

Cohasset Public Schools

143 Pond Street

Cohasset, MA 02025

Empower Students to Improve Communities

School Committee Meeting

April 12, 2023

How to Participate:

In Person

School Committee Meeting

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

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

Call to Order- Chairman Dial called to order the regular meeting of the Cohasset School Committee on Wednesday, April 12, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. This school committee meeting is following the Public Hearing School Choice which is held in the Learning Commons at the Cohasset Middle and High School. This meeting is being streamed live on Cohasset 143TV and its virtual through Zoom and facebook. Facebook is watch and listen only.

Roll Call: Mr. Carr – Present; Mrs. St. Onge – Present; Mr. MacLellan – Present; Mr. Dial - Present. The chair states we have a quorum with four (4) members of the school committee present. **Mr. Kearney is absent.**

Pledge of Allegiance

Opening Remarks

Chairman Dial noted the Cohasset School Committee publicly posted a joint Executive Session with the Select Board and extends a special thanks to the Select Board for entertaining us with that productive meeting. We look forward to discussions coming out of that meeting and we'll continue to work with our friends on the Select Board.

Public Comment – None

Invited Guests - Cohasset High School Spotlight on Learning: Marine Club (Ms. Blair Duncan and Students)- Dr. Sullivan would like to thank Dr. Blair Duncan, students, and Ed Savage, our Department Chair for Science grades 6-12 who does a fabulous job! The Marine Club is a student-initiated club with Mr. Savage receiving direction from Mr. Jack Buckley more so from his years of experience at CSCR, the Cohasset Center for Student Coastal Research. Marine Science courses have worked well as CSCR has worked with the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration known as NOAA that continues the process to collect data regarding the health of Cohasset's watershed system. Students will be presenting the state of Cohasset harbor at Milliken Commons tomorrow night, April 13th at 7:00 p.m. Students will continue their work in preparation for the Statewide Civics Fair at Clark University in June where they will be one (1) of twenty (20) districts represented out of approximately three hundred (300) districts across the state. This is an incredible opportunity for these students, they've done a lot of work and Mr. Buckley helped to procure the poster on CHS Overview of Cohasset Harbor that is presented at tonight's school committee meeting.

Students from CHS presenting Spotlight on Learning who are in the Marine Club are:
Francis Forria - Junior CHS, Emma Thornton - Senior CHS, Mia Scortina - Junior CHS, Jackson Bachaus - Senior CHS, Alanna Kane - Junior CHS, and Kaitlyn Scott – Junior CHS.

The Marine Club stems from the Marine Science Program that we have here in Cohasset where we learned about ocean chemistry and the general importance of our ecosystems. Students learned to simulate the ecosystem of the Cohasset harbor with rocky intertidal aquariums. Students collected water and sand from local beaches as well as collecting organisms such as seaweed, minnows, crabs, and snails from the beaches. Students maintained tanks in small groups to collect and monitor PH levels such as salinity, and oxygen for several weeks.

Students went to the Light Keeper's House for a conference on a meaningful watershed educational experience. The real purpose was to hear student voices and what they wanted their educational experience to be. They listened to how they could change foam for future research of Cohasset Harbor and give that research to the Cohasset Town to help inform them on future decisions.

Kaitlyn Scott says they held a wonderful event back on February 16, 2023 where they as students of the Marine Club went to a workshop to discuss how the MeWe grant is going to be used and working together as a team, which was really great. The experience, especially for us as students, is to have our voices heard. We're also going to be connecting students to the community to have kind of a pathway.

Dr. Sullivan knows this is near and dear to Mr. Buckley using the coast which is such a great resource for us for learning as much as possible because we learn from real authentic experience of being there, doing the analysis' where it's actually happening. This is such a wonderful opportunity and we're very thankful for that collaboration. We hope this will help students whether they go to college or whatever they decide to do because of the real authentic nature of it all.

Invited Guests - Cohasset High School Spotlight on Learning: Marine Club (Ms. Blair Duncan and Students) - Dr. Sullivan mentions that students may not be aware, but the vision for Cohasset Public Schools is to empower students to improve communities, and the students here are really living that by the work they do with CSCR, and with Dr. Duncan.

