



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

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE COHASSET SCHOOL COMMITTEE**  
**Wednesday, February 15, 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:**

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

**Also In Attendance:**

Barbara Cerwonka, Director Student Services  
John Mills, Principal Cohasset Middle School  
Brian Scott, Principal Cohasset High School  
Susan Owen, Director of Finance & Operations  
Patrick Sullivan, Superintendent  
Bob Tuscher, Cohasset Public Schools Head Custodian

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

Chairman Dial called to order the Wednesday, February 15, 2023. regular meeting of the Cohasset School Committee at 6:00 P.M. Mr. Carr has noted to the Chair that he will not be present for this school committee meeting today. We have 4 of the 5 school committee members present, which constitutes a quorum. **Roll Call: Mr. Kearney-Present; Mr. MacLellan-Present; Mrs. St. Onge-Present; Chairman Dial-present.**

**Opening Remarks**

Mr. Dial states we have a heavy agenda today, at least from a school committee perspective. We have lots of papers in front of us because today will be a nice meeting where we'll talk about some of the nuts and bolts on what we put together for the school. We've been talking about some programs of study changes with our distinguished guests present, our principals from the middle school and high school who will talk about this in a bit, with the school committee.



## **Public Comment**

Chairman Dial would like to remind everyone that public comment on the agenda is a section intended for areas on items that are not on the agenda. If folks want to make a statement, or have a question for the school committee, this is a time to do it, but if folks have a statement about an item on the agenda, they can let us know at this point so that we can come back to your comment, but we won't take your comment in substance at this time. [No Comments.]

## **Invited Guests**

### **School Committee Student Liaison Report (Noah McDowall)**

*Mr. Dial announces that Mr. McDowall is unable to attend today due to his school commitments which comes first and so important, even before a school committee meeting!*

## **School Updates**

### **School News (Dr. Patrick Sullivan)**

Superintendent Patrick Sullivan says it's always a pleasure to provide some school news as we close in on February break. February break in some ways is the first real break where people can relax because of the holidays associated with our previous break that tends to be a hectic time. Dr. Sullivan knows as a teacher he felt like February break was just to relax a little bit and recharge, and he hopes that everybody gets a chance to do that.

Superintendent Patrick Sullivan wants to mention that an unfortunate event happened yesterday with a swat hoax going into the forest and it's tragic that this happened. Dr. Sullivan wants to publicly thank the Cohasset Police Department for everything they do. First off, and secondly for their response to the incident and the way that they helped and guided us. Also, Dr. Sullivan gives kudos to Principal Mills and Principal Scott who handled that in their buildings as well. Then of course, our elementary schools to make sure we gave the proper amount of attention too with all protocols that were followed. For folks listening should know that our police department are incredibly responsive as they expect, they're wonderfully responsive to the schools in terms of these crisis scenarios. That was a tough event, but very well handled, and appreciated by us.

We had some spectacular events for our students over the last two weeks. Last Friday, we had our "Life Fair" which we've done a couple times and was very well advertised. Dr. Sullivan was honored to have seen them both and they've both been excellent. This was rejuvenated after COVID and at the heart of running this is Nicole Fitzgerald who is a wonderful math teacher at the high school. Ms. Fitzgerald has taken on a junior from the high school, Haley Santos who did a wonderful job on moderating a panel and Dr. Sullivan was told how instrumental this was getting everything going. Also, kudos to Principal Scott and his team, and thank you to the Cohasset Educational Foundation who provided this in a grant. It's a wonderful event for our Senior class to learn about the importance of crediting, budgeting, financial literacy and what it means to be a young professional to deal with budgeting their finances to live.



## **School Updates**

### **School News (Dr. Patrick Sullivan)**

Students learn about insurance that they need to pay, then of course the things they want to do from a leisure perspective, and we all know it's not easy when we're out there on our own, we've been through this! The goal for "Life Fair" is for students to learn to avoid negative financial impulses and to make informed decisions that will benefit their future. Dr. Sullivan would like to thank Principal Scott and thank the whole community for helping with this event. It starts with a panel with Haley moderating it along with Mr. Moriarty who works for Sovereign Bank and coaches them and Jim Willis our wonderful department chair for grades 6-12 in social studies and history. They were all wonderful and they spoke of their experiences as students coming out of high school going into college and how their paths turned and what they went through to reach a high level of success. A big thank you to everyone who participated and particularly to the CEF for allowing us this grant for this event moving forward.

