

*Cohasset Public Schools*  
143 Pond Street  
Cohasset, MA 02025  
*Empower Students to Improve Communities*  
**Cohasset School Committee Meeting**

**School Committee Minutes**

Wednesday, 5/17/2023

6:15 PM

In-Person: Learning Commons

Cohasset Middle/High School

Virtual Meeting-143TV/Zoom/Facebook

**In Attendance:**

Ted Carr, Secretary

Lance Dial, Chairman

Paul Kearney

Jennifer Lesky

Craig MacLellan, Vice Chair

**Also, In Attendance:**

Alexandra Sullivan, Principal, Deer Hill School

Lisa Farrell, Principal, Joseph Osgood School

Tanya Bodell, Chairperson Alternative Energy Committee

Ray Miscioscia, Supervisor Transportation

Susan Owen, Director of Finance & Operations

Dr. Leslie Scollins, Assistant Superintendent

Dr. Patrick Sullivan, Superintendent

**AGENDA**

Chairman Dial welcomes everybody to the regular meeting for the Cohasset School Committee for Wednesday, May 17, 2023 at 6:15 PM. This meeting is starting at a different time to accommodate Arts Night at Cohasset High School. This meeting is being held in-person, and virtual which is live streamed on Cohasset 143TV, via Zoom to chat and on Facebook which is watch & listen only. If folks would like to chat virtually and they're on Facebook, please switch over to the Zoom feature.

The school committee expresses a warm welcome to Ms. Jennifer Lesky, who has been appointed as a new member of the Cohasset School Committee. The chair thanks the Town for electing Ms. Lesky to her service and looks forward to her 3-year term on the school committee. Chairman Dial called to order the May 17, 2023 meeting for the Cohasset School Committee with **Roll Call: Mr. Kearney-Present; Mr. Carr-Present; Ms. Lesky-Present; Mr. MacLellan-Present; Chairman Dial-Present.**

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Public Comment - None**

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**Invited Guests** - School Committee Student Liaison Report (Noah McDowall) – Mr. McDowall will not be attending the meeting tonight due to conflict with his academics, exams for the school year end.

#### **School Improvement Plan (SIP) Deer Hill School (Mrs. Alexandra Sullivan) Materials C-1**

Principal Alexandra Sullivan from Deer Hill School explains how surveys sent out to Deer Hill School families and school community are segways that inform the decisions they make around the construction of the school improvement plan. This year, they determined to do a standard community engagement survey across the board from the school committee's feedback last year and their school councils. Superintendent Patrick Sullivan mentions how school councils are so important, they're made up of constituents who are families, parents, guardians, and other half being the administration and staff members, so this balances nicely to create school improvement plans. School councils also help with budget decisions, particularly around classroom sizes, and other important functions to our school handbooks. Over the summer the handbooks will be posted to the school website and signed off by families in the community.

Principal Sullivan presents a slide deck of bar graphs they used from 111 responses and results received from their survey. The lens of this survey is from families who are responding and that shows there's definitely a focus on volunteer opportunities which are moving in that direction. This correlates with the idea of the different ways people contribute to their communities.

Another question asked to families is "I feel my child has a sense of belonging within their school." Chairman Dial says perhaps putting some reminder next to this question, if their answer is 1 or 2, and we encourage them to reach out to X,Y, or Z that could be interspersed throughout the survey.

Dr. Sullivan emphasizes that we're a team, all of us here are here to help your child, so if families are more comfortable with anyone in our schools, please reach out.

An important open response at the end of the survey that definitely is reflected is clear communication about what goals students need to achieve. Opportunities to support and challenge high achieving students such as group work, projects connected to people & culture, less technology. Introduce Spanish as a foreign language. SEL supports unstructured times, supporting social interactions, opportunities to work with students in other classes, peer and/or older role models. *Many respondents expressed appreciation for how well their students are supported at Deer Hill School.*

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#### **School Improvement Plan (SIP) Deer Hill School (Mrs. Alexandra Sullivan) Materials C-1**

The Deer Hill School Council recognized having more open communication with families. The school council recommended some kind of form on communication in our school handbooks, reminding families about the processes if their child is struggling academically, who would be their first go too.