School Updates -Schools and Town Meeting scheduled for **Monday May 1, 2023**. Mr. Carr advised us to put this on the agenda and the chair agrees. It's very important that a town meeting is where we really get to have our voices as citizens heard. There are a couple items on the town warrant this year that will directly impact our schools. One, and this is traditional, is our capital budget. We're going to be talking about what was approved there. But it is important for people to come to the town meeting and show their support for the capital budget and let the town know through your votes that you support your schools. The second one is a larger ask and it's a \$300,000 request that would support the creation of free full-day kindergarten in Cohasset schools. This has been the mission of the school committee ever since Mr. Dial has been a member of this school committee. We have, through the diligent work from our Director of Finance and Operations, Ms. Owen, and Dr. Patrick Sullivan that if we're able to fund this for one year at this amount, then we're able to qualify for additional funding, this then becomes self-funding through assistance from the state. We're very excited about this possibility, this is something that we need, make sure we have a good turnout at the town meeting to again show our support. The other thing that the Chair would like to mention is that the town as a whole is facing some significant needs for capital investment and we will see one of those items on the town warrant which is the renovation of the town hall. Behind that there are a number of other items that will be forthcoming, many of which will be related to the schools. To the extent of that, if you go and think about how the town limits money resources that we have, can be spent to further our schools and better our town. It's important to go to a town meeting to make sure that your voice and perspective is heard there.

Open Comments – Mr. Carr has met a couple of times on communication matters at sub-committee meetings and Mr. Dial hit right on it. A town meeting is where we get things done in the town. We're lucky, some towns don't let everybody who is a registered voter go to a town meeting, but here in Cohasset, we do. It's an open town meeting, so anybody can go. In order for us to get the town to support the things that we want to do, it's important that we figure out a little bit of strategy about how we can communicate better with the school population, people that are interested in this topic that helps everything else in the town too.

We looked at a couple of tactics that we thought about and sort of made a loose list. To get a quorum you need about 10% of the community to show up and that starts the meeting. We really support such a large portion of Cohasset because their students go here. If we're able and make sure we can communicate well with parents and young people over the age of 18 who are registered to vote, this is an excellent exercise in Civics that we could maybe encourage them to come, even if it's their first time to a town meeting.

Mr. Carr would love some ideas if others had some ideas to share. This is a bit of getting the word out through our contacts, through our mechanisms that we communicate well with and encourage families and young people to attend a town meeting. These are important issues on the table at this town meeting, but we only stay competitive and do well because of the investments that we make in our schools and how we run them. This is a really important exercise now more than ever when you hear things about \$300,000 for kindergarten and \$20M dollars for a new town hall, decisions need to be made.

School Updates - Schools and Town Meeting (cont'd)

Open Comments - Not everything can be accomplished, each one of them important, but we really need to advocate for ourselves now, and frankly going forward if someday, hopefully we'll have a new school. This takes effort from the community as well and this is a great opportunity for us. Covid is now wrapping up and people are more accustomed to being in places in-person. It's in our best interest to get our community out to support this at the town meeting. If it's giving up on an important day in your week where you don't have much else to do, it is critical to know how we run our schools. However, we convey that with simple things like from each one of us here found ten (10) families in the years when our kids were also in the schools here and encouraged them to go, we'd be well on our way asking them to bring people and come, it's little things like that go a long way.

Mr. Carr welcomes any ideas that folks might have, especially from our parent teacher organization will be critical to our success. We thank social media and the school administration who do such a great job with weekly communications, maybe a little blurb from the school committee for the next couple of meetings until the town meeting might be a good idea. This is something we can collaborate on, put it out in an email, and put it on the school navigator.

Dr. Sullivan mentions signs are basic and as simple as they are, they really help. This type of communication shouldn't be overlooked as an actual effective resource.

They haven't established materials for the warrant from what Chairman Dial understands. Most of the material items were impacting the schools and other big expenditures will be front loaded on the warrant. In fact, we will be doing a quick community update at the beginning of the town meeting to talk a little bit about some of the successes of our schools and some of the areas for future development. Folks don't necessarily have to commit to the whole meeting. If folks are thinking of coming to support the schools, their presence there for a good amount of the first part of the meeting would be really helpful. As Mr. Carr said, if you tell two friends, and they tell two friends, and they tell two friends, we'll have a representation of our schools that represents the communities that our schools touch.

