

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

School Committee Minutes
Wednesday, August 9, 2023
6:00 PM

Learning Commons
Cohasset Middle/High School
Virtual Meeting-143TV/Zoom/Facebook

All school committee meetings are recorded.

In Attendance:

Ted Carr, Secretary
Paul Kearney
Jennifer Lesky
Craig MacLellan, Vice Chair
Dr. Leslie Scollins, Assistant Superintendent
Dr. Patrick Sullivan, Superintendent

Also, in Attendance:

Rock Roberts, Director - Data Curriculum and Evaluation
Ms. Lisa Farrell, Principal Osgood Elementary School
Mr. Brian Scott, Principal High School
Mr. John Mills, Principal Middle School
Mrs. Alexandra L. Sullivan, Principal Deer Hill School

Vice Chair, Craig MacLellan called to order the August 9, 2023 Cohasset School Committee meeting at 6:00 p.m. Chairman Lance Dial is absent, and Vice Chair MacLellan will lead the meeting in his stead. This meeting is being conducted at the Learning Commons at Cohasset Middle High School. Folks may also attend virtually, via Zoom and Facebook. The Zoom feature allows live chats for comments and Facebook is watch and listen only.

**Roll Call: Mr. Carr-Present; Mr. Kearney-Present; Ms. Lesky; Mr. MacLellan-Present.
Chairman Dial -Absent.**

Public Comment:

None

Cohasset Public Schools
Cohasset School Committee Meeting Minutes

Invited Guests

Introduction of Rock Roberts, Director of Data, Curriculum, and Evaluation

Superintendent Patrick Sullivan welcomes Mr. Rock Roberts and thanks this school committee for approving this new position, where we've hit a point, where we're really looking at data, and how that's going to inform curriculum decisions. Also, moving strongly into evaluations which are all three very important components of Teaching and Learning. Rock Roberts has 25 years' experience as a teacher, and educational leader, including his most recent role as Director of English and Reading for grades PreK-12 in Braintree, MA. Rock is also currently enrolled in a Doctoral Program at the University of South Carolina regarding Educational Practice and Innovation with a Concentration and Education Systems Improvement. Rock will be a wonderful addition to our staff in his new position in Cohasset Public Schools. Mr. Roberts will be working closely with our leadership team and teachers to look closely at achievements and social emotional wellness data across the district. Mr. Roberts will facilitate data dialogues with all stakeholders, the school committee, and the district to build leadership with families and of course students. Mr. Roberts will be an advocate for needed outcomes based on the data that could include the advocating for new positions. Mr. Roberts will work closely with Dr. Scollins, and leaders, some of whom are here today and teachers, to update curriculum guides to create much needed benchmarks assessments in all disciplines. Finally, Rock will help evaluate staff and will serve as a wonderful resource for teachers and our leadership team. Rock's position began formally on July 1, 2023.

Mr. Carr is glad Rock is finally here, this school committee has been looking forward to this new position all year! Mr. Carr says the school committee will be an active and good resource for Rock Roberts and will give him any support in his efforts, he also has an incredibly cool name!

Mr. MacLellan says we're very happy to have Mr. Roberts here. This marks a step towards a better district administration, and teaching and learning overall. Rock will assist our Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent with delegation of a very critical, and impactful role. Also, a very burdensome role to take on, in addition to the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent roles. The hiring of Mr. Roberts is an indicative of our administration's responsiveness to the needs of our families in that. There's been a great demand for a lot more transparency surrounding data for that reason, and families should understand that we'll be even more robust with that, in that area, in that field, and arena. Moving forward, evaluation will be a critical improvement to the district. It's difficult to have extremely meaningful, and effective evaluation protocols if divided amongst the duties that burden members of the leadership team. It really helps to have an individual that specializes in that and on that. This will help the district and staff know that Mr. Roberts will be the point person for that.

Cohasset Public Schools
Cohasset School Committee Meeting Minutes

Invited Guests

Introduction of Rock Roberts, Director of Data, Curriculum, and Evaluation

Mr. MacLellan asks if the Director of DCE will be reporting to Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Leslie Scollins because it makes a lot of sense, given the fact that Dr. Scollins was doing a lot of what we're going to see the DCE do a lot of seamlessness there and to be able to offer support and guidance as Mr. Roberts acclimates himself to our district.

Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Leslie Scollins says Rock's position is an important one, and is thrilled to have Rock here, and she looks forward to all their collaborations.

Vice Chair, MacLellan asks Superintendent Patrick Sullivan to take this entire portion of the agenda so he can introduce members of his leadership team, Principal Lisa Farrell, Principal Brian Scott, Principal John Mills, and Principal Alexandra L. Sullivan.

Dr. Sullivan takes a moment to thank Principal Farrell, Principal Scott, Principal Mills, and Principal Sullivan for the unbelievable work they do every day when the kids and the staff are here. There's a lot of work that goes into preparing for the year. For us educators we were told June is Friday, July is Saturday, and August is Sunday, and we're in August, and we're moving and we're preparing a lot for the start of the year. All their work is inspiring to him as Superintendent, and they really make the district tick.

