



**Cohasset Public Schools**  
143 Pond Street  
Cohasset, MA 02025  
*Continuing the Commitment to Excellence*  
**Cohasset School Committee Meeting**

**School Committee Minutes**

Wednesday, 6/3/2020

Zoom Video Call

Virtual Meeting – 143TV/Zoom/Facebook Live Stream

**In Attendance:**

Ellen Maher, Chairman  
Jennifer Madden  
Paul Kearney  
Craig MacLellan  
Ashley Colleary

**Also, in Attendance:**

Dr. Patrick Sullivan, Superintendent  
Dr. Leslie Scollins, Assistant Superintendent  
Michael MacMillan, Director of Finance & Operations

Chairman Maher called the meeting to order at 7:03p.m. She stated the meeting is being held remotely under the Town's Declaration of Emergency. All votes will be taken by roll call vote. This meeting is being live streamed on Cohasset 143TV and Facebook. **Roll Call Vote; Paul Kearney-Present, Ashley Colleary-present, Ellen Maher-present, Jennifer Madden, present, Craig MacLellan-Present.**

**Public Comment-** Mrs. Colleary read a statement regarding racism and the tragic death of George Floyd.

**Superintendent's Report-Student School Committee Representative-Update-** Ms. Curley gave an update about the Senior events that have happened over the last two weeks. Ms. Curley stated that in response to Mrs. Colleary's earlier statement, she feels that because she has this platform, she would like to voice how impressed she is with her fellow classmates and the Cohasset community by their actions over the last few days in showing support over social media and demonstrating downtown. She mentioned her participation with the Diversity Committee and other activism groups, and she feels there has been a lot of progress made but more strides need to be made and she looks forward to submitting her ideas to administration in the future. Mrs. Colleary stated that she hopes that Ms. Curley does share her ideas and looks forward to them. Chairman Maher asked if there were words of wisdom that Ms. Curley would offer underclassmen having experienced remote learning and dealing with next year not knowing what is to come. Ms. Curley stated that Senior year is about coming together as a class and having class unity, she wished that she embraced that earlier on and would recommend other students take advantage of that. Superintendent Dr. Sullivan stated that they are awaiting more guidance from the Commissioner but knows that remote learning will be playing some part in what the plan is moving forward.

**Presentation regarding Deer Hill Instructional Model-** Assistant Superintendent Leslie Scollins and Principal Alexandra Sullivan gave an update on the Deer Hill Instruction Model. There have been multiple shifting instructional models over the years. The leadership team looked for what was in the best interest of the children. They communicated their intention to examine the instructional models with the intent of building consistency to the Staff, School Council and CTA. They conducted a listening tour which included small groups of stakeholders including individual grade level teachers, SPED Teachers, Reading Specialists, Math and other Specialist Teachers. Once the listening tour was completed, they communicated the decision to establish a consistent, self-contained model. Principal Sullivan mentioned that some of the reasons why leadership made this decision was so a stronger consistency and alignment



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of curriculum could take place in all areas vertically and horizontally Prek-12. It allows for flexibility in scheduling so that deep dives and project-based learning can occur. It gives the ability to provide meaningful collaboration and grade level teaming and student groupings that are grounded in differentiation. It supports recognition of student needs. It will allow for professional development, training and implementation of the new math curriculum by all classroom teachers. Teachers will have better accountability for student performance and progress as well as the social emotional wellbeing of students. Principal Sullivan mentioned that out of the 81 South Shore principals that were queried, 32 responded and 90.6% have a self-contained model to some degree in their buildings, 46.8% have a departmentalized model to some degree and 59.4% have a consistent model across all grade levels. The Committee had a lengthy discussion.

**Enrollment Quarterly Update-** Superintendent Dr. Sullivan gave an update and mentioned that there have not been any big changes to enrollment. Mr. Kearney asked about any enrollment changes due to private Catholic schools in the surrounding areas closing. Mr. MacMillan stated that the numbers aren't big enough to make much of a difference due to the schools in the district being on the smaller side.

**Faculty Hiring Update-** Superintendent Dr. Sullivan stated that they are in a great spot regarding faculty. He mentioned that there has been a retirement announcement recently at the Elementary School that will be posted soon. Dr. Sullivan stated that Barbara Cerwonka was hired as the Director of Student Services and she will start on July 1, 2020. A Middle School Spanish/French Teacher, Middle School Counselor, High School Science Teacher, Kindergarten Teacher and a First Grade Teacher have been hired since the last update. Mr. Kearney asked about the hiring of a part-time custodian. Dr. Sullivan stated that they are waiting until the vote on the budget from Town Meeting before hiring any new positions.

