

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE COHASSET SCHOOL COMMITTEE
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
01-24-2024**

School Committee Minutes

Wednesday, January 24, 2024

6:00 PM

Susan B. McNamara Innovation Commons
Deer Hill School
208 Sohler Street
Cohasset, MA 02025

Streamed Live on Cohasset 143TV.

Zoom (*chat enabled*)

Facebook Cohasset Live Streaming
(*watch / listen only*)

In Attendance:

Ted Carr, Secretary
Lance Dial, Chair
Paul Kearney
Craig MacLellan, Vice Chair
Jennifer Lesky

Also, In Attendance:

Principal Alexandra Sullivan, Deer Hill School
Ms. Karin Johnston, and Students, Deer Hill School
Mr. Chris Luvisi, History Teacher, Cohasset High School
Mrs. Susan Owen, Director of Finance & Operations
Dr. Leslie Scollins, Assistant Superintendent
Dr. Patrick Sullivan, Superintendent

All School Committee Meetings Are Recorded.

AGENDA

Call to Order – Chairman Dial called to order the Wednesday, January 24, 2024 regular meeting of the Cohasset School Committee promptly at 6:00 PM. The Chair asks members of the Cohasset School Committee who are present to please indicate so in **Roll Call**: **Mr. Carr –Present; Ms. Lesky–Present; Mr. Kearney –Present; Mr. MacLellan –Present; Chairman Dial –Present.**

Pledge of Allegiance

Opening Remarks – Astute observers will note this meeting is in a slightly different location for which the school committee meeting is being held for the very first time at Deer Hill School in the new Susan B. McNamara Innovation Commons. The school committee is going to try and host their meetings and visit other locations around the school district, and this one is a fantastic location. This meeting has a packed agenda with lots of materials to cover, so the Chair is not going to belabor anyone with more talking.

Public Comment – No questions or public comments are given at this time.

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Invited Guests

• Superintendent Student Advisory Council (SSAC) Liaison Report (*Noah McDowall*)

Dr. Patrick Sullivan notes that Noah McDowall was not able to attend today, so Dr. Sullivan will cover some of what Noah was going to cover when the meeting arrives to the school news updates section on today's agenda.

Invited Guests

**• Spotlight on Learning: *Deer Hill School Deer Teams*
(*Principal Alexandra Sullivan, Deer Hill School, Ms. Karin Johnston, and Students*)**

Principal Sullivan explains some of the nuts and bolts of what the Deer teams are. It's with students from all grade levels attend a monthly meeting held on a Monday. Each team has 8-9 students with 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students in every group and are randomly assigned. There are 36 Deer Teams in the Deer Hill School building, and it is really an all-hands-on deck experience. Every certificated staff member from Principal Sullivan to classroom teachers, special education teachers, art, music specialist's, speech pathologist, occupational therapists, adjustment counselors, and METCO Director. Everyone has a Deer Team of students which is really powerful and exciting that aligns with the Deer Hill School vision that came about in their school improvement and district strategic plan. The overarching goal of the Deer teams is a 30-minute meeting, approximately once a month, to which they've had four (4) Deer Teams meetings so far.

This is to form new relationships with both staff and students with the idea of promoting student voice through a schoolwide shared text. This is just another connection to get to know each other, and also for the faculty and staff to know the students that they might not otherwise ever interact with in their classroom. Deer teams stay within their teams throughout their time at Deer Hill School.

They've selected eight (8) books this year and at every Deer team meeting, every staff member leads students in a reading discussion and possibly an activity around the same book. This is a huge piece of that idea of forming relationships at Deer Hill. Questions for discussion were chosen from the NEA's 2023-2024 Read Across America booklist. They were offered twelve (12) different titles, and the Deer teams chose eight (8) books they wanted. There's a variety of themes that represent lots of different perspectives such as sharing their story, tackle challenges together, and gaining new perspectives.

Principal Sullivan is part of the South Shore Principal's group, and she says this came up in a conversation with Eliza Burns, Principal at the Cole School in Norwell. Principal Sullivan met with two (2) fabulous Cohasset PSO Liaisons, Kat Burns, and April Romano this year who generously funded Deer teams and all Deer Hill staff are really open to this and excited. It's an opportunity to connect with all students.

