



Cohasset School Committee Meeting

School Committee Minutes

Wednesday, September 20, 2017
Cohasset Middle-High School
Community Use Room
143 Pond Street
Cohasset, MA

In Attendance: Jeanne Astino, Chairman
Katie Dugan
Barbara Stefan-arrived @ 7:45 pm
Ellen Maher
Jennifer Madden

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

Call to Order and Roll Call-Chairman Astino called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. **Roll Call Vote;** **Katie Dugan-Present, Jeanne Astino-Present, Ellen Maher-Present, Jennifer Madden-Present.**

Pledge-Recited

Invitation to Speak-Eric Spear-15 Wood Way asked for an explanation about the incident that occurred at the Middle/High School this week. He would like some answers that are not vague and would like to know the disciplinary actions that were taken. Chairman Astino said there was an incident at the school and unfortunately the School Committee meeting is not the venue to discuss it. The operations of the school are the responsibility of the Superintendent. The Superintendent is willing to meet and discuss privately with anyone. Wendy Esposito-22 Smith Place asked if they have educated the kids about the dangers of these types of incidents. They should be told how serious it is. Superintendent Demas responded that Mrs. Connolly had discussions with the students and they are well aware of the seriousness. Maura Jane Rogers-14 Oak Street stated they now realize there was no valid threat but it doesn't seem the consequences are as they are stated in the handbook. Chairman Astino responded that the consequences were what they should have been and again the Superintendent is willing to meet with anyone to discuss.

Approval of Warrant-Motion by Mrs. Dugan to approve Warrant 18-05S, seconded by Mrs. Maher. **Roll Call Vote;** **Katie Dugan-Aye, Jeanne Astino-Aye, Ellen Maher-Aye, Jennifer Madden-Aye.**

Finance-Monthly Update-Mr. Tuffy reviewed the monthly update with the Committee. He noted a couple of grants have not received yet. He expects to receive them shortly. Mr. Tuffy noted the revolving accounts have \$172,453.92 encumbered year to date. This is mostly revenue from gifts from last year and those expenses will be paid out within a month. Mr. Tuffy stated the budget looks pretty

good so far although it is still early. They do know that unemployment will be underfunded slightly this year. There are changes in Athletics. Mr. Tuffy advised the strategy is to spend down the operational budget before utilizing revolving funds. Actual expenses so far in August are mainly MIAA dues and student insurance. The circuit breaker will be funded at 65% as they anticipated. The Committee had a brief discussion.

Bus Maintenance-Mr. Tuffy stated all buses are inspected and good to go. There were no major issues. All buses went in over the summer for an overhaul. They spent \$1400 total for all inspections. The food service van is now being used again since school is back in session. Mrs. Dugan asked about the status of the 6-month bus lease extension. Mr. Tuffy sent the proforma lease extension to Susan Franklin from Capital Budgets to review. She has not responded. He will reach out to her and follow up.

Update on FY19 Capital Budget Items-Mrs. Demas stated the Capital Budget items are still being worked on. One meeting was postponed until tomorrow. Currently, the district is looking more at facility items (entryways to bldgs, windows, air conditioning units, enclosure of nurse's office at the high school). Also in discussion is an IPass/ESPED software issue with Ron Menard. It was noted that 86% of students had their own devices on opening day at CMHS.

Superintendent's Report-Gift-Motion by Mrs. Maher to accept the gift of \$3836 from the Cohasset Lacrosse Boosters Club for one boys and one girls assistant coach, for the 2017 spring season, seconded by Mrs. Dugan. Roll Call Vote; Katie Dugan-Aye, Jeanne Astino-Aye, Ellen Maher-Aye, Jennifer Madden-Aye. The Committee thanked the boosters for their generous gift.

Educator Spotlight- Middle School teachers Erin Ryan-Social Studies and Catherine Duggan- English discussed their Grade 6 Class on Executive Functioning and where the vision came from. They discussed the significant stress and anxiety with executive functioning issues that middle school students have. This program teaches organizational skills, self-advocacy skills and how to develop a growth mindset using academic skills & strategies, social skills and strategies and forming good habits. All grade 6 students will take this course this year. There has been great feedback from the students.

Mrs. Stefan arrived at 7:45 pm.

Middle School Grand Canyon Trip-Science Teacher Robert Erlandsen was present along with Grand Classroom representative Gregg Wachtelhausen. They discussed their proposed 5 day trip to the Grand Canyon over April vacation, 2018. They will cap the trip at 40 students. Mr. Erlandsen stated Grand Classroom is a great travel company that he has worked with in the past. Mr. Wachtelhausen is a teacher at the Hingham schools and has been running the program for the last 12 years. They discussed the trip and the curriculum. **Motion by Mrs. Dugan to approve the Grand Canyon trip for 5 days over April vacation, seconded by Mrs. Madden. Roll Call Vote; Barbara Stefan-Aye, Katie Dugan-Aye, Jeanne Astino-Aye, Ellen Maher-Aye, Jennifer Madden-Aye.**

Youth Behavior Survey-Vice Principal Brian Scott and P/E Health Instructor Torin Sweeney discussed the results of the combined Health & Wellness Survey Executive Summary. They discussed the survey overview, major findings-strengths & concerns what the next steps are. They discussed reintroducing tobacco awareness since the survey showed an increase in tobacco use. The Committee had a lengthy discussion. Members of the audience asked questions about the survey and how they could help.

Review of Superintendent FY18 Goals-Mrs. Demas discussed her four goals.

- 1) Professional Learning: conduct collaborative leadership meetings and classroom observations to improve teaching and learning
- 2) Professional Practice: Implement leadership strategies to appreciate diversity
- 3) Student Learning: Institute Wellness Committee
- 4) Student Learning: Continue with Middle School Study

School Committee Comments & Communication –SC sub-committee reorganization-Chairman Astino stated Mrs. Dugan is stepping down as a member of the collective bargaining sub-committee. **Motion by Mrs. Dugan to restructure the collective bargaining sub-committee and appoint Mrs. Maher, seconded by Mrs. Madden and the vote was unanimous (5-0).**

Report of SC Subcommittee-Mrs. Stefan stated she and Mrs. Madden met today on policies. They should have the residency policy for the next agenda. Mrs. Madden attended the AEC meeting as well as Chairman Astino. They discussed energy costs for each building. They discussed finding other funding sources and ways to drive savings. Mrs. Dugan stated she, Mrs. Astino and Mrs. Demas had 6 candidates apply for the business manager position and they are culling them down. Mrs. Dugan reminded the Committee they need to draft a warrant proposal for the STM warrant article to set up a revolving fund for non-resident tuition. Mrs. Maher advised the Committee there was a great article and news story about Officer St. Ives and a young boy. It was a heartwarming article.

Minutes-9/6/17-**Motion by Mrs. Maher to approve the minutes of 9/6/17 as amended, seconded by Mrs. Madden and the vote was unanimous (5-0).**

Follow- up and Updates-The Committee reviewed and updated the list.

Motion by Mrs. Dugan to adjourn, seconded by Mrs. Madden. Roll Call Vote; Barbara Stefan-Aye, Katie Dugan-Aye, Jeanne Astino-Aye, Ellen Maher-Aye, Jennifer Madden-Aye.

The meeting adjourned at 10:25 p.m.

Documents used at the Meeting

Monthly Finances	E-1
Bus Maintenance	E-2
Gift	F-1
Grand Canyon Trip	F-2
Risk Behavior Survey	F-3
Superintendent Goals	F-4
Minutes 9/6/17	