

**Cohasset Public Schools
143 Pond Street
Cohasset, MA 02025**

Empower Students to Improve Communities

REGULAR MEETING OF THE COHASSET SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Wednesday, September 7, 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

Barbara Cerwonka, Director of Student Services

Susan Owen, Director of Finance and Operations

Leslie Scollins, Assistant Superintendent

Patrick Sullivan, Superintendent

Call to Order, Roll Call, Pledge of Allegiance, Opening Remarks Chairman Lance Dial welcomes everyone to the Wednesday, September 7, 2022, regular meeting of the Cohasset School Committee. Mr. Carr will be arriving a few minutes late. **Roll Call: Paul Kearney-Present, Craig MacLellan-Present, Lydia St. Onge-Present, Chairman Lance Dial-Present.** All rise and pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America. Chairman Dial has no opening remarks other than to note students and staff had their 1st day of school and we're on day 2 back in school and we're excited for a new school year and we're now at an exciting regular meeting with members from the school committee and we'll pretty much be on a schedule and see one another every other week.

Public Comment This is reserved for any comments that are not been posted on the agenda. If comments want to be heard from folks on items that are posted on the agenda, please wait until we're at that item on the agenda at that time! If folks want to comment on an item on the agenda, we'll entertain that and make sure that we get to your comment at that point. Otherwise, public comment is for unrelated comments to anything on the agenda. - N/A

Invited Guests This is reserved for people who come to speak to the school committee upon invitation and we keep that at the front load of the agenda to be respectful of their time. We have no invited guests at tonight's regular meeting of the Cohasset School Committee. N/A

School Updates

Superintendent's Student Advisory Council Report - N/A

Chairman Dial notes Mr. Carr's arrival at 6:09 PM just for the record.

School News (Dr. Patrick Sullivan) We're thrilled with the beginning of the school year! We've been virtually in every classroom over the last couple of days with a lot of observing to what's been happening in the district and we're happy to see students back, and quite honestly, they add such a wonderful energy in our buildings. It's wonderful to see our teachers, our support personnel, our administrators, and everyone who works in our schools and who works so closely with all our students every year. We've worked hard over the summer to get things ready, to get prepared, all that stress to make sure everything is right, there's always a few misses, and we understand that, we'll iron them out, and hopefully it's never something that's too large. Some of the summer happenings in our district was we met with the Cohasset Police and Cohasset Fire officials which really translated right away into a wonderful ALICE safety training for all staff. We had two retreat days that solidified our plans for the year in terms of a leadership team. We had our summer staff cookout and Mr. MacLellan was able to join us on that one! We had our extended year programs that Mrs. Cerwonka, our Director of Student Services worked hard with. Dr. Scollins and Principal Farrell worked very hard on our summer learning programs with lots of orientation activities happening, the heart of everything is teaching. Popsicles and Principals was a highlight as always, and our 6th grade orientation over the summer is completely led by our 8th graders, so they're really hearing from the students who have been there and done that. It's also very helpful for the 8th graders because they're taking on a leadership position as an 8th grader in that building, which is very well done. We had a successful first shot at an ice cream social, close to 300 people were there. We definitely sold a lot of ice cream, thank you to *Del's* and thank you to *Nona's*, it was great! We had tables from SEPAC, tables from CEF, Safe Harbors and our PSO. We had our METCO table there and we were able to for the first time in some way see our community come together with for our new and returning METCO students. A wonderful event enjoyed by everyone, and we can spice it up next year and do some more with it! Some students did some great art work outside the school grounds and painted the huge wall blue outside near our stadium, a definite improvement. They're going to continue to paint the bases and the light poles blue out there tooss, it just adds a little bit of a nice touch to the beginning of the school year. Students from our National Honor Society helped us over the summer with our ice cream social, helped with face paintings, helped set up and clean up completely, they all did a great job! Dr. Sullivan would like to thank all the folks who made everything happen behind the scenes. Our custodians worked closely with our facilities team, our technology team and did a great job in getting everything ready for us for the beginning of the school year. We had some work being done throughout the district and our press box is now complete, it's good this was rebuilt and is serviceable as we enter our sports season. Our custodians worked so hard in getting our hallways ready and everything ready in our classrooms. Mr. Kearney will be happy to see the new doors at the middle high school, we're moving and grooving on that stuff. A unisex bathroom was installed upstairs in the middle school and is fully serviceable, all our lockers in the middle school are now changed over and they did an amazing job. We have a new serviceable Science Lab upstairs complete with plumbing, gas and all the fixtures, great work went into that from our facilities team, custodians, and our outside vendors. This was very much supported by our school committee, we now have all the tools to do the work we need to do. We received a special treat from the CEF, it was a wonderful grant providing garden beds by Holly Hill Farms. The stones, dust, pathways and learning squares were installed by Kennedy's Country Garden in collaboration with *Here Dog Landscaping* and they did

some landscaping and construction in the Deer Hill courtyard with some planter boxes and stones which are seats and logs for benches, all this was really and nicely done. Not only does this create an outdoor classroom, but it creates opportunities for students to learn science, do some planting and use this as a great learning space. Dr. Sullivan would like to send a huge thank you to the CEF who does so much for us, this is a great example of the community coming together to create something nice for our students.