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- **Spotlight on Learning: Deer Hill School Deer Teams**
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Dr. Patrick Sullivan notes this as being a social, emotional opportunity for students to share with titled reading and the comprehension part that has a nice melding of so many different skills that students need, it's wonderful.

There is a hyperlink to what Principal Sullivan is presenting at the meeting and on Deer Hill School website and this link will be in Principal Sullivan's newsletter this coming Friday that really goes into depth about each title of the book and all the questions they'll be using.

Students presented the book they shared this week and within the last three (3) days Deer Teams wrote reflections on what they shared that were placed on the bulletin board for display. Principal Sullivan would like to give a big shout out to her daughter, *Phoebe Sullivan*, who created the beautiful bulletin board for Deer Teams reflections to display.

Ms. Karin Johnston, 5th grade teacher at Deer Hill School loves all the different grade levels and different students that may or may not end up in her classroom. The idea that students stay with Ms. Johnston where she'll see them grow up a little bit is like a little family group. The books are amazing, and students find different connections to make when sharing.

Tonight's Deer Hill stars for the presentation on Spotlight on Learning are *Molly Banning*, *Ben Curry*, and *Xander Viteri* who are in grade 3. From the 4th grade *Charley Gillis*, and *Decker Quinn*. From 5th grade *Catherine McManus*. Ms. Johnston reads a book to students titled, "Remember." Each of the students express and share a reflection of what they remember. *Xander Viteri* reflects when going to California for the 1st time and meeting new friends. *Molly Banning* reflects on when she met her baby cousin Caleb. *Decker Quinn* reflects on going to Disney World with this family and his friend's family and watching the fireworks and listening to them pop up above Epcot Lake with friends. *Ben Curry* remembers his first trip to Disney Land and the musty smell from the Pirates of the Caribbean. *Catherine McManus* reflects on her 1st time going to California and going to the beach where she found amazing shells and rocks. *Charley Gillis* reflects when going to her great Grandmother's house and spending time with her. Catherine McManus asks members of the school committee to write their memory on a heart shaped paper that Ben Curry happily passes to each member of the school committee.

Principal Sullivan highlights this exercise and the connections made in this room show how powerful this is in just a small version. Students that do this over the course of the year and over the course of multiple years these Deer Hill students will be walking the halls of Cohasset High School and see their peers and remember their reflections when they were on Deer teams. That cross grade piece of being a junior in high school and having a nice bond with other peers that they might otherwise not have interacted with.

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- **Spotlight on Learning: Deer Hill School Deer Teams**
(*Principal Alexandra Sullivan, Deer Hill School, Ms. Karin Johnston, and Students*)

Principal Sullivan addresses the audience who may be watching this school committee meeting which is being held at Deer Hill School. The room is the unveiling of the Susan B. McNamara Innovation Commons where it's almost finished. This is a product of a CEF grant that was generously funded by the McNamara family in honor of Susan B. McNamara who made amazing contributions throughout this community. Susan B. McNamara started the Cohasset's PSO and was involved in the CEF. Susan B. McNamara was also involved in the Arts and did so many wonderful things throughout Cohasset and definitely within our schools. The vision of Stephanie Allison who designs Children's spaces and Deer Hill faculty were able to come up with a place that integrates a learning environment where classes and events can happen. Principal Sullivan expresses how grateful this community is to have the CEF, the McNamara family, and all the visionaries here in Cohasset that brought the Susan B. McNamara Innovations Commons together.

Chairman Dial says one of the things most important to him about our schools is the sense this community has making sure kids are connecting with each other and connecting with the school community. This is fantastic and he thanks Principal Sullivan for leading it.

- **Cohasset High School Harvard Model Congress February 2025** (*Mr. Chris Luvisi*)**

Mr. Luvisi has done a few vibrant Model UN Programs for a number of years at Cohasset High School that focuses on Civics and American Governance and would love to explore the Harvard Model Congress next February 2025 with students. Mr. Luvisi says Cohasset High School never did a Harvard Model Congress before but feels this would be a good practice run. It's much closer than the National UN and there seems to be a lot of student demand for it. The Harvard Model Congress looks very similar to the Model UN schedule with opening ceremonies, speakers, and committee sessions.