Members of the Deer Hill School Council are Alexandra L. Sullivan-Principal/Co-Chair, Karin Johnston-Grade 5 Teacher Representative, Kailey Schneider-Grade 5 Teacher Representative, Lauren Wagner-Parent Representative/Co-Chair, Jennifer Dial-Parent Representative, Jessica Cataudella-Parent Representative, & Lydia St. Onge-School Committee Liaison.

We have our Mission, our Vision, and our Core Values on the current Strategic Plan. We have our School Council Mission, and our Equity Vision statement that was developed in the last couple years. All this aligns to Cohasset Public Schools Strategic Plan.

SMART Goal #1: During the 2023-2024 school year Deer Hill School will develop, implement, and communicate a minimum of four practices promoting differentiated instruction that support and challenge all students. We're broadening our spectrum on the notion of the learning side, we're catching up, and we're continuing on doing that work to expand that. We want our students to accelerate in growth, and ability to succeed, that's really what is at the heart of this 1<sup>st</sup> goal.

This year, we're providing opportunities for families to come into the classrooms and learn some of the math work practices so it will be a great entry point for families to help their children at home and gain a better understanding of what we're doing in our classrooms.

SMART Goal #2: During the 2023-2024 school year Deer Hill will develop and implement a minimum of four practices that foster family and community engagement with an emphasis on academic practices and student achievement. This is an example of a goal that has its initial germination in last year's school improvement plan. This is directly tied to our school district strategic plan, and we've really prioritized our district community engagement for families in our school. We've developed and implemented a program to use parent volunteers building-wide in targeted instructional areas (i.e., fluency readings, math facts).

We received great feedback from the survey, from a parent to produce a newsletter or similar communication tool to share curriculum objectives and learning in specialist classes. Principal Sullivan says this was great feedback and thanks the parents out there, also a shout out to our Health Teacher, *Patty Hamlin* who does a newsletter every trimester and does a beautiful job of articulating what's happening in our health class.

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#### **School Improvement Plan (SIP) Deer Hill School (Mrs. Alexandra Sullivan) Materials C-1**

SMART Goal #3: During the 2023-2024 school year Deer Hill School will develop and implement a minimum of four practices that promote positive peer relationships and enhance student voice in order to create an inclusive, socially aware, and culturally responsive school community. This goal began from last year's family survey where it was evident that we had been very successful in ensuring that every student felt connected to the adults in the school building but weren't necessarily feeling connected to their peers. This takes us back 1-2 years ago that had some COVID ripple effects to that and made headway with a lot of opportunities to develop those peer relationships.

Mr. Carr says this is a great presentation, and asks if 111 responses from Deer Hill is a good number? Principal Sullivan says she's pretty happy with the number of responses from families.

Mr. Kearney was impressed by Principal Sullivan's presentation, he loves surveys, and to get 111 responses back is fabulous. Mr. Kearney asks if some kind of curriculum on Food Services can be incorporated at Deer Hill. Mr. Kearney also loves the newsletter, focusing on the community to get parents involved is exactly what Principal Sullivan is doing. Thank you.

Principal Sullivan says they have a great partnership with Holly Hills, we harvest our salads at the end of the year. We're composting and recycling all those pieces in relation to Food Services.

Ms. Lesky is happy about all that is going on at Deer Hill School, particularly the eyes on students to broaden that sort of focus on students who need support, need enrichment, and really giving each child what they need. Ms. Lesky asks about incorporating some public speaking for students. Principal Sullivan says there's definitely more opportunity to bring some of that back. As things come up, students will report out from their written reflections.

Mr. MacLellan asks if Principal Sullivan has any thought to the composition of the selection for student council. From the selection it reminds him that the student has to take that initiative, it's offered to everyone. The one thing he would like to see that is really an important opportunity for kids is being exposed to a situation where they have a voice in their environment. Mr. MacLellan thinks that could help a child find a voice earlier in their life. There might be a student that isn't standing up and saying too much and he asks Principal Sullivan how they identify someone like that who might benefit from it. He doesn't have a solution, but a concern that he'd like to incorporate those students' that might not be heard but have valuable information if they were given that sort of agency. There's that introverted, super intelligent, insightful person that if we can get them to volunteer and get them in there, it would be really moving for them.

