



Cohasset School Committee Meeting

School Committee Minutes

Wednesday, September 7, 2016

Cohasset Middle-High School

Community Use Room

143 Pond Street

Cohasset, MA

In Attendance: Jeanne Astino, Chairman
Katie Dugan
Ellen Maher
Barbara Stefan
Amanda Zani

Also in Attendance: Louise Demas, Interim Superintendent
John Tuffy, Interim Business Manager

Call to order and Roll Call-Chairman Astino called the meeting to order at 7:48 p.m. **Roll Call Vote;** Barbara Stefan-Present, Katie Dugan-Present, Jeanne Astino-Present, Ellen Maher-Present-Amanda Zani-Present.

Pledge of Allegiance-Recited.

Invitation to Speak-None

Superintendents Report-NEA Foundation Fellowship-Cohasset Middle School Science Teacher Mr. Bob Erlandsen was present and gave the School Committee an overview of the NEA Fellowship program. He will be participating in several webinars, a workshop in Washington, DC and a 9-day international field study trip to China. The tour will include a visit with Chinese Educators, students, administrators and policy makers. They will also learn about the Chinese education system and recent initiatives taken to advance education outcomes for their students. Mr. Erlandsen stated he is very excited for the opportunity.

Retirement-Mrs. Demas advised the Committee she has received a letter from Mary Dugan. She will be resigning from her position of Speech/Language Pathologist with the Cohasset Public Schools as of December 29, 2016. She also received a letter from Kathy Simolaris resigning from her position as French teacher effective immediately. Mrs. Demas stated they are actively pursuing the positions. Ms. Connolly added that they have a possible short term and long term solution for the French teacher.

Induction Program-Mrs. Demas showed a quick slide show to introduce the new teachers at Cohasset Public Schools. She stated they have a lot of great new hires. Assistant Superintendent Susan Skeiber stated they held an induction day for the new teachers. The teachers were very excited. They took a survey, went on a bus tour of the town and were showed all of the interesting places in Cohasset. They split into groups to discuss their philosophy of learning. They discussed the importance of student centered learning. Mary Buchanan was present as well and discussed special education needs and contact information. Jennifer deChiara spoke about rigor and relevance and disciplinary work. They worked on Universal Design for Learning. They will continue to train new teachers. They finished up the day with technology in the district. It was a fun day and they are looking forward to more. Mrs. Demas

stated all new teachers are assigned a mentor to work with. The principals make recommendations on who the mentor is assigned to. A mentor must have 4 years of teaching in Cohasset to be a mentor.

Opening Day-High School Principal Carolyn Connolly stated the first couple of days of the year were great. They had an assembly for all grades individually. There is some nice energy in the building and the staff is excited about the new teachers. They will begin to meet with the seniors and start planning a great year for them. Mrs. Demas stated Principal of Deer Hill School Jennifer deChiara could not be present tonight. She did say the opening of the Deer Hill School went great. Student Representative Jane Cavannaro said the first few days at the High School went well. She has two new teachers that are great. Principal of Osgood School Lisa Farrell said the first couple of days went great. Today was the first day for Pre-K and Kindergarten and everyone was happy and engaged. Ms. Farrell noted that she is very fortunate to have such a qualified, dedicated staff. The first day of lunch went well without any issues. The first staff meeting was today and that went well. Ms. Farrell thanked the custodians and staff for all of the work they did over the summer to make the building look great. This Friday there will be an all school assembly. Mrs. Dugan asked about the Positive Behavioral Intervention and Support program and when it would kick in. Ms. Farrell responded they will talk about it at the assembly on Friday and they will be using the fish theme again this year.

Technology Update-Mrs. Demas advised the Committee they will have to postpone the update. Ron Menard and Bart Riley have been working extremely long hours to get everything ready for the opening of school. The SC will put on a future agenda. The SC had a lengthy discussion of the BYOD plan. Ms. Skeiber spoke of the importance of getting staff involved in both the Strategic Plan and Technology Plan. They will put a cohort together within the next month to start digging into the plan for the BYOD and how it will work and come up with a pilot. Ms. Skeiber discussed the professional development day in November that will focus on Google.

Warrant-Motion by Mrs. Dugan to approve Warrant 1704S, seconded by Mrs. Zani. Roll Call Vote; Barbara Stefan-Aye, Katie Dugan-Aye, Jeanne Astino-Aye, Amanda Zani-Aye. Mrs. Maher abstained from the vote.

School Committee Comments & Communications

Reading of Policy IJNDC-School and District Web pages-1st Read –The Committee discussed the policy and questioned if it was an outdated policy. Mrs. Stefan will contact MASC and get some information and bring back to the SC.

Reading of Policy IJNDD-Policy on Facebook and Social Networking Sites-1st Read-The Committee discussed the policy and had concerns with the title of the policy and Section 1.c. Mrs. Stefan will also check with MASC about the policy and bring back to the School Committee.

Update Special Education Stabilization Fund and Overview of Municipal Modernization Bill-Mrs. Dugan updated the SC on the Long Range Planning Group's first meeting last Thursday. They set an agenda for the next few meetings. The first agenda item will be to review the Special Education Stabilization Fund Policy. They did start to discuss the Municipal Modernization Bill that goes into effect in November. Mrs. Dugan stated there is another option (Section 13E) for Special Education Stabilization Funds under this bill that would make the withdrawal from the fund available with a majority vote of the SC and BoS instead of Town Meeting. The account would be more like a revolving account. The Committee had a discussion about the option. They agreed to stick with the Stabilization fund that has already been approved by Town Meeting.

Report from Sub-Committee of School Committee-Mrs. Dugan stated Safe Harbor has two upcoming workshops. On 10/20/16 at the CMHS there is a workshop titled If Only for parents and community members. On 11/10/16 they are hosting What Every Parent Should Know about Teen Brain Development at 91 Sohier Street.

Chairman Astino stated the Committee will now return to executive session to approve executive session minutes and will return to open session to adjourn.

The Committee went into executive session at 10:06 p.m.

Documents used at the Meeting

NEA Foundation Fellowship	E-1
Retirement Letters	E-2
Induction Program	E-3
Policy IJNDC	F-1
Policy IJNDD	F-2
Municipal Modernization Bill	F-3