Mrs. St. Onge comments her school district is acknowledging this as their first start of a school year since it's been 3 years since they've started school like this. It feels different, but it feels good to see kids smiling and hugging and being able to do everything that's just natural, and it's such a huge relief.

Updates Regarding Safety Work Completed This Summer – Superintendent Patrick Sullivan sent out a list of all the safety work the district did over the summer to the school committee. We updated our Cohasset Public Schools Crisis Plan which is published on the website. We updated our handbook with safety revisions which is an internal document shared with the Cohasset Police and Fire Department. We have a whole list of additional safety requirements for our staff, and we were able to sign an additional memorandum of understanding (MOU) with our school resource officer (SRO) with the Cohasset Police and Chief Quigley. Also shared our staff to student incident procedure. We have a bullying investigation flowchart for our administrators who are going to post this on the website and Dr. Sullivan will send this out in his next newsletter on this safety issue. This is appropriate for families and will particularly talk about bullying, that we're required to do this yearly. It will also point out to the community the resources should they have any situations that require that. This is very important to us to keep our students safe in that regard and it's a paramount part of our job. There are some new regulations regarding bullying and our need to notify students about bullying and other harassment issues and the procedures we have in safeguards for those students who are participating in our after-school sports or activities. Dr. Sullivan will need the school committee's vote today on the school handbook language in which the school committee received information on. We worked on a potential threat protocol when we have questions whether a student has made a threat, and what we do with that information, how we take it, how we deal with the student who is alleged to have made the threat. How we communicate to that student's families, how we deal with the entire school community, connecting with the Cohasset Police force and everything that goes into that. We have a protocol for that, and Dr. Sullivan is planning on publishing this and putting this on the website. Eventually, there may be some more handbook language with that, but that would be something that the policy sub-committee would do. We have accident procedures and protocols, we went from soup to nuts on policy and procedures regarding a bus accident. We created a chart for our bus drivers, so they know exactly what's happening. We spelled out responsibilities for our principals, responsibilities for our transportation supervisor, responsibilities for the Superintendent or one of the designee's which would be Dr. Scollins, Barbara Cerwonka or Sue Owen, depending on where we are, and of course what the Cohasset Police will do as well, so everybody will understand that. In those moments if you don't have well defined procedures, those are tense moments, and folks need to be able to go somewhere and be able to talk through it. As Dr. Sullivan is guiding this or Dr. Scollins, Barbara Cerwonka, or Ms. Owen, we need to be able to look at the same thing and not miss a step, this is important. Our bus drivers are all trained on this as well. We had AI3, the architectural firm who came with a full report to our facilities committee, there was a safety

component and we're working on those and updating some of the things that they asked us to update for the best interest of safety for our students and staff. We're going to update the crisis team training, our district wide crisis team and then we have crisis teams at each of our buildings in the event there is a tragedy in our district, we would be able to rally this team together and be able to communicate, to make sure we don't miss anything as we're helping the community in whatever the situation may be. It's time for us to get retrained and we have some ideas on how we're going to get that training. Superintendent Patrick Sullivan presents a chart of some of the facilities and readiness of the school buildings. After the last school committee meeting on August 10th, Ms. Owen and Dr. Sullivan met with our new head custodian, Bob Toucha, we walked all the buildings and Mr. Toucha sent Dr. Sullivan a chart checklist on the readiness of buildings and grounds. We looked at hallways, stairways, restrooms, classrooms, courtyards, and the school grounds. We we're able to get a good sense of knowing these areas have a continuous cycle. We needed to be close as we could making sure everything was ready for the start of school. We did see some things that needed to be done and kind of patched it up and dealt with. These things might be on future capital requests on bubblers in the foyer epoxy in the entrance to the high school, something that is still there, but we were able to patch it a bit. Some wires hanging down from all the work being done, making sure that was taken care of and out of the way, making sure all our hydration stations are back to normal at all schools, we're 80% there throughout the district. The parking lots do need some work still and some other small things from over the summer that needed to be taken care of. This chart checklist gives us a good sense for some of that work we did, and now we have that cycle where we'll have our custodians outside on a routine to do these certain things. For all good intents and purposes, we did some good work towards the end of the summer to pull it all together.

Mr. Carr comments that this checklist is terrific to track these things at this level of detail, this is excellent and a great way to do it. Those little additions do go a long way! Thank you.

Mr. Kearney comments that the school grounds look great and we're starting to see some pride in the school and noticed a big difference the past few days. Mr. Kearney has seen the custodians working on Saturdays putting the mulch down, it's the little things that make a huge difference. He overheard the athletic director telling the kids if they see trash left on the grounds, pick it up and we're seeing that now, this is about all of us, and don't be afraid to pick up something that should be put in the trash. Mr. Kearney still has a concern with the problem on 3A and Pond Street to take a left there, where you have to kind of jump the light or you'll sit there all day. If we could have that traffic light for 30 seconds, that would totally take away that problem. Dr. Sullivan suggests we could have Lieutenant Lopes or Officer Taylor come to a school committee meeting and meet with us to discuss some of these things. There were some limitations on what the Cohasset Police could do with that intersection. Chairman Dial mentions maybe Mr. Kearney and himself can take this up with the select board or talk with the police, this is not necessarily a school committee function per se, but the school committee can represent something that could impact and direct our schools.