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#### **School Improvement Plan (SIP) Deer Hill School (Mrs. Alexandra Sullivan) Materials C-1**

Mr. Dial asks about the feedback that Principal Sullivan mentioned on opportunities for higher achieving students. That's one that resonates with him because he hears that from the community from time to time having conversations to steer towards other educational venues for their child, a parental concern. Where is that addressed in the Deer Hill School Improvement Plan?

Principal Sullivan says that can be found in SMART Goal #1. We'll develop, implement, and communicate a minimum of four practices promoting differentiated instruction that support and challenge all students. We're broadening our spectrum on the notion of the learning side, we're catching up, and we're continuing on doing that work to expand that. We want our students to accelerate in growth, and ability to succeed. We look at the data collection and analysis the Professional Development when the teachers are familiar with the curriculum. The curriculum itself provides a forum for differentiation. The better equipped teachers are able to implement this better.

Mr. Dial thinks parents would find this helpful to see where our curriculum aligns on how we're doing in the schools, how it aligns with our goals and where students should be on the process as they're going, that might be something that is worth considering. Also, what is the student ratio, optimum class size? Principal Sullivan says a nice range is between 20-22 students in the classrooms.

The chair states for the record and notes that Mr. Carr and Mr. Kearney have been excused for temporary leave to see their child's artwork which is happening right now, Arts Night at CHS. We still maintain a quorum with 3 members of the school committee, we're still an official committee, with no votes that will take place.

#### **School Improvement Plan (SIP) Joseph Osgood School (Ms. Lisa Farrell) Materials C-2**

Principal Farrell says like Principal Sullivan, they also had a district survey they sent out, the same questions were asked across the board. This survey was sent out to K-2 families in April of 2023. The survey window was open for 2 weeks with 108 students, (31%) families responded to the survey with 347 families who are currently at the Osgood School. The survey responses were 1-5, with 1 being strongly agree; to 5 being strongly disagree.

Principal Farrell looked through the survey with the school council committee with question asked to families "I am satisfied with school-home communication (i.e., emails, newsletters, website, etc.)" Seeing the percentiles as neutral with 25% means we haven't swayed families either way.

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#### **School Improvement Plan (SIP) Joseph Osgood School (Ms. Lisa Farrell) Materials C-2**

Superintendent Patrick Sullivan would like to note that The Osgood School is their first experience for families coming into the school district. There's that level of not knowing exactly what to expect, having frequent notions about what to expect. This is an important time for families, and we really want to comfort and help those families.

Principal Farrell loves the results from families who are interested in volunteering for school activities at Osgood. She has over a dozen parents constantly coming in and welcomes new volunteers like Grandparents, Aunts, Uncles that might want to volunteer. School fit is really important to the Osgood family and staff. We want the student's school to prepare the student well academically and socially for the next academic year. Like Dr. Sullivan said, Osgood School is the welcoming committee for the district, it's their first opportunity to meet the school, meet either our administration or meet their teacher. On question asked on survey, "They feel their child has a sense of belonging within their school," the numbers were very positive from responses in their survey.

Last year, one of the areas of communication from the principal's office was something we needed to work on based on the results. We worked on that this year, and we skewed a little bit higher with parents who are confident receiving emails to communicate with their child's school. There was a really strong number to [5 strongly agree] to question asked, "My child's school communicates well with members of our families' cultural group." Principal Farrell wants this to be recognized as a district. When we had the Multi-Cultural Event and saw the different number of families from diverse backgrounds it was quite amazing.

After reviewing the results with the Osgood School Council, we looked for target areas that we wanted to address the top three areas are: (1) School Safety – Working towards a new vestibule for the Osgood School. (2) Communication–New weekly updates for families, daily Bloomz messages, and weekly Twitter updates. (3) Family Inclusion–More communication and presentations for Pre-K families and new Kindergarten families. This year, the entire Osgood staff was involved in our family inclusion nights, and those nights were absolutely fabulous.

Principal Farrell would like to give a special thank you and shout out to members of the Osgood School Council. Dave Vinton-Staff Representative, Jen McPhillips-Grade 5 Teacher Representative, Lauren Grogan-Parent Representative, Jenna Thibault-Parent Representative, Andrew Knowlton-Parent Representative, Craig MacLellan-School Committee Liaison.