Mrs. St. Onge says most kindergarten families are not yet in the district. Can a separate email be sent out to those families who are registered for kindergarten because it would be in their best interest to attend and vote for free kindergarten. This would be a great idea to send an email to target incoming families.

When incoming families enroll their children in the district, we can create a separate list for those incoming kindergarten families and our expansion of our Pre-K Program. We'd suspect those folks will already be in the district, either way there will be other incoming families that we just need to create a separate list.

Vice Chair MacLellan has a relative comment to the upcoming major capital items that are of interest to the schools. There are some on this town warrant for the May 1, 2023 Town Meeting. We did try to advance others just so everyone's aware that this school committee and/or the school facilities committee was advocating for additional items to be placed on this town warrant for this town meeting, those include a feasibility study for either a renovated or new middle high school as well. We discussed the possibility of what is called a special purpose stabilization fund for ongoing repair and maintenance issues within all the buildings district wide on all campuses to address the ongoing maintenance issues. We don't have a tool other than that same common goal on capital budget that all departments make requests for. It's not very, very large and this town has historically employed a deferred maintenance plan to the physical plan assets, that has not yielded great results.

School Updates - Schools and Town Meeting (cont'd)

Open Comments - One prudent or responsible financial planning tool is the special purpose stabilization fund which allows a town to allocate a certain amount of money to a fund each year that is dedicated to a certain department for ongoing repair and maintenance needs. That's one thing we also asked the Select Board to consider putting on the town warrant this time around. The Select Board did not put it on the warrant this time around. The Select Board also took similar actions to the feasibility study request indicating that instead it would be more appropriate to place that on a warrant for what they anticipate will be a special town meeting in the Fall of October. That will be the town meeting we will focus on. The other capital projects and the other departments townwide that are necessary where the Select Board thought there may be some would be appropriate to have some further planning relative to that town meeting and sort of prioritizing on what the capital projects are necessary and appropriate. Neither the capital budget, nor the advisory seem to have any appetite whatsoever for the feasibility study, the Select Board was a little bit more receptive to that and it looks like we may revisit that in the Fall.

Our MSBA application which will be addressed tonight will be for the Statement of Interest (SOI) for the core program that will be submitted. The decisions on whether or not Cohasset will be invited to participate in this, or in coming years for this program, those decisions will be published in December. Not long after this town meeting, the special town meeting if it happens, the feasibility study if considered will be on that town warrant in October. We will know whether we're accepted through the MSBA. It will be either be a good preemptive measure where if we're not accepted, we've done this, and we can move forward with the feasibility study which is what it's intended to do to give Cohasset information and data relative to an upcoming project and not waiting on the MSBA train which may never come, or no guarantees, no set number of times to apply. Eventually, we'll be informed, happily, that we've been invited, and we will stop any sort of feasibility study that was approved, we wouldn't be far along in that anyhow by December. It takes a while to put a bid out and figure out which professionals we would engage with. Vice Chair MacLellan just wanted to note that the schools have been advocating for that. They're extremely heavy and intensive, we just didn't get much traction on this for this time around. We're hoping that the Select Board will make good on some statements that we'll see in that special town meeting in October, and we appreciate their ongoing collaboration.

Chairman Dial states this town meeting cycle has shown that getting a good turnout of families who are in the schools is really important to show the town that we care about our schools, and we want to make sure that our facilities are worthy for our children. Again, the call goes out to block your calendars, save the time, **May 1st Town Meeting** and it's really important to be there, not only for incoming families, but for people coming into what would potentially be free full-day kindergarten. For students and generations beyond that, we'll do more strategic planning for the overall and longer-term capital needs.

RAD (Self Defense) Training Update – Dr. Sullivan thanks Lieutenant Lopes and School Resources Officer Taylor for their service and everything they do for our schools. They're really instrumental in keeping us safe and it's an absolute pleasure working with both these gentlemen.