Mrs. St. Onge comments she loves seeing that checklist in the works because we've been talking about that for a while and glad this was addressed.

Chairman Dial would like this checklist to be an inflection point to make observations both to the administration and to our fellow school committee members. This is a good example of the school administration, Dr. Sullivan and his team responding to us as school committee members, especially Mr. Kearney who has been banging the drum for pride on the school grounds, pride in our schools and Chairman Dial wants to note these observations that we're seeing, our school administration is responding, and we're being heard. Keep up the observations and keep up the responsiveness, this is where we need our schools to be. Superintendent Patrick Sullivan mentions there are signs around our schools that say, "Please don't walk on school grounds during school", it's a safety concern.

Updates on Mandatory Trainings for All Staff – Civil Rights:

- Overview of Laws and Regulations – State & Federal
- CPS Procedures for Office of Civil Rights (OCR) Complaints
- Section 504 Accommodation Plans
- Safe School-MA Anti-Bullying Law – CPS Policy
- Confidentiality of Information
- Confidentiality of Student Records
- Harassment in the Workplace
- Chapter 222 of the Acts of 2012 (Student Discipline)

We're required to do some annual trainings with all our staff and that is everyone! It's not just for professional staff or teachers, this is for our custodians, our cafeteria workers, our bus drivers. Dr. Scollins works with Mrs. Barbara Cerwonka, Director of Student Services and they need to have trainings in Civil Rights, Confidentiality, and lots of Accommodations Plans like Section 504. We've created a presentation for them that they go through and complete by the end of September that Dr. Scollins will still have to sign off on. They're aware of the Foster Care and everyone must do a mandated reporting of child abuse or neglect. We have an actual training that we have embedded in here through Vector Solutions. We bought a library on Professional Development from them that has amazing videos that are very accessible. Special Education needs to know the laws and regulations on what is safe and what is appropriate in an educational environment. In conjunction we have cyber safety training that everyone must participate in. Also, we have some nurse training which is the annual health training from all the nurses for all our staff. What we did this year with the mandated reporter trainings for all staff, it's encompassed into one presentation. Lisa Radden helped us link everything so that it's a one-stop shop for everyone which made it easier, so they understand what they need to complete. The nice thing about using the Vector Solutions is that we can keep track of it, and then we can send reminders out. It's going to be effective, this is our first experience using it and is very user friendly, so far. There's a little quiz wizard so it allows people to get the training they need.

Mrs. St. Onge has a quick suggestion to make on this training because her Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent in that district released those 2 weeks before school started. Mrs. St. Onge did not do them early, but a lot of people appreciated the early access to those people who want to use their end of Summer that way, she goes camping! Mrs. St. Onge states but it would be nice to have it available earlier so there's that flexibility when school starts when people have time to do this.

Mr. Carr commends on the Regional Training, the Cohasset Police came through recently and they did the ALICE Training, which was just terrific, they did a nice job! Dr. Sullivan reiterates their spending time and going to several communities in the surrounding towns with this tactic in case of any emergency. Their going into different buildings because if they have to respond to the building, they'll know the building. As Mr. Carr indicated the support for volunteers for Cohasset for any future trainings, they're going to do some tabletop training exercise in there. It should comfort folks to know that if there was a situation, we'll do the same with the elementaries so not only do our police know the buildings, but police remain close by in the district as well.

All our staff were brought up to speed on some of the new facets of the ALICE Training which stands for ALERT, LOCKDOWN, INFORM, COUNT & EVACUATE. The ALICE training is supported by our amazing Cohasset Police Department, and we had Detective *Harrison Schmidt* and Officer *Greg Cody* who is our school business Officer who provided the training. Lieutenant Lopes was instrumental as was Chief Quigley, this was an excellent presentation, we're thrilled to have them supporting us.

Teaching and Learning

Academic Initiatives/Updates (Dr. Leslie Scollins) We have 13 brand new teachers, many new ESP's that we've blended in and several of those teachers are new because of the positions that the school committee advocated for. We have Meg Matthews-Specialist at our middle school; *May Dulay*-Adjustment Counselor at the Osgood and Deer Hill School; *Hannah Johnson*- Science teacher at the middle school; Amanda McDonald-grade 2 teacher; Tammy Breen-Art teacher-Osgood School; *Dr. Blair Duncan*-Science teacher at the high school; Lauren Flynn-4th grade Special Education teacher; *Marina O'Doole*-O.T. teacher; *Colin Myers*-Band teacher at middle school; Bobby Collins-Social worker at the middle high school; *Ashley Hannah*-8th grade Social Studies teacher; Jennifer Cronin-Math Interventionist at middle school; *Laura Ramos*-teacher at the middle school. Dr. Scollins spent some great time with them all, they're an amazing to work with because they're all completely 100% in and we're excited to have them here. They are our professional development community that Dr. Scollins will work with throughout the year.