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#### **School Improvement Plan (SIP) – Joseph Osgood School (Ms. Lisa Farrell) Materials C-2**

Every Friday, over the last 4 weeks, Principal Farrell has been sending families a one-page newsletter that talks about The Would You Rather Question for this week was. Principal Farrell also puts in school events and at the bottom of her newsletter are reminders and updates on school events at the Osgood. Principal Farrell has been finding little chunks of information to put in her newsletter that have been very helpful for parents. For example, “Parents please don’t send your 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grader into school with umbrellas, because they become weapons!” The Cohasset Library asked us to put in their Summer Reading. Photo of the week with a special visitor from *Ms. Giroud* who is coming back from maternity leave. We have quote of the week, word of the week, model for the week.

Chairman Dial is curious about preschool enrollments, the number of children and the different ways to measure with their peers. He also notes to Principal Farrell’s presentation that class sizes are pretty large, are we expecting kindergarten to bump up as well? Does this mean our schools are growing in the way they haven’t in the past? We’ve averaged the median around 100 and we’re seeing 120-127 which seems we may be entering into a phase where we’ve got more kids per classroom. We should keep our eyes on that for the long term.

We have 100 students that have registered for next year at Osgood School. For our younger students, our optimum classroom size is 18.

SMART Goal #1 for Joseph Osgood Elementary School Improvement Plan. During the 2023-2024 school year, the Osgood School will continue to increase student learning in the areas of literacy and assessment. The increase will directly result from Professional Development offered throughout the year in literacy and continue Professional Development in assessment and data analysis. This improvement in student learning will be evidenced by progress in the Reading and Math i-Ready assessments of at least 25% school wide. Last year we had 17% and we want to see more improvement in the skills that the students are learning and able to tell us about. A lot of our initiatives and goals are from last year for us at Osgood. We carry those initiatives because they take time to develop, they take time to implement, and they take time to own. We’re at the stage for a few of these that we’ve developed them, we’ve implemented them, and now we’re owning them with a couple tweaks in a couple areas. A lot of our students are just learning how to do assessments on laptops, or on i-Pads, it’s a skill in itself, learning how to do independent work.

SMART Goal #2: During the 2023-2024 school year, the Osgood will continue to implement responsive classroom strategies focused on promoting equitable opportunities for and the social-emotional wellness of our students.

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#### **School Improvement Plan (SIP) – Joseph Osgood School (Ms. Lisa Farrell) Materials C-2**

The Osgood will explore strategies from the zones of regulation curriculum to support our students in recognizing and expressing their emotions. Principal Farrell wants to stretch that goal, we've worked on that, and we'll continue to work on that. The important part is these resources will be shared with families. A responsive classroom is a curriculum, it's a mindset, it's a pedagogy where teachers want a meeting is a perfect example of a responsive classroom. A responsive classroom reacts and acts to a situation students develop and grow.

Goal #3: During the 2023-2024 school year, Osgood School will continue to study the most effective ways of communication with all PreK through grade 2 families. Communication will be timely, concise, and easy to access. Community engagement will continue to be fostered through outside partnerships.

Goal #4: During the 2023-2024 school year, Osgood School will develop an Early Education Transition Program for our incoming kindergarten students and their families. With the addition of a new preschool classroom, we will enhance our schoolwide communications to all new families, communications will be timely, concise, and easy to access. The transition program into preschool, then into kindergarten will provide families with information about our school and developmental information that will help them as they begin the educational journey through the Cohasset Public Schools.

In the action plan was to add additional preschool classroom, which was successfully accomplished, Principal Farrell says thank you to the school committee here and to everyone.

Ms. Lesky asks with 1/3 third of your incoming kindergarten class ever been a cohort together? What is the plan or have there been discussions around on how to integrate that 1/3 group who has a yearlong relationship with each other and familiarity with the staff in the building into the other 2/3 class. Ms. Lesky knows there's a statistical minority in the way children work that can feel like a big group of kids may have a certain advantage.

Principal Farrell says right now they do placement areas. In the area of preschool, Principal Farrell meets with the directors, or the directors talk with the teachers. A few students that we have at Osgood Preschool combined everybody into several classrooms. It takes time to mentor students in preschool, so when a preschool student comes in, they'll have a pal or two to pair with to show them. The goal is to grow our preschool and we have to in such a way so students that didn't go to Osgood feel accepted and welcome. Next year will be an easier transition, and the years to follow will be a little bit more difficult. That gives us that year to figure out where we are. The jumpstart program will be a huge piece to that, more useful figuring out where they'll be going. Five-year-olds adjust more easily, more easily than anybody else.



