

Cohasset Safe Schools Committee



The image features a bright, hazy sky with a soft, golden glow. In the lower right corner, a bird is captured in flight, its wings spread. The overall atmosphere is one of hope and optimism. The text "I HOPE" is centered in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

I HOPE

I hope our
Staff feel
Supported in taking
risks to help them
grow in the classroom.

I hope staff
feel comfortable
trying new
instructional
strategies focused
on student learning

I hope that
staff feel supported
& have the tools
they need to meet
student's needs

I hope The STAFF
FEELS APPRECIATED!



Coming to our
Classroom everyday!


I hope **ALL** students
respect each others
individuality and
Celebrate their differences!

I hope each
student feels
to take

I hope our classroom
is a place that makes
you smile and feel proud!

I hope Kids
know Kindness
does matter. Everyone
needs to feel valued, and
you can make that
happen by doing simple acts
of kindness.

I
stu
value
learn

I hope you feel
welcomed + loved...
because you are 

I hope to be happy.

I hope that
I make good
connections with
my teachers
and fellow students

I Hope That I meet
New people.

I hope I make new friends.

I hope...

to avoid stress

I hope to feel comfortable
enough with others to be
who I am.

Adaptive Change

Adaptive vs. Technical Change:

- Technical Change = change that can be solved by the knowledge of experts
- Adaptive Change = change that must come from the collective intelligence of the group. It requires new learning. Together we will learn our way toward a solution (Heifetz, Grashow & Linsky, 2009).



Why Did We Form the Committee?

- To support our students, staff, and families
- To promote home to school partnerships
- To create a collaborative “Cohasset School Community Voice” regarding safety
- To examine our processes, practices, and policies regarding safety



Mission of the Cohasset Safe Schools Committee:

The Mission of the Cohasset Safe Schools Committee is to ensure that best practices are being implemented related to school safety structures (practices, protocols, and communication) and to advise on policy to support the physical and social-emotional safety of all members of the Cohasset School Community.



Core Values of the Committee

- Respecting differences and diversity
- Striving for safety, academic achievement, creative expression, empathy, accountability and responsibility
- Prioritizing students in all of our work
- Encouraging open-mindedness, helping those in need, forgiving those who are trying, defending those who need defending, adaptability, resilience, flexibility and transparency
- Maintaining transparency and positive communication with the school community



Overarching Goals of the Committee

- To ensure we establish transparent, open, and honest communication throughout the Cohasset School Community
- To ensure we are providing support for all students, including those who are in the margins and who have experienced trauma
- To help provide resources to promote Social-Emotional Learning, student wellness, an inclusive culture and bullying prevention



NATIONAL PREVENTION WEEK



INSPIRING
ACTION
CHANGING
LIVES

NPW
national prevention week

MAY 12-18, 2019

Sub-Committees

Social-Emotional Learning and Wellness Subcommittee

Building Security and Protective Measures Subcommittee

Promoting a Safe and Inclusive Culture Subcommittee

Safe Schools Bullying Procedure Review Subcommittee

Communication and Action Planning Subcommittee



Social-Emotional Learning and Wellness Subcommittee: Mission

This subcommittee will address the Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) and wellness needs of our school community. The work of this group will include advising our practices / programs at the school level concerning SEL and advising our efforts to help address the wellness needs of students, staff, and families. This subcommittee will include work on creating or strengthening structures that help to prevent addiction.



Social-Emotional Learning and Wellness Subcommittee: Members

Chris Colleran: Safe Harbor Cohasset Coalition (chair)

Paul Kearney: School Committee Member

Sarah Williams: Deer Hill Parent

Kerry Agashe: CMS Associate Principal

Amanda Mathieu: SEPAC Representative

Lisa Farrell: Principal, Joseph Osgood Elementary School

Stephanie Moriarty: Department Head of Visual and Performing
Arts at CMHS

Catherine Nelligan: Guidance Counselor at CMS



Social-Emotional Learning and Wellness Subcommittee: Key Actions for 2019- 2020

- Compile resources related to social-emotional wellness for the Cohasset Community.
 - By making these resources available to the Cohasset community we hope to reduce the stigma associated with various mental health & substance-use related issues, in an effort to normalize “asking for help.”

