Public Schools District Accommodation Plan to what our mission is and in alignment with the DCAP on how we monitor student progress, how we implement supports, how we work with data and the common core and all the individual schools in our district. The new CASEL wheel that Cohasset SEL came out with, a visual on the district's multi-tiered systems of supports MTSS. A sample of Student Services accommodation list is provided on their website. This explains all the varieties of the various strategies that are used in our district to help support all students in our district. We have professional development, technology, executive functioning training, different teaching strategies, mentoring programs, our PSO and our MTSS. All our teachers adhere to our universal design for learning that is supported throughout teaching. The CASEL wheel is the basis for the SEL programming and very importantly this has been updated to show that within classrooms. The school district has wide culture practices and policies to support SEL and very important to Student Services is their strategic plan for this year. Families, caregivers, authentic partnerships, and aligning learning opportunities within the community, as we heard in the very beginning of this meeting. All this reflects the updated CASEL wheel from the collaborative academic and social emotional learning model.

- **MTSS Update**

The MTSS model is from ESSA, 2015, (Every Student Succeeds Act) and the six important components within the ESSA.

- ➔ All students are capable of grade level learning with adequate support.
- ➔ MTSS is rooted in proactivity and prevention.
- ➔ The system utilizes evidence-based practices.
- ➔ Decisions and procedures are driven by school and student data.
- ➔ The degree of support given to students is based on their needs.
- ➔ Implementation occurs school-wide and requires stakeholder collaboration.

Universal supports tier 1, the targeted supports tier 2, and the intensive supports tier 3, that really targets both academic, behavioral, and social emotional, it's all about equitable access for all. The work we did through the MTSS Steering Committee and looking at accommodations that are available to all students within the general education program. There's a representative list of elementary and secondary schools that have both grade and age-appropriate school DCAP's as well. A list of accommodations can be put in place for all students that is not exhaustive. The list of representative supports all that we do for all students through MTSS.

Mrs. St. Onge asks is there an icon in ASPEN that shows if a student is DCAP? When things are documented but if no one makes you aware of that documentation, it would be nice to see that. Mrs. Cerwonka says no because the DCAP is really for all students, it's a district curriculum accommodation plan that all students at tier 1 can have access to moving through MTSS and perhaps at tier 2 or tier 3. There are no icons in ASPEN for that, but Student Services is finding and exploring in ASPEN on how they can use through MTSS a consistent of vertical alignment of Google Docs to track students as they go through the different tiers. This can follow students not just from grade to grade, but from school to school. How can we really stand out in ASPEN to have

➤ **MTSS Update**

it embedded there also. Our MTSS Steering Committee worked and looked at surrounding towns, looking at our DCAP and flushing that out to work on those informational letters and how we aligned school to school in terms of MTSS. This year our MTSS Steering Committee is working around those tiered supports and what does it mean to be in tier 2 and tier 3. Also, what is the process and procedure, and how is this going to be memorialized and follow students. Our first meeting is next Monday, October 17th and our Steering Committee has remained intact. Everybody is very excited for coming back for year 2 of that and we're very pleased about that. It's important to recognize the purpose of MTSS so that all students get the support that they need. If some of those supports translate into tier 3 and we're looking at a 504 or an IEP referral for students that is fine, but no matter what tier they're at, whether that happened or not, all students really get all the supports from the DCAP and potentially from tier 1, tier 2, or tier 3. If that is where a student is meeting their success, they can continue to receive those kinds of supports.

Mr. Carr comments as parents, we don't have the tabs that inside people do there on the students. Mr. Carr was thinking when the students transition and everybody in the whole stream of that child's experience is trying to help that child align with their IEP. What reminders are available to everybody in that whole to constantly remind them that student is on an IEP or on this thing, similar to a food allergy. Mr. Carr is glad that ASPEN has that, it's a great thing to offer us to see it. If there's an icon and click on it, does it bring you to the IEP to refresh the instructor? Mrs. Cerwonka says it will give the teacher a summary, not the entire IEP of that student.

➤ **SEPAC Update**

We had our 1st SEPAC meeting last week and Tara Lucas and Mrs. Cerwonka collaborated a coffee meet and greet. It was nicely attended with people who showed interest to become new members to SEPAC which was nice to see. We introduced ourselves to each other and really accomplished the mission of SEPAC, (Special Education Parents Advisory Council). They were able to speak on some of the things they had heard and some steps they had taken through that advisory capacity of that. Also, there is support for parents who have children on IEPs, so that they can collaborate and talk to each other about some of those things. Mr. MacLellan has been attending SEPAC for a year now, maybe a little longer. There were new faces attending the meeting and SEPAC is looking for a new leadership there and Mr. MacLellan wants to impress upon anyone that is a special education family to consider getting involved with that group. It's been immensely edifying for him as a school committee member to participate in that group. There's a lot to that world and if folks are in that world, or just starting to wade into those waters, which are very intimidating. There's a lot of support and a ton of knowledge for parents in that group and this group is committed to all things in special education. SEPAC is looking for some assistance of leadership there and Mr. MacLellan had some of the most robust, engaging interactions with family members in that forum.