Today, we're going over our handbooks and it should be noted that this work comes from the school councils who also worked with the handbook changes, some are minimal, just corrections.

Invited Guests

Joseph Osgood School 2023-2024 Handbook (Ms. Lisa Farrell)**

C-1

- Updated Staff List Pages 9-13
- Removed mention of hyperlinks relevant to the District Family Handbook
- Updated District Calendar link Page 14
- Addition to the Assessment Area-Early Literacy Screening Page 19
- Updated wording to include all grades have Trimester Progress Report Page 19
- Students in Kindergarten will now receive three (3) report cards opposed to two (2)
- Include a process for all visitors when checking into the building Page 23
- Change grade levels for school screening to include only Osgood students Page 21
- Updated link for Food Allergies Page 24
- Updated plagiarism information Page 28
- Addition of language to Possible Consequences Page 30

Cohasset Public Schools
Cohasset School Committee Meeting Minutes

Invited Guests

Joseph Osgood School 2023-2024 Handbook (Ms. Lisa Farrell)**

C-1

Ms. Lesky asks about the rationale using he, him, they, or she, theirs, in terms of if there is an assumption within these handbooks of binary gender or identification. Ms. Lesky was wondering whether or not the district would think about either just using they're as the pronoun or using, he, she, they, when referring to people. It sends a big message about inclusiveness without being extraordinarily disruptive. Ms. Lesky understands that these handbooks are probably ready to go out, but maybe for future thought.

Superintendent Patrick Sullivan responds that's fair and that's something we can certainly discuss, everybody here agrees with Ms. Lesky's point, we appreciate that. We want to be conscious of that and somehow, we must have overlooked that, Ms. Lesky hit it right on the head! It's a product of making sure that we had the substance correct and somehow that was an oversight. Dr. Sullivan says they can actually go back to the handbooks to make necessary edits, that's why we have the school committee look at these.

Our Jumpstart Program actually finished yesterday, it was great and went really well. We had 94 students that attended out of 107.

Invited Guests

Deer Hill School 2023-2024 Handbook (Mrs. Alexandra L. Sullivan)**

C-4

- Updated Staff Directory
- Removed all references and hyperlinks to the District Family Handbook
- Linked information letter regarding back loop procedures to car pick-up section
- Updated Attendance section to reference 10 and 15-day attendance letters
- Updated language to indicate that Handbook Acknowledgement form is published in Aspen
- Updated Homework section to include language regarding executive functioning skills
- Added "School Visitors" to heading that was previous "Volunteers and Chaperones" and updated with language about ID requirements for access to the building
- Updated language regarding School Council meetings from "monthly" to "throughout the year"
- Added a paragraph to the Assessment section to include information about Early Literacy Screening
- Added language to the Possible Consequences of the Code of Conduct section that underscores Deer Hill's commitment to keeping students engaged in the learning process.

Cohasset Public Schools
Cohasset School Committee Meeting Minutes

Invited Guests

Deer Hill School 2023-2024 Handbook (Mrs. Alexandra L. Sullivan)**

C-4

The Learning Commons project is going really well. It's painted, the moldings are in on the floor, we're just in a holding pattern until the furniture arrives. Principal Sullivan says that Facilities has been amazing, and she would like to give them a huge shout out in terms of their management of this project. We also had amazing work from CEF and again Principal Sullivan would like to give a shout out to Stephanie Allison. We have an agreement with CEF to build an art installation and the student body will participate in that. The expectation is over the course of the school year to work with our art teacher so that every child will have an opportunity to participate in the art installation that will reflect the space. Principal Sullivan would also like to give a shout out to Dee Riley who is a parent in the district, and she is Principal Sullivan's one-woman garden committee. Ms. Riley has been there at least once a week this summer and also Kennedy Gardens.

Dr. Sullivan can't thank the McNamara Family enough for this, it's a lovely gesture and an honor to Mrs. McNamara. This is going to have an impact on generations for years to come.

Invited Guests

Cohasset Middle School 2023-2024 Handbook (Mr. John Mills)**

C-3

- Updated General School Information Pages 13-16
- Updated School Year and Term Calendars
- Updated CMS Faculty Table
Explanation: Provide accurate information to foster effective school community communication
- Updated Visitors Section Page 17
- Inserted italicized text into this section as follows: All visitors entering the building are required to sign in using the Lobby Guard System in the Cohasset Middle School Main Office Lobby:
The Lobby Guard System requires visitors to present a government-issued photo identification, such as a driver's license.
Explanation: Provides parents with information that will contribute to a positive visit to CMS
- Updated Communications with the School Section Page 17
- Inserted italicized text into this section as follows: We encourage parents to communicate any problems or concerns they may have about their children's education. Teacher conferences, arranged by appointment *or as scheduled by the district*, are a good vehicle for communication.
Explanation: Reflects the parent-teacher conferences established in 2022-2023