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#### **School Improvement Plan (SIP) – Joseph Osgood School (Ms. Lisa Farrell) Materials C-2**

Ms. Lesky asks about the planning around zones and regulations. Will there be an increase in communication between home and school? Are you expecting families to just be aware of the zones and regulations? Or is this something that you want students to continue and use that language at home?

Principal Farrell says at one of their family inclusion nights they used the zones to families, and she was surprised of how many parents knew they were in the red zone and had to move into the blue zone! Principal Farrell asks families to understand what their child is talking about at home. When a teacher calls or sends an email to say that during parent/teacher conferences, most of the time during these conferences they'll be in the green zone that week. We really want classroom expectations.

Mr. MacLellan has no questions but wants to commend Principal Farrell on their survey responses that is certainly illustrated with ranges of 90% captured. This speaks to how well Principal Farrell runs that building. Every time Mr. MacLellan enters Osgood School she's always at the epic center of activity. Principal Farrell manages the building very well and fosters meaningful relationships for everyone of the students there. With the Jumpstart program that was rolled out just last Summer, Principal Farrell's creation was awesome. People loved it and it's a really meaningful experience for those kids and parents. Mr. MacLellan is looking forward to seeing more of this and the other transition programs she talked about in the PreK-2 school improvement plan.

Chairman Dial says the feedback from the surveys that Osgood received are all positive. He has no comments on the Osgood School improvement plan. As he mentioned before the school committee will vote at the next school committee meeting on Deer Hill and Osgood School Improvement Plans. Also, as a note for the record, Mr. Carr and Mr. Kearney have returned from Arts Night at CHS, we're now a full quorum once again.

#### **School Updates**

**School News (Dr. Patrick Sullivan) - Spotlight on Learning: Recap of School Committee Middle and High School Arts Night Gallery Walkthrough** - Right now as we're here speaking tonight at the school committee meeting, we have our Arts Night at Cohasset High School happening. It was a wonderful night, it shows the diverse talents in many mediums of our students and also our staff. Dr. Sullivan would like to thank the Music & Arts Director grades 6-12, Ms. Stephanie Moriarty for a nice tour, that included listening to our school band who played "Rock Around the Clock Tonight" for us this evening. Teachers made a point of highlighting the certificates of awards for Arts Night progress and all students received something which was nice to see about the process, as opposed to the product.

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#### **School Updates**

**School News (Dr. Patrick Sullivan)** We had a wonderful Cohasset Education Foundation Spelling Bee contest for our 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, & 5<sup>th</sup> grade students. It was excellent to see these students working in teams to spell out the words, and most words were spelled correctly, they were very impressive! Dr. Sullivan thanks Vice Chair MacLellan, Chairman Dial, along with Principal Sullivan who did a good job with this. Great school spirit!

Dr. Sullivan announces that a very important highlight of something is upcoming! He hasn't been able to talk about it because it hasn't been definitive it, and now it's certainly coming to fruition. As folks all may know, a former Cohasset resident, and former Cohasset student, Steve Bowen who is a Commander and went on one of the missions that went up to the International Space Station. Steve Bowen has been up there since February, and he'll be up there for 6 months. He has graciously agreed to talk to our student via from space. We've been working behind the scenes with NASA to make this happen, and we still can't believe this can happen, but it's going to happen! We're hoping for next Wednesday, May 24, 2023 starting at 2:25 p.m.- 2:50 p.m. We'll be having a conversation with Astronaut Bowen while he's up in space with us obviously here. We'll be able to see him, he'll have a one-way connection so he can hear us. We have 20 wonderful questions to be asked by our students who were chosen based on their questions from all grade levels K-12. We're extremely excited about this! We have a backup date, which is interesting, it's earlier than the actual date we were given and that will be for Tuesday, May 23, 2023 starting at 12:15 p.m.-12:40 p.m. It's all predicated on the Axiom to launch which is supposed to happen on Sunday, May 21, 2023 if it launches on time, then we'll stick to our actual date we were given. If the launch gets delayed for some reason, we have a backup date. NASA has been wonderful to work with and kudos to our technology staff because they've been figuring this out with their testing for a signal and technically, we've already spoken to space from here, the test went well. The school committee is invited to this, and all are invited. This will be live streamed on Cohasset 143TV also on Facebook, so the whole community can see it. This should really be a fantastic experience for the entire community!