Culturally Responsive and Inclusive Teaching Training – Dr. *Raymond Perch* who is the Director of Equity and Inclusivity for the Burlington Public Schools joined us last Spring and his presentation was well received by all the teachers, he is easy to understand and approachable and our teachers walked away with strong strategies. Dr. Scollins says we've done a lot of collaborating around what does this look like and how can we continue to make sure that everyone feels that they are included and that we are looking at our resources and our practices to make sure that everyone is represented. This was excellent and Dr. Scollins is thrilled to continue this great partnership with Dr. Perch. Dr. Sullivan says he loved Dr. Perch's angle about the power of explicit instruction assessment using data to not only see where students are coming into the classroom, but to see what students have learned coming out of the classroom and using that as a informative tool, stressing the power of relationships. This was coming through on everything that he presented to us, we found it to be very powerful. This can apply to every person in the classroom, the heart of everything is teaching.

Elementary Literacy Training – At the elementary level we're really focusing on literacy. At the Osgood School we are implementing Hegarty which is our phonemic awareness program for

students K-2. Teachers had time to learn about the tools and go through the resources. Our Reading Specialist, Stephanie Stone at the Osgood School gave some professional development on how to use the tool since it was really the first time that we've seen it. The nice thing about this it's user friendly and the students like to use it. At the Deer Hill School we had our consultants from Teaching Learning Alliance come in and work with each grade level around Readers Workshop and the implementation of the units of study which was a continuation of our Spring work. In addition to that, Sarah McDonald who is a Reading Specialist has done a lot of work on words study because we really know that we need to help our students with multiple syllable words for them to break down. The 4th and 5th grade have been working on that and will continue that work.

Middle School Science Professional Development—Our teachers at the middle school did a lot of work on looking at our resources that we are using and making sure that they use a culturally responsive lens. Dr. Scollins was at the middle school today and attended 2 classes for Science and it was exciting to see the teachers engaging with the students, it's a phenomenal phase. Kudos to the teachers because it's not like opening a book and turning the page. They really believe in the pedagogy behind it and really empowering students to be learners themselves.

High School New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) work at CHS/Vision of the Graduate – Teachers at the high school are really dialing in and looking at all our programming because they're in that first stage of pulling all that information together. There was a lot of collaboration and that's a vigorous analysis to ask. Looking at all our academic programming and every sport that we offer is a very important step for the high school. Principal Scott has done a nice job organizing it and facilitating all the programming. Vision of the Graduate CPS. Inspiring Character, Purposeful Growth and Scholarship Serving the Greater Good. This encompasses not just our students at the high school level but really where we want all our students to be. This ties into all the things that we are doing from our Strategic Plan to everything, it dovetails so nicely that allows us to be continuing a forward mode movement in an efficient manner. We empower students to improve in the communities and what's implicit is the 3 attributes, it's a nice vision for our Cohasset students. They do need that scholarship and they need to be able to research, to look at data, to analyze, to think critically, all those skills that create student agency, that's what we're teaching them. It's really about perseverance, the process of how to get up to that point, how the process of going through to learn what you've learned and often failure which sometimes is the most powerful teaching tool because why didn't it work as well and why it didn't work the way you thought it would. We don't want our students to give up, we want them to have a chance to keep trying and that's the most important part. Our students are truly taking their skills they've learned here that they'll apply those skills and will make a huge difference.

Chairman Dial would like to address the curriculum from our conversations at our last school committee meeting regarding some curriculum back and forth. There were several public comments and he's curious if there's any changes, updates as to how that's being implemented, any teacher reactions? Mr. Dial knows this probably takes a lot longer than 2 days to really understand how a curriculum is working. Dr. Scollins comments at the K-2 level we said we would wait because we're doing **Hegarty** and there are units of study which is the resource we're going to use for the Reader's Workshop. It wasn't going to be publicly published until later, so we decided to take a step back. One of the things we did offer when we met with teachers on the 1st day at the

Osgood School along with our consultants, we asked them if they would like to try it and let us know. There's no pressure to do it, but if they want to do it, they absolutely can. We gave them a week and a half, or so, to let us know. Within 36 hours, there were many teachers who wanted to adopt it because they had been trained in the Reader's Workshop, some of the components they really wanted to go forward with. They see the real benefit around the fact that we created this comprehensive literacy approach where we're looking at structured learning. The science that we have is a little bit more like we have in our phonics, it's so important in early years. We have our phonemic awareness which we also built out and then of course we want our students to comprehend the middle vocabulary and then the same for grade 3-5. They need to make sure that we are teaching explicitly, and they really believe in the process, so we're excited about it. We'll come back with more when we really roll it out. This is a process, we're going to be taking input, giving back, how things are going as we progress, and we can make sure that they understand that this is a very comprehensive approach. This is our first year using **Hegarty** with implementing the source of units of study. Like the first year when we rolled out the Reader's Workshop, or when we rolled out math or rolled out our new Science curriculum, we don't necessarily see the benefits right away, it's not until years after where it's accumulated, and teachers feel more comfortable than deliberately instruction. That piece around the investment in the teachers and their pedagogy and giving them more strategies is the most valuable thing we do.

Mr. Kearney comments he loves purposeful lives, loves empathy, loves citizenship, this is all just fascinating!