The last time the school committee invited Officer Taylor to a meeting was 6 months ago and one of the hot topics then was self-defense for Sophomores, Seniors, Juniors with Seniors leaving to go off to college. One of the difficulties that we were running into was finding a program in this area to attend. We actually did find one, it's in Foxboro on April 24, 2023. We have 3 officers including himself that are willing to go and take the program. We can run the RAD kids' program too because there's not as much self-defense going on. The program in Foxboro is mainly self-defense, so three (3) is a good number just to keep everybody safe and having those eyes is good.

RAD (Self Defense) Training Update (cont'd) - We have Detective Julie Hall, Officer Greg Lawrence who has helped Officer Taylor out with the RAD Kid's Program. Officer Taylor received an invoice for \$1,650 to get three (3) Officers to volunteer who are trained in the RAD class. After this training, they'll be instructors and they can start classes. Coach Sweeney and Coach Ford have been very adamant about getting this done. The \$1,650 invoice is the total, it's \$550 per person. There are other places throughout the community that have reached out to them and asked if we have something like this. So, if we're able to do this training at the end of April, we can start talking about classes the next day and start to work on this, maybe we could get something worked out by the end of this school year before summer starts. The benefits of this are obviously the kids going off to college.

After we're trained, there's a fee of \$75.00 every year for the RAD Kid's Program. For the RAD Adult Program, Officer Taylor isn't sure and doesn't think there's retraining. If they keep the instruction up throughout the year, their certification stays active. Obviously, if we're not teaching any classes over a two-to-three-year span, we're going to want them to come back. For the RAD Kid's Program, Officer Taylor does this twice a year. They've done three (3) already within the year.

Officer Taylor says if they keep their classes up and prove they can improve coming back on what they're doing in the classes, their certification lasts for ten (10) years. Coach Sweeney brought this training up with Officer Taylor before COVID hit where he felt there was a need for it. We could implement this in his existing schedule, Coach Sweeney approached us originally, at that time we didn't have anybody trained. Officer Taylor reached out to the Hingham Police Department to see if they could help us out with this. There's something to be said if you're self-sufficient being able to do these classes on our time, as opposed to counting on another agency to come and help us. They will help and assist us, but we wanted to be self-sufficient and have people trained and be able to do these things on our own. This course can be offered to the Rec Program too.

Chairman Dial says we can work with the administration and talk to people in the town and see where we can come together with something. What is being heard broadly from the community is this is something that is a useful tool, and we'd like to explore and figure out how to make it happen. Safety is important and these are important and effective tools for our kids.

- Officer Taylor says we just need commitment and attendance for this course in Foxboro for April 24, 2023.

School News (Dr. Patrick Sullivan) – We had a joyous, fun filled event with the Harlem Wizards. Dr. Sullivan would like to thank all teachers, all staff, all the fans who came, and of course the Harlem Wizards who came out, and very much the PSO. Mrs. Dial did a fabulous job organizing it among other folks. Our new turf on the alumni field is now being played on. The first action was our boys' lacrosse game. With the Spring like weather, the courtyard at Deer Hill School is being used and having our amazing collaboration with Holly Hill Farms with some early planting going on there that looks beautiful.

Our "O So Good" calling home continues with student's distinction. We have our great Youth Ambassadors performing in a play called "Samantha Skunk" which teaches kids about necessary precautions around prescription medication and how to stay away from them and what to do if they find them. This will happen at the Osgood School level. Thank you, Safe Harbors, for their work with that, we're lucky to have them. We had a Junior from CHS, Catherine Toomey, who was chosen by her peers to represent CHS at the 2023 Massachusetts Student Government Day at the State House. This was a wonderful honor and nice to see Catherine there.

School News (Dr. Patrick Sullivan) (cont'd) - The PSO Read-A-Thon did a wonderful job with our students decorating Deer Hill and Osgood School classroom doors. We had our Paraprofessional Appreciation Day for those of our Educational Specialist Professionals, we're very lucky to have them and we're very lucky to have Dr. Kate Salas and Ms. Tara Noves who were recognized on National Assistant Principals week for their outstanding leadership at CMS and CHS. National School Librarian Day was this past Monday, with our 3 amazing Librarians, Leslie Diminnie at Osgood School, Jennifer Gallagher at Deer Hill, and Kathy Cerruti at CMS.

