

## Minutes of August 6, 2014 School Committee Meeting

In attendance: Mr. Paul Ognibene  
Dr. Paul Schubert  
Mrs. Mary McGoldrick  
Mrs. Jeanne Astino  
Dr. Helene Lieb

Also in attendance: Mrs. Barbara Cataldo, Superintendent  
Mr. Dave DeGennaro, Business Manager

Mr. Ognibene called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM. Roll call vote: all committee members present. MOVED by Dr. Schubert to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing strategy with respect to collective bargaining issues because the Chair has determined that doing so in open meeting would have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the Committee, and to reconvene in open session for the purpose of continuing the meeting agenda. SECONDED by Mrs. Astino. VOTE: 5-0 in favor of going into Executive Session.

MOVED by Dr. Schubert to reconvene open meeting at 7:55 PM. SECONDED by Mrs. Astino. Roll Call vote: All aye to reconvene open meeting.

An invitation to members of the audience who wished to speak was the first order of business. No audience members asked to be recognized.

Mrs. Astino requested an update on the hiring of new/replacement staff members. She would also like resumes of new staff available at the next meeting. Mrs. Cataldo indicated that there are staff positions still vacant but feels these will be filled this week.

**Approval of April 16 Minutes:** MOVED by Dr. Schubert to approve the April 16 minutes, SECONDED by Dr. Lieb. Mrs. Astino would like to add a description of what Project 360 is, "A project sponsored by the Governor to encourage students to give back to their community." Moved by Mrs. Astino to approve the minutes as amended. Seconded by Mrs. McGoldrick. VOTE: 5-0 in favor of approval.

**Approval of May 7 Minutes:** MOVED by Dr. Lieb to approve the May 7 minutes. SECONDED by Mrs. McGoldrick. Since none of the May meetings are currently on the website, Mrs. Astino is unable to review the meetings and would therefore like to revisit the minutes after she has reviewed the meetings. Mr. Ognibene was not in attendance, but is listed as present. In light of this information Dr. Lieb withdrew her motion to approve these minutes. The May 7, 2014, minutes will be reviewed again at the next meeting in September.

**Superintendent's Report:** Christine Murphy and Dr. Barbara Green joined the meeting to discuss their efforts on behalf of the Cohasset Drug Coalition. Dr. Lieb is part of the Coalition through her involvement with the Social Service League and suggested that another person from the School Committee be involved as well. Drug abuse is not a new problem in Cohasset. It has been a hidden problem for many years. Ms. Murphy and Dr. Green formed a group through the Social Service League and the Youth Health Connection to look at what other towns are doing to address drug abuse issues and how they might be applied to the issues Cohasset is facing. A

wide variety of community members are involved from parents to medical professionals, town leaders and therapists. Newspaper headlines reflect the growing problem of heroin use on the front steps of Cohasset. Heroin overdoses are getting widespread media attention; there have been five overdoses in Cohasset since January. Marijuana use has increased as its perceived danger has lessened. Gov. Patrick started a Task Force as a result of information published by Patriot Ledger, and the hope is that grants and resources will be forthcoming. There is a need to gather data to drive the programs and develop ongoing programs so that it's not "one and done". There is a commitment to educate educators on the issues and programs, and to develop training for parents, teachers, students, in fact everyone in the community! The next meeting of the Coalition is Aug. 20, 2014 at the Library.

**Kindergarten Enrollment:** The Superintendent is keeping tabs on the enrollment: as of today there are a total of 109 students--16 for the half day program and 93 for the full day. While we currently have 7 Kindergarten teachers for an incoming population that would require only 6 teachers, First grade enrollment has grown. We may need to move a teacher from Kindergarten to First Grade. We have a long-term substitute opening in First Grade as well.

**Superintendent's Evaluation:** Mr. Ognibene completed a summary report on the evaluation which took place at the meeting on June 4, 2014. Mr. Ognibene gave a quick overview of his summary:

Ratings: three proficient, one bordering on exemplary

In addition to the brief review of the evaluation, Mrs. Astino asked for an update on completion of Mrs. Cataldo's dissertation.

Three out of five chapters of her dissertation on the iPad and Autism and how it impacts families have been completed.

Course work at Northeastern University has been completed.

Mrs. Cataldo indicated that she will review her goals for next year at the September 17<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**School Committee Retreat:** The Committee will meet on Thursday Sept. 11, 2015, at 6:00 PM. Jim Hardy from MASC will be there to moderate a discussion on "Goals for the committee".

**Fire Inspection for Schools:** The Fire Dept. is inspecting the schools in stages this year. Captain Trask inspected available sections in the High School today. The Captain has worked out a schedule to cover the areas available and give issues to the Facilities Manager, Mark Kelly, so he can begin working on them now. The Fire Dept. is following the same protocol at the other two schools as well so that we will have additional time to address and remedy any issues that are identified.

**1:1 Technology Initiative:** The Committee, which is comprised of administrators, teachers, and parents, met with Susan Skeiber and Joanne McDonald who are the consultants we've retained to help us determine how the initiative should be structured and implemented. Committee members were all given assignments to complete prior to the next meeting. Mrs. Astino requested that she be given a copy of the notes from the meeting.

**Fingerprinting and Policy:** We have begun requiring faculty that was hired since last year to complete the fingerprinting process and have the results sent to the Superintendent's office. We need a policy from the policy sub-committee that will cover the staff members who were hired prior to 2013. We will need to notify all staff prior to next year that they will need to be fingerprinted as well.

