



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

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE COHASSET SCHOOL COMMITTEE**  
**Wednesday, March 1, 2023**  
**6:00 PM**

**How to Participate:**

**In Person**

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: +1 929 205 6099

**Televised**

Streamed Live on Cohasset 143TV

*Facebook (watch/listen only)*  
Cohasset Live Streaming

*All School Committee Meetings Are Recorded.*

**AGENDA**

**In Attendance:**

Ted Carr  
Lance Dial, Chairman  
Paul Kearney  
Craig MacLellan, Vice Chairman  
Lydia St. Onge

**Also In Attendance:**

Patrick Sullivan, Superintendent  
Leslie Scollins, Assistant Superintendent

**Call to Order, Roll Call, Pledge of Allegiance**

Chairman Lance Dial welcomes everyone to the Wednesday, March 1, 2023 regular meeting of the Cohasset School Committee at 6:00 P.M. We just completed a Public Hearing for the school committee budget fiscal year 2024, so if anybody has any comments to that, please forward your comments to one of the Cohasset school committee member representatives. **Roll Call: Mr. Kearney-Present; Mr. Carr-Present; Mrs. St. Onge-Present; Mr. MacLellan-Present; Chairman Dial-Present.**

**Opening Remarks**

We have some special invited guests with us tonight, so Chairman Dial will not belay with any introductions.

**Public Comment**

None

### **Invited Guest**

Eagle Scout Project (Haley Cody)

Materials C-1

Haley Cody is a 9<sup>th</sup> grade student attending Cohasset High School and is here to present her Eagle Scout Project from Troop 48 on proposed improvements to repaint two (2) baseball dugouts and the storage shed located at Milliken Field. The improvements will benefit the Cohasset Baseball Team, our Cohasset schools and the Cohasset community. The estimated cost for Haley's Eagle Scout Project will be in the ballpark figure of \$2,000-\$3,000 for paint supplies for an area of 1,500 sq. feet. Lowes and Hingham Lumber will provide discounts for these improvements. Haley would like to paint the dugouts blue, white & gray, as well as the storage shed at Milliken Field and would like the school committee's permission and sponsorship to pursue this project.

Chairman Dial states there is some jurisdiction to this since the school doesn't own Milliken Field so there is nothing for the school committee to approve, but Haley does have the school support and to let the school committee know if she should need anything from them to push her project forward.

**Motion made by Vice Chair Craig MacLellan to express a vote of confidence for Haley Cody's Eagle Scout Project as presented, seconded by Mrs. St. Onge. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Kearney-Aye; Mr. Carr-Aye; Mrs. St. Onge-Aye; Mr. MacLellan-Aye; Chairman Dial-Aye.**

### **Invited Guest**

Eagle Scout Project (Rex Schiffmann)

Materials C-2

Rex Schiffmann is a 10<sup>th</sup> grade student attending Cohasset High School and is here to present his Eagle Scout Project. Rex attended a town meeting last night and received approval for his Eagle Scout Project from the select board. This project will be on the current stairs which have fallen into disrepair that leads to Milliken-Bancroft Field. Rex anticipates a budget of \$3,750-\$4,300 for materials needed for his Eagle Scout Project. All the labor will be done by volunteers, and the town will remove the existing stairs. This project will most likely occur only on weekends over the course of a few weeks in the Spring and completed when Summer arrives for baseball teams. The Town of Cohasset approved full funding for Rex's Eagle Scout Project of rebuilding the stairs to Milliken-Bancroft Field.

Mrs. St. Onge says it's great to see both these Eagle Scout Projects being done at Milliken Field. The whole town and community will benefit from all of this, thank you Rex and Haley for paying attention to these areas to make our community a better place.

**Motion made by Vice Chair Craig MacLellan to express a vote of confidence for Rex Schiffmann's Eagle Scout Project as presented, seconded by Mrs. St. Onge. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Kearney-Aye; Mr. Carr-Aye; Mrs. St. Onge-Aye; Mr. MacLellan-Aye; Chairman Dial-Aye.**

### **Invited Guest**

Gift from Cohasset PSO

Materials C-3

We received a gift in the amount of \$1,000.00 from the Cohasset PSO for the Multi-Cultural event that will be coming up in April, 2023. We very much appreciate everything that our PSO does for all our schools.