We also had a wonderful event in conjunction with Black History month. A showing of the movie version from the book, "The Hate You Give," it deals with themes that are so important right now. A paramount edge to our young learners to deal with the social crisis that we have going on and basically portrays a student who lives in the city and goes to school in a suburban area, not unlike Cohasset. It talks a lot about how that student does what is known as "code switching" which means they act a certain way when they're in the city with their friends and goes to school and acts in a way that melds in with the kid's they're with and the cost that comes from that. It also has other story lines that deal with tragedies that have fallen upon us as a society regarding law enforcement and students of color in this case. It's an interesting depiction because it shows multiple perspectives of a societal problem. The panel that we had speaking about this was wonderful because all of them had some Cohasset ties and all of them were in law enforcement. Dr. Sullivan was in the audience and was a great conversation with Detective, Lieutenant Mike Lopes who is wonderful and obviously involved as an agent in law enforcement. Lieutenant Lopes is also an amazing human being and to have him here with 35 years of experience as an officer of color, was a wonderful perspective. We also had our school officer Greg Taylor on the panel with Carlos Parada who is a Boston Firefighter and a parent of two (2) former Cohasset METCO students. We also had *Mercedes Bentakis* who is a 2007 class graduate from Cohasset high school and is now a Dispatch Officer for the City of Boston. This was tremendous and Dr. Sullivan is proud to be in a school that really puts this out there and allows the students to explore this and to learn how they can make this better and look at this as a very multicast complex problem that deserves attention from everyone. Dr. Sullivan thought this was very powerful and thanks Principal Scott for his role in putting this together.

Also, to celebrate Black History month we had another great event with Lisa Stringfellow a former Cohasset student who went to the Deer Hill School to read her book "A Comb of Wishes" to the students there, Our PSO came and did a Hip-Hop to promote positivity, an anti-bullying program at the Deer Hill School for the students that was wonderful, and a lot of fun to watch.

## **School Updates**

### **School News (Dr. Patrick Sullivan)**

Last week was National School Counseling Week and we can't say enough about what they do for our students and our school community. Thank you to all our School Counselor's. Today, was National School Resource Officer Appreciation Day, and Dr. Sullivan missed the opportunity to thank publicly our School Resource Officer Greg Taylor, but he did send an email to thank him. Our transportation has been in the hot seat this year. but Principal Farrell who is always so thoughtful, had a breakfast for our school bus drivers, which was very nice.

## **Teaching and Learning**

### **High School Program of Studies (Mr. Brian Scott)\*\***

[Materials E-1]

Principal Scott addresses we're looking to add some courses to increase our computer science courses, and this is meant to be a buffer between some of the quarter electors that we have right now. *Mr. Sasso* teaches what is described as well done in AP Computer Science which we have a limited interest in but there's a little bit of a gap in between what they're doing in the introduction for advanced placement, so this would require a new teacher. Principal Scott says we don't have anyone who's able to teach that right now, we've been looking to hire somebody who could potentially help with this. We're looking to expand the electives that we're offering with 3D gaming in World Design. This is a little bit more like Minecraft with those kind of game designs, we're excited about potentially offering that.

The next three courses are in the math department. One is accounting which answers a lot of people's interests. We've had conversations here about expanding some of the practical math offerings that we have. Also, we've added some math courses that are set up to help close some of those gaps that we saw over COVID. Our high school Math Foundations class will pick up with kids coming out from 8<sup>th</sup> grade into 9<sup>th</sup> and potentially in 10<sup>th</sup> grade. Integrated Algebra and Geometry that is a reintroduction of a course that we offered a few years ago and those are the big academic changes.