**Director of Curriculum and Assessment Title Change:** In order to sign off on a number of documents required by DESE Mrs. Demas needs to be recognized as the Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment. Most other districts that are similar in size to Cohasset have reclassified the Curriculum Director position to Assistant Superintendent. The School Committee first needs to vote to accept the reclassification of the position from Director of Curriculum to Assistant Superintendent. Having changed the title, the Superintendent would then make a recommendation to appoint Mrs. Demas as the Assistant Superintendent, and the Committee would vote to appoint Mrs. Demas to the position. **MOVED** by Dr. Lieb to accept the reclassification of Director of Curriculum to Assistant Superintendent. **SECONDED** by Mrs. Astino. **VOTE:** 5-0 in favor of the reclassification. **MOVED** by Dr. Lieb to approve the appointment of Mrs. Demas to the newly classified position of Assistant Superintendent. **SECONDED** by Mrs. Astino. **VOTE:** 5-0 in favor of appointing Mrs. Demas for the position.

**Gift from South Shore Music Circus:** The Music Circus has made a gift to the District in the amount of \$5,000 for lacrosse nets and posts. **MOVED** by Dr. Lieb to accept the gift from the South Shore Music Circus. **SECONDED** by Mrs. McGoldrick. **Roll Call Vote:** All aye.

**School Bus Lease Bid:** Out of the six vendors who requested bid packages, three submitted bids. Dattco was the lowest with a bid of \$319,578 for 3 years for 7 buses. While Dattco was the lowest bid, they did not meet the specifications of the bid. The buses included in their bid were rear-engine vehicles that also had a side emergency door. We specified front engine vehicles with a rear emergency door. Because we had some issues with this difference, we requested that Dattco bring a bus to Cohasset so that we could test drive it on our bus routes. During the test drive there was an issue navigating a curve on Cedar Street and the bus could not turn around on Lamberts Lane because of the increased length due to the rear-engine design. While the side emergency door is legal, there are two seats in the row where the exit door is located. In light of these issues, we feel that the Dattco bid should be disqualified.

Because there is a 90 day lead time for delivery regardless of which company gets the bid, we must have current buses inspected, repaired as necessary, and on the road for the start of school. Lease approach concept was to maintain a lower threshold of maintenance costs and to change over vehicles prior to when they need major repairs. While the maintenance profile going forward with the lease concept will be drastically lowered, for one year we have a potential gap in funds of \$50,000 depending on the maintenance required to bring the current fleet through the inspection process and to keep them successfully on the road until the leased vehicles are received. Marty Hale is going to assess these costs and submit his report to the Business Manager and Superintendent.

**MOVED** by Dr. Schubert to accept New England Transit bid in the amount of \$381,113.46. **SECONDED** by Mrs. McGoldrick. **Roll call vote:** all aye. For the sake of clarification, Mr. DeGennaro pointed out that we are accepting the bid, not the detailed contract for the lease which will be voted on once it has been negotiated.

**Approve Warrant 14-24S:** MOVED by Mrs. Astino to approve Warrant 14-24S. SECONDED by Dr. Schubert. Roll call vote: All aye.

**Approve Warrant 14-25S:** MOVED by Mrs. Astino to approve Warrant 14-25S. SECONDED by Dr. Schubert. Roll Call Vote: All aye.

**Approve Warrant 15-01S:** MOVED by Mrs. Astino to approve Warrant 15-01S. SECONDED by Dr. Schubert. Roll Call Vote: All aye.

**Approve Warrant 15-02S:** MOVED by Mrs. Astino to approve Warrant 15-02S. SECONDED by Dr. Schubert. Roll Call Vote: All aye.

**Monthly Update:** Mr. DeGennaro announced that through the Collaborative the District locked in rates for the gas utility for FY 2015 to help avoid the overages we experienced in FY 2014.

**End of Year Report:** At the end of the year we had a balance of \$262,365 remaining. \$145,384 was spent to prepay SPED tuitions. The remainder was spent to purchase lockers for the Middle School, trash containers for the Deer Hill playground, Science lab tables, Envision Math for Deer Hill & Osgood, miscellaneous supplies at Deer Hill, Social Studies texts for Middle and High School, and Middle School math books.

**Alternative Energy Committee:** Mrs. Astino discussed a recent AEC meeting she attended. There was a presentation on electric car charging units, but there is no cost benefit to purchase such units at this point because the technology is too new and too costly.

Dr. Lieb informed the Committee that the Senior Center is coming along. Need dates for Policy Committee meeting for fingerprinting. Also need to convene Sick Bank committee.

John Smith Day is 9/13.

MOVED by Mrs. Astino to adjourn the meeting at 10:19 PM. SECONDED by Dr. Schubert. VOTE: 5-0 in favor of adjournment.

List of All Documents Used at Meeting  
August 6, 2014

Appendix E-1	Minutes of April 16, 2014
Appendix E-2	Minutes of May 7, 2014
Appendix F-1	Fingerprinting Act and Explanation
Appendix F-2	Asst. Superintendent Reclassification
Appendix F-3	Gift from South Shore Music Circus
Appendix G-1	Monthly Update
Appendix G-2	School Bus Lease Update
Appendix G-3	Year End Report
Appendix G-4	Gas Heat Utility Bid
Appendix G-5	AEC Meeting Update
	Safe Harbor Cohasset Presentation