This includes:

Editing and vetting the resources with Central Office/
Leadership



Social-Emotional Learning and Wellness Subcommittee: Benchmarks / Products for 2019 - 2020

- A social-emotional and wellness resource list for students, teachers and families.
- Screening of “Angst” for CPS community.



Social-Emotional Learning and Wellness Subcommittee: Future Focus

Looking Ahead:

- Have the resources listed on the CPS Website
- Have a vendor on hand to create gear, that will help relay information included in the document to students
- Update and vet of the services and supports included in the resource list (yearly).
- Engage students of all ages in an effort to help spread the word (yearly)



Building Security and Protective Measures Subcommittee: Mission

This subcommittee will review our building safety protocols and our procedures for handling a crisis, threat, or critical incident. This committee will collaborate with police, fire, and emergency service providers when needed during the review of these protocols and procedures.



Building Security and Protective Measures Subcommittee: Members

Brett Youmans: Physical Education Teacher, Deer Hill School (chair)

Ellen Maher: School Committee Member

Torin Sweeney: Health/Wellness/Guidance Department Head at CMHS

Courtney Ness: Deer Hill Parent

Lisa Cooper: CHS Parent

Ron Ford: Health and Physical Education Teacher at CMHS

Steve Rotondi: Athletic Director, Cohasset Public Schools

Officer Greg Taylor: SRO, Cohasset Public Schools

Sandra Crough: District Nurse Leader, Cohasset Public Schools



Building Security and Protective Measures

Subcommittee: Key Actions

- Assure protocols and procedures for handling a crisis or threat are clear and well communicated to all stakeholders

This includes:

Reviewing current safety protocols and procedures



Building Security and Protective Measures Subcommittee: Benchmarks / Products for 2019 - 2020

- Analysis of all safety procedures and protocols
Looking to make changes to the Emergency Evacuation and Procedures flip book school specific
- Create a one page Emergency Response chart that will be posted in every room. (SAFE) Secure, Assess, Follow Protocols, Ensure Safety
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Building Security and Protective Measures

Subcommittee: Future Focus

- Find funding for updating the Emergency Evacuation procedure booklet school specific
- Initialize staff training
- On board staff training continuing
- Substitute teacher training for emergency responses
- Identify future breaches of security
- Research and find funding for a Grab and GO bag for each classroom.



Promoting a Safe and Inclusive Culture: Mission

This subcommittee will look to promote ways to ensure stakeholders collaborate to create a culture that is sensitive to the diverse needs of the members of our school community (including the needs of those students who have experienced trauma). This subcommittee will ensure that the culture of each school is inclusive and that our structures and practices are representative of the diverse needs of the school community.



Promoting a Safe and Inclusive Culture

Subcommittee: Members

Brian Scott: Assistant Principal, CMHS (chair)

Sam Kefallinos: CHS Student

Sarah Cucinatto: Special Education Teacher at Joseph Osgood School

Margaret Curley: CHS Student

Alex Sullivan: Principal, Deer Hill School



Promoting a Safe and Inclusive Culture

Subcommittee: Key Actions for 2019- 2020

- Establish a calendar review team, which would ensure, in collaboration with the PSO, district administration and school committee, that there are no cultural or religious conflicts with scheduled events when it can be avoided
- Connect with both the Cohasset Diversity Committee and CMHS Diversity Club to establish at least one multicultural event throughout the year



Promoting a Safe and Inclusive Culture

Subcommittee: Benchmarks / Products for 2018 - 2019

- Intentional and progressive approach to diversity and inclusion in the curriculum and co-curriculum
- Screening of “The Hate U Give” and “Period: End of Story” for students (from the Diversity Club); screening of “Angst” for CPS community
- WaterFirst partnership (from the Green Team)
- Asian Culture Club interactive presentation to Deer Hill 3rd graders
- District calendar created with respect for multicultural observances