Earth Day is coming up and we have some recycling happenings working with the Town's resiliency and grant coordinator. This is something that the Chair wanted to know on what other schools are doing to promote resiliency and to promote everything the green team is doing.

We're holding our 1st Inaugural Multi-Cultural Night MOSAIC at CHS and CMS movie theater on April 13, 2023 from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Teaching and Learning

Academic Initiatives / Updates (Dr. Leslie Scollins)

- **Literacy Update** – The Student Opportunity Act (SOA) Progress Report was something we were required to do a couple of years ago. It was postponed a bit because of COVID, we were to choose an area we wanted to focus on to improve our extreme achievement, or whatever our district wanted us too. We chose our Early Literacy for grades K-3 students, we also had to choose a particular subgroup, although we were looking for literacy in 5th grade.

We received an SOA grant when this first came to pass and was specifically tied to this. The subgroup was for students with a specific learning disability in reading with 32 students in grades K-3. Most students showed growth in foundational literacy skills. Out of the 32 students, 24 students met their benchmark during Winter using i-Ready Diagnostics; 24 students had typical growth of 43% or more (typical growth is 50% at the Winter benchmark.) Out of the 32 students, 15 students had (typical growth 88% -232%) which is a significant growth for those students, it meant that they were making progress toward it. 26 students out of 32 students had stretch growth over 15% (typical stretch growth is 20%-30% by the end of the year.) Stretch growth means their gap gets reduced. We need students to hit their stretch growth, we want them to close the gap. 15 students had stretch growth of 54%-131% out of the 26 students, which was pretty impressive in their stretch growth. It doesn't necessarily mean they made their benchmark; it just means they had significant growth which is really what we're looking for. Students that have a disability are often 1-2 years behind academically from their peers, and we're trying to close that gap as much as we possibly can based on their disability.

We had 10 students who met the Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS) had composite scores, some of them had high scores and completed their subset skills. Students in grades 1&2 met the Developmental Reading Assessment (DRA) winter benchmark, 5 of the 17 students in those grades met the benchmark which is a very different kind of assessment.

Teaching and Learning (cont'd)

Academic Initiatives / Updates (Dr. Leslie Scollins)

• **Literacy Update** - The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education actually did a really nice job building out their website. They built it out for teachers obviously over the years. There's also a lot for families and communities with all sorts of components around literacy, which is very helpful. One of the things that DESE did create was a Massachusetts Literacy Guide.

Dr. Leslie Scollins is in a group with many districts looking at literacy with all sorts of other professionals in this group that meet monthly on ways to provide the best literacy that we can. When this document came out, there was some frustration around how it was couched. We did have a collective response to this document. Dr. Scollins is only going to talk about Cohasset, but she wanted to let the school committee know there were over 37 districts that signed this letter that was sent to DESE. We basically asked for them to reconsider the way they made statements because it felt like it was sending teachers, and school administrators an adversarial conversation that wasn't what we wanted. We want collaborative conversations, and the state was extremely responsive, they responded right away. We have a small group of people that are going to meet with a couple of people from DESE. It's important for people to know what we're doing here as a district.

There is a question in this document that reads. Does my child get instruction and practice in the ability to hear the individual sounds within words (phonic awareness)? Dr. Scollins says here in Cohasset we wanted to pick and choose the best things we could address what we know is important for teaching and reading. No one thing can do it all! It's important for us to pick and choose what we want to address on the needs of our students.

We put Hegarty as the Phonic Awareness Program we used this year for grades K-2, and we've had great success, teachers love it. It's very structured, it's sequenced, and the students get instruction 10-15 minutes every day, which they need. Students really need the opportunity to practice the things that we teach them. The questions on this document have the answers to what the state says we should be hearing and what the state says we should not hear. It's just written too simplistically and almost leading in a direction where we thought to be more cohesive.

Mrs. St. Onge would like to say that our educators have done a really wonderful job with all of these elements, and we've done a really nice job of inviting them in. We've seen almost every single one of these demonstrated here by teachers, by students, or by both. It's a full physical response to working with words but when this document came out, it felt very attacking. The district has done a nice job of building towards this. It does not all happen in a day and there is no single program that covers all of it.