Mr. Luvisi used to run the political society many years ago and always has plenty of student interest in talking about politics and contemporary issues. There are no Freshmen in their Model UN Programs because of the way it was organized, so this would be a great opportunity for Freshmen. Sophomores and Freshmen at Cohasset High School take US History, and it would be logical to talk to the Department Head, Mr. Willis. Principal Scott thought it was logical for grade 9 to attend a Model Congress place for students. This would be similar to the Edward Kennedy Senate version Model that Cohasset High School did in the past and Mr. Luvisi says they're doing this again this year with the students. It's basically role-playing politics and students have to embrace the fact they're there to take that on, and act that part and hopefully compromise on whatever the solution will be.

Ms. Lesky loves this idea, any extracurricular opportunities for students, it's wonderful in terms of building writing skills. She would also like to thank Mr. Luvisi for offering his time to support this kind of work outside of school.

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- **Cohasset High School Harvard Model Congress February 2025** (*Mr. Chris Luvisi*)**

Mr. Carr says this is great, any time where we can offer quality content like this for students is important and this is wonderful.

Mr. Kearney echoes what Mr. Carr just stated. Some kids want to get involved in politics and more people should, it's fun to have these debates with other people.

Mr. MacLellan notes there are so many members of our excellent faculty here that go above and beyond, and Mr. Luvisi is certainly one of them. Students who are interested in government, law, or politics who get this kind of exposure early on can make a huge difference. Every one of these extracurricular things our faculty members does are additional tasks on their own time that doesn't go unnoticed, thank you.

The Chair echoes everything that this school committee just shared. From the Chair's own personal perspective, any sort of authentic learning is the best learning.

Motion made by Mr. MacLellan to approve the Administration to pursue participation in the Cohasset High School Harvard Model Congress for February 2025, seconded by Mr. Kearney.

Aye – All

School Updates

- **School News (*Dr. Patrick Sullivan*)**

Dr. Patrick Sullivan says this is bit of a combined presentation with some school news and some academic updates from Dr. Scollins. Vice Chair MacLellan, Dr. Scollins and Dr. Sullivan were honored to watch the Marine Science Research Showcase today. Dr. Duncan, who is a wonderful Marine Biology Science teacher, did a semester working with students at the Cohasset Student Coastal Research under the direction of Jack Buckley. This is such an example of authentic learning in terms of a real-world environment. Students get a great experience because they go out to do the work. Students collect specimens and do all the things as a real scientist would do. Dr. Duncan guides students but she wants them to have the full experience. Dr. Scollins was so impressed with the students on their ability to have conversations in depth about what they did, why they did it, what their outcome was. One of the projects students presented was the external factors that are impacting Cohasset Harbor. Students tested the waters with a YSI instrument collecting abiotic data and analyzed their compiled data onto Google sheets created to map using AGISI software. One of the neat things about this project it's done in context of a class so they're really looking at local issues within Cohasset harbor and projecting out what is this telling them and how is this similar to other environmental situations that are happening around the world, and students are seeking trends and solutions to this.

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School Updates

• **School News (*Dr. Patrick Sullivan*)**

This is the deeper learning that we've talked about, it was really good. Watching the growth and the collaborative experience with the amount of time the teachers spent with Jack Buckley and his team working together with surrounding districts is a true-life experience. Our main goal for this year is student voice, authentic learning experience for students, family, and community engagement.

The Osgood family curriculum "Reading Takes Us Places" which would be Series #2 for this year. This will be held on Thursday, February 1, 2024 5:30-6:30 PM on what's happening in our classrooms with teachers so parents can see what students are learning and how they're learning it. This is very helpful for parents to know how our literacy curriculum is.

The "Credit for Life Fair" will be held at Cohasset High School on February 9, 2024. Nicole Fitzgerald, a wonderful high school teacher runs this. Credit for Life is an opportunity for this year's senior class to learn about the importance of credit, budgeting, and money management after high school and as a young professional.