Cohasset Public Schools
Cohasset School Committee Meeting Minutes

Invited Guests

Cohasset Middle School 2023-2024 Handbook (Mr. John Mills)**

C-3

Updated CMS Plagiarism Policy Page 21-22

Deleted the following text:

Cohasset Middle School follows the guidelines set by the Modern Language Association as presented in the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, which states that a student has plagiarized if he/she

- ◆ has taken notes that did not distinguish summary and paraphrase from quotation and then presented wording from the notes as if it were the student’s own.
- ◆ Copied text while browsing the Web and passed it into a paper without quotation marks or without citing the source;
- ◆ has presented facts without saying where they came from
- ◆ has repeated or paraphrased someone’s wording without proper acknowledgement;
- ◆ has paraphrased someone’s argument or presented someone’s line of thought without proper acknowledgement; or
- ◆ has bought or otherwise acquired a research paper and handed in part or all of it as his/her own.

Replaced it with the following text:

Cohasset Middle School follows the guidelines set by the Modern Language Association as presented in the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers 9th edition* (2021), which states that “Plagiarism is presenting another person’s ideas, words, or entire work as your own” (139). “Another person” in this definition is not limited to a single person but may be two or more persons as well as a digital resource such as but not limited to an artificial intelligence program.

Explanation: The simpler, more direct current MLA definition is more accessible and applicable for our students and faculty and includes potential use of artificial intelligence resources for plagiarism.

Modified the following text:

In each instance of plagiarism, the teacher will contact the parent/caregiver, explain the situation, and submit a discipline referral. Penalty: first penalties will be determined by the teacher in consultation with the department chair. Penalties may include receiving a “0” for the work with no option to make up the work. Subsequent penalties will be handled by the department chair in consultation with building administration.

Cohasset Public Schools
Cohasset School Committee Meeting Minutes

Invited Guests

Cohasset Middle School 2023-2024 Handbook (Mr. John Mills)**

C-3

Updated text: (modified/inserted language in **bold text**)

In each instance of plagiarism, the teacher will contact the parent/caregiver, explain the situation, and submit a discipline referral. Penalty: first penalties will be determined by the teacher in consultation with the department chair and **CMS administration**. Penalties may include **but will not be limited** to receiving a “0” for the work with no option to make up the work. **Subsequent incidents with a student will be the responsibility of school administration in collaboration with the department chair.**

Explanation: Shifting responsibility for managing student incidents to CMS administration allows for a more consistent approach to this issue when it occurs.

Cell Phones Page 24-25 - Inserted the following text:

We appreciate our parents’ support for our “Away for the Day” practice. However, as technology continues to evolve, students can also be distracted by smart watches and online messaging applications accessible on students’ BYOD devices. We ask our parents to support their students in the following ways:

- ◆refrain from directly texting students during school hours. Please call the CMS Main Office (781-236-1070) and messages will be relayed to students without disrupting the learning process;
- ◆reconsider whether students need to bring smart watches to school as they constitute a major distraction to middle school students as they provide access to the same applications as cell phones;
- ◆actively manage the student’s BYOD device. Restrictions can be set on laptops so students cannot access certain apps/website during school hours.

Explanation: CMS’s “Away for the Day” is a central part of our school culture. However, as technology becomes more sophisticated, it is critical to renew our commitment to work with parents in providing a learning environment for our students with minimal distractions and disruptions.

Most importantly, we encourage parents to discuss with their children how important it is to avoid letting technology negatively impact them during the school day. Academic achievement is undermined when learning is frequently disrupted and distracted by inappropriate technology use. We are trying to develop students who are engaged in their learning, can meaningfully communicate in person, maintain healthy, respectful relationships, and can limit their use of technology to productive pursuits. We appreciate our parent community’s help in their endeavor.

Cohasset Public Schools
Cohasset School Committee Meeting Minutes

Invited Guests

Cohasset Middle School 2023-2024 Handbook (Mr. John Mills)**

C-3

Insert Technology Section into General Information Section – Page 26-27

Inserted the following section:

Technology

The Cohasset Public Schools fully realizes the potential of technology devices as a tool to inspire learning and create independent, critical thinkers who are prepared to be successful individuals in society. To ensure that students are prepared to meet these expectations, Cohasset’s Technology Plan has incorporated a BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) initiative in Grades 6-12. A BYOD initiative is one in which students bring their own devices to and from school so that they can be utilized in their classes. Please note that a cell phone does not meet the needs of the BYOD Program. Please review the section on cell phones above.

CMS students utilize and integrate technology into many aspects of their school day and are expected to demonstrate responsible digital citizenship. More information about the BYOD Program can be found [here](#). Students are expected to use technology responsibly and appropriately. Students and families are encouraged to review the [District Technology Network Access and Acceptable Use Policy](#).