Director of Student Services Update (Mrs. Barbara Cerwonka)

Data Sharing, SEPAC Meeting on MTSS, Attendance – Student Services had 51 initial evaluation meetings during the month of March, 2023. Mrs. Cerwonka reminds the school committee that a survey goes out with every single IEP to parents or guardians from Student Services.

Director of Student Services Update (Mrs. Barbara Cerwonka) (cont'd)

• **Data Sharing, SEPAC Meeting on MTSS, Attendance** - Out of those surveys, parents can either strongly agree, agree, feel neutral, disagree, or strongly disagree on topics such as, it was a well-organized meeting, there was sufficient time, the evaluation was timely, they were listened to, they understood, they were part of the team, all their questions were welcomed. Out of those surveys returned to date, parents strongly agreed in every single area. There were 4 parents who agreed, or strongly agreed; 3 parents agreed in every single area and 1 parent was neutral.

<u>Meeting Type</u>	MARCH 2023			<u>Total Meetings</u>
	<u>Elementary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Out of District</u>	
Annual Review	16	16	1	33
Re-Evaluation	1	6	1	8
Initial Evaluation	8	1		9
	<i>MTSS:</i> 5 (eligible)	<i>MTSS:</i> 1 (eligible)		
Initial Evaluation	<i>Parent:</i>	<i>Parent:</i> 0		
<i>Referral Source</i>	<i>CPS:</i> 0	<i>CPS:</i>		
	<i>Non-CPS:</i> 3 (eligible)	<i>Non-CPS:</i>		
Independent Evaluations			1	51

A SEPAC meeting was held April 11th that was well-attended, along with the PSO who partnered with SEPAC. Student Services were asked to present through the lens than special education on how MTSS is a general education and a building-based initiative. All the school principals participated at the meeting, and they were able to speak to MTSS in their buildings as an overarching initiative for all students and services and strategies that students can receive whether they come to the MTSS team or not. Parents seemed to understand the process at each of the different levels as well as the alignment between the different schools, which is very strong. SEPAC thanked Student Services for speaking at the MTSS presentation, they’ve already received some positive feedback from families on this presentation and they look forward to more opportunities to collaborate like this.

Daily attendance is obviously very important to a student’s success. Missing a significant number of days can have a really detrimental effect on students, both in academic and social development. We have to notify families and or guardians of the student when there is a certain amount of absences. Our district as well as all the districts across the Commonwealth send out letters to parents or guardians when their child has accrued 5 excused absences and 10 unexcused absences. Fifteen (15) absences are the required elements by Massachusetts law a year. Medical or any documentation that can excuse an absence and we recognize that, but we also recognize that an absence is an absence. We send out letters to check and to make sure that students are in school because we can’t teach an empty seat. We’re also being mindful of excuses that are relevant and legitimate, and we should be cognizant of the understanding. In a post-COVID world, people are taking their school attendance less seriously, and wondering if we’re seeing people be a little more cavalier with absences from school than they have in prior years! Chairman Dial asks the administration is this something we should be focused on? Will this impact the quality of education for our students?

Director of Student Services Update (Mrs. Barbara Cerwonka) (cont'd)

• **Data Sharing, SEPAC Meeting on MTSS, Attendance** – Superintendent Patrick Sullivan says absences are high, also being mindful that families have to do things that are excused absences. As a general observation, it just makes us as a community to be really mindful about the importance of having children in school as much as possible. This is something we work together and try to figure out why the student is missing school. Is there something that we can do better to communicate the reasons for being in school. The absences are not typical of what Dr. Sullivan has seen in Cohasset since he's been here in terms of absent rates, it's higher than some other districts. It would be a nice focus for us as a community within the realm of reasonableness and we need to be reasonable about why people are missing school. Parents know when their child is not in school and they can help their child get a better education by making sure that they're in school, when they need to be in school and understanding the times, when this isn't the case. If students are constantly out, teachers are constantly trying to catch them up, there's less momentum for all students gaining in their academics.

Open Comments - Chairman Dial hopes that more people are prevalent in our town, which is people opting not to go to school and people opting to take a trip on and off week. If people are opting to do that, one of the things the Chair thinks this school committee and the administration should do, is how do we better communicate some of those adverse consequences to families, so they know and slowing the class down doing these things. There's some education and some outreach that we might be able to do if we're thinking about it from other perspectives.