**Motion made by Mr. MacLellan to accept gift from our Cohasset PSO as presented, seconded by Mrs. St. Onge.**

**All-Aye**

### **Invited Guest**

Gift from CEF – Deer Hill Innovations Learning Commons

Materials C-4

A gift is presented that was given to the Cohasset Education Funding from the McNamara Family to honor Susan Jane Bearden McNamara who originally founded the Cohasset Education Foundation and the 1<sup>st</sup> president on the Cohasset PSO. The CEF wanted to give back to the schools and would like this gift in the amount of \$100,000 to go towards a specific grant that will commemorate Mrs. McNamara to revamp the Learning Commons at the Deer Hill School Library where the Arts and Sciences seem to be a great fit to Susan McNamara who dedicated herself in these areas of education here in Cohasset over the past 40 plus years.

Members of the school committee express their heartfelt thanks to the entire McNamara Family and the CEF and the PSO for all that they do. This gift will provide a full stem approach to the means of Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts, and Mathematics for a learning space environment for all our students.

**Motion by Mr. MacLellan to accept generous gift from the CEF to commemorate Susan Jane Bearden McNamara’s devotion to the Cohasset Education Foundation, and Cohasset PSO, seconded by Mr. Carr. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Kearney-Aye; Mr. Carr-Aye; Mrs. St. Onge-Aye; Mr. MacLellan-Aye; Chairman Dial-Aye.**

Superintendent Patrick Sullivan states per policy, he is going to form an Ad Hoc Committee and would like the school committee’s permission to be able to do this and consider naming the Innovations Learning Commons at the Deer Hill School in honor of Susan McNamara. Dr. Sullivan will create the Ad Hoc Committee, then bring back recommendations to the school committee for consideration at the next school committee meeting on March 15, 2023 for a Memorialization.

## **School Updates**

School News (Dr. Patrick Sullivan)

Obviously, we're coming off our February school vacation and hopes everyone had a restful break. We have wonderful sports teams that are involved in post season competitions. The boys' basketball team lost to a close one 65-57 to Plymouth last night. They came back with a real charge at the end and fell short with great efforts. Congratulations to the boys' basketball team, especially our seniors, and to the coach's on their fantastic season. Tonight, we have our first round of boy's hockey playing at the Quincy Youth Arena. Tomorrow our State Champions, the girls' soccer team will be honored at the State House at 10:00 a.m. followed by a tour and lunch. The girls' basketball team will have their first-round competition this Friday, March 3, 2023 and this will be a home game. It is possible that a Junior at Cohasset High School, *Sarah Chanette* is 22 points away from beating a score of 1,000. This is an amazing achievement point in her career. With a win tonight, the boy's hockey team will travel to Shawshank Tech on Saturday, March 4<sup>th</sup> in Billerica. We have spring sports sign-ups for school sports, so if folks are interested in spring sports, please look at their emails because this information went out today.

Chairman Dial would like to propose that the school committee switch Teaching and Learning with Budget, Resources and Governance on the agenda because one of our school committee members, Mr. MacLellan has to leave early for another town governance engagement.

## **School Updates**

District Calendar 2023-2024

Materials D-1

We typically do our district calendar this time of year when the school committee starts thinking about the calendar for the next few years. We've actually had some conversations how the committee sets the calendar and CTA advisors run the calendar through CTA to advise us on it. No vote will happen today, but it will be voted upon on March 15, 2023. As a reminder, we did decide on the start day for school for next year. Beginning with the 2023-2024 Cohasset Public Schools Calendar if Labor Day falls on September 3<sup>rd</sup> or earlier, the teachers work year will start on Wednesday and Thursday before Labor Day with the Friday before Labor Day with no school for students and staff, and the Tuesday following Labor Day will be the first start of school for students and staff. This year Labor Day falls on September 4<sup>th</sup>, so the first two (2) days of school for students will take place on Wednesday and Thursday before the Labor Day holiday and Friday before Labor Day Weekend as no school for students and staff. We've already decided that the first two (2) days for the start of the 2023-2024 school year will be on Wednesday, August 30<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, August 31<sup>st</sup> with Friday, September 1<sup>st</sup> as a no school day for students and staff.