Vice Chair MacLellan would like to point out that all these items that were talked about tonight are examples of our faculty and staff outside of the classroom on their free time to bring experiences to not only our students, but our families as well. This just showcases how dedicated our faculty is.

Chairman Dial says the more we can do on financial literacy especially for the older high school students, the better, it can really make a difference in their lives. The school district is blessed with excellent faculty who go above and beyond, and this school committee appreciates them for that.

Teaching and Learning

• **Academic Initiatives / Updates (*Dr. Leslie Scollins*)**

Dr. Scollins says they have six (6) representatives Eliza, Nora, Brooke, Aiden, Wess, and Will. for the Wellness Committee who met on January 7, 2024. One of their History teachers, Sean Turner, is on the Wellness Committee to help recruit because they have so much to say. The new Food Service Director, Vinicio Cordon, attended the Wellness meeting where students engaged in a lively conversation about the positive changes they have noticed. Students gave feedback and ideas about what they would like to see in the future as well as ways to engage more students in participating in the lunch program.

This past week they had the Instructional Technology Committee go on a Learning Walk to see products such as the hardware that students need to use. Dr. Scollins did a Learning Walk at the Osgood School with their Reading Specialists. They noticed students doing a lot of writing. The amount of writing that was happening and students talking about what they were writing with illustrations was truly impressive.

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Teaching and Learning

• Academic Initiatives / Updates (*Dr. Leslie Scollins*)

Professional Development continues their work with (TLA), Teaching and Learning Alliance at Deer Hill Elementary on literacy. They focus on how to get students to write about what they're reading. How to get students to synthesize it and how to engage students to make sure it's all embedded. Teachers have the opportunity to work with consultants who break down all the things that students are going to do. Consultants will often model it with students in a classroom and the teacher will observe it. Then they'll debrief or talk about it so teachers are given that lesson or that strategy on how to implement best practices. It's very personalized for teacher experience, and one of the better ways to get teachers to learn.

At Cohasset Middle School, Principal Mills held a (MARC) meeting which is the Massachusetts Aggression Reduction Center from Bridgewater State University. MARC provides free and low-cost programs, services, research, and resources to schools, families, and professionals in the United States and beyond. Their focus is on social and emotional adjustments in children, including bullying and cyberbullying, fighting, bias and diversity, peer relationships, and screen social media use. This was a very eye-opening event for a lot of the teachers that gave sense of what to look for.

Ms. Lesky asks how Professional Development teaches writing skills that are rigorous enough to change or push that practice along to continue great practices and methodologies without the curriculum having objectives or benchmarks to support it. How do those two-progress hand in hand.

Dr. Scollins says teachers are using empowering writers that was a curriculum they used quite a long time ago. Teachers want students to be able to write their reading and respond to it in a way that the question is asking the student to do it. To take what students are reading and create a thought around it.

Mr. Carr has a million thoughts about the connection between young people and the people that teach them. He hopes to present his thoughts on this at their next school committee meeting. Basically, the connectivity between everything we've just talked about here and the extracurricular teachers are given and making sure there's a synergy about it.

Budget, Resources and Governance

• Budget and Finance

➤ Monthly Update (*Mrs. Susan Owen*)

The FY24 December finance report shows we're right on target and we're 50% through the school year and the school budget is 48.07% for the year which both are on target. SPED Tuitions, which Mrs. Owen reported over the last few months, have a deficit of **-\$544,423** that has not changed since last month. They're still looking at possibly the Stabilization Fund to help with the deficit.

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Budget, Resources and Governance

• Budget and Finance

➤ Monthly Update (*Mrs. Susan Owen*)

<u>School</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Expended</u>	<u>Encumbrances</u>	<u>Balance</u>	<u>% Used</u>	<u>FTE</u>
Osgood	\$3,993,308	\$1,540,731	\$126,782	\$2,325,795	41.75%	53.10
Deer Hill	\$4,071,421	\$1,457,937	\$ 98,762	\$2,514,721	38.23%	44.30
Middle	\$4,138,878	\$1,385,280	\$ 16,818	\$2,736,780	33.87%	46.0
High School	\$7,097,617	\$2,739,377	\$317,109	\$4,041,131	43.06%	66.80

Circuit Breaker has not changed. They received a second payment within the last week that's working and coming in as planned. Luckily, they've stayed at 75% for quite some time.

