



Cohasset School Committee Meeting

School Committee Minutes

Wednesday, February 24, 2016

Cohasset Middle-High School

Community Use Room

143 Pond Street

Cohasset, MA

In Attendance: Jeanne Astino, Chairman
Mary McGoldrick
Ellen Maher
Katie Dugan
Barbara Stefan

Also in Attendance: Barbara Cataldo, Superintendent
David DeGennaro, Business Manager

Chairman Astino called the meeting to order at 6:08 pm. Roll call all present. Motion by Mrs. McGoldrick to enter into Executive Session for Exemption #2, strategy related to contract negotiations with non-union personnel. Seconded by Mrs. Dugan.

Motion to adjourn Executive Session by Mrs. Maher at 7:40 pm, seconded by Mrs. McGoldrick.

The Committee came back into public session at 7:49 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance-Recited

Chairman Astino asked for a moment of silence for former teachers Eileen Rohrer and Allison Ulmer.

Topics not reasonably anticipated by the Chairman 48 hours in advance of meeting

Motion by Mrs. McGoldrick to add to the agenda a gift from the Cohasset Education Fund, seconded by Mrs. Stefan and the vote was unanimous (5-0).

Cohasset Education Foundation-Motion by Mrs. McGoldrick to reallocate \$10,039.51 for access points for digital technology and \$500.00 for the Marjorie Murphy Digital Learning Center and accept a donation of \$2475.00 for Osgood School LED stage lights, seconded by Mrs. Dugan. Roll Call Vote; Barbara Stefan-Aye, Katie Dugan-Aye, Mary McGoldrick-Aye, Ellen Maher-Aye.

Chairman Astino welcomed the new student representative Bobby Driscoll who is a senior at CMHS and President of Student Council.

Invitation to Speak-None

Superintendent's Report

Costa Rica 2017 Trip-Superintendent Cataldo asked the Committee to delay the discussion on the Costa Rica Trip until 3/2/16 meeting.

FY17 Budget Discussion-Dave DeGennaro and Barbara Cataldo presented another draft budget that includes 5.34% increase and is short \$442,332 against the Town Manager's budget. Mr. DeGennaro

went through the adjustments that were made since the 1/27/16 presentation. Mrs. Dugan asked for more information on the increase in special education without revealing confidentiality. Superintendent Cataldo asked for another week to provide more detail. Mr. DeGennaro went through the adjustments that were made. They are offsetting \$200,000 from the anticipated FY17 circuit breaker. This is a portion of what they expect to receive. This is to help them get to the bottom line number of the budget. Mrs. Dugan asked for an explanation of the approximately \$200,000 increase in out of district tuitions from FY16 to FY17. She believes the public should understand. Superintendent Cataldo will meet with Ms. Buchanan and present information at the next meeting. Ms. Buchanan reiterated that she values students and family's confidentiality. Mrs. Maher gave some information to Superintendent Cataldo from the Town of Hingham that may help provide information without revealing specific needs of students. SEPAC President-Helene Childs-73 Pond Street asked since they are taking from circuit breaker for next year what will the effect be on the next budget process if they have another out of district. Although other districts have done it; this is a change for Cohasset. Mr. DeGennaro stated there is a risk by using the \$200,000. He added that they did have to do something similar with prepaid tuition and it worked out. Mrs. McGoldrick stated that it is not something the schools has had to do but given the situation they thought they should. This is a common practice for other districts. Ms. Buchanan stated there are students graduating or aging out this year which will help offset. Mrs. Dugan agreed that this does help. The downside of using circuit breaker money is there is no hope of recovering it if there are no new students enrolled. She stated a message has to be delivered to the Selectmen and Advisory Committee, that the school had to spend some of the circuit money and the cushion they had in the past isn't there. The Committee discussed Special Ed Transportation and unemployment. The draft budget reflected both options of staying in house or going to an outside contractor. Chairman Astino stated she has concerns with getting involved with another transportation company. After some discussion the Committee asked Superintendent Cataldo to reach out to other districts before a decision is made. Denise Perez-Botts-702 Jerusalem Road asked the Committee to give thought to the safety and health of children. The drivers have close relationships with the kids. Changing companies will be very disruptive to the kids. The Committee discussed the in school suspension position that was requested. This position is for general education. The Committee agreed to change the name of position to school transitional support.