#### **Teaching and Learning**

**Academic Initiatives/Updates (Dr. Leslie Scollins)**—Between MCAS, field trips and assessments, we're still getting through. MCAS is still in process, and students at CHS are having their Mathematics MCAS and they'll be complete with that in the 2<sup>nd</sup> week in June. The middle school students completed their Math MCAS, and their Science MCAS starts tomorrow, May 18<sup>th</sup> and Friday, May 19<sup>th</sup>. The middle school students will be done at the end of this week with that.

Deer Hill School students already did their Science MCAS earlier this month in May. Grade 3 students just completed their Math MCAS, and they have grades 4 and 5 taking Math MCAS this Friday, May 19<sup>th</sup>.

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#### **Teaching and Learning**

**Academic Initiatives / Updates (Dr. Leslie Scollins)** – All exams for our AP courses were finished last week. Dr. Scollins met with kindergarten teachers this week because students will be taking a semester progress report to align with everyone else in grades 1-5 who will be taking a trimester progress report. Osgood and Deer Hill have one more Professional Development Day with our TLA, our reading consultants, to do some reflection on what happened this school year around our Readers Workshop and set up for next year. Deer Hill will move into their 2<sup>nd</sup> year with Readers Workshop, and Osgood will have their first full year, next year with Readers Workshop. We have lots of teachers that will be piloting this for next year.

Our Spring benchmark assessments are going to start now that MCAS is over, along with i-Ready assessments. Parents wanted more information about their child's test results, so these will go home on the last day of school. Next week we have a volunteer committee meeting to look at all the ways we can to add more opportunities for volunteers, also making sure the process for volunteers is consistent across all the buildings. Our last Professional Day, ½ day, is next week on Friday, May 26<sup>th</sup>.

Deer Hill, Osgood, and the Middle School will be working on placements to get those things ready. The High School has a lot of things to tie up with results from all their hard work. Our seniors will be having their Graduation Ceremony June 3<sup>rd</sup>, which is a massive production, excited for that.

#### **Budget, Resources and Governance**

#### **Materials F-1**

Budget and Finance (Ms. Susan Owen) – Quick update on the April finance report for this year as we're rounding out the end of the school year. As of April 30, 2023 the school department has expended \$16,449,775 out of the \$22,345,352 budget awarded (76.14%) and we are 83% through the year and we're still in good standing. We have encumbered supplies and materials on purchase orders in the amount of \$564,744. There is a remaining balance of \$5,330,933 which will be expended by salary accounts and any other school department needs that cannot be anticipated or have not yet been entered as a purchase order.

SPED Tuitions were budgeted at \$1,149,811 and are currently encumbered on purchase orders. Last month's deficit was reported to be **-\$97,366** and this month's deficit is **-\$96,734**, a slight decrease from the previous month. There are no Capital projects outstanding this year.

We've been approved for some of our asks for our FY24 Capital list, which is our bus lease for 3 years, replacement of aging Chromebooks, replace SMART projectors at CMS, replace iPads at Deer Hill and Osgood and furniture replacement at Deer Hill.

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**Budget, Resources and Governance**

**Materials F-1**

**Budget and Finance (Ms. Susan Owen) FY23 GRANTS**

We received an additional \$182 for our School Improvement Ed Quality Grant (Title IIA) #140.

We were given an additional \$1,577 for the School SPED IDEA Grant #240. We were given an additional \$39 for our School SPED Early Childhood Grant #262 and an additional \$67 for our School Title I Grant #305. We had two (2) new grants come in, one (1) is for \$11,135 for our METCO SPED Supplemental Grant #318, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> is for \$5,000 for our CIVICS Project Showcase Grant #591. The balances in our Revolving Accounts are down. The only area still in the negative is the school rental, hopefully by the end of the year we can collect fees and that deficit won't be there.

