



## Cohasset School Committee Meeting

### School Committee Minutes

Wednesday, January 8, 2020  
Cohasset Middle-High School  
Community Use Room  
143 Pond Street  
Cohasset, MA

**In Attendance:** Ellen Maher, Chairman  
Jennifer Madden  
Paul Kearney  
Ashley Colleary  
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

Chairman Maher called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. **Roll Call Vote; Paul Kearney-Present, Ashley Colleary-Present, Ellen Maher-Present, Jennifer Madden-Present, Craig MacLellan-Present.**

Dr. Sullivan asked for a moment of silence for Judy Figueiredo, a long-standing employee at the Cohasset Public Schools, that passed away this week.

**Pledge**-Recited.

**Public Comment**-None.

**Superintendents Report-Student School Committee Representative**-Update on Superintendent/School Committee Student Advisory Council-Caroline Patterson was present and gave an update to the Committee.

**Europe Trip April 2021**-Social Studies Teacher Jim Willis was present to request permission for an 11-day trip to Europe in April 2021. He expects that the trip will fill up with 45 students. The students may miss one day or half of a day of school before vacation. He reviewed the itinerary with the Committee. The Committee had a brief discussion. **Motion by Mr. MacLellan to approve the proposed trip to Europe in April 2021 as presented, seconded by Mrs. Colleary. Roll Call Vote; Paul Kearney-Aye, Ashley Colleary-Aye, Ellen Maher-Aye, Jennifer Madden-Aye, Craig MacLellan-Aye.**

**Elementary Math Adoption**-Dr. Leslie Scollins and Math Specialists Christina Thonet and Marcia Campbell gave an overview of the program, why they are doing it and where they are currently in the program. They chose a new math program because the current Envision curriculum is outdated and doesn't meet the new standards. They had a committee look at national research on teaching mathematics in the Spring of 2019, they looked into MA Math Frameworks, they interviewed & visited other schools and identified viable vendors. They chose Investigations and Bridges as vendors. Each teacher is planning a pilot program and unit they will teach. In April, each teacher will complete an individual evaluation of each series and grade levels will return consensus rubrics to their Math Specialist. The Math Textbook Committee will review rubrics by the end of April. They will then negotiate with vendors. Mrs. Madden inquired, once selected, how the new curriculum will align with the Middle School math curriculum. Laura Soderberg 16 Black Horse Lane asked if there will be home packet for parents to see or if the homework philosophy will change. Dr. Sullivan stated a packet will go home. They are not changing that, just getting into a new pilot.

**Student Services-Dyslexia Screener Update**-Director of Student Services Mary Buchanan explained the screening they do at each grade level. In addition, they review family history of reading disabilities, sight words, high frequency words, fluency, phonological assessments and comprehension. If the student's outcome raises 3 or more flags, they schedule a Child Study Team Meeting to discuss observations and possible intervention. If the students have not responded to the general intervention, they may be referred to the Child Study Team to determine if additional assessments are needed to determine if a student is presenting a disability and may require specifically designated instruction in order to make effective progress in school. The Committee asked a few questions about how and when parents are notified.

**South Shore Educational Collaborative Update**-Ms. Buchanan reminded the Committee that Cohasset participates in the program. They have recently voted to approve the request of Whitman Hanson Regional School District into the Collaborative. Mrs. Buchanan reviewed the ways in which the Collaborative provides support to Cohasset and the services they provide.

Dr. Sullivan stated yesterday the CTA met and voted to open their contract and waive the full year notice for the change in school start times. They are moving forward with the late start plan. They will put in the next newsletter and move forward with the action plan.

**Motion by Mr. MacLellan to move the approval of warrant to after the finance report, seconded by Mrs. Colleary. Roll Call Vote; Paul Kearney-Aye, Ashley Colleary-Aye, Ellen Maher-Aye, Jennifer Madden-Aye, Craig MacLellan-Aye.**

**Finance-Gift**-Mr. MacMillan advised the Committee they received a gift of \$1000 from the Wrestling Boosters for the purchase of wrestling uniforms. **Motion by Mr. MacLellan to accept the gift of \$1000 from the Wrestling Boosters, seconded by Mr. Kearney. Roll Call Vote; Paul Kearney-Aye, Ashley Colleary-Aye, Ellen Maher-Aye, Jennifer Madden-Aye, Craig MacLellan-Aye.**

**Review Update School Budget-FAQ**-Mr. MacMillan stated this is the first look at the budget and it is available on the website for anyone to look at. The Committee had a brief discussion on the custodial staff budget line item which is in the line but technically not official yet. Mr. MacMillan will get update from the Town Manager. The Committee discussed Appendix B-Financial Management Policies which were adopted and 2012 and the split.

**Approval of Warrant-Motion by Mr. Kearney to approve Warrant 20-12S, seconded by Mr. MacLellan.**  
**Roll Call Vote; Paul Kearney-Aye, Ashley Colleary-Aye, Jennifer Madden-Aye, Craig MacLellan-Aye.**  
Ellen Maher abstained from the vote.

**School Committee Comments and Communications-Reports from Sub-Committee-**Mr. Kearney had the opportunity of coaching the 6<sup>th</sup> grade basketball game. It was a wonderful night. Mrs. Colleary stated Safe Harbor is sponsoring Screenagers on 1/13/2020 at the high school auditorium. Safe Harbor is meeting tomorrow morning at 9:30 a.m. The next meeting of the Sheriff's Task Force is on Monday evening. They will have a tour of the Dedham jail. The Diversity Committee met today and are working on how they can interact with the 250<sup>th</sup> Committee. They discussed Jackie Dormitzer's book Origins of Cohasset. They are currently working on a website. The next Diversity meeting is on 2/12/2020 at 11:30 a.m. Mrs. Madden will be attending the Deer Hill Council meeting tomorrow. Mrs. Maher stated the Collective Bargaining sub-committee is meeting tomorrow at 4 p.m. Mr. Kearney stated a group recently had a tour of the school facilities in which the Chairman of the Selectmen attended. He agreed that the buildings need a lot of repair and supports the schools. The water isn't even good that shows how bad the facilities are. Mr. Kearney suggested the SC make a statement to the Town about the facilities. Mr. MacLellan stated the Superintendent Evaluation Committee is meeting next week.

**Approval of Minutes-Motion by Mr. Kearney to approve the minutes of 11/6/19 as amended, seconded by Mrs. Madden and the vote was unanimous (3-0).** Mrs. Colleary abstained from the vote as she was not present at the meeting and Mr. MacLellan stepped out of the room during the vote.

**Motion by Mr. Kearney to approve the minutes of 11/20/19 as amended, seconded by Mrs. Colleary and the vote was unanimous (5-0).**

**Follow up and Updates-**Chairman Maher stated there has been some conversation about legal counsel and she has been asked to put on an agenda in executive session. The discussion has to be in open session as it doesn't fall under the exceptions for executive session. Mr. Kearney stated he will not be at the next meeting and asked that the discussion be at the following meeting. Chairman Maher agreed to put on the 2/5/2020 agenda. Chairman Maher reminded members not to talk to anyone about this topic as it may violate the open meeting law. The discussion should take place at the meeting. Mr. Kearney asked if he will be able to make a motion at that meeting since he has done his due diligence. Chairman Maher stated he could make a motion and asked that everyone is respectful.

**Motion by Mr. Colleary to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Kearney and the vote was unanimous (5-0).**

The meeting adjourned at 9:18 a.m.

**Documents Used at the Meeting**

Europe Trip	D-1
Dyslexia Screener Update/SSEC	D-2
Boosters Gift	F-1
School Budget	F-2