Being prepared for a successful day at CMS includes bringing an appropriate and charged device to school each day. However, if a student’s device breaks during the school day, the CMS Main Office will lend out a Chromebook for the school day. Students are expected to leave a cell phone on their device as collateral ensuring that the device is returned at the end of the school day. A student who does not return the loaner device at the end of the school day will be assigned an office detention to be served on the next school day.

Explanation: The CMS Handbook lacked a section specifically presenting the BYOD policy. The inserted language provides a convenient place for users to learn about BYOD and the District Acceptable Use Policy.

Description of Infractions Named in Conduct Table – Pages 30-35

Inserted the following text regarding **Bus Violations**:

Bus Violations

Please refer to School Committee Policy [Student Conduct on School Buses \(EEAEC\)](#)

Explanation: There previously was no information describing the District Policy on Student Conduct on School Buses in the Handbook other than inclusion in the table of infractions. Inclusion of School Committee Policy provides transparency and emphasizes the serious nature of the infraction.

Cohasset Public Schools
Cohasset School Committee Meeting Minutes

Invited Guests

Cohasset Middle School 2023-2024 Handbook (Mr. John Mills)**

C-3

Inserted the following text regarding Meal Card Violations:

Meal Card Violations

The Cohasset Public School district recognizes the importance of child nutrition and how that directly relates to a successful learning environment. Because of this, the Food Services department will strive to make sure all students receive a lunch regardless of meal card account balances. Students are forbidden from charging the meal card account of another student to purchase meals, snacks, etc. for themselves. Students found in violation will be assigned disciplinary consequences.

Students and parents are encouraged to learn more about the School Committee *Meal Charge Policy* (EFD) by clicking [here](#).

Explanation: There previously was no information concerning Meal Card Violations in the Handbook however, CMS experienced this issue several times recently.

Inserted the following description of Vandalism:

Vandalism

Every citizen of the town, staff members, students, and members of the police department are urged by the School Committee to cooperate in reporting any incidents of vandalism to property under control of the school department, and the name(s) of the person or persons believed to be responsible. Each employee will report to the principal of the school every incident of vandalism known to him/her and, if known, the names of those responsible.

The Superintendent is authorized to sign a criminal complaint and to press the charges against perpetrators of vandalism against school property, and is further authorized to delegate, as he/she sees fit, authority to sign such complaints and to press charges.

Parents and students will be made aware of the legal implications involved. Reimbursement will be sought for all or part of any damages. (School Committee Policy ECAC).

Explanation: There previously was no information about vandalism in the Handbook other than inclusion in the table of infractions. Inclusion of School Committee Policy provides transparency and emphasizes the serious nature of the infraction.

Mr. Carr asks if all the plans in the handbooks are consistent with things like best practices. Do they all say the same general thing?

Cohasset Public Schools
Cohasset School Committee Meeting Minutes

Invited Guests

Cohasset Middle School 2023-2024 Handbook (Mr. John Mills)**

C-3

Mr. Carr addresses that he's a liaison with the Select Board and attended a meeting last evening and asks members of the Cohasset School Committee, and School Administration if they're aware, or heard from the town they'll begin digging up street in front of Cohasset Middle School. The town is finally fixing the school sewer problem there and hopefully this will be completely finished when school starts, he overheard it should take 2 weeks. Also, some parking limitations were put out there, and it will become problematic with trucks and their equipment, starting tomorrow! The contractor was awarded this contract days ago and was going to start this today! They alluded to the fact that we would need to park somewhere else for the next two (2) weeks.

Principal Mills says this will affect any sort of deliveries of food to the cafeteria.

Vice Chair, Craig MacLellan says he's glad Mr. Carr brought this up and identified it. Any construction projects that impact this district property, couple of weeks before we start school would be the best procedure to run this by our Superintendent of Schools and/or this school committee, so that we could then run it by the Superintendent of Schools because otherwise it could adversely impact school operations. This is why it's helpful if people let you know if they're going to be digging up district property. We're thankful that the sewer problem is being rectified. The communication is troubling because that is going to impact the district wide school event. It's also going to be a hazard if there's a hole with young children running around and he can imagine there's going to be some torn up asphalt at the edge of that parking lot in front of CMS. That is where the ice cream trucks were last year.

Mr. Carr says he was totally surprised to hear this as well and talked with a very nice fellow named Brian Joyce who's at the town hall and managing this project. Mr. Carr is very surprised that the town didn't call the school administration about this already.

Dr. Sullivan addresses that this will be a problem for our upcoming Ice Cream Social scheduled for next Tuesday, August 15th, it probably won't work on the alumni field. Dr. Sullivan will be making a phone call tomorrow morning and will get some information and maybe do a total retraction for our Ice Cream School Social, which is unfortunate.

Mr. Kearney was wondering if CMS or the district would consider, or possibly look into having a wellness day, or a mental health day for the students. The idea of this is, if a kid needs a day off from school and is stressed out, they shouldn't have to claim they're sick, they should just need to say they're stressed out and need a day off.