<b><u>FY23 ENROLLMENT</u></b>			
<b><u>SCHOOL/GRADE</u></b>	<b><u>May 2023</u></b>	<b><u># Classes</u></b>	<b><u>Class Size</u></b>
<b>JOS</b>	<b>386</b>		
Pre School	39	2	20
Kindergarten	115	6	19
Grade 1	125	6	21
Grade 2	107	6	18
<b>DHS</b>	<b>306</b>		
Grade 3	104	5	21
Grade 4	104	5	21
Grade 5	98	5	20
<b>CMS</b>	<b>298</b>		
Grade 6	111		
Grade 7	87		
Grade 8	100		
<b>CHS</b>	<b>433</b>		
Grade 9	113		
Grade 10	107		
Grade 11	98		
Grade 12	115		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,423</b>		

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**Budget and Finance (Ms. Susan Owen)**

Chairman Dial notes these are the largest classes that we've had in years! Maybe we're in a trend with our school community growing, which is great, but we should watch this as sort of our Strategic Plan, because we may have facilities issues that may not accommodate larger classes. They may accelerate some of the things that we have.

The new floor at the fitness center at the Middle/High School has been installed and the room is currently being painted. Once completed, the new equipment will be installed with an estimated time for delivery around the first to second week in June. The fitness center will be open for use with supervision on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm. We are also discussing summer use. The Learning Commons is now open with supervision on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm.

Dr. Sullivan notes this is a good time where we talked about the funding either coming from Capital or our Revolving account. After an exploration of our Revolving account, we feel confident we can use Revolving to fund the majority of it. We don't need to tap into our Capital, and we won't have to go back to our Capital for any part of this.

**Beginning with the 2023-2024 school year, full-day Kindergarten will be tuition free for all attending students.** For those families who have already paid deposits for next school year, the Business Office will be issuing refunds over the next couple of weeks.

RAD has completed the new track and our athletic teams are already playing on our new field.

At this point in the school year, there are no areas of concern, and the budget is on target.

Electric Bus Contract Approval \*\* – The verbiage to the electric school bus contract itself is under some negotiation. Ray Miscioscia, Supervisor of Transportation for our school buses is joined by Tanya Bodell, Chairperson for AEC, Alternative Energy Committee. Tanya Bodell has been working with this school committee for a year and a half with a demonstration project for an electric school bus. It would be one (1) bus with significant grants bringing the cost down, to or at better, than what a diesel bus costs. This would allow us to run the electric bus and understand how it works, to see whether or not there are any challenges.

Ray Miscioscia has spoken to the Boston School System to understand how electric buses work. A lot of work has gone into this with Susan Owen and Ray Miscioscia with a lot of collaboration on this, the content concerns are resolved.

## *Cohasset Public Schools*

143 Pond Street

Cohasset, MA 02025

*Empower Students to Improve Communities*

### **Cohasset School Committee Meeting**

#### **Budget, Resources and Governance**

Electric Bus Contract Approval \*\*

**Motion made by Mr. MacLellan to approve the acquisition of the electric school bus to the NLX Program, seconded by Mr. Carr. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Kearney-Aye; Mr. Carr-Aye; Ms. Lesky-Aye; Mr. MacLellan-Aye; Chairman Dial-Aye.**

**Food Service-** Our Assistant Director of Food Services/Culinary Specialist, Kim has hit the ground running and is offering a wide variety of specials every day at the Middle and High School. Kim has begun offering taste tests/samples at each of the Elementary Schools and working with staff to improve quality of food and scratch cooking. There is also a new Food Service newsletter that is going out on a weekly basis highlighting all the changes and offerings which is also attached to Dr. Sullivan's newsletter.

#### **Transportation**

Bus Parking Status Update- Currently there's no parking on 3A. Right now, we have some engineers looking at the land and working on getting in front of the Conservation Commission Board for the potential of putting them in front of Deer Hill. From what Ms. Owen was told, the engineers have to get in there to drill holes and they can't do that when schools are in session. We've exhausted every avenue of where we can park our school buses.

Dr. Sullivan would like to note to anybody who's watching at home, this has been a two (2) year process, not having a place to put our school buses was appropriate to continue our operations. We've tried different ideas; we had a step-by-step account that was done to determine where it could happen in the Town. We haven't had any answers that allow us to put our buses in a safe place, and we need a place to put our school buses! Dr. Sullivan says he's very willing as Superintendent to partner with the Town in any way, to find space anywhere in the Town that will work.