Mrs. St. Onge notes there's a balance, sometimes it makes sense to take your child out of school and do something as a family. It's different if it's happening every week. Five days of absence is a very low number if receiving a letter at this point in the school year. The message about how can we help make sure that they're prioritizing education is shown in patterns that are important too.

Superintendent Patrick Sullivan says it's been required by us as an administration before we came into COVID and we weren't going to push this, it wasn't good timing to do this. We did have to get back to following the law, we ensured that it hadn't been happening here in Cohasset, and now it is! We send these letters out to understand the role of that particular letter. There's nothing personal about this except an effort to fulfill the law and to work with families who might be having absence issues with their child.

Mr. Carr notes this letter helps with consistency and it will help families understand the importance of attendance.

Tony Valaska chimes in with comment and wanted to mention, as a parent, some of the absences are due to reducing travel costs on peak travels days.

Budget, Resources and Governance

Budget and Finance (Ms. Susan Owen)

Materials

F-1

- Monthly Update – We're 75% through the school year, and the school budget is 69.74%, so we're still a little bit ahead of the game, which is great. There was a change to our special education tuition, with a student who was placed out of district to a collaborative school with an increase of \$29,825 to our deficit **-\$67,541** and Ms. Owen is somewhat concerned with the deficit now being **-\$91,366**.

There were visual effects with the recording of this 04-12-23 school committee meeting that was mentioned earlier by a member of the school committee with a consistent flashing red light when presentations were being shown to viewers at home. [Technical Issue]

At the elementary schools, Osgood School & Deer Hill are 64% in their budget and 63% at the CMS with over 62% through their budget and 69% at CHS. We had a slight change in our special education grant #240, they gave us an additional \$1,577. For our early childhood special education grant we were given an additional \$39, and an additional \$67 to our Title I Grant. We did receive an additional grant toward our METCO SPED Supplemental Grant which amounts to \$1,139 which is a new grant for us that will go towards transportation and other aspects to our extended school year program for our METCO students. No major concerns regarding our budget, we're on target.

Mr. Kearney is absent, but at his request Ms. Owen says they looked at a one lump amount from the revolving accounts from Deer Hill and Osgood Elementary Schools and they broke that out to CMS Revolving Account that now has \$640,000, Deer Hill has \$438,000 and Osgood has \$778,000 from the Revolving Account with a lot of loans like our box top collections and Life Touch that sells T-shirts. We broke that down and we'll continue to break that down.

Our enrollment data that includes each month will be forthcoming from Ms. Owen so the school committee will have some comparisons. Highlights from this month was the equipment for the fitness center at CMS. All the flooring has been removed and the plan is we'll be painting the fitness center over the upcoming Spring break.

We posted for a part-time Fitness Center Supervisor and a part-time Learning Supervisor to allow both areas to be accessible 2 days per week. We're considering Tuesday & Thursday from 3-6 p.m. from what was posted, and we've had applicants, we have not yet finalized anything.

FY24 Voted Capital Summary List

F-2

Capital heads voted in a decision and an email was sent out. Out of the \$1.3 million dollars they allowed us \$126,100. We had asked them to up the full bus lease because in the past few years they've given us \$90,000 towards the lease and we absorb another \$50,000 for each year. The second item they approved was the replacement of aging Chrome Books which there are 540. They agreed to replace all the 28 slide projector panels within CMS.

Budget, Resources and Governance

South Shore Educational Collaborative (SSEC)

Board Member (Dr. Patrick Sullivan)**

F-3

Dr. Patrick Sullivan is now the chairperson on the Board of the South Shore Educational Collaborative, the SSEC, and needs a school committee vote to stay on the board. Member towns that are on this board are Cohasset, Braintree, Randolph, Marshfield, Milton, Norwell, Quincy, Scituate, Weymouth, and Hanson.

Motion made by Mr. Carr to appoint Superintendent Patrick Sullivan as a Board Member of the South Shore Educational Collaborative, seconded by Vice Chair MacLellan.

All-Aye

Ratification of MSBA Submission**

F-4

Given the technical nature of our MSBA submission, this was approved by the Select Board. The MSBA submission is in the school committee's materials. The Chair would like to record the same resolutions they made in these resolutions at the last school committee meeting, but with the dates included, so it's completed. With the materials in front of the school committee, we can incredibly make the resolution just as a matter of course.