The CTA have some ideas for the school committee that might be productive because there are some school districts that do this. Flip the Professional Development days from afternoon to morning so students can come in the afternoon. Another consideration is a possible return to school on Wednesday, January 3<sup>rd</sup> due to holiday travel concerns after the first holiday school break, instead of a return to school on Tuesday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024. If we decide with this, the last day for school would be June 12<sup>th</sup> 2024.

## **School Updates**

District Calendar 2023-2024

Materials D-1

The 3<sup>rd</sup> consideration from CTA was making Professional Development Day a ½ school day on Friday, October 6<sup>th</sup> leading into Indigenous Day, which is Monday, October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024. The concern there would be two (2) broken consecutive weeks for the month of October, which could be problematic. Another thought for ½ school day for Professional Development would be on Friday, May 17, 2024 so it wouldn't be close to the Memorial Day Holiday Weekend.

Mrs. St. Onge recalls many years ago, Professional Development was purposely put there on a Friday that is attached to observing a Monday holiday, for the long weekends in October and May. Mrs. St. Onge says it's been this way for the past 6-8 years. It's not required, but is somewhat expected by families, they know what the plan is. Breaking up the weeks early in the school year is somewhat helpful. Returning back to a new school year from summer break we have to build momentum, similar to jet lag. Having that little break in October when we're back in a new school year as a family makes a big difference. We're always saying how concerned we are for students social, emotional, well-being, let's give them a break!

Chairman Dial says this information needs be shared with the community to ask them if they would rather have an additional day off in January that would extend the last day of school in June by one (1) more day. There is some validity to this that is worth discussing. We're not voting on this tonight. These are just some ideas and thoughts to and from the school committee to the 2023-2024 Cohasset Public Schools District calendar. The school committee will vote on this at the next meeting, scheduled for March 15, 2023.

Mrs. St. Onge believes last year during the school committee's conversations to set a predictable district calendar, we had Friday, December 22, 2023 as a ½ day before the Winter vacation. Typically, this a ½ day of school for the students and staff. Mrs. St. Onge noticed this ½ day is not indicated on the 2023-2024 district calendar presented tonight.

Dr. Sullivan states that December 22, 2023 should absolutely be a ½ day on the 2023-2024 district calendar and he will let CTA know of this and relay any comments they may have on this.

## **Budget, Resources and Governance**

### **Transportation**

We're still finding issues with the School Bus Stop Finder, (GPS) application, because our GPS can't be implemented to the new school buses (First Student). First Student buses have their own GPS system, so there are more hurdles to go through with those buses. In order to put our GPS system on First Student buses, we would have to unplug their GPS system, they're in the process trying to work around this.

## **Budget, Resources and Governance**

### **Food Service**

We've had some ideas on upgrading our Food Services, and one thought was a chef. We have sort of an idea that was socialized at a meeting and Susan Owen is taking that to the next level. We talked, going back to the idea of a chef, but an idea of having a high-quality person that can articulate and create menu items and put their skills in quality items working with the Director of Food Services. Dr. Sullivan would like to present this with a potential vote on March 15, 2023. We always talk about our offerings, and we thought of a Culinary Specialist / Assistant Food Service Director. This position will oversee the cooks in all three (3) building in the district under the direction of the Director of Food Services. Responsible for planning and cooking daily lunch specials district wide. This individual will also provide support for building cooks for menu development and culinary support. Provide attractive signage for meals and promote menu items on social media, digital screens, and the nutrition website. Develop and provide culinary and nutritious enrichment opportunities for students in the district throughout the school year. Responsibilities would include, but are not limited to:

- Create and implement new menu items following current food trends while following the rules and regulation from the USDA.
- Provide support to our school district cooks to improve food quality to increase student participation.
- Work with Director of Food Services to order products weekly.
- Provide attractive signage to promote menu items throughout the school district.
- Promote and advertise the program through social media, digital screens, and school district website.