Promoting a Safe and Inclusive Culture

Subcommittee: Future Focus

- Incorporate cultural competence into the school improvement plans, in alignment with the CPSD Strategic Plan. Specifically increase cultural awareness of all students, teachers, administrators, and staff.
- Work with the Diversity Club and other student groups to create authentic experiences where students can engage in deep and honest discourse about cultural competence.
- Create opportunities whereby MHS students can act as ambassadors for students in the primary schools around issues of cultural competency.
- Review the school and district's governing documents and structures (i.e. The Program of Studies, Handbooks, Strategic Plan) for sufficient language and guidance related to diversity, equity and inclusion.



Safe Schools Bullying Procedure Review

Subcommittee: Mission

This subcommittee will review our current policy and procedures regarding the reporting, intervention and prevention of bullying.



Safe Schools Bullying Procedure Review

Subcommittee: Members

Louise Demas: Superintendent, Cohasset Public Schools
(co-chair)

Mohamad Omran: CHS Parent (co-chair)

Mary Buchanan: Director of Pupil Services

Ally Forrester: CHS Student

Stephanie Gertz: BRYT Coordinator and ESP at CMHS



Safe Schools Bullying Procedure Review

Subcommittee: Key Actions for 2019 - 2020

- Utilize the DESE check-list to track if all legislatively required elements are included in the Cohasset Bullying Prevention Plan



Safe Schools Bullying Procedure Review

Subcommittee: Benchmarks / Products for 2019 - 2020

- Analysis of our Bullying Prevention Plans and procedures using DESE check-list

Findings:

- Of the sixteen (16) elements of the DESE Checklist, twelve (12) were found to be included, satisfactory in meeting understanding, and thorough

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- Of the sixteen (16) elements of the DESE Checklist, four (4) elements were found to be included but in need of clarity, understanding, or/and thoroughness



Safe Schools Bullying Procedure Review

Subcommittee: Future Focus

Element ii: “Clear procedures for students, staff, parents, guardians and others to report bullying or retaliation.

Recommendation: Flow Chart

Element v. “The range of disciplinary actions may be taken against an aggressor for bullying.” **Recommendation:** Inclusion of student individual teaching / learning opportunity; privacy



Safe Schools Bullying Procedure Review Subcommittee: Future Focus (continued)

Element vi. “Clear procedures for restoring a sense of safety for a target and assessing that target’s need for protection.”

Recommendation: The requirement of inhouse or outside counseling offered.

Element xii. “Provision for ongoing professional development.

Recommendation: The need for specific plan of action done annually / regularly for inclass, activity-based, and recording issues



Communication and Action Planning Subcommittee: Mission

This subcommittee will create structures to communicate the work of all subcommittees to the stakeholders in the Cohasset School Community (providing one collective voice for the team). This subcommittee will also create structures to gather input from the community. Finally, this team will work to create a Safe Schools Action Plan (detailing the work of all of the subcommittees) that will be shared with the Cohasset School Community.



Communication and Action Planning Subcommittee: Members

Jamey Kupsc: CMS Parent and Recording Secretary for the Safe Schools Committee
(chair)

Jessica Duncanson: CMS Parent

Kelly Dunn: Joseph Osgood Parent

Jay Cataudella: Joseph Osgood Parent

Ed Savage: Science Teacher at CHS

Dr. Patrick Sullivan: Assistant Superintendent, Cohasset Public Schools

Michael MacMillan: Director of Business and Finance, Cohasset Public Schools



Communication and Action Planning

Subcommittee: Key Actions & Benchmarks

- School Committee Presentation
- SSC action plan
- A survey was issued to to all stakeholders in the CPS school community to set a baseline for our work going forward (after this year) as a committee
- Composing articles for local media describing and celebrating the work of the Safe Schools Committee



Communication and Action Planning Subcommittee: Future Focus

- Building community awareness of the actions of the subcommittees.
- Coordinating the work and 'branding' of subcommittees.
- Expanding the use of the district website to support the Committee's objectives.



THANK
YOU

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THANK
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