Cohasset Public Schools
Cohasset School Committee Meeting Minutes

Invited Guests

Cohasset Middle School 2023-2024 Handbook (Mr. John Mills)**

C-3

Principal Scott says they've had conversations around this with Safe Harbor. Conceptually, Principal Scott understands where they're coming from. What Principal Scott is more concerned about is the underlying reasons as to why. Are they not coming to school because they didn't study for the test, and they're stressed out. Are you not coming to school because of some other kind of anxiety. Principal Scott would rather work through that, rather than the student taking the day off.

Principal Mills notes that the school committee policy on reasons to have an absence excused. The school system built a certain number of days before we get to 5 days, we sign a letter and in 10 days, this becomes a meeting.

Superintendent Patrick Sullivan says that students have a number of days that they can do that, and that family can make that determination without having an impact on high school credits. We always want to try to advocate for helping kids so they can come to school. The question is, do we create that as an excused absence, or is that just one of the absences that we know students can have. Mr. Kearney is hitting it right on the money with the need to be attentive to student wellness needs, and to have those discussions with students. That's what we've been talking a lot about the importance of student voice this upcoming year, that certainly rings true for this. We certainly want students to come to school, because you can't teach a student who's not in school.

Ms. Lesky points out to page 47 in the CMS handbook with extracurriculars participation. It says, it's marked with an unexcused absence. What happens if the absence is excused? For example, a child misses a day to attend a funeral and comes back and wants to play soccer practice.

Principal Mills says we're a middle school where most of our extracurriculars are clubs. We do have a cross-country team, but it's a club.

Mr. MacLellan says for the middle school in particular, this becomes a unique, developmental sort of grouping. The handbook that CMS has with the changes just underscores Principal Mills sensitivity and awareness in everything he does and is what makes him such a strong middle school principal, and we're really lucky to have him. Mr. MacLellan loves the cell phone changes because for many families, not all, it's a family specific determination. For many families, this is the age range in which kids would start to get their own phones. It's reflective of Principal Mills sensitivity to that overall developmental bracket that he's in charge, it's a huge strength of his and very palpable in everything Principal Mills does.

Cohasset Public Schools
Cohasset School Committee Meeting Minutes

Invited Guests

Cohasset High School 2023-2024 Handbook (Mr. Brian Scott)**

C-2

Principal Scott and Principal Mills mirrored handbooks, so changes made were procedurally on the same page.

- Removed Saturday School as a detention option.
- Added consequences for unexcused dismissals to align with tardies.
- Added language around restorative justice practices.
- Added language around Artificial Intelligence as a form of cheating.

Ms. Lesky is super excited to see across the board in the handbooks, practices of restorative justice being used as a method for behavior management. That's really sort of where things are right now. It's a wonderful way to work with children around the damage they're doing when they make poor choices, versus more traditional consequences.

Mr. MacLellan recognizes all of the principals here tonight for their efforts on behalf of the school committee. While many people are on summer vacation, in the education realm, our principals are working hard for many hours over the summer to ensure their buildings are run properly and are ready to go. Everyone and all the students hit the ground running on day one. All our principals, which have already been pointed out to Principal Mills, a master of their own age development bracket that they're in for every single student that's in their school. Mr. MacLellan has seen each principal interact with students, they know all the students by name and their situations, and any sort of special needs, or concerns. We are very, very appreciative of all our principals here. Thank you for everything they do for our children in our district.

Motion made by Mr. Carr to approve all four (4) handbooks as presented by our four (4) principals here at today's school committee meeting, August 9, 2023 with the addition of the proposed revision made by Ms. Lesky, seconded by Ms. Lesky.

Aye-All

School Updates - School News (Dr. Patrick Sullivan)

There are a few major projects that are happening that are important. The vestibule at Osgood School is in full construction, and will be a functioning, appropriate looking vestibule which was pointed out as something that should really be updated to the state-of-the-art security and safety measures. Also, to make it quite frankly, the same as the other schools. We'll be able to have a face-to-face interaction with an individual in a vestibule that has shatterproof and protective glass.

Cohasset Public Schools

Cohasset School Committee Meeting Minutes

School Updates - School News (Dr. Patrick Sullivan)

This just gives us another layer of security where we can have a face-to-face interaction with someone while they're putting in their information to show they should be in the schools before we push the button to let somebody in, as opposed to doing that in a place where we aren't able to have a face-to-face interaction. This is a much safer scenario, not to mention it's a safe transaction for a situation where folks can come in and drop something off and not actually enter the school building, and there's a lot of reasons for it. Dr. Sullivan is thrilled that this will be ready and going and thankful for the town for supporting it and also for the school committee for advocating for it, because it was important.

Principal Sullivan mentioned the Susan McNamara Innovation Commons at the Deer Hill School which is going to be wonderful. This won't be totally ready by the start of school, but within a month it will be, and it will be a real showpiece for many generations of kids coming to Deer Hill School. It's really a fitting setup now for what is one of the best spaces in the district in terms of the ways it's set up with the windows for natural light and that area is beautiful.