Dr. Sullivan would like to post this position to provide this opportunity, an open position for anybody who may have these skills. This was somewhat inspired by some of our staff. The funding for this would come from Revolving Accounts and will be put to good use for this position. Dr. Sullivan wanted to bring this to the school committee's attention. *This is just a rough draft for this position that was put together. Wanted to present this to the school committee on their thoughts or make changes to anything.*

Mr. MacLellan says this meeting was one of the best Sub-Committee's meetings he's ever had. We see how encouraging and very clear of the tangible progress we have here. The ability both in our needs, but also a very cost-effective solution. This will yield immediately for improvement because the idea behind this position is not only to increase the diversity of our daily offerings, but also the quality of them, trying to source more local ingredients for more fresh and nutritious meals. Also, the way we'll broadcast these options to our students and families that will encourage kids to try new things. We're going to see much more enriching food service products just by this one position alone.

The Chair would like to redefine the job description at the next Sub-Committee Meeting on this point to outline that there will be some changes.

## **Budget, Resources and Governance**

### **Food Service**

Mrs. St. Onge is curious about the preparation and location. She asks, will all these meals be prepared at the middle high school, and then be transported to other schools? How will these meals be transported?

Some meals are capable of being prepared at Deer Hill and the Osgood School. There may be a trickledown effect at each individual preparation done in each kitchen. We also have a van for Food Services to transport school meals.

Mr. Kearney echoes onto Mr. MacLellan's comment on the fantastic Sub-Committee meeting they both attended the other night. Mr. Kearney says the meeting was well planned, they addressed what Mr. MacLellan just talked about. This is a great opportunity to educate our kids, to get local and fresh foods and to get that educational standpoint. This just reiterates what we're doing here.

Chairman Dial expresses his sincere thanks to the Food Service Sub-Committee, and both Mr. MacLellan and Mr. Kearney who diligently pushed their tenacity to make this happen. Also, thank you to our school administration and our Food Service Director. This is very gratifying to Mr. Dial, being as a committee member to see problems raised, addressed, and then solved. in a way this is done. The Chair commends everyone here for what they've done. Looking at the learning and humble ways to solving problems, bonding quickly to get actual solutions so that we can apply our needs and concerns in other areas. Thank you and looking forward for a final proposal.

### **Report from School Facilities Committee**

Mr. MacLellan is a member of the School Facilities Committee and has a lot to report from the previous meeting, unfortunately he has to leave this meeting for another meeting. Mr. MacLellan will be presenting to the Advisory School Facilities Committee on what was requested to warrant the seeking of \$1.5 million dollar allocation for a feasibility study for a renovated or replaced middle high school. We're still on a parallel path, and we're still intending to resubmit our SOI, (Statement of Interest) to the MSBA, (Massachusetts School Building Authority) to see if we can get some state subsidy. We're also aware of how many other districts that have similar ways like Cohasset with similar demographics and mixed capacity. Doing our own feasibility study, we'd be poised to fuel and board our own train to the attention we need and not have to wait any longer.

Also, the School Facilities Committee is also charged with looking at Capital improvements to maintain our school buildings. They're simultaneously starting to prioritize the improvements recommended by the existing condition study that had commissioned several months ago that was completed in the Spring of 2022. One thing that they'll be prioritizing is having an executive session, relative to these things next week. The security upgrading that we were recommended by A13, and we're going to talk about that. Those are the first categories on Capital improvements that were considered.

## **Budget, Resources and Governance**

### **Report from School Facilities Committee**

Superintendent Patrick Sullivan would like to potentially bring a vote to the school committee to make sure our time we would resubmit to the MSBA our SOI for a middle high school. We have **to submit our SOI, Statement of Interest by April 14, 2023**. We would then also need to vote from the select board. These are all going to be timelines that would have no new information, it's the same SOI.