The Watershed Institute has always been there, we're looking to just put it out there as part of the work that we're doing with the Cohasset Student Coastal Research, CSCR. Tomorrow, we're sending a contingent to CSCR with 4 or 5 other towns such as Scituate, Hull, and Hingham to meet with Jack Buckley and his CSCR staff. Principal Scott, Ed Savage who is our Science Department Chair, and *Dr. Duncan* will be doing a lot of screening work. We're taking five (5) students to meet with a couple of consultants that we've worked with in the past who are flying in from Carolina and other towns to continue this work on watershed studies and push forward some of the work that *Dr. Duncan* did with our Marine Science classes in the Fall, in terms of having the conditions report ready to pair with the environmental studies classes that just started. Principal Scott wanted to make this distinctive because he thinks it's going to grow to something that is unique to us into the area and be a marketable highlight for students as they apply to environmental studies and environmental science. This course is dependent on whether we can find someone to teach it, and what the interest is if we can staff this, and make decisions in terms, of how we teach accounting.

## **Teaching and Learning**

### **High School Program of Studies (Mr. Brian Scott)\*\***

[Materials E-1]

Principal Scott wanted to make this distinctive because he thinks it's going to grow to something that is unique to us into the area and be a marketable highlight for students as they apply to environmental studies and environmental science. This course is dependent on whether we can find someone to teach it and what the interest is if we can staff what we have to make decisions on in terms of how we teach accounting.

The second piece is not a change, it's just a clarification around class rank. Our guidance department frequently looks at other programs and studies to make sure what we're doing is consistent or we're missing something. We typically provide class rank because it doesn't serve any real purpose, we provide a GPA, we do rank students. It isn't a change in practice, the language we had in there was a little bit acrostic, maybe 20 or 25 years ago there was a need for class rank, we didn't have the electronic tools back then. Colleges and Universities aren't asking for class rank, that's a big change from what we want, they might ask for a percentile, like the top 25%, but that isn't of much use for them. They're looking at students within our program studies within our atmosphere and they have those scattergrams to look at GPA data.

Those are the two (2) big changes, the introduction of the new courses and the clarification around the classroom. We're asking for a math teacher and Principal Scott would like that person to also have some background in Computer Science which is deliberate because there's not enough student interest and we don't have enough course offerings to be able to hire a full-time computer Science Instructor.

Mr. Kearney says these are great because some kids don't even know what a balance sheet, projections, or an agenda is. Mr. Kearney comments these are great electives for the world we're in now. What kind of other elective courses does Mr. Scott see down the road as a principal of the high school on limits we have, what we can, or can't do? Perhaps we can offer after school programs so the kids can learn about home economics, or six (6) weeks working in the kitchen as a chef, things like that.

Mrs. St. Onge comments these are all great applications with the evolving change of times for our student body and very responsive to our needs.

Mr. MacLellan knows the high school offers a robust curriculum for students. His question to Principal Scott is on Math Foundations to make sure that our students don't feel negative, like they have to take this, or because they're not smart enough. Another question, does the high school offer some kind of creative writing class? That is such an important and unique skill to have, and Mr. MacLellan would like the district to foster that because there are kids who have this talent.

Last question by Mr. MacLellan is on social studies, is there any way that the high school can offer American Civics or Political Science for an elective course?

## **Teaching and Learning**

### **High School Program of Studies (Mr. Brian Scott)\*\***

[Materials E-1]

Principal Scott says that High School Math Foundations is an elective course, it's not a required course. The students who elect this want to learn more in depth about math. If students feel like this course isn't for them and want to take ceramics for example, they can do that. The guidance counselors talk individually with the 8<sup>th</sup> grade class when picking their electives for high school. The high school does have some component to U.S. History I, & II. We touch on that but don't know if we get more in depth with it, or how far the standards go into it. We have students who excel with their electives, that go way beyond of what is required, it's just that we run into the same issue of what course to put in or take its place.

Superintendent Patrick Sullivan would like to note to Principal Scott's comment on that. To have the ability to talk to every single 8<sup>th</sup> grader and have a conversation with the high school administrator or guidance counselor about their goals and plans is unique. Having the high school staff work with the middle school staff overlays what is special because we have a lot of that.

**Motion made by Mrs. St. Onge to approve Cohasset Public High School proposed changes to the Program of Studies for the 2023-2024 year, with addition to the amendment to be assessed on the elimination of literature and media, seconded by Mr. Kearney.**

**All – Aye**

## **Teaching and Learning**

### **Middle School Program of Studies (Mr. John Mills)\*\***

[Materials E-2]

Principal Mills addresses that program of studies should give CMS families a sense of who we are. The goal this year was to make sure that the Cohasset Middle School program of studies accurately reflect our offerings, so there are tremendous numbers of changes, but some of it was around language to make sure that we're accurately describing what's being taught in our classes. The core values and beliefs on page 3 has a much older set of core values and beliefs for the district, which is just an update.

