



Cohasset Public Schools

143 Pond Street
Cohasset, MA 02025

Empower Students to Improve Communities

Public Hearing School Choice School Committee Meeting Wednesday, April 12, 2023 5:50 PM

How to Participate:

In Person

Minutes Public Hearing School Choice

Wednesday, April 12, 2023

Learning Commons

Cohasset Middle and High School

143 Pond Street

Cohasset, MA 02025

Virtual

Zoom (chat enabled)

<https://zoom.us/j/93210720844>

ID: 932 1072 0844 / Password: 461964

Dial In: + 929 205 6099

Facebook (watch / listen only)

Cohasset Live Streaming

Televised

Streamed Live on Cohasset 143TV

Zoom Video Call

Virtual Meeting-143TV/Zoom/Facebook

In Attendance:

Ted Carr, Secretary

Lance Dial, Chair

Craig MacLellan, Vice Chair

Lydia St. Onge

Also, In Attendance:

Barbara Cerwonka, Director of Student Services

Susan Owen, Director of Finance & Operations

Dr. Leslie Scollins, Assistant Superintendent

Dr. Patrick Sullivan, Superintendent

PUBLIC HEARING ON SCHOOL CHOICE

Chairman Dial convened and called to order the Public Hearing on School Choice of the Cohasset School Committee on Wednesday, April 12, 2023 at 5:50 P.M. This public hearing is being held in the Learning Commons at the Cohasset Middle & High School, and via Zoom Video Call. The purpose of this meeting is to invite public comment, as the law requires, on the School Committee's deliberation on School Choice. The deliberations will not occur tonight, they will occur in a subsequent meeting, however the Public Hearing is tonight. Those in attendance and constituting a quorum with four (4) members of the Cohasset School Committee who are present. **Roll Call Vote: Mr. Carr– Present; Mrs. St. Onge– Present; Mr. MacLellan– Present; Mr. Dial- Present.**

The Inter District School Choice Program has been around since 1991. School choice allows families to enroll their child in a school district other than the district in which they live. Cohasset Public Schools never opted to be a school choice district that takes in students with a tuition that would accompany that.

PUBLIC HEARING ON SCHOOL CHOICE

The tuition is \$5,000 per student and it's a calculation that is created with circuit breaker. The school committee received documents, one being the law for School Choice that breaks down with a rundown of the districts who do opt for School Choice and those who don't. Note, there aren't too many districts around here who do opt for School Choice, but there are some. Also, a guide for families and a humanitarian aid document was provided by Superintendent Patrick Sullivan.

It's simply a space issue, particularly at the middle and high school where our classrooms are smaller and at times our classrooms get very full. Our enrollment goes a bit up and down, but it's pretty much staying consistent across the district. We're accommodating our elementary classes to be small, knowing that we don't anticipate a lot of students from Cohasset necessarily going to other School Choice districts in which they have the right too, but we do anticipate taking in quite a few students.

The chair states the school committee will vote on this at the next school committee meeting on May 3, 2023. The Public Hearing tonight is only 10 minutes long, and we want to make sure members of the school committee and the administration have ample time for any discussions they may have. Tonight's meeting is giving the public a chance to have their discussions to debate. As a school committee we can look at these materials that Dr. Sullivan provided and if we have additional discussions to deliberate, we can at our next school committee meeting.

The expenditure is close to \$20,000 per student, it incorporates elements such as how much the town pays for health insurance. Transportation is factored in there too, but this is an accurate number that is on the Department of Education and Secondary Education website.

Chairman Dial says the marginal cost of a student is not necessarily \$20,000 because if a student is in a classroom with 19 students, we don't have to hire a new teacher or new equipment. There is a certain point though where if 20 students were in a classroom, we're looking at hiring new teachers and so on. These are the things we have to think about if we are.

Motion moved by Vice Chair MacLellan to adjourn the Public Hearing on School Choice, seconded by Mrs. St. Onge, and carried without dissent.

All-Aye

The Public Hearing School Choice School Committee meeting for April 12, 2023 adjourned at 5:58 p.m.

April 12, 2023