## **Teaching and Learning**

Academic Initiatives / MCAS Updates (Dr. Leslie Scollins)

### **Focus for Writing**

The Middle and High School English Department(s) each took a Professional Day to reword questions and writing prompts to reflect the MCAS format which expects deeper thinking and evidenced based responses. Deer Hill School Staff are working with the Teaching and Learning Alliance (TLA) consultants to update writing prompts and process for students to align with MCAS.

MCAS dates for Spring 2023 can be found on the Navigator. Principals will also be sending them out.

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education sent the District School Report Cards that they do every year, and these have already gone out. These are posted on the school's website. This is a report card that DESE generates and it's for families and guardians to see how their child is succeeding. This also gives some basic information about our teachers, our scores, and our performance.

## **Data Analysis Professional Development**

Curriculum Associates is providing Professional Development as part of a grant to the Faculty at the Osgood, Deer Hill, and Middle School. **Part 1** took place in the Fall, 2022 at the Elementary and Middle School. **Part 2** happened today, March 1, 2023 working with the Leadership Team and Reading Specialist. Then we'll have two (2) trainers work with grades K-8 Faculty and a Math Specialist on March 17, 2023.

## **Winter Benchmark Assessments**

### **i-Ready Diagnostic Middle of the Year**

- Typical growth goal is the average growth for a student starting at the same placement level, (keeping up).
- Stretch growth goal is the growth needed to close the gap to proficiency. (designed to put the student on a path to proficiency by the end of the year)

### **Growth Goals for the Middle of the Academic Year**

- Students should be working to achieve at least 50% progress towards their annual typical growth goal.



## **Teaching and Learning**

Academic Initiatives / Updates (Dr. Leslie Scollins)

### **i-Ready Math**

The district should be at 50% progress to annual typical growth indicated in the median. Our district is at 68%. This means we have students who have moved passed the 50% in the median, which is real, solid progress. [CMHS progressed 78% annual typical growth]; [DHS progressed 68% annual typical growth]; [JOS progressed 66% annual typical growth], which means they ALL met typical growth. Looking at the annual stretch growth, by the end of the year we should be somewhere between 20%-30%, and they have ALL met that already, being halfway thru the school year. [CMHS - 39%]; [DHS – 46%]; [JOS – 47%]. Our intervention teachers have been working so hard targeting to what they need to target. There are no demographics in this, but Dr. Scollins says that they can.

### **i-Ready Reading**

Our district is at 91% which is amazing, keeping in mind annual typical growth should be at 50% in the median. [CHMS – 125%]; [DHS – 92%]; [JOS – 88%]. Students in real time are learning how to do better at following instruction and teachers are targeting how to get students to keep up. We're looking at our core instruction getting stronger and our interventions getting stronger. [CMHS progressed 38% annual typical growth]; [DHS progressed 56% annual typical growth]; [JOS progressed 64% annual typical growth].

Dr. Sullivan reminds everyone that this is going to be part of our data storage point. We need a district data storage, and we need individual education data storage. This is an important tool, it's a tool showing us progress.

The Teaching Learning Alliance, TLA is working with our Elementary teachers and our reading specialist had a Professional Development Day at Manomet Elementary School in Plymouth. They observed Readers Workshop in action and met with reading specialists and literacy coaches, which is very helpful for them. TLA will take on the role of facilitating Professional Development and helping teachers.

The district received a secured grant which will fund for an April Vacation Accelerated Math Academy. This is a full day program for grades 3-10 on Tuesday, April 18<sup>th</sup> through Friday, April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023 from 8:30 AM – 3:00 PM. Breakfast and Lunch will be provided. A survey will go out to families this week.

We're also having our Kindergarten Jump Start Program on August 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at the Osgood School that will be for 1.5 hours for each day. A great way for students to visit school before the first day. Information will be sent by Principal Lisa Farrell.

On March 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM at the Cohasset High School Cafeteria there will be a Recycled and Found Art event that will be open to the entire Cohasset community.