The middle and high school project may not be recognized as much, the upper Café which is referred to as the Senior Café is having brand new furniture there. There's a lower lobby area which is going to be a much more collaborative learning space because of the furniture that is being put in there. They're also in big need of an upgrade to the faculty room and we're working hard to try to make that happen as well.

Dr. Scollins addresses part of the plan to make sure that our technology is updated so the middle school will be getting interactive and those will be in all the classrooms.

Superintendent Patrick Sullivan would also like to thank Mr. Kearney for his work for the new fitness center that went from one of the oldest facilities that needed a lot of work to really being up there with the best workout rooms on the South Shore. The fitness center is a very nice exercise area that's going to be beneficial not only to students working out there before and after school, but for our Phys Ed classes and our Health classes. Like anything in schools these are community resources which is great.

Mr. MacLellan also thanks Mr. Kearney, in his opinion the fitness center wouldn't have happened without Mr. Kearney, especially with the celebrity with which was accomplished.

Mr. Kearney is thankful and would also like to thank all the custodians, Steve Rotondi, Sue Owen, and Dr. Sullivan, for their collaboration with the fitness center. This will help so many kids now and will be open on Tuesday's and Thursdays 3-5 p.m.

Cohasset Public Schools

Cohasset School Committee Meeting Minutes

School Updates - School News (Dr. Patrick Sullivan)

Right now, the plan for our Ice Cream Social will be on Tuesday, August 15, 2023 5:30-6:30 PM at CMS for students, staff, and faculty from the Joseph Osgood School, Deer Hill, and Middle and High Schools to kick off the new school year! Potentially this event could be impacted but we'll adjust as we need to. This is really a nice event where we're such a close-knit community and this is really for us giving back to the community, and just saying how much we care about everybody, we're all one. It's a good time for us to introduce our leadership team a little bit. There will be activities run by some of our National Honors Society students who are volunteering and doing some great work to set up games for the younger kids. Then of course, Principal Farrell came up with a teddy-bear picnic that will be there as well.

Dr. Sullivan will keep everybody updated if adjustments are needed for the Ice Cream Social.

We have our Superintendent's Coffee coming up that will be held on Wednesday, September 6, 2023 from 5:00-6:00 p.m. in the Learning Commons at the Cohasset middle and high school (immediately preceding the Cohasset School Committee meeting).

School Updates

2023-2024 Hiring Update (Dr. Patrick Sullivan)

D-1

We've hired new positions with a little bit more turnover this year than we've had in the past. Some retirements, with no trouble filling them. Dr. Sullivan says we have the creme of the crop here, the teachers have been amazing! We have some positions to fill, we still have to hire like ESP's, some of them are recent departures. We have a Tech Support Technician position that Mr. Menard will hire. We recently received a leave of absence teacher at the high school, so we're hiring a long-term substitute for that teacher on a leave of absence. We're in the hunt for a high school Science teacher. We do have an Elementary Special Education teacher. We're struggling a little bit for a .5 trainer to be hired. Talking with Steve Rotondi that is a need, everybody had the same need that we did. They have MIA needs, the trainer to be with the football team and we need a trainer available for all our teams, so it's a high demand position. We're sitting in a good spot right now. There are a couple of big hires we need to hire here that we need to fill. The big three positions we need to hire are two (2) Special Education Teacher positions and a science teacher.

Teaching and Learning

Academic Initiatives / Updates (Dr. Leslie Scollins)

Elementary Literacy:

There are a lot of things happening with some bigger initiatives happening around academic pieces. In Elementary Literacy we'll be continuing our work in Readers Workshop. The Osgood School will be in year 1, we piloted it last year, and all staff will be participating.

Cohasset Public Schools
Cohasset School Committee Meeting Minutes

Teaching and Learning

Academic Initiatives / Updates (Dr. Leslie Scollins)

Elementary Literacy:

The Deer Hill School will be in year 2 and we've already coordinated with TLA, Teaching Learning and Alliance, the professional consultants we've been working with.

We have a really solid Professional Development including full-day workshops on our full days with teachers, we're excited about that, even including some new teacher training because obviously we need to catch people up.

Elementary Math:

Heggerty will be in year 2, which is a phonemic awareness program at the Osgood School.

The I-Ready Personalized Learning will be replacing Lexia, which is what we've used in the past. We felt that moving to the I-Ready made sense because that is a diagnostic dialogue and that will be happening in Math. Also, we will be adding the I-Ready Personalized Learning that will be replacing Dreambox. The Osgood School will be in year 1, and we piloted this last year at Deer Hill.

Elementary Social Studies:

We are working with DESE, DESE came out with Investigating History for grades 5-7 and we wrote a grant with Scituate and Hingham, and we'll be working with Scituate this year, and then working with Hingham next year. The thought is that this grant will also be available for us the following year. We'll be collaborating, which is really nice, in particular for a district like ours where we're so small, we'll be working with two different towns next year, Scituate and Hingham.