Chairman Dial states he would like to add those things because it's important for the community to realize that there is a lot of outreaches that the school administration does. Perhaps we can create a standing agenda item under our community relations and communications. This would just be a reminder on things that we've done to reach out to the community, this might be helpful.

Budget, Resources and Governance

- **Disposal of Surplus Materials (Dr. Patrick Sullivan) ****

Principal Mills and Ed Savage have been going into areas and cleaning things out. We had a lot of very, very old science books that are out-of-date and there is no retail value on them.

Budget, Resources and Governance

- **Disposal of Surplus Materials (Dr. Patrick Sullivan) ****

Motion made by Mr. MacLellan for disposal of surplus science materials copyright 2007 that are outdated and have no retail value to them, seconded by Mr. Carr.

All-Aye

- **Transportation**

Mr. MacLellan wants to know if there's been updates to the school bus parking lot at the Deer Hill School? Ms. Owen says the engineers are supposed to go out this week, but she'll reach out to *Glenn* or *Mr. Pratt* who have been following that.

- **Food Service**

We just established a food service and nutrition sub-committee, and we had our 1st meeting. We thought it was appropriate because we're trying to figure out, identify a processes, or areas that we can replicate that are good places where they have room for improvement. We have to understand the starting points, so we had Marilyn Harriton our Director of Food Services run through a very high level of the various regulations surrounding the offerings and sourcing of school food.

- **Report from School Facilities Committee**

We had our 1st in-person meeting at the middle/high school. Mr. MacLellan is most concerned right now on what we've been talking about with the possibility of constructing a new middle high school. From a facilities perspective that's sort of up in the air, we'll see where that goes. They're working with the space they have right now, with potentially creating another additional room for a la carte, grab-n-go line which will reduce the traffic backup. The main cafeteria area where students get the food served is log jammed during the high school lunch because there's only one lunch. There's a huge influence of students at one time in that area and this new room will assist with that. Mr. MacLellan is much more concerned with the menu offerings and the quality of the food that we're providing to the students. We have different preparation abilities and finds there are lower preparation abilities at our elementary school than we have at our high school. Mr. MacLellan found the middle high school to be better, so we're going to have lunch at each building. We'll have lunch with the kindergarteners at one point in time and we're going to see where we might be able to improve upon and what we'd need from the food services department to effectuate those improvements from a resource's perspective. This is the first step and we're in pretty good footing with the middle high school. There was one area that Mr. MacLellan saw that was never improved on, was the commodities through the federal government. Some of these items aren't the best quality, some of them are refined quality. Other districts who have some different resources that we might be able to add to Cohasset's arsenal, for lack of phrase, that would realize that grass-fed burgers from local farms are not desirable to digest. We're trying to develop solutions about this and that's going to come into play even more at the elementary levels because of their kitchen being restricted a little bit for preparation and serving of certain foods at the elementary levels. All these things are going to be looked into, re-exam, evaluate on what the potential is in each building. We as a committee haven't dug too deep into the food services department at least since Mr. MacLellan in the 4 years he's been on the school committee, and he's identified that as an area for potential improvement in the district.

Community Relations/Communication

- **Reports from School Committee Sub-Committees and Liaisons**

Chairman Dial states we'll consider these as read and submitted by the school committee. Mrs. St. Onge attended an AEC meeting last month and buses were brought up during that meeting. We talked about the Deer Hill School parking lot and the potential for solar canopies as well. Like with most technology, changing and improving in

Community Relations/Communication

- **Reports from School Committee Sub-Committees and Liaisons**

time since we had that presentation a year and a half ago, Mrs. St. Onge personally experienced other places like in Florida while on vacation where there's far more pleasing setups like at the Palm Beach Zoo. We talked about that at the meeting as a potential down the road. A proposal has been put together for an electric school bus and Mr. MacLellan and herself will be on a Zoom meeting on that tomorrow and she'll bring an update on that at the next school committee meeting. Mrs. St. Onge would like to give a lot of credit to Tanya for continuing to research and push these initiatives because they'll be able to benefit the schools. They're always bringing up on how we can incorporate solar panels on the roofs and they're really on our side. It's great to have all that happening behind the scenes.

School Committee Governance

- **Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair - None**
- **Approval of Minutes** - None**
- **Future Agenda Items**

Mr. Kearney would like the chair to consider following up on his concerns on the safety with the drop off and pick up of students on the curb off Route 3A. He would like the town's Fire officials or safety officials to come to one of the school committee meetings so we could show them how unsafe this area really is.

Mr. MacLellan would like to see more of our METCO students who did an awesome job with their presentation to us last spring and to just keep this on our radar.

- **Executive Session – No Reason**

Motion made by Mrs. St. Onge to adjourn the October 5th, 2022, school committee meeting, seconded by Mr. MacLellan.

All-Aye

Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM

****Requires School Committee Vote/Action**