**Teaching and Learning**

Academic Initiatives / Updates (Dr. Leslie Scollins)

Chairman Dial says what was most impressive to him was the impactful data Dr. Scollins shared that directly shows the results of the investments and the changes we’ve made in our schools. This is huge, and it shows that what we’re doing is working. As we’re working through our budgeting process these are numbers that we should put out there. Getting these extra resources isn’t just pie in the sky, it shows actual evidence that this is working for our students and that our students are getting a better education. This underscores the budget request that we made and the way that Dr. Scollins as an administration deploys the resources we have, shows that it is working.

**Community Relations / Communication**

Reports from School Committee Sub-Committees and Liaisons

Ms. Owen says we have Preschool tuition comparisons to what it looks like currently. A preliminary application is ready to put this information out with notification that there may be a change to the tuition for Preschool. We will have a more formal discussion next time to be able to give families notice at our next school committee meeting on March 15<sup>th</sup>, and then the school committee will vote on this March 29<sup>th</sup>.

<b><u>Cohasset Current Tuition: \$2,800</u></b>	<b><u>COST TO SUPPORT PROGRAM AT CURRENT RATE:</u></b>	
	<b><u>FY23 with 18 peers @ \$2,800</u></b>	<b><u>FY24 with 32 peers @ \$2,800</u></b>
<b><u>Town Private Preschools</u></b> ½ day – 4 days a week	Cost: \$ 161,000	Cost: \$ 263,000
Carriage House - \$6,409	Revenue: \$ 44,800	Revenue: \$ 89,600
South Shore - \$6,505	Difference: \$ 116,200	Difference: \$ 179,400
Community Center		
<b>*Supporting 1 whole class</b>	<b><u>FY24 with 32 peers with increase @ \$3,000</u></b>	<b><u>FY24 with 32 peers with increase @ \$3,200</u></b>
	Cost: \$ 263,000	Cost: \$ 263,000
	Revenue: \$ 96,000	Revenue: \$ 102,400
	Difference: \$ 167,000	Difference: \$ 160,000

<b><u>Other Public Preschools</u></b>	
½ day – 4 days a week	
Weymouth	- \$3,485
Norwell	- \$3,330
Duxbury	- \$3,180
Kingston	- \$3,000
<b><u>With Tuition Increase</u></b>	
Hingham	- \$2,700
Marshfield and Scituate	- \$2,500

Additional revenue would go to the Revolving account to directly help fund the program.

## **Community Relations / Communication**

Reports from School Committee Sub-Committees and Liaisons

Mr. Carr would like to mention to the Chair that he's been watching the budget process from other departments around the town. There's going to be a lot of drama on new Capital requests, some in a lot of different places, and the Town is sorting that out. There's a lot of new activity out there that may affect us or may not. Mr. Carr just wanted to put this out to his school committee colleagues on this perspective.

## **School Committee Governance**

Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair – *None*

Approval of Minutes\*\* - *None*

## **Future Agenda Items**

- Report card review from DESE that Dr. Scollins presented tonight.
- Our MSBA vote.
- The District Calendar for School Year 2023-2024.
- Look more into the i-Ready scores versus prior years.
- Reading Program Spotlight on Teaching and Learning.
- IEP data and the i-Ready data that Mr. MacLellan was interested to seeing more of.
- Mr. Kearney raised an idea of school academic recognitions.
- After School Programs.
- Preschool Tuition.
- Options for school strategies in particular with upcoming spring Town meetings.

**Motion made by Mr. Carr to move into Executive Session at 8:18 PM, without reconvening afterwards, seconded by Mrs. St. Onge. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Kearney-Aye; Mr. Carr-Aye; Mrs. St. Onge-Aye; Chairman Dial-Aye.**

**Executive Session<sup>1</sup> - #3. Strategy in anticipation of collective bargaining and litigation\*\*  
#2. Contract negotiations with non-union personnel\*\***

<sup>1</sup> Chapter 30A, Section 21(a) mandates that in order to go into Executive Session the Committee must:

1. Do so on a roll call vote.
2. State the purpose for executive session.
3. Indicate whether the body will reconvene in public session.

\*\*Requires Committee Vote / Action