



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

School Committee Minutes

Wednesday, June 17, 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
Susan Owen, Incoming Director of Finance & Operations
Brian Scott, High School Principal
Tara Noyes, Assistant High School Principal
John Mills, Middle School Principal
Kate Salas, Assistant Middle School Principal
Alexandra Sullivan, Deer Hill Principal
Lisa Farrell, Osgood Principal
Steve Rotondi, Athletic Director
Aleisa Gittens-Carle, METCO Director

Chairman Maher called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.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.**

Motion made by Mr. MacLellan at 5:03 pm to move to Executive Session for Exemption #2 and #3, strategy related to negotiations with non-union and union personnel, seconded by Mrs. Colleary. Roll call vote: Paul Kearney-Aye, Ashley Colleary-Aye, Ellen Maher-Aye, Jenn Madden-Aye, Craig MacLellan-Aye.

Committee reentered Open Session at 5:17 p.m.

Public Comment-None

Superintendent's Report-Cultural Competency and Anti-Racism Initiatives- Superintendent Dr. Sullivan gave an update regarding the Cultural Competency and Anti-Racism Initiatives so far. He stated that the leadership team has been working on ways to create a more diverse workforce in the Cohasset School District. He introduced the leadership team to discuss what they are doing in each of their buildings in regard to Cultural Competency and Anti-Racism Initiatives. The committee had a lengthy discussion.



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Cohasset Public Schools Fall Re-Entry Planning Team and Timeline- Superintendent Dr. Sullivan gave an update regarding the Fall Re-Entry Planning Team and Timeline. He stated that they are waiting on more guidance from the State before another survey goes out to parents. They have a Steering Team meeting date of July 9th to discuss the guidelines and create templates for important considerations. The Fall school re-entry subcommittees will then meet on July 10th to go over the created templates. Superintendent Sullivan stated that more information will follow after the guidance is set by the State.

Elementary Math Program Adoption- Assistant Superintendent Dr. Leslie Scollins gave an update regarding the adoption of the Elementary Math Program. She thanked the Town for voting to support the schools financially in purchasing this program. She recognized and thanked several staff members in their role of looking at ways to adopt a program like this. They looked at two programs, Investigations and Bridges, that were piloted throughout the year. All teachers were instructed to teach a unit of each program, this became challenging with the schools phased into remote learning due to the pandemic. She stated that each teacher used a specific rubric to evaluate the programs with the same lens to determine which program worked best overall. They came together as a team and decided to go with the Bridges Program to implement in the Fall. Mrs. Madden asked about the homeschooling aspect of the Bridges Program. Dr. Scollins mentioned that there are a lot of different options for families and students to utilize at home such as printouts and games which offer friendly and intuitive interactive pieces. Chairman Maher stated she would love to get a mid-year update next year to see how well the program is doing.

Finance- FY20 Year End Surplus Projection and Plan- Mr. MacMillan reviewed the FY20 Year End Surplus and mentioned that the School Budget was approved last night. The budget included a slight reduction due to the COVID-19 pandemic. He stated that they are still coming in with a surplus because of expenditures, supplies and utilities being down due to the School closures. The Committee had a brief discussion.

School Committee Comments and Communication- School Committee Statement Regarding Diversity/Protests- Mrs. Colleary reviewed the School Committee Statement Regarding Diversity and Protests. Mrs. Maher stated making more of an effort to recruit and hire a more diverse workforce would be a beneficial addition to the action plan. The Board had a lengthy discussion. **Motion by Mrs. Madden to approve the Cohasset School Committee Statement on Anti-Racism as amended. Seconded by Mr. MacLellan. Roll Call Vote: Paul Kearney-Aye, Ashley Colleary-Aye, Ellen Maher-Aye, Jennifer Madden-Aye, Craig MacLellan-Aye.**

Superintendents Year End Evaluation- Chairman Maher reviewed the End-of-Cycle Summative Evaluation of Superintendent Dr. Sullivan. The evaluation was a summary of the comments and ratings of the four individual committee members who made evaluations. She stated the rubric used was created by the Department of Secondary Education. The Committee had a lengthy discussion.

