



## **Cohasset School Committee Meeting**

### **School Committee Minutes**

**Wednesday, May 6, 2015**  
**Selectmen's Office-Town Hall**  
**41 Highland Avenue**

**In Attendance:** Paul Ognibene, Chairman  
Dr. Paul Schubert  
Mrs. Jeanne Astino  
Mrs. Mary McGoldrick  
Dr. Helene Lieb

**Also in Attendance:** Barbara Cataldo, Superintendent  
Dave DeGennaro, Business Manager

### **Call to Order and Roll Call**

Chairman Ognibene called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**Roll call vote: All present.**

**Chairman Ognibene asked for a motion to go into executive session for the purpose of Chapter 39, Section 29. The purpose of executive session is to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining and litigation. The Committee will reconvene in public session. Dr. Lieb moved the motion and it was seconded by Dr. Schubert.**

Helene Lieb-Aye, Jeanne Astino-Aye, Mary McGoldrick-Aye, Paul Schubert-Aye, Paul Ognibene-Aye.

The committee went in to executive session at 7:03 p.m.

**Motion by Dr. Lieb to come out of executive session, seconded by Mrs. McGoldrick.**

**Helene Lieb-Aye, Jeanne Astino-Aye, Mary McGoldrick-Aye, Paul Schubert-Aye, Paul Ognibene-Aye.**

The committee came out of executive session at 7:36 p.m.

**Pledge of Allegiance**-Pledge recited.

**Invitation to Speak**-None

### **Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Cataldo presented Dr. Lieb and Dr. Schubert with gifts and thanked them for all of their dedication and collaborative efforts while serving on the School Committee.

**Music Festival Trip-John DeWaal**

Mr. DeWaal was seeking approval for the Annual Spring Music Festival field trip. He provided a detailed outline of the trip.

**Motion by Jeanne Astino to approve the Annual Spring Music Festival field trip, seconded by Dr. Schubert.**

**Roll Call Vote: 5-0, All Ayes.**

**Grade 5 Teacher-Apple Distinguished Educator Award-Mr. Michael Lewis**

Mr. Lewis was present and discussed with the Committee the video he submitted for the contest and spoke about his experiences with students and how technology helps. Mr. Lewis joins over 2,000 others that have received the award.

**Middle School Program of Studies**

Principal Carolyn Connolly and Assistant Principal Kerri Sandler were present. Ms. Connolly asked the Committee for this year's graduation ceremony to be at 1 p.m. instead of 1:30 p.m. to accommodate students taking SAT's. Superintendent Cataldo advised the Committee that Emma Davis will be highlighted on Channel 5-Mike Lynch's "High 5 Report". Ms. Connolly discussed with the Committee the changes to the 2015-2016 Middle School Program of Studies and an overview of the course. Katie Dugan-100 Black Rock Road asked Ms. Connolly if they would be willing to have coffee hours to discuss the curriculum.

**Motion by Dr. Schubert to approve the program of studies as discussed, seconded by Dr. Lieb.**

**Roll Call Vote: 5-0, All Ayes.**

**South Shore Educational Collaborative Board Seat**

Superintendent Cataldo stated she is currently serving as Chairman and would like to continue on the board.

**Motion by Dr. Lieb to have Superintendent Cataldo remain on the Committee, seconded by Mrs. McGoldrick.**

**Roll Call Vote: 5-0, All Ayes.**

**School Committee Technology Sub-Committee**

Superintendent Cataldo thanked town meeting for approving all the digital items. She advised the Committee that she spent yesterday interviewing for the Deputy CIO a group of other individuals. They interviewed 7 of the 40 applicants whose resumes were received. Mr. Ognibene stated the Technology committee has completed all of their work and are looking to create a new sub-committee to take over.

**Motion by Dr. Lieb to change the current Facilities, Capital Projects, AEC and Technology Committee to Facilities, Capital Projects and AEC Committee, seconded by Dr. Schubert.**

**Roll Call Vote: 5-0, All Ayes.**

**Motion by Dr. Lieb to create a School Committee Technology Sub-Committee, seconded by Dr. Schubert.**

**Roll Call Vote: 5-0, All Ayes.**

**Communications Policy Review**

Chairman Ognibene stated the Committee wanted to review Communications Policy and discuss social media. He reminded the Committee members to keep communications open. The basic line of communication will continue to be through the Superintendent.