Principal Mills states the second one is our guidance course which is in our handbook on page 9 and 10. We updated the course description, previously it included a brief communication and social engagement, but we wanted to pull that out a little bit and talk about some of the skills that are taught in that class and the learning objectives. Foundations of Math on page 22 is a new course we piloted this year under the name Principles of Math, but we decided for next year to rebrand this as Foundations of Math, so there is some kind of vertical alignment with the high school Math Foundations. The Principles of Math course is in its explanation of language that describes it as a goal, it's a course for any student who might need some math support. It's a tier one intervention, in other words, anybody can take the course. We have students in Principles of Math this year, our practice that we would do throughout the year and view data such as I-Ready results, MCAS and MCAS history.

## **Teaching and Learning**

### **Middle School Program of Studies (Mr. John Mills)\*\***

[Materials E-2]

Performances in classes, or at the beginning of the year with 6<sup>th</sup> grader's which is based on Deer Hill recommendations. Then we have conversations with families about the benefit of being in the course which is a little bit different than the high school Math Foundations which is where students like to go and it's a family school decision once in the class. We don't use the phrase accelerated but we use the accelerated road map that DESE put forth as a way to help us come out of COVID.

The idea is that our Math Foundations or Principles of Math teachers work closely with the grade level teachers and identifies upcoming learning objectives. An example would be that the teacher might talk to the 6<sup>th</sup> grade math teacher and find out that next week they're doing multiplication and division fractions. Then next week that teacher will go back and review with students how to add and subtract fractions to get them ready for the following week, or upcoming curriculum. This is really the goal and the outline that we've piloted this year and we've evolved it more than halfway through the year, and Principal Mills is really pleased with the students who seem to be making nice progress in their grade level math classes. Next year it will be rebranded as Math Foundations.

Next is our Research course, an established course where we wanted to be clear to any users of the Program of Studies that the Research course works in conjunction with our 8<sup>th</sup> grade Civics class to fulfill the State's Civics Project requirement. It completes all parts and all stages of the Civic Project requirements that the state has. Principal Mills thinks this gets the students in a good place to move to the high school and certainly complete the high school Civics Project requirements.

Lastly, are our science courses. Dr. Scollins mentioned in a prior school committee meeting where we've adopted a science curriculum called "Open Science Education," the prior course description that were the Program of Studies. Newly, this no longer applies. Open Science Education still works and certainly teaches the state frameworks but does so in somewhat of a circular manner and focuses on a different approach to teaching science, that is much more exploratory for students.

We worked with Mr. Savage and his team and came up with an accurate description that reports each 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade science and that grade level course and units of study courses are reported on pages 25 to 30. We've updated the frameworks to reflect that, we've reorganized our science with this new curriculum.

Mr. Kearney comments these are excellent updates, very responsive to the times. The Math Foundation is that we can close the gap, which is important especially in middle school, before they get to the high school and need it. Mr. Kearney would also like to thank the school committee because they approved the math intervention position for last year and that's what made this course possible and of course our kids work with a math specialist at the Osgood School.

Mrs. St. Onge says its super engaged and really gives students a chance to experience the conceptualization, the application, and a good experience with the procedural part of math.

## **Teaching and Learning**

### **Middle School Program of Studies (Mr. John Mills)\*\***

[Materials E-2]

Chairman Dial wants to repeat for people at home listening in case this didn't come through. The question was about whether why we have not done the honor roll? The answer is that 92% of our students would have made the honor roll, instead of highlighting those who succeeded, it does highlight the inverse to this.

The introduction of the Research course is excellent. This is the type of a true project-based learning where true teaching and learning is going in that direction. It's going to extract much more value leading academic experience through something like that. There's a lot of different components to it, but it also makes for a more memorable experience.