Mr. MacLellan would like to vocalize some concerns he has about the roll out of the literacy curriculum and discussions we had. It's not the curriculum itself he's concerned with, there's some parents that raised an issue on the process we engaged in when we introduced this. Their concerns are valid, and Mr. MacLellan wants to separate process from substance. Some parents or stakeholders may have felt that it was the wrong choice, that's not what Mr. MacLellan's concern is, his concern is that we had as a committee developed a process through which we introduced impactful concepts to our stakeholders. Curricula is an impactful concept or a change when you're talking about a school committee. What Mr. MacLellan feels like we had established is that there's a process in which a particular concept would be introduced loosely, followed by a more robust discussion at a meeting and then some form of implementation depending on what the circumstances were. The circumstance of curricular is it would probably be appropriate also to have updates as you go along which Dr. Scollins had indicated expressly that would happen. That's good, but Mr. MacLellan feels like that we failed as a board a bit by not providing a forum for a little bit more robust discussion about the curriculum. Perhaps, unfairly deprive Dr. Scollins of the opportunity to fully outline the basis for the decision-making process that she engaged in. As a School Committee overseas a Superintendent sort of as attention to the Assistant Superintendent so much as the development of curriculum. Mr. MacLellan has complete faith in both the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent having worked with them both and their very talented educators and their doing everything in the best interest of the kids. We need to allow Dr. Sullivan and Dr. Scollins to do your job, that's what we hired you to do. It's not on us to decide what curriculum is implemented, but it is on us to review the process through with major curriculum shifts are considered and don't think we did that appropriately in this situation and literacy is major to Mr. MacLellan, it's the foundation of all knowledge. It's really an important thing, it's been a hot topic in the district for some parents as well. That's not really Mr. MacLellan's issue, it's the

fact that it was a very impactful topic, and we did not adhere to the process that we usually adhere to, and he felt very disappointed in us as a committee and wanted to concede some accountability there. Also, a promise to our stakeholders that will be sure to, and it was always part of the process, maybe not as well as articulated as we should have made it, but always be reviewing this as Dr. Sullivan just explained it's a process, we're going to make sure it's the right fit. It's actually kind of an interesting approach because you have taken pieces of different programs or products to apply them to what you think are the needs of our district which is really cool and some people take this issue with a particular product or particular program and that's fine, not everyone is going to be pleased, but let's just wait and see if the folks that we've placed in charge of our district have been able to find the right fit and it may be an ongoing process where it's a problem solving situation where we have to figure it out, does this work, does it not? People need to be patient and we know there is a level of urgency to it. We don't want anyone left behind, but Mr. MacLellan wanted to express this thought because it's important to him that everyone knows that we will make sure that we provide a more robust form of discussion amongst stakeholders about impactful topics and he wanted to acknowledge those comments that were made to him from various families following the meeting, they were valid and making sure that we adhere more to that in the future. Mr. MacLellan asks Chairman Dial that we certainly ask Dr. Sullivan and Dr. Scollins for repeated updates as to the success of the curriculum as Mr. Dial just did. But to your point, don't think 2 days is going to be too much of by way of data, but perhaps in a month or two, or however, whatever is the appropriate time.

Chairman Dial states before we go much further, the substance of Mr. MacLellan's comments really set rest with him as the Chair, as the person responsible for the agenda. Mr. Dial hears the point and it's a good one and we should make sure we have these things on the agenda, and he'll work with the administration to make sure that it was prepared to talk about that so that it is loud and clear, understand we have feedback from the community on that and Mr. Dial shares that. Academics is very important, and we should spend a good amount of time on these discussions and especially when we have the advantage of having a well-informed community that can offer feedback and suggestions and hear our process and thoughts and getting people to come to the schools for this particular thing. It is really important, and Mr. Dial agrees this is something that we will make sure to keep our traditional process going forward, things that are significant changes, we'll work together to make sure they're on the agenda and are prepared to speak.

Mr. MacLellan comments to clarify that, the deployment is not directed to the Chair, I respect your acceptance on the responsibility of where we go one way at all as a committee and there are 5 intelligent human beings here that are on this committee and all of us sat through that meeting, and he kept thinking of the fact that we should have been more comprehensive as we could have.

Mrs. St. Onge thanks Mr. MacLellan for bringing up those comments, it's a really important point and it plays into our transparency that our community deserves and that we've been working on, it makes sense. Also, Mrs. St. Onge really likes the Vision of a Graduate and how it aligns with our strategic plan.

Chairman Dial has a couple of things to address before going further into the meeting. One, is to build off from the literacy discussion, he wanted to get that out there and make sure it was part of the agenda, this is the logical extension of that as we're moving forward. What sort of metrics or

measurements are being looked at to determine the success, or non-success of a program like this? Dr. Scollins comments that's a great question. We spent time last year with the assessment team at the elementary level looking at literacy. We also did math, and we also talked a little bit of science, but we did pull together our ELA group and we looked at some of our benchmark assessments we would be using. We tightened those up to make sure that we weren't duplicating and asking for the same information because sometimes you can assess too much and not spend enough time teaching. We streamlined that so we have grades K-5 and we looked at our benchmark assessment for K-8, but we also have a variety of assessments that we're using to track our reading correctly like in Dibbles. We are using our writing skills with other assessments to track our reading skills to see where our kids fall in relation to the work we're doing. We'll be able to drill down a bit on some of the data pieces especially around some of those foundational skills. We really want to make sure we're catching kids and then we'll certainly be looking in our own test scores. There's data that's more challenging to use, but it's definitely the data points we want to use. Those are some of the things that we'll be doing and we're going to be working with the district around having more consistent conversations and processes around how to look at data and how to analyze data. It's happening, but don't think we have done a comprehensive, consistent process, the data dialogue. We have to make sure that we're looking at those pieces. Chairman Dial states this item will remain on the agenda to the extent of receiving information on the learnings on the academic side that Dr. Scollins can share with us every other week.