The chair would like to be very clear with everyone, we're not voting on a plan today, and we haven't voted on a plan. The stuff happening in front of Deer Hill is a step-by-step account, we may not even be able to use that ground. Before we do anything, we will look and make sure we have all options. This is work in progress, it's something we need to get done, and we are going to get it done. Just as an entity that owns vehicles that have to continue existing throughout the course of a day, we need a place for them to exist.

Mike Crowell from 175 Sawyer Street chimes in and asks if we can get a copy of this study when it's done?

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### **Cohasset School Committee Meeting**

#### **Transportation**

Bus Parking Status Update - A step-by-step account was done by Glenn Pratt who works for our emergency management. Glenn Pratt did an amazing job through COVID, he really spearheaded trying to find bus parking for us.

To answer Mike Crowell's question, we can share this step-by-step account, it's not a binding document.

Mike Crowell from 175 Sawyer Street chimes in once again to ask why buses can't exist at the High School or Deer Hill?

The chair states it's for safety reasons, but we appreciate Mr. Crowell for bringing it up here.

Plans for Next Year's Bus Service – Ray Miscioscia, Supervisor for Transportation says we're in great shape for the next school year. He's unbelievably pleased with the school bus drivers he has now. For the start of the next school year, we're going to have 9 school bus drivers for 8 routes that will give us backup.

Megan Barry from 11 Tad Lane asks will there be an outsource of bus drivers and buses next year. Dr. Sullivan says no, there's no intention at this point.

Report from School Facilities Committee – None

#### **Community Relations / Communication**

Reports from School Committee Sub-Committees and Liaisons – The chair notes to Ms. Lesky's benefit, we'll be reorganizing this school committee at one of our upcoming school committee meetings. We'll be voting for different positions and at that point we'll also appoint people to various sub-committees. This is the agenda item for those sub-committees to report.

Mr. Carr notes the High School has a school committee meeting next week.

Mr. Kearney says Mr. MacLellan and himself attended a nutrition food service committee this week to review some of the new plans for Food Services. We want to bring Food Services into the curriculum so students can learn about making good food choices at an early age. We're looking into buying more local products and trying to get healthier snacks for our vending machine. Some of the challenges for Food Services is our elementary schools because they don't really have kitchens.

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### **Cohasset School Committee Meeting**

#### **Community Relations / Communication**

Reports from School Committee Sub-Committees and Liaisons – Vice Chair MacLellan says there's still high hopes for tangible progress at the elementary schools. Food Services is trying to determine what the elementary level kids like and what options they'll actually select. Food Services are trying to roll out some real palpable differences, there's been some immediate improvement, but it's been limited. From the meeting, it sounded like we can expect to see more tangible progress by October. Just to reassure elementary parents out there, we'll see more robust Food Service offerings at the elementary schools.

#### **School Committee Governance**

Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair - None

Approval of Minutes\*\* - The chair has a set of minutes from a May 12, 2023 school committee meeting where they had a quorum, including former school committee member Mrs. St. Onge. This leaves 2 of the 5 sitting members on this committee who can vote to approve these minutes with a vote of 2-0.

**Motion by Mr. Kearney to approve the minutes for May 12, 2023 school committee meeting, seconded by Chairman Dial.**

**Aye-All**

Future Agenda Items – Mr. MacLellan would like Dr. Scollins to present at some point another update on literacy, the ELA curriculum, to see how that's going. Perhaps after the school year ends, sometime in August to roll that out. We want to make sure we're constantly monitoring this to have a creative solution. Where we are, where we're going, how it's going, to share some data to provide parents with some information about that. Mr. MacLellan says there's some anxiety associated with that curriculum and just wants to be responsive and sensitive to that.

Mr. Carr suggests a little after action about our budget process from last year because we did a great job with it. We can always learn from our prior expense experience and maybe we can do it a little differently.

**Motion made by Vice Chair MacLellan to adjourn the May 17, 2023 school committee meeting at 9:09 PM, seconded by Mr. Kearney.**

**Aye-All**

*All school committee meetings are recorded.*