### **Flood Update Report**

Superintendent Cataldo distributed an incident report from Facilities Manager Mark Kelly along with receipts from what has been encumbered to date. Mrs. Astino asked about the cost of the carpets. Superintendent Cataldo has asked the insurance company for an exact total but hasn't heard back yet. Mrs. Astino asked when they will be out of 91 Sohier Street. Superintendent Cataldo responded that they should be back in the school offices in a few weeks.

### **Kindergarten Update**

Superintendent Cataldo stated as of 4/28/15 there is a total of 93 students enrolled for Kindergarten (87 full day and 6 half day). They currently have 5 full day teachers and 1 half day. They have 1 extra Kindergarten teacher if the numbers do not increase. There are currently two 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teaching positions that need to be filled. She asked the Committee if she should go ahead and hire two teachers. The Committee discussed and agreed that they should hire both 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teachers to be safe.

### **OPEB Discussion**

Chairman Ognibene gave a history of the OPEB issue. He discussed what the OPEB committee recommended and what the Board of Selectmen has done up to this point. Chairman Ognibene spoke of drafting a letter to the community to explain where the Town is at.

**Motion by Dr. Schubert to draft a letter of explanation of OPEB benefits as discussed earlier incorporating suggested comments, seconded by Mrs. McGoldrick.**

**Roll Call Vote: 5-0, All Ayes.**

**Motion by Dr. Schubert to support the Board of Selectmen's recommendation for a mitigation plan, seconded by Mrs. McGoldrick.**

**Roll Call Vote: 5-0, All Ayes.**

**Motion by Dr. Schubert for a 5 minute recess, seconded by Mrs. McGoldrick.**

**Roll Call Vote: 5-0, All Ayes.**

The Committee came back in session at 9:22 p.m.

**Roll Call Vote: 5-0, All Ayes.**

### **Superintendent Evaluation Summary**

Chairman Ognibene advised Superintendent Cataldo her evaluation was not ready. He apologized and he will put on the Committees next agenda.

### **Finance**

Warrant 15-19S

**Motion by Dr. Lieb to approve Warrant 14-19S, seconded by Dr. Schubert.**

**Roll Call Vote: 5-0, All Ayes.**

Warrant 15-04SI

**Motion by Dr. Schubert to approve Warrant 15-04SI, seconded by Dr. Lieb.**

**Roll Call Vote: 5-0, All Ayes.**

### **End of Year Budget Forecast**

Mr. DeGennaro discussed with the Committee the anticipated forecasted balances for FY15.

**Motion by Dr. Schubert to approve the end of year closing process, seconded by Dr. Lieb.**

**Roll Call Vote: 5-0, All Ayes.**

### **Sale of School Buses**

Mr. DeGennaro went over the sale of the remaining school buses. The money will go back to the town's general fund.

**Motion by Dr. Schubert to accept the sale of School Bus #74469, #80602, #80603, #80604 and #76511 totaling \$29,525.00, seconded by Mrs. McGoldrick.**

**Roll Call Vote: 5-0, All Ayes.**

### **Communications**

Mrs. Astino contacted the Chairman and asked that the "Communications Section" on the agenda be changed to "School Committee Comments and Communications". The Committee agreed. Mrs. McGoldrick attended the SEPAC meeting last night, Brian McLaughlin was the speaker. Dr. Lieb stated the Council on Elder Affairs has been using 91 Sohier Street a couple of days a week. She hopes that they will get to spend more time there soon. Chairman Ognibene thanked Paul Schubert and Helene Lieb for all their hard work while being on the School Committee.

**Chairman Ognibene asked for a motion to go into executive session for the purpose of Chapter 39, Section 29. The purpose of executive session is to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining and litigation. The Committee will reconvene in public session for purpose of adjourning. Dr. Lieb moved the motion and it was seconded by Dr. Schubert.**

**The Committee went into executive session at 10:31 p.m.**