Mrs. St. Onge comments with a suggestion, later in the new year to have some highlights on learning, to show us kids doing their **Hegarty** routine or talking about their writing and reading process. This would be great to see some of that process.

Special Education Update (Mrs. Barbara Cerwonka) – It's been a great opening, welcoming students, new staff, returning staff. Mrs. Cerwonka has been out and about at all the schools and has been able to have full department meetings with everyone. We've done a lot in just a couple of days, and it's all been really good and very exciting. There's a couple of things she would like to share that kind of harkens back to some things where she left off on what her department did this summer and what we're moving forward with. The letter from student services to families for this year is in the hands of tech and being uploaded onto their website. It also talks about finding your compass and has an introduction to all our staff and their tenants in each of the schools. Dr. Scollins and herself did a lot of partnership work this summer with the principals and one of the things was we fully revisited the MTSS data, and the school committee may have received this today of the introductory letter to MTSS that went out from her office explaining what it is and the different tiers and what it's going to look like. The principals have their letters to go out to families and their process and procedure to do that. There are letters for each of those tiers since everyone is really in tier 1 all the time. When a letter goes out it's introduced that a child has been brought to the MTSS team to go into a tier 2 intervention and explains all of that. Those are building-based letters, they explain what is going on, what are the areas that the student is being looked at, what are some of the interventions that are being tried, when can the parent look forward to hearing from people again. A similar tier 3 letter and those are in the hands of the principals of the building-based level. These will be signed by them and go out like that. This addresses what we've talked about in terms of improving communication and knowing when students are being brought to the MTSS team and when their receiving those interventions. This was some of the nice work we did this summer. Dr. Scollins and Mrs. Cerwonka also did some work around not just data, but also

the keeping of those records and clarifying what do student records look like, what do they need to look like having them moving forward. What is that consistency and did some work this summer with the principals around that. The reading evaluation was talked about a lot at the end of last year that we had done. We talked about adding a specialized reading teacher at the Deer Hill School and Mrs. Cerwonka had done the training. One of the other recommendations that came out of that reading evaluation was something that the district was not doing which was IEP's were being signed by the teachers and herself, but not the principals. This year we worked out a system where we can stay within our timelines for IEP's to go out, but also have the principals sign all those IEP's. One of the last school committee meetings of last year we had some families here talking about who do they go to and who really knows their children when their children are on IEP's. Do they go to their liaison? Do they go to their teacher? Do they go to the team chair? Do they go to Student Services? Principals have the ability to sign those IEP's that dovetails fully into that process and because Mrs. Cerwonka works so closely and so hand in glove with them it was a wonderful thing to be able to do and to bring to the principals. They were so excited and open about having them embedded into the IEP process in that way. That's going to be a great addition that Mrs. Cerwonka is happy to share on what they're doing and continue to look at how Student Services can continue to grow. This year student services will be presenting data in new ways, Mrs. Cerwonka has a new slideshow to share data with the school committee. Next month this data on some of the percentages and active IEP's, who's on board, will be shared to the school committee and looks forward to comments on the new format of new data. Lastly, Student Services does not have a SEPAC leadership team yet and would like to reach out to families, new families, young families on some of their experiences, who has been in the district for a long time, in terms of special education and ask for their participation perhaps in a leadership way for our SEPAC. This year, *Tara Valagas* and Barbara Cerwonka are taking the training on civil rights as they usually do, but maybe starting off with a coffee to invite people in and build up some participation in SEPAC as parents and hopefully some people taking on a leadership role and then move forward from there.

Mr. Kearney comments just keep moving the fence to the goal post, and he sees that with every aspect of the school system, including Barbara's department. Mr. Kearney has been on the school board the last 4 years now, and he's seen such a big difference of communication with the families from Student Services. So, anybody who's listening out there, try to get involved because we could use your voice, it goes a long way! Also, he would speak to some of the people that don't think we need you, we do! If anybody wants to help in any way they can, give a lot of time or a little time, just paying attention and giving the ability to let them know that there's people here listening. Mr. Kearney is proud of this community for all it's done to advance to that goal post!