<u>Year</u>	<u># of Students</u>	<u>% Reimbursement</u>	<u>Reimbursement Amount</u>
FY24	14	75%	\$1,034,108
FY23	18	75%	\$1,170,609
FY22	18	75%	\$ 701,856
FY21	14	75%	\$ 648,533
FY20	19	75%	\$ 726,908
FY19	14	75%	\$ 592,920
FY18	13	75%	\$ 534,554
FY17	14	75%	\$ 446,704

FY24 VOTED CAPITAL LIST

	<u>APPROVED</u>
1) Bus Lease (2024-2027) (District) 8 Diesel	\$ 90,000
2) Replacement of Aging Chromebooks (540- 3 Yr. Lease)	\$ 52,000
3) Replace Smart Projectors/Panels in All Rooms (CMS)	\$ 155,161
4) Replace iPads at Deer Hill and Osgood School to include (253 iPads & cases, charging station)	\$ 93,960
5) Continue to replace furniture-Teacher/Students	\$ 35,000
Deer Hill* adding a new grade 3 class.	
Grand Total	\$ 426,121

They're just still waiting on some furniture for Deer Hill Elementary.

Town Administrators are going over our FY25 Capital List as we speak for the different requests and quotes. Nothing on the working FY25 Draft Capital list has changed since the last time shown to the school committee. The list has two parts, one is the regular Capital that we ask for each year and the other one is the new Stabilization Fund.

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Budget, Resources and Governance

• Budget and Finance

➤ Monthly Update (*Mrs. Susan Owen*)

FY25 *DRAFT* CAPITAL LIST

SUM of 2025

C	Bus Lease (8 Diesel Buses)	\$ 150,000	Q
C	Electric Bus Lease	\$ 25,000	Q
C	Replacement of Aging Chromebooks (540-3 yr. lease \$143,100)	\$ 69,000	Q
C	Replace all Projectors with Interactive Presentation Equipment (46-CHS)	\$ 254,908	
C	CMS Enhanced Audio in Classrooms (Lightspeed Redcat)	\$ 40,000	
C	Replacement Furniture –Students/Staff (Deer Hill)	\$ 35,000	Q
C	Add Chromebooks (100 - Deer Hill Elementary)	\$ 35,000	Q
C	Indoor Signage in classrooms/hallways (CMHS)	\$ 50,000	
C	(2) New Athletic 15 Passenger Vans (48 Month Lease)	\$ 31,946	Q
C	Alumni Field Fence	\$ 80,000	Q
C	Alumni Field Bleachers	\$ 100,000	\$ 870,854
S	Fire Alarms (CMHS) Engineering Study	\$ 175,000	
S	Osgood School Roof (funding towards roof \$3-\$4 million)	\$ 200,000	
S	Finish Retiling all Classrooms (Deer Hill)	\$ 300,000	
S	Asphalt Road-Sidewalk Between DHS/JOS Needs to be Resurfaced (DHS)	\$ 150,000	
S	Asphalt Road from Pond Street Needs to be Resurfaced (CMHS)	\$ 100,000	
S	Replace Sidewalk and Curbing on Entry Road to CMHS (CMHS)	\$ 250,000	
S	Extend Sidewalk to Pond Street (CMHS)	\$ 75,000	
S	Generator for the Osgood Elementary School	\$ 250,000	\$1,500,000
Grand Total		\$ 2,370,854	

C = Capital

S = Stabilization Fund

Q = Quote

The Finance and Operations Department received a quote today for the replacement of the projectors at CHS. This list hasn't been updated with that new quote given as they're still looking at alternatives, to be creative to CMHS indoor signage of \$50,000 being a high number and they're hoping that number will come in less.

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Budget, Resources and Governance

• **Food Service**

Our new Director of Food Service, Vinicio Cordon, has hit the ground running. A few changes have been made to the school breakfast and lunch menus along with some new updates in our school cafeterias.

