



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

School Committee Minutes

Wednesday, 3/4/2020
Cohasset Middle-High School
Community Use Room
143 Pond Street
Cohasset, MA

In Attendance:

Ellen Maher, Chairman
Jennifer Madden
Paul Kearney
Craig MacLellan

Also, in Attendance:

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

Not Present:

Ashley Colleary

Chairman Maher called the meeting to order at 7:34p.m. **Roll Call Vote; Paul Kearney-Present, Ellen Maher-Present, Jennifer Madden-Present, Craig MacLellan-Present.**

Public Comment-Dan Iandoli, 8 Short St – Mr. Iandoli would like to have a better understanding on the technology that the school provides to students. What kind of access do the children get through the school portal? Chairman Maher advised Mr. Iandoli to speak with his child's building Principle to get a better understanding of the guidelines of what the students have access to while at home.

Superintendent's Report-Superintendent Sullivan updated the Board on the international health crisis-Coronavirus-COVID-19. A FAQ document will be given out Town-wide and on all media platforms very soon. The Town and Schools are following the advice given by the Center of Disease Control (CDC) and the Department of Public Health (DPH). They have increased the cleaning efforts in all school buildings and on all school buses. Hand sanitizer dispensers have been put up in all the schools and school buses. They are also looking into providing resources for parents, students and staff on how to wash their hands correctly. Superintendent Sullivan mentioned that he has been meeting with other Superintendents from surrounding areas and they are putting together a Preparedness Guide that will be brought to the Board at a later time. Superintendent Sullivan mentioned that the school international trips to Quebec and Thailand have been cancelled. Mr. Kearney mentioned that during the Wellness Committee Meeting this afternoon, there was a discussion of making sure that all hand washing signs are placed in all bathrooms and to have facilities check the timer on all the sinks to be adjusted to allow for proper hand washing.

Student School Committee Representative-Update- Student Advisory Member, Ms. Curley, updated the Committee members that next week at the Osgood Elementary School is Dance Party Week with Mr. Dykas. At Deer Hill Elementary School, the PSO sponsored the Tanglewood Marinette's Performance for 3rd and 4th graders. This week there will be a Food Drive at the Cohasset Food Pantry, the Winter issue



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of the Pond Street Press was published, a performance of Little Women was well attended at the Cohasset High School last Thursday and Friday night and at a Festival in Marshfield, where Cohasset students received several individual awards. The Political Society will be going on a field trip to the State House this week. Safe Harbor is currently working on three projects, the first is the continued dissection of the 2019 survey where data was collected and different grades will be researching more on healthy coping strategies, managing stress, sexual violence and binge drinking. The High School Youth Ambassadors are researching harm reduction strategies. The Open Space Committee will be doing a cleanup project at the Aaron River Reservoir, which is known to be an area for underage drinking and substance abuse, to restore and clean up alcohol related litter and vandalism. The committee will be putting up positive messaging to promote a positive family friendly environment to encourage community use of the area.

Safe Harbor Coalition Update- Program Director Nicole Balaschi reviewed the Safe Harbor vision and mission. She discussed how they identify protective and risk factors. She reviewed the goals and accomplishments to date. Of note was the growth of youth involvement and parent involvement. She reviewed trainings the Coalition has participated in. She reviewed surveys around youth substance use and noted some reduction. She discussed the increase in vaping use. She reviewed some of the upcoming events. Mrs. Balaschi also mentioned that there is a resident survey that was uploaded on the Safe Harbor website today regarding the potential after school Youth Center. They are looking to have the data from that survey analyzed by the end of May 2020.

Superintendent Sullivan wanted to note that Student Advisory Council is having their first meeting next week with Principal Mills at the Middle School.

Student Services Update- Director of Student Services Mary Buchanan updated the Board that The Middle School will be getting 10 Mobile Calm Boxes that were created by the Middle School Adjustment Counselor and Occupational Therapist. In these boxes will be visual calming strategies as well as fidget toys, timers and motivational art coloring books for students. The Middle School Occupational therapist created a Circuit Training Station; around the Middle School building there will be posters that have different exercises that will help students with focusing and attention strategies. Six grade students on April 6th will be hosting an "If you really knew me fair" that will cover disability awareness and acceptance and provide exercises in reading challenges, anxiety and depression. The goal of this fair is to foster better friendships among students and create a positive inclusive environment.

Professional Development Update -Assistant Superintendent Leslie Scollins updated the Committee Members that they will be devoting March Professional Development at the elementary level on the math pilot program. They are working on that schedule now. Middle/Highschool Teachers will be attending a conference about the new Civics requirement and that will be lead by Jim Willis. The Wellness Committee met to set a plan for moving forward to create a wellness policy.

Motion by Mr. MacLellan to approve Warrant 20-16S, seconded by Mr. Kearney. Roll Call Vote; Paul Kearney-Aye, Jennifer Madden-Aye, Craig MacLellan-Aye. Ellen Maher abstained from the vote.



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Enrollment Quarterly Update- Dr. Sullivan reviewed the changes to the quarterly enrollment. The list is accurate and up to date.

Finance-Gift-Mr. MacMillan stated they have received a gift from the Cohasset PSO of \$1,063 for Challenge Day. **Motion by Mr. MacLellan to accept the donation of \$1,063.35 from the Cohasset PSO, seconded by Mrs. Madden. Roll Call Vote; Paul Kearney-Aye, Ellen Maher-Aye, Jennifer Madden-Aye, Craig MacLellan-Aye.**

Budget FY21

Mr. Kearney wanted it on the record that the actual number for the budget was 5.6% and the committee settled at 3.4%. He wants the taxpayers to know that the schools need to be better funded.

Mrs. Madden advised that the state standards dictate that we have a computer science curriculum and we keep deferring it.

Mrs. Madden inquired if there was anyway to calculate any potential savings in Special Education from our RTI initiative as evidence based instruction has been critical in saving costs in Special Education.

Budget FY21 Vote-Motion by Mr. MacLellan to approve the FY21 budget of \$21,027,711, seconded by Mrs. Madden. Roll Call Vote; Paul Kearney-Nay, Ellen Maher-Aye, Jennifer Madden-Aye, Craig Maclellan-Aye.

Mr. Kearney stated that he attended a Wellness Committee Meeting this afternoon and announced that the next meeting with be held on April 29, 2020.

Motion to adjourn at 9.24p.m. by Mr. Kearney, Seconded by Mr. Maclellan and the vote was unanimous (4-0).

Documents Used at the Meeting

Safe Harbor Coalition Update	D-1
Enrollment Quarterly Update	D-2
Finance – Gift	F-1
FY21 Budget	F-2