**Finance- Monthly Update-** Mr. MacMillan gave an update on the May budget and stated that they are at 80.35% of the total operating budget, this compares to 81.01% in FY19, 78.93% in FY18 and 76.81% in FY17. He mentioned that at this rate of expenditure there is likely to be a surplus at the end of the year. The reduction in actual expenditure this year is driven by the reduction in the major categories of Supplies, and Other and a fall in the Utility expenditure. The COVID-19 school closures play a significant role in this as do the ongoing savings from the Town's investment in solar energy. Mr. MacMillan stated that approximately 50% of the encumbered amount for SPED transportation is likely to be unspent due to reductions in costs caused by school closures. Mr. MacMillan reviewed Grants and Revolving Accounts and stated there is only one fund balance showing a deficit at the end of May. This is the Safer School Grant, the funds have been received by the Town, however, there has been a delay in them being posted to the fund. He stated that this should be resolved shortly. The Safer Schools Grant funded the installation of security cameras at the Middle/High School.

**Bus Maintenance-** Mr. MacMillan stated that there has not been any expenditure on the maintenance of the vehicles for the month of May. All buses passed the regularly scheduled school bus inspection this month.

**Major Projects-** Mr. MacMillan gave an update on current school projects. The 7D vehicle, Middle School Entrance upgrades, PA System upgrades, Osgood Playground, FY21 Bus Fees & Routes and Fee Reimbursement are all in progress. The Alarm System and Safety Camera upgrades have been completed. A vendor has been awarded for the Water Fountains installation and the parts have been ordered. A new vendor has been awarded for the Trash Collection and Disposal Contract and there will likely be a



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significant savings. He stated that they are still in the procurement phase for the CMHS Auditorium Projector and High School Cafeteria – painting and lighting upgrade projects.

#### **School Committee Comments and Communication- School Committee 2020-2021 Meeting**

**Schedule-** The School Committee reviewed and approved the upcoming 2020-2021 calendar. Mrs. Madden asked Dr. Sullivan to differentiate the Kindergarten information on the calendar.

**Reports from Sub-Committee and Liaisons-** Mrs. Colleary stated that Cohasset Clergy have teamed up and put together an Interfaith Peace Vigil on Saturday June 6, 2020 at 11:00am on the Town Common. Chairman Maher stated all Committee Members will be invited to attend the Board of Selectmen Meeting on Tuesday, June 9<sup>th</sup> to present the School Facility Committee reconstitution. She mentioned that the last meeting of the year is on June 17<sup>th</sup> and they will be conducting Superintendent Dr. Sullivan's Year-End Evaluation. She stated they will also be recapping their performance against their goals and some of their other accomplishments throughout the year. They will also have an Executive Session for the approval of Minutes for all of their E Sessions. Chairman Maher mentioned starting the meeting at 6:00pm instead of 7:00pm. Mr. Kearney mentioned he has not been getting a zoom invite or the agendas emailed prior to the meetings. Mrs. Madden stated that the link is now on the agendas. Mr. MacMillan stated that each committee member receives a personal invitation on the Monday before the meeting. Mr. Kearney would also like to return to reciting the Pledge of Allegiance at the beginning of the meetings and asked how public comment is being handled with the virtual meetings? Chairman Maher stated that she will reach out to other Boards and Committees to see how they have been offering public comments.

**Approval of Minutes- Motion by Mr. Kearney to approve the minutes of 4/15/2020, Seconded by Mrs. Madden. Roll Call Vote; Paul Kearney- Aye, Ashley Colleary- Aye, Ellen Maher- Aye, Jennifer Madden- Aye, Craig MacLellan- Aye.**

**Motion by Mr. MacLellan to approve the minutes of 5/06/2020, Seconded by Mrs. Madden. Roll Call Vote; Paul Kearney- Aye, Ashley Colleary- Aye, Ellen Maher- Aye, Jennifer Madden- Aye, Craig MacLellan- Aye.**

**Motion by Mrs. Madden to approve the minutes of 5/12/20, Seconded by Mr. MacLellan. Roll Call Vote; Paul Kearney- Aye, Ashley Colleary- Aye, Ellen Maher- Aye, Jennifer Madden- Aye, Craig MacLellan- Aye.**

**Motion by Mr. MacLellan to approve the minutes of 5/13/20, Seconded by Mr. Kearney. Roll Call Vote; Paul Kearney- Aye, Ashley Colleary- Aye, Ellen Maher- Aye, Jennifer Madden- Aye, Craig MacLellan- Aye.**

**Motion by Mr. Kearney to adjourn the 8:56pm, Seconded by Mr. MacLellan. Roll Call Vote; Paul Kearney- Aye, Ashley Colleary- Aye, Ellen Maher- Aye, Jennifer Madden- Aye, Craig MacLellan- Aye.**

#### **Documents Used at the Meeting**

Enrollment Update	B-1
Faculty Hiring Update	B-2
Monthly Update	C-1
Bus Maintenance	C-2



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School Committee 2020/2021 Meeting schedule

D-1