Breakfast Menu Across the District – [Rotating each week]

- Breakfast Sandwiches
- Overnight Oatmeal
- French Toast or Pancakes
- Cinnamon Buns
- Smoothies
- 2 Types of Cereal Only (Cheerios and Rice Krispies)

Lunch Menu:

- Grab and Go
- Fresh Made Salads
- Crudité Tray with Hummus
- Freshly Made Deli Sandwiches
- Improvement on More Flavorful Pizza on Fridays

Other:

- New Utensil and Napkin Dispensers
- New Make Your Own Salad with Healthy Toppings
- Introduction of Multigrain Bread for Deli Sandwiches

• **Transportation**

➤ **Leasing of Additional Bus**

The charging station for our new electric school bus is completed. They're just waiting for the electric school bus to be delivered. Also, they're adding a 9th school bus to their new fleet as their "Ole Blue Bird" bus is ready for retirement. The new school bus should arrive by March 1st that will also help with School Athletic trips.

Mrs. Owen says they're short on buses with the promised electric school bus that was scheduled for delivery in December, 2023. In exchange for that they asked to lease or rent a school bus from First Student to which they've been doing but thought this bus wouldn't be needed since the electric school bus was supposed to be delivered in December, and it would cost another \$25,000 to lease one (1) school bus from First Student to finish out the school year. The "Ole Blue Bird" school bus is a spare and it's slowly retiring and falling apart.

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Budget, Resources and Governance

• Transportation

➤ Leasing of Additional Bus

The Finance and Operations Department has an ask from the school committee for \$20,000 that will be deferred after July 1, 2024. Mrs. Owen says they can get another school bus by March 1st which would be the 9th school bus to our fleet. They have no guarantee when the electric school bus will arrive. Ray, their Transportation Supervisor is pushing for 2-3 school buses with their athletic teams going out on trips the same day. The alternative is paying for coach buses for other contracted services, which is costly. To fully ensure the needs of their bus routes and their sports teams are met, Ray recommends a fleet of 11 school buses.

They have 8 leased school buses that's been consistent overtime. They have the "Ole Bluebird" which they own. With no electric school bus yet, they've been leasing one (1) First Student bus. The "Ole Bluebird" is just a spare in case one of the leased school buses inevitably breaks down. They now have 8 bus routes and have school bus drivers to do those routes. The idea is they don't want to double up on bus routes. They're leasing an additional "First Student" school bus as a placement for the electric school bus. They've already paid \$25,000 for "First Student" school bus for this year to use as a backup for athletic trips. The 9th school bus they'll need to lease will be replacing their "Ole Bluebird" school bus. The electric school bus will go as one of their daily bus routes because it can't go out of town. It will need to charge in between the morning and afternoon.

The Chair recommends our Transportation Department to do a full presentation on their transportation fleet on what their needs are starting from, here's where we are, and here's how they'll use them before authorizing an acquisition for a new school bus.

Community Relations / Communication

• Reports from School Committee Sub-Committees and Liaisons

Facilities have been very busy over the last few months including the duration of the December break. They got power to all new furniture in the upper and lower lobbies and the weight room at CMS/CHS. New lighting for the walk-in fridge and freezer in CMS and CHS cafeteria. Floor repairs at CMS. Numerous plumbing repairs to faucets, toilets and drains at Osgood School. Assisted with the Susan B. McNamara Innovations Commons at Deer Hill Elementary School.

Mr. Carr is a Liaison on the Alternative Energy Committee and engaged with the school community on potential opportunities around solar batteries and there's a very robust exercise about that which is great. Mr. Carr is also on the Select Board, and apparently the Town Hall has heard they have to pay for cake and there's a lot of opportunities going around.

Mr. Dial would like to note he received word from the School Facilities Committee who are going to meet next week on January 30th to vote on participation with the MSBA for a roof replacement. This will help the Capital if this is approved for funds for roofing which are pending and an urgent item.

