



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

School Committee Minutes

Wednesday, May 13, 2020

Zoom Video Call

Virtual Meeting – 143TV and Zoom

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 7:36 p.m. **Roll Call Vote; Paul Kearney-Present, Ashley Colleary-Present, Ellen Maher-Present, Jennifer Madden-Present, Craig MacLellan-Present.**

Superintendent Dr. Sullivan prefaced the presentation indicating that currently remote learning is in place and staff and students are rising to the occasion. All Massachusetts public school districts are awaiting guidance from Commission Riley of the Department of Elementary & Secondary Education regarding back to school in September. The budget reflects priorities that are in line with our goals and Strategic Plan and support our ongoing efforts in addressing the Social Emotional needs of our students which are present whether we are in a traditional school setting or a virtual one.

Director of Finance and Operations Michael MacMillan presented our revised FY 21 Operating Budget to the Advisory Committee. In attendance for the Advisory Committee were Helene Lieb, Mary McGoldrick, John Chapman, Lee Jenkins, Fran Collins, Rob Hillman, Michael Dick. The revised budget is \$67,000 less than the budget figure the town provided pre-pandemic. Due to unexpected retirements, the district is able to maintain critical need priorities.

Mr. Collins asked us to review the ratio of staff of students, it seemed high.

Mr. Jenkins inquired as to the number of buses and routes we have.

Mrs. McGoldrick commented that if the population is increasing at the younger levels and if we have students who enroll in Cohasset or come back to Cohasset that have special needs do we have budget for them and what is the balance in our Special Education Reserve Fund. Mrs. Maher responded that there is approximately \$280,000 in the fund with deposits of up \$112,000 left before our ceiling fund (2% of Actual Net School Spending) is hit.

Mr. Chapman inquired if the high average teacher salary (compared to the state) is forcing us into tradeoffs in other areas of the budget.

Mr. Dick had submitted questions previous to the presentation. He expressed great concern that we were not budgeting to a worse case scenario. Mr. MacMillan advised that we budgeted to the number the town gave us. He felt we should have contingency plans and alternate budget scenarios and what ifs for what school will look like in September. He questioned whether now is the time to adjust start/end times and



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re-do bus routes. Supt. Dr. Sullivan reiterated that we, like all districts are waiting for guidance and will establish plans once guidance is received.

Mrs. Maher advised that we would be willing to meet with Advisory again, once guidance is received, if there are material changes to our budgets and priorities.

The Committee adjourned at 8:35 pm on a motion by Mr. McLellan, seconded by Mr. Kearney, **Roll Call Vote; Paul Kearney- Aye, Ashley Colleary- Aye, Ellen Maher- Aye, Jennifer Madden- Aye, Craig MacLellan- Aye**