Preschool Lunch Bunch Fee-Ms. Buchanan discussed the proposed fee of \$1300 for the Lunch Bunch. This is an hourly rate of \$10.00. There will not be a fee charged for students on IEP's with extended day needs. **Motion by Mrs. McGoldrick to accept the proposed \$1300.00 fee for Preschool Lunch Bunch, seconded by Mrs. Stefan. Roll Call Vote; Barbara Stefan-Aye, Katie Dugan-Aye, Jeanne Astino-Aye, Mary McGoldrick-Aye, Ellen Maher-Aye.**

Retirement-Superintendent Cataldo stated she received a letter of resignation from Steven Biagini, music teacher at Deer Hill School effective 6/30/16.

Finance

Warrant 16-17S

Motion by Mrs. McGoldrick to approve Warrant 16-17S as presented, seconded by Mrs. Dugan. Roll Call Vote; Barbara Stefan-Aye, Katie Dugan-Aye, Jeanne Astino-Aye, Mary McGoldrick-Aye. Ellen Maher abstained from the vote.

Monthly Update-Mr. DeGennaro stated 45% of the budget has been expended. Mrs. Dugan asked about Line 31 and 32 for help desk and contracted services. Mr. DeGennaro stated the contracted services are not just help desk but also website support and other service agreements. Mrs. Astino had concern with Line 13 and 21 for supplies and tutoring as they are over budget. Mr. DeGennaro will look into and get back to the Committee.

School Committee Comments and Communications

Memo-Union Contract-Chairman Astino read aloud a prepared statement on the five union contracts which are the responsibility of the School Committee.

Report from Sub-Committees of the School Committee-Mrs. McGoldrick attended the Selectmen's meeting and they have started the process of putting things on the warrant. They began the conversation about meals/hotel taxes. Mrs. Dugan and Mrs. McGoldrick met this week as part of the budget and finance sub-committee. They will meet again on Monday and discuss developing an executive summary to other boards. Advisory will be meeting on 3/30 for the School Budget presentation. There is a Fiscal Forum tomorrow and State Representative Garrett Bradley will discuss state aid and Chris Senior will talk about the 5 year forecast and health care rates. Safe Harbor Coalition will meet on 3/1/16. Capital Budget met on 2/16. Mrs. Dugan distributed a Capital Stabilization Fund Analysis worksheet. Mrs. Astino attended the Alternative Energy Committee meeting. Cohasset is now designated as a Green Community. The AEC has worked extremely hard and it involves real dollars for the Town and specifically the school. There were 2 senior students that attended AEC as student representatives.

Minutes

Motion by Mrs. McGoldrick to approve the minutes of 1/20/16 as amended, seconded by Mrs. Maher and the vote was unanimous.

Motion by Mrs. McGoldrick to approve the minutes of 1/27/16 as amended, seconded by Mrs. Stefan and the vote was unanimous.

Motion by Mrs. McGoldrick to approve the minutes of 2/3/16 as amended, seconded by Mrs. Maher and the vote was unanimous.

Follow up and updates

The Committee reviewed Mrs. Maher's list.

Motion by Mrs. Stefan to adjourn, seconded by Mrs. McGoldrick and the vote was unanimous.

The meeting adjourned at 10:35 p.m.

List of Documents used at Meeting

- E-1 Costa Rica Trip
- E-2 Preschool Lunch Bunch Fee
- E-3 Retirement
- F-1 Monthly Update
- G-1 School Committee Memo on Union Contract
- H-1 Minutes-January 20, 2016
- H-2 Minutes-January 27, 2016
- H-3 Minutes-February 3, 2016