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School Committee Governance

• Superintendent Search Committee Report

Vice Chair MacLellan takes the floor as Chair on the Superintendent Search Committee to addresses to the school committee their moving at an accelerated pace. Having received Dr. Sullivan's notice that he's leaving the district. As the school committee decided at their last meeting, they have come up with some recommendations for the Superintendent Search Committee that includes (2) school committee members, (2) faculty members, (2) building Principals, an administrator, and (3) family representatives and (1) student. All these roles have been filled with the exception of the administrator role because there's just one and they'll still try to hash out which administrator is going to be the representative.

The school committee has already voted for Mr. Dial as Vice Chair and Mr. MacLellan as Chair with respect to the Superintendent Search Committee. The (2) faculty members that had submitted their SOI, Statement of Interest by a certain deadline was Mr. Luvisi who was here earlier, and he would be the secondary school faculty representative if approved. The other faculty member is Ms. Kara Moser who is a 4th grade teacher, a wonderful educator here at Deer Hill. They both submitted their Statement of Interest and are very interested. They received lots of statements and Mr. MacLellan wants to make that clear to everyone. It was not easy to decide, it was a collaboration effort. Recommendations for the (3) family representatives are Ms. Casey, Candace Hartford, and Mr. Anthony Reney. Mr. Reney is in education, and Ms. Casey is in education, and all have students in different grade levels, so all levels of education are represented. Most exciting is the student representative that was selected and that is Ella Lynch who serves as a Liaison on the Superintendent Student Advisory Council and Ella will be member of the class of 2025. The (2) building Principals are Brian Scott, and Principal Alexander Sullivan of Deer Hill Elementary.

Ms. Lesky has been working on a web page that will be linked to our district website instructing the information out there and it's readily accessible so everyone will get regular updates on who they can reach out to on the Superintendent Search Committee. As of today, this is being published to the public and the Chair of the Superintendent Search Committee will be receiving applications through February 24, 2024. During that time the SSC will be having their first couple of meetings to figure out what their regular meeting schedule will be. We anticipate receiving all these applications and start to review them. The major charge of the SSC, the Superintendent Search Committee, is to identify 3 finalists for the school committee's consideration at the end of this process which is currently slated to terminate prior to April vacation. MASC has also helped develop a survey that has gone out to families, stakeholders, and staff asking for their input. There's been a great deal of participation there and these surveys go back to MASC. The SSC will also start to develop an overall plan in terms of gaining input from the community and stakeholders.

Students' connection is an important facet to the new Superintendent of Cohasset Public Schools. The student representative selected for the SSC is insightful beyond her years and provides a good overall concept on what this school committee should look for in a community leader like our Superintendent and this letter is a wonderful tribute to our current Superintendent Patrick Sullivan.

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School Committee Governance

• Superintendent Search Committee Report

It's heart-braised and Mr. MacLellan just wanted to make sure that the public was aware of it. Lastly, it showcases what we always do with student achievement. Mr. MacLellan was given permission to read this and to keep in mind this was authored by a Junior at Cohasset High School, and it represents the type of student leaders that we're putting out to improve communities.

Having been a member on Dr. Sullivan's Superintendent Student Advisory Council for the past 4 years I was given a unique glimpse of the responsibilities of a Superintendent as well as an opportunity to know him on a personal level and observe the qualities that granted his success. Thus, I believe that the Superintendent should strive to embody a few important characteristics that show leadership, ambition, dedication, and above all genuine kindness. First, I believe a Superintendent that leads and advises all administrators across the district must be able to both take charge in difficult situations and motivate faculty members to follow suit. Secondly, our Superintendent must be ambitious, as a large part of a Superintendents job is to improve the quality of the education and experience of students, teachers, and other faculty members of the Cohasset Public Schools. Ambitious and realistic plans to implement positive change. Another trait I deem incredibly important for the new Superintendent to exhibit is the dedication to the Cohasset Schools, to the students, and to the faculty who occupy them. Our Superintendent should care deeply about the quality of the experience for all members of the Cohasset school community and should always work hard to keep that quality highlighted. Lastly, and perhaps most importantly, our new Superintendent must be kind and friendly as I believe culture here comes from the top. It is important that our Superintendent is genuinely kind and amicable as this will foster a welcome and cooperative environment for the Cohasset school district. Friendliness in a Superintendent is always beneficial to the students as I have seen first-hand. In the past Dr. Sullivan was always a friendly face and never failed to greet students in the hallway which made him feel less intimidating to students to reach out too, and thus allowed for increased student voice both within and outside his Superintendent Student Advisory Council. I believe a Superintendent should refrain from leading in such a way that discourages cooperation and conversation to all members of the Cohasset school community whether it be through over exertion of power or through lack of willingness to work with others. I also believe that it is an important issue for a Superintendent to refrain from creating a culture of fear and approaches conversations with students and faculty without a sense of their importance due to their position. Overall, I believe a Superintendent can embody these qualities listed to go above and beyond the things I have mentioned, for they will succeed. ~ Ella Lynch - Junior CHS ~