Mr. MacLellan has a question on the signing of the IEP's by the principals, what is the desired outcome of that? Is it an added layer of review or perhaps an increase of accountability and oversight? What is it that Student Services need to gain from that? Mrs. Cerwonka says it's not so much of a need or oversight because that comes through her team or herself before it gets across her desk and her signature. It is that whole child environment that we are all responsible for all our students and that all our students are embraced to learn from everyone in the school. For the principal to be able to have that IEP on their desk, see the new updates, see the progress of the student and where they're going to continue to grow and sign off on that be part of the school's, is an important message. Mr. MacLellan reiterates this helps promote a more cohesive building

approach to the individualized initiative process. Lastly, Mr. MacLellan just would like to point out it this will reflect a bit of the security stocks but it's distressing to hear that we don't have a leadership team for SEPAC and he's not trying to indict anyone that is a participant of SEPAC for not stepping up. Overall, he's basically concerned about the state of the current level of interest in the volunteer positions concerning school governance and involvement. The last election cycle we we're very thankful that Mr. Carr was able to step up and volunteer to fill Mrs. Colleary's spot and enabling this committee to have 5 members. That's concerning to Mr. MacLellan that this is sort of a symptom of the same problem. We have a lot that's going to be happening with the schools as we further implement the strategic plan. There's some talk about serious facilities conditions, we have a leadership team that is basically in his opinion just now being let out of the gates following a pandemic. There's a lot happening, and someone pointed out at the Student Services Forum that this district is only as strong as its weakest student from a learning perspective. Student Services, and Special Education especially is an extremely important facet of what we do, and Mr. MacLellan just started to involve himself with that last year as Chairperson coming out of a pandemic and considering how detrimental the pandemic was for him, for individuals with learning differences. He started getting more involved with that group and he can't tell how many constructive thoughts came out of that and how much we can improve our district. That group is so important, and Mr. MacLellan would really urge anyone that is listening to this or might watch this recording at some point hope there are more attendees on Facebook which is the media most people use because there aren't a lot of entities on Zoom. If there are parents of a special education student, try and attend a few meetings if haven't, and see if you might want to take the reins a little bit there because the group can be helpful and supportive.

Mrs. St. Onge has a question about the MTSS letters. The tier 1 letter went out already, are there any benchmark assessments done at the beginning of the year? When will the first rounds of the tier 2 letters go out? Mrs. Cerwonka states remember that MTSS is kind of an ongoing process, it starts around mid-October in the schools, once students have acclimated and going, then students will be brought to MTSS teams as individuals as teachers have concerns. The benchmark assessments are going to be one factor in the concerns that neighbor them to MTSS, but it wouldn't be the only factor.

Mr. Dial would like to laser focus on one point, it's a critical importance for process. Students in a classroom are just being a tier 1. Everyone is entitled to tier 1 support and services. Are all the title services getting to families? Are there big core academic stuff and then deputy the teacher to spend a little more time? Dr. Sullivan explains that's an important distinction because we do want our staff to have reached out to families before the student gets the MTSS letter. Tier 1 is not an intense intervention, it's good teaching practice that help everyone in the classroom. You can help a student in your class organize themselves to process certain things, that's not necessarily a tier 2 intervention. You're just adapting to help a student with a system that might work better for them. When you get to MTSS you need to really dive deeper and get some more intense supports and those intense supports need to be timed, tracked and we need to dip stick and see how it's going and then at the end of a certain period, report what we've done. It's improving, we're going to try AB and C or if it's not a improving, we need to get more intense. Then you get more intense with the intervention. When we're talking about diving into the tiers, it's really about intensity. Mr. Dial wants the school committee to be aware and to be clear that teachers are communicating with families on any intervention their child is receiving while in school. Example, if a child is leaving

the classroom to get special services, a letter is sent home to their family, can we make sure that there's communication? Mr. Dial would like to make sure we have a control place when a decision like this is made, that some communication is going out to families. There needs to be some control on those letters, those emails or phone calls for every student that has additional services.

Budget, Resources and Governance

Updated Handbook Language/Parental-Guardian Consent Regarding Students Participating in Co-Curricular Activities**

Superintendent Patrick Sullivan is asking for consideration from the school committee for some handbook language for all handbooks, really the purpose of the proposed handbook language is to simply put all participants on notice regarding bullying, hazing, harassment, and discriminatory behavior. The fact that its unacceptable behavior including while engaged in extracurricular after school activities and part of ensuring that bullying, discrimination, harassment, hazing is not taking place in extracurricular activities is the appropriate monitoring of locker rooms in other facilities, unfortunately where these things happen in districts all around, not just the Commonwealth, but the whole country. Privacy, considerations, course apply in any gross negligence would never be part of any type of release which we would ask for which in essence we would be asking for in the best interest of supporting students so that we can guarantee that they're not being hazed, bullied, harassed within school locker rooms and other places when participating in extracurricular sports or activities. Chairman Lance Dial mentions the schools currently receive waivers from students participating in any athletic intramural or intramural activities. The change here in the handbook is not a change to require waivers that we already do. The change here is to enhance the language to clearly reflect that there will be offerings and that parents are consenting to both through the handbook and the waiver. We would have to update our waiver a little bit, just to be explicit with the language in this handbook. We want people to realize that this is not necessarily approving new language about granting waivers of legal liability. Material change in the waiver will include a consent provision that consents to a student being supervised by appropriate and correct gender people in locker room scenarios where that's applicable with privacy enabled for all students.