Middle School Math:

At our Middle School there's a lot happening. We received a grant of \$23,000 and we'll be implementing a new Math Program, which will be [Illustrative Math] and teachers will be coming in for training next week for 3 days.

Middle School History:

We received a grant of \$26,900 for [Investigating History] for grades 6-7.

Middle School Science:

We're continuing our [OpenSciEd] and we'll be in year 2. We'll also have a new 6th grade teacher. We received a great grant of \$26,600 with the hope of working with BC. They have a program and in the past, we have not been able to even apply for the grant because we did not fall into the criteria around our economics. The fact that we were given money and able to participate in this is really big!

Cohasset Public Schools
Cohasset School Committee Meeting Minutes

Teaching and Learning

Academic Initiatives / Updates (Dr. Leslie Scollins)

High School – New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC):

Really focusing on their report and creating an action plan based on the recommendations made by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges. They had their study last year and they'll be doing a lot of work related to that.

Other Initiatives:

We have an addition to a new Preschool classroom, and we'll be looking at the current curriculum and collaborating to look at that curriculum, working with Professional Development Consultants to do that. We're hoping to partner with a couple of other towns also, because again, we're so small and it would be really nice for us to work with them. We also received a grant from METCO of \$15,000 for [Restorative Justice] and only 5 or 6 of us received that grant, which is really amazing.

We already have this at the high school, but we really want to get teachers trained and use responsiveness in our classrooms at the elementary level which is also Restorative Justice Practices. This is a nice way of aligning what we're doing in our practices. This will allow us to get teachers trained, we're going to start out small and grow it out over time. There are some teachers that really want us to do this, and *Tara Noyce* and *Kate Salas* have been instrumental in helping with this and of course, *Aleisa Gittens-Carle*.

We'll also have a new website, we have a new provider and we'll be working on that migration. This probably won't be ready till after the first of the year, Dr. Scollins will be putting together a team with that.

We'll be doing our curriculum review process for health and wellness for phase one, which is self-study. We're really excited about that, and Dr. Scollins met with *Toren Sweeney*, Department Chair, yesterday to talk a little about that.

Ms. Lesky asks if Dr. Scollins is maintaining some licenses of Lexia for kids with special learning disabilities. [Dr. Scollins reiterates yes].

Mr. Kearney comments that Dr. Scollins does a wonderful job with these grants. Since he's been sitting on the school committee for 5 years, he's always bringing up ideas for grants for wellness, that helped him put a wellness committee together. The district should really understand and he's glad that Dr. Scollins pointed this out, the results are awesome!

Cohasset Public Schools
Cohasset School Committee Meeting Minutes

Teaching and Learning

Academic Initiatives / Updates (Dr. Leslie Scollins)

Mr. MacLellan asks Dr. Scollins relative to elementary literacy, are we still going to expect an update looking back on the initial year of that roll out, how it went, an evaluation of what that is, and whether we need to make any adjustments towards the beginning of the academic year.

Mr. MacLellan doesn't recall that we noted that replacement of Lexia before today, publicly? His personal input as a member is if we recall, there was some apprehension about the way in which we rolled out the literacy shift, he personally views this as a failure in the way we did that. This is something that we should have used, sort of like a multi-face approach to do. This is just one smaller element of it and it was something that we were talking about I-Ready that was certainly no secret that we were using that, and piloting that. Mr. MacLellan thinks district families are especially sensitive to major curricular areas like literacy or math and any changes within the curriculum. Mr. MacLellan asks can we try to be especially sensitive to that moving forward because any changes that we're able to give an advanced notice to our families so that if they want to weigh in about this or ask questions about why we did it or what other possibilities or candidates we looked at, Mr. MacLellan would appreciate that.

Dr. Scollins says absolutely, Lexia is something that DESE does recommend and that was the other piece to this. It's one of the programs that they give high recommendations too, so it made sense to move to that. It's important for families to know why we did it and that we've made.

Mr. MacLellan states we're adhering to and committing to consistent and ongoing monitoring of that and that will be reflected in a presentation to talk about, not to deliver at this point.

Budget, Resources and Governance

Appointment of New School Facilities Committee Members**

Vice Chair, Craig MacLellan addresses that we have nominees for our School Facilities Committee. This is to replace Mr. Kearney and himself on that committee because Ms. Lesky was also on it, and that would have created a problem from an open meeting perspective. Also, there were some concerns about the nominating committee having 2 serving members as its nominees. It was done as sort of an emergency measure when the school facilities committee was first formed because there wasn't an abundance of interest there. We're trying to populate it again and get a meeting. Now, it's been rolling and there was some other interest and we found 2 other candidates that were willing to do that.

Cohasset Public Schools
Cohasset School Committee Meeting Minutes

Budget, Resources and Governance

Appointment of New School Facilities Committee Members**

Their names are Melissa McDonough and Jen Boylan, who are both district parents and both very involved. They've expressed their interest in doing this and participating on that level, to which we welcome.