Chairman MacLellan just wanted folks to know as they seek to replace Dr. Sullivan, they need to replace him with someone that is going to retain that important connection with our students. As folks can see what an impact it has. This is why the Chair wanted to read this so it's in everyone's head as we go into the Superintendent Search. This is something we cannot lose!

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE COHASSET SCHOOL COMMITTEE
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
01-24-2024**

School Committee Governance

• Superintendent Search Committee Report

Mr. Carr asks Vice Chair Dial on timing on communications when the Superintendent Search Committee gets going and give members of the school committee some potential dates for these meetings to make sure we meet those.

Mr. Kearney would like to echo onto what the letter that Craig just read. It's Dr. Sullivan's friendliness that captured his kids every time they saw him. The interaction that Dr. Sullivan has with the students is priceless. Mr. Kearney says we've all been so blessed to have Dr. Sullivan.

Vice Chair Dial would also like to express his gratitude for those who submitted their statement of interest. It's an incredible reflection of our community of the quality of applicants that we have and the interest that people have shown. For those who have applied and might be listening the membership on the Superintendent Search Committee is not the only way to have input, we do want all of your input. There will be several public forums and several meetings that everyone will be invited to, and the Vice Chair hopes that you will. Since you were planning to spend time on the Superintendent Search Committee, you can also spend time providing your input in these forums as well. Again, Vice Chair Dial expresses his deepest appreciation to those of you who hoped to do that and hope you will participate in this process as a member of the community, if not a member of the Superintendent Search Committee.

Stephanie Saunders, no address given, chimes in to say she's so happy about the parents you choose, thank you.

• Appointment of Superintendent Search Committee Members**

The Superintendent Search Committee comprised of 11 members; (2) School Committee members, (2) teachers, (3) Family members; one from elementary grades, one from the middle high school grades, and one with SEPAC connections; (1) student representative; (2) building Principals and (1) from administration.

Motion made by Mr. Carr to approve the following members of the Superintendent Search Committee and omit the (2) school committee members as they were approved last time. Appoint (2) teachers, Chris Luvisi, and Karen Moser. (3) Family Members; Ms. Casey, Candace Hartford, and Anthony Remi. (1) student representative, Ella Lynch. (2) building Principals, Brian Scott, and Alexandra Sullivan, seconded by Ms. Lesky.

Aye – All

Motion by Mr. MacLellan for the school committee to delegate to the Superintendent Search Committee to appoint the administration seat on its own, seconded by Ms. Lesky.

Aye – All

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE COHASSET SCHOOL COMMITTEE
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
01-24-2024**

School Committee Governance

- **Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair - None**

- **Approval of Minutes****

They do have minutes, although the Chair is not going to request approval for those and will table those until the next school committee meeting because they have several and the Chair wants to make sure members of the school committee have a chance to fully digest them.

- **Future Agenda Items**

Transportation overview on future needs.

Invite Officer Taylor to talk about teenage drinking.

- **Executive Session:¹ - No reason to go into Executive Session.**

- **Adjourn****

Motion made by Vice Chair MacLellan to adjourn the January 24, 2024 school committee meeting at 8:18 PM, seconded by Mr. Kearney.

Aye – All

****Requires Committee Vote / Action**

The Cohasset School Committee meeting held on January 24, 2024 adjourned at 8:18 PM.

**Minutes typed and respectfully submitted by:
Kathy Bock on the 27th day of January, 2024**