(1) In connection with our MSBA, SOI submission which will be made tomorrow, April 13, 2023. The chair would like for resolutions to the following effect within: Having convened in an open meeting on April 12, 2023, prior to the SOI submission closing date. The school committee of Cohasset in accordance with its charter bylaws and ordinances has voted to authorize the Superintendent to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority a Statement of Interest form dated April 13, 2023 for the Cohasset Middle School located at 143 Pond Street which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the priority categories for which an application may be submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future.

(2) Elimination of severe overcrowding and (5) replacement, renovation, or modernization of the school facility systems such as roofs, windows, boilers, heating and ventilation systems to increase energy conservation and decrease energy related costs in a school facility; (7) replacement of our addition to obsolete buildings in order to provide for a full range of programs consistent with state improved local requirements and hereby further specifically acknowledges that by submitting the Statement of Interest form, the Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance or the approval of an application, the awarding of a grant, or any other town funding commitment, or funding commitment from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, or commits the Cohasset Committee to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

Motion made by Vice Chair MacLellan to that effect of the wording of the MSBA submission, seconded by Mr. Carr. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Carr-Aye; Mrs. St. Onge-Aye; Mr. MacLellan-Aye; Mr. Dial-Aye.

Budget, Resources and Governance

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F-4

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(2) Elimination of severe overcrowding and (5) replacement, renovation, or modernization of the school facility systems such as roofs, windows, boilers, heating and ventilation systems to increase energy conservation and decrease energy related costs in a school facility; (7) replacement of our addition to obsolete buildings in order to provide for a full range of programs consistent with state improved local requirements and hereby further specifically acknowledges that by submitting the Statement of Interest form, the Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance or the approval of an application, the awarding of a grant, or any other town funding commitment, or funding commitment from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, or commits the Cohasset Committee to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

Motion made by Vice Chair MacLellan to that effect of the wording of the MSBA submission, seconded by Mrs. St. Onge. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Carr-Aye; Mrs. St. Onge-Aye; Mr. MacLellan-Aye; Mr. Dial-Aye.

Motions passed with all members voting in favor of the present, and therefore Dr. Sullivan is clear to submit our Statement of Interest tomorrow.

Food Service – We now have a Food Service Assistant and Culinary Specialist who has already begun implementing new menu items and getting some of the specials to elementary grade levels and is working on more local fresh ingredients.

They finalized ordering what type of furniture they want for their lobby. They received some participation on what the students would like to see. We'll soon see some of the high-top tables, they also wanted a couple of little study areas up there in the lobby to make it look like a lounge, study area.

Budget, Resources and Governance

The school committee voted for a Preschool Program on March 29, 2023 with an increase tuition from \$2,900 to \$3,200 per participant. In our athletics department we completed the new track and turf, and our school athletic teams are already playing out in the fields.

Transportation – The Assistant Town Manager is working with the MBTA at least to have conversations about parking the school buses down the train walk for a fee.

The Chair says this is something we need to explore more on the understanding on the parking lot for our school buses. We have to solve this issue; we need to put our school buses somewhere and they can't because of the cost being between \$35,000 to \$42,000 a year.

Report from School Facilities Committee – The feasibility study to revisit in the Fall.

Community Relations / Communication

Reports from School Committee Sub-Committees and Liaisons - A number of us met with the Select Board about school security matters. One of the things that we need to do better is to let the community know we're on top of school security, everybody in this town is. We are committed to it with really good plans, we don't talk about the plans, but we have really good plans. We are making some infrastructure changes and all of that went very, very well. One of the things is we really don't talk about security, and we want to make sure everyone knows there are many, many people on top of this and we have excellent excellence.

School Committee Governance

Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair - None

Approval of Minutes ** - None

Future Agenda Items – None

No Reason to move into Executive Session.

Motion made by Vice Chair MacLellan to adjourn the April 12, 2023 meeting of the Cohasset School Committee at 8:44 PM, seconded by Mrs. St. Onge.

All-Aye

**Requires Committee Vote / Action

All School Committee Meetings Are Recorded