School Committee FY20 Goals Report and FY20 Goals & Accomplishments- Mrs. Madden reviewed the School Committee FY20 Goals Report and Goal & Accomplishments presentation. She stated that every six weeks the committee reviews the goals that are set at the beginning of the year. The goals are as follows: Goal One – Recruit, Retain, and Develop Exceptional District Leadership Team, teachers and Staff. Goal Two – Create Vehicles to Strengthen the Communication and Collaboration with the District Leadership Team, Parents, Town Committees and the Citizens of Cohasset. Goal Three – Enhance the Culture of Security by Strengthening the Safety and Security of School Buildings and Grounds. Goal Four – Finance: Align Educational Goals of the District with Sound Financial Practices, Budgeting and



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Management Reporting. Goal Five – Student Achievement: Ensure that All Students are Able to Achieve Appropriate Growth in Learning. Goal Six – Social Emotional Learning: Promote the Social and Emotional Well Being of Students. The committee had a lengthy discussion.

School Facilities Committee; Objective and Committee Composition – Mr. MacLellan reviewed the goals for the School Facilities Committee charge. The Committee had a brief discussion. **Motion by Mr. MacLellan to approve the School Facilities Committee Charge as amended seconded by Mrs. Colleary. Roll Call Vote: Ashley Colleary-Aye, Ellen Maher-Aye, Jennifer Madden-Aye, Craig MacLellan-Aye.** Mr. MacLellan reviewed the objective and composition of the committee that will consist of a group of nine members.

School Committee Resolution Regarding Funding Covid-19- Chairman Maher stated that almost 30 districts have voted and returned the resolution regarding COVID-19 State Funding. **Motion by Mrs. Madden to approve the Cohasset School Committee Resolution on COVID-19 State Funding as submitted, Seconded by Mr. Kearney. Roll Call Vote: Paul Kearney-Aye, Ashley Colleary-Aye, Ellen Maher-Aye, Jennifer Madden-Aye, Craig MacLellan-Aye.**

Reports from Sub-Committee and Liaisons– Mrs. Colleary gave an update that the Hingham Unity Council, which is one of the members of the South Shore Unity Council will be hosting two upcoming events, the first is a Facebook Live event to celebrate Juneteenth, which is Friday June 19th at 7:30pm. They are having a Hingham High School Social Studies Teacher talk about the significance of that date and talk about why we celebrate it. The second event is a Fireside Book Chat on the Zoom Platform with Author Dolly Chugh, who wrote the book, *The Person You Mean to Be*. This event will be held on July 9th at 7:00pm and registration is required. Mrs. Madden stated that the 5th Grade Parade was adorable and a lot of fun. She received great feedback from parents that the Deer Hill Team did a wonderful job making the most of the situation and that the kids were very happy with the parade.

Approval of Minutes- **Motion by Mr. MacLellan to approve the Executive Session Minutes of June 5th, October 10th, November 6th, November 20th, December 18th, December 4th, February 5th, February 26th and April 1st, seconded by Mrs. Madden. Roll call vote: Paul Kearney-Aye, Ellen Maher-Aye, Jennifer Madden-Aye, Craig MacLellan-Aye. Ashley Colleary-Abstained.**

Motion by Mr. MacLellan to approve the Executive Session Minutes of March 25th and May 6th, seconded Mrs. Madden. Roll call vote: Jennifer Madden-Aye, Ellen Maher- Aye, Craig MacLellan-Aye, Paul Kearney- Abstained.

Motion by Mr. MacLellan to approve the Minutes of August 7th, December 10th, October 30th and July 11th, seconded Mr. Kearney. Roll call vote: Ellen Maher-Aye, Paul Kearney-Aye, Ashley Colleary-Abstained, Jennifer Madden-Abstained, Craig MacLellan-Aye.

Motion by Mr. MacLellan to adjourn the meeting at 8:53pm, seconded by Mr. Kearny. Roll call vote; Ashley Colleary-Aye, Paul Kearney-Aye, Ellen Maher-Aye, Jennifer Madden-Aye, Craig MacLellan-Aye.

The meeting adjourned at 8:53p.m.

Documents Used at the Meeting



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Cohasset Public Schools Fall Re-Entry Planning Team and Timeline	D-1
School Committee FY20 Goals Report and FY20 Goals & Accomplishments	F-1
School Facilities Committee; Objective and Committee Composition	F-2
School Committee Resolution Regarding Funding Covid19	F-3