Motion made by Mr. Kearney to appoint Ms. Boylan and Ms. McDonough as the two (2) new members of the Cohasset School Facilities Committee, seconded by Mr. Carr.

Aye-All

[Mr. Carr states that the school committee must submit a form to the town clerk for both Ms. Boylan and Ms. McDonough and after they have taken the Ethics online course before they can be sworn in on the School Facilities Committee, which is a new format to the town.] Mr. MacLellan will inform Jason Earls, Chairperson of the School Facilities Committee.

Budget, Resources and Governance

Disposal of Surplus Materials (Principal Alexandra Sullivan)

F-1

This request comes from Principal Alexandra Sullivan at the Deer Hill School to dispose of 3,101 titles from the former Deer Hill library. Principal Sullivan says they are completely outdated, and not used at all. They are taking up much needed space so that we can convert our facility into a more modern Innovation Commons.

Motion made by Mr. Carr to approve the disposal of surplus property (M.G.L. Chapter 30B) identified by Principal Alexandra Sullivan on Materials F-1 on the August 9, 2023 agenda, seconded by Ms. Lesky.

Aye-All

Disposal of Surplus Materials (Principal Lisa Farrell)

Dr. Patrick Sullivan addresses the school committee there is also an elite request from the Osgood School for disposal of surplus materials. The materials are in concert with the reading change, curriculum change using a very antiquated 2011 text called Reading Street and there are 933 texts, 36 sets of teacher manuals, and 327 decodable texts that really are antiquated and not of use. Principal Farrell would like to have permission to dispose of them.

Motion made by Mr. Carr to approve the disposal of materials identified on the disposable surplus materials form submitted by Principal Farrell at the Osgood School in accordance with (M.G.L. Chapter 30B), seconded by Mr. Kearney.

Aye-All

Cohasset Public Schools

Cohasset School Committee Meeting Minutes

Budget, Resources and Governance

Budget and Finance - *Ms. Owen is absent, therefore no finance to report to school committee.*

Food Service - Mr. Kearney would like to give a shout out to Governor Maura Healey for working with state legislators to get food funded, another \$251 million dollars for Massachusetts school kids that will really help us. Mr. Kearney would like to see some after-school programs evolve around Food Services.

Mr. MacLellan and Mr. Kearney will be meeting with the Food Services Department to see new concepts for our Elementary schools because they're going to start rolling that way and we're going to see that take form in October, 2023. We're looking forward to seeing what their action plan was because they've done a fairly great job at the middle and high school levels. The Elementary school offerings and programs are still needed for improvement.

Transportation - None

Report from School Facilities Committee – None

Community Relations / Communication

Reports from School Committee Sub-Committees and Liaisons

Mr. Carr attended a Select Board meeting last evening and they approved asphalt and curb work in another part of town. They are looking to do more with some grant money, and they need a list of prioritizations that would likely take place next Spring, 2024. Mr. Carr is hoping the committee can work with the school on a list of prioritizations of any. There's an opportunity for us to be there on this list.

School Committee Governance

Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair - None

Approval of Minutes** - None

Mr. Carr says they're relatively all caught up in the minutes with only the last couple of minutes that are still being worked on, but Kathy has been wonderful. Mr. Carr states there were a lot of minutes that we already approved, that have been filed back, but we're behind on them posting them to the website.

Mr. MacLellan says that sounds like the town would handle that, the Agenda Center where the minutes and agendas can be found on cohassetma.org and that is handled by the town. Mr. MacLellan says Mr. Carr can contact the town manager's office and either Tracy or Michelle Leary will be able to guide Mr. Carr in the right direction there. He can reach out to Mrs. St. Onge, the former secretary who may be aware of this as well.

Cohasset Public Schools
Cohasset School Committee Meeting Minutes

School Committee Governance

Future Agenda Items

Mr. Carr would like to discuss matters of Massachusetts teachers who are supporting a ballot initiative to remove MCAS. Also, touch base on how the METCO program is going.

Mr. Kearney would like the school committee to educate more about teenage drinking. Hoping to have Safe Harbors come to one of our school committee meetings to talk about substance abuse in schools. Maybe we can have the principals here give their thoughts about it.

Dr. Sullivan says this topic highlights our relationship with Safe Harbors.

Dr. Scollins likes the idea of having the elementary principals here on this topic because it actually begins then, and that's where you have your captive audience.

Mr. Lesky would like to look at data from the surveys that they've done recently. Looking at the data to see if there are any trends. Ms. Lesky would love to hear just sort of an overview of the Arts for grades K-12 to understand how it can be better done, and what the faculty would like to do more of to support to do more of.

Dr. Sullivan reminds everyone on the school committee that we have our wellness curriculum to review too.

Executive Session¹: - No Reason

Adjourn**

Motion made by Mr. Carr to adjourn the August 9, 2023 meeting of the Cohasset School Committee, seconded by Ms. Lesky.

Aye-All

School Committee Meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

****Requires Committee Vote / Action**

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

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

DRAFT

Respectfully Submitted by Kathy Bock on August 13, 2023