Motion by Mr. Kearney to approve the proposed handbook language as presented at the September 7th meeting of the Cohasset School Committee with the understanding that waivers will also be amended to include the associated concerns, seconded by Mr. Carr.
Aye – All

District/Student Handbook ** Currently, we have a district student family handbook which serves as a synopsis/guide of many policies that are referenced in the individual school handbooks. Eventually, Dr. Sullivan would move to consider not having this handbook because quite frankly the policies themselves which are listed on the website take care of it. There are a lot of districts that have a district handbook, which are handbooks at the schools that reflect certain policies in them that are consistent. We've done a really nice job over the past few years of making those consistent and certainly the school committee has done a very nice job cleaning up some of the policies to reflect masks and other effective policies. We do reference it in various places throughout all our handbooks. The district handbook is up-to-date, and Dr. Sullivan would like to move the handbook changes that we have to be accepted and approved in the handbook so that we can have this for 1 more year and look to clean up our handbooks to remove references to the district handbook for next year. We find too many errors to be made when the policies are plainly

written in a policy manual that is on the website. The material change is the district/student handbook to district/student/family handbook which is considered the appropriate language for that.

Motion made by Mr. MacLellan to approve the newly named district/student/family handbook as presented at the September 7th meeting of the Cohasset School Committee, seconded by Mrs. St. Onge.

Aye – All

Summary of Changes to District Student/Family Handbook – In the near future the approval of our annual handbooks such as this, will soon retire.

Buildings and School Property – The crosswalk designation came up with our safety officials which is the corner of the athletic area that loops near the alumni is being worked on. The track is curing, settling and they'll be coming to look at it on September 14th, 2022, and complete on September 27th, or September 28th, 2022. They put in some cones just to keep people safe until then. The inside of our press box needs work such as wiring, the outside is pretty much complete. The science lab has been completed, it's up and running. The courtyard was all grant donations and installed by Kennedy Country Gardens.

Transportation – The school bus routes are on schedule, so far, the morning drop off's have been great. There was a very late return on one of the school busses routes today, we understand everyone's new schedule and our new bus drivers are on some of those routes. If families experience this timely schedule, we would like to know so we can look into, families can contact anyone of us on the school committee. This year we're being more diligent, taking attendance to see how many riders are on the bus. Our students will receive school bus passes to present to bus drivers, the bus drivers will have a list of names, so its important students have their bus pass. Mid-September, students will be required to have their bus pass to board the school bus. We want to keep our supervisory intact, currently we have 765 students who take the school bus for transportation with 15 families registering for this right now. Chairman Lance Dial anticipates late arrivals for students returning home. Dr. Sullivan is very proud of our resilient and adaptive bus driver crew, they have been through a lot of any bus driver crew, but that helps because they really rely on each other's routes. They're really getting to know Cohasset now and we're getting the new bus drivers to step up on that, but it will pay off in the long run, we're seeing a more efficient bus pickup.

Mr. Kearney comments as a school committee member he's really thrilled about how the transportation has been going and knows how hard the school administration worked on this. As a school committee member, he is starting to see things going in the right direction and it's nice to see.

School Bus Parking Update – Potential parking lot for the school buses by the Deer Hill School entrance on Sawyer Street approaching the Osgood School. We'll revisit this.

Transfinder Update – The transfinder, a mini powered GPS is a success, or it's moving towards being a success. We have 163 families who signed up for this. Jerilyn Ballard, who is in our central

office, will accommodate any concerns or questions for parents. This is going to help us if we ever needed anything, and this was the safest situation.

Food Service – Our cafeterias are going well, we’re still working out a couple of kinks, but nothing major.

Report from School Facilities Committee – No reports, except for the MSBA senior study that will be conducted on September 28th at 9:00 AM and there will be certain representatives from the town attending that. This is a private meeting, walk-through, evaluation of the facility, it’s an exciting next step in the project, we’ll do that update at the next school committee meeting.

Community Relations / Communication

Reports from School Committee Sub-Committees and Liaisons – No Reports.

School Committee Governance

Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair - None

Approval of Minutes** - No minutes to approve

Future Agenda Items - The school year budget will be presented by Sue Owen at our next school committee meeting. Have discussions about the NEASC process, what it means while we’re doing it. Great suggestion made by Mrs. St. Onge for our 2022/23 meetings to invite some presenters from our academic administration as part of our voice for future school committee meetings. Given our detailed conversations on updates on the controls around notifications of families on interventions to see if we’ve got something there. NEASC would be something for our next meeting as well, just an update on the ask on what’s going on. A proposal for a future agenda item and maybe this falls into teaching and learning, there’s been a lot of press coverage about learning losses nationwide associated with the pandemic and Chairman Dial is curious to have an update from the administration on what experiences locally our Cohasset students and what controls the mitigants we’re considering helping to fight that. Updates from our school resource officer, update on SEPAC.

Mr. Carr would like to propose an open discussion about school safety at each school committee meeting for the community at large. Perhaps invite our school resource officer to demonstrate or talk about some of the trainings like ALICE Training. Mr. Dial states, attention to a public forum is there’s only so much we want to disclose in our security policy and whatnot, it’s a great idea, maybe Dr. Sullivan can talk with our school resource officer on some generic trainings.

No reason to go into Executive Session.

Motion made by Mr. MacLellan to adjourn the September 7th meeting of the Cohasset School Committee, seconded by Mrs. St. Onge.

All - Aye

Meeting Adjourned 8:54 PM**

**Requires Committee Vote / Action