Question is, and obviously there are some disciplines that are more compatible with this type of learning format than others. Do we try to incorporate at least some level of this approach to other courses? For example, through collaboration and presentation. These are two (2) great skills that are not only great to know, but they're also great tools to teach these very important skills. This also makes for more of an impactful and memorable learning experience. Obviously more likely to take something away more permanently? Mr. MacLellan always wants to see this type of approach applied wherever possible. It is obviously and is explicitly outlined in this course and we've seen some of the spotlights on learning in the middle school that we've employed that approach in others, not just in this bigger portfolio.

Principal Mills says the science courses where we have a new curriculum, we wanted to describe it more accurately. Revisions to Research and Guidance courses we've spoken about for quite a while. We're continuing and trying to update this and to make sure that families want to learn more about Cohasset Middle School, at least the document will read what reflects is being taught to them.

**Motion made by Vice Chair MacLellan to approve the Cohasset Public Middle School Program of Studies as amended and presented by Principal Mills, seconded by Mrs. St. Onge.**

**All – Aye**

Chairman Lance Dial addresses before we move on to our Student Services update. For those community members who are watching or listening at home, Mr. Dial encourages the audience to look at these, at least the ones relevant to their own student. These documents are tremendous! They highlight the quality of our schools and the offerings that we have. If folks haven't really spun through this, do spend some time to do so. It gives an idea of what is going on in our schools and just how well we do the whole education thing, which is sometimes lost on the overall issues that we face as a school community.



**Teaching and Learning**  
**Student Services Update (Mrs. Barbara Cerwonka)**

Before Mrs. Cerwonka presents her updates, she wants to give a shout out to Principal Mills who really brings us up to a high bar on what this district does on the robustness of project-based learning with ways on how we want to do it. Mrs. Cerwonka has been in the middle school classrooms all this month, and she can't tell how many of the students were showing and describing to Mrs. Cerwonka their projects which incorporate what Principal Mills was not expecting or wanting. To see the students, incorporate all the backbone pieces to their projects with research, application and collaboration that lends itself to that kind of a project. It was great to see them doing all these great things. Mrs. Cerwonka is so glad to see this work is still alive, and still going on in the classrooms in these times.

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, DESE posted for a new Special Education Director, and Mrs. Cerwonka was asked by DESE to mentor some of them this year. Mrs. Cerwonka was at their presentation last Friday doing small work with them, talking about some of our challenges and working with high stakeholders there. What this presentation brought to Mrs. Cerwonka is the privilege to work here in Cohasset. It was wonderful to be reflected about how the school committee, the leadership team, the Superintendent, in particular the work we do together, and the way we do it. We all have that common goal the way that we all work together for it and how closely our leadership team really works together and holds to the strategic plan, and moves forward together, always with support from this school committee. Mrs. Cerwonka can't tell how grateful she is to be able to be here and doing this work with great people who really drive their work to support our Superintendent.

One of the highlights Mrs. Cerwonka wants to address is on the expansion to our Pre-K program. We'll be able to look at another classroom for Pre-K, which we've doubled our offerings. In the month of February, we take all group numbers and look at the lottery that we do selections from the waitlist, and Mrs. Cerwonka is happy to say we have a robust Pre-K Program through the school budget and all of that is contingent to that. There are still a lot of steps to this process, and this is what it's looking like. Mrs. Cerwonka will be meeting with the new SEPAC leadership team tomorrow to get ideas for meetings moving forward, to highlight opportunities for projects that they'll be working on together.

<b>January 2023</b>				
<b><u>Meeting Type</u></b>	<b><u>Elementary</u></b>	<b><u>Secondary</u></b>	<b><u>Out of District</u></b>	<b><u>Total Meetings</u></b>
Annual Review	10	14	1	25
Re-Evaluation	1	3		4
Initial Evaluation	6	0		6
Initial Evaluation	<b>MTSS:</b> 2 (2 Eligible)	<b>MTSS:</b>		
Referral Source	<b>Parent:</b> 4	<b>Parent:</b>		
	<b>CPS:</b> 3 (All Ineligible)	<b>CPS:</b>		
	<b>Non-CPS:</b> 1 (Eligible)	<b>Non-CPS:</b>		
Independent Evaluations		0		
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>35</b>

The school committee would like to request that Student Services change wording from Private School to **Non-CPS** on the line that indicates where the referral source came from.

**Teaching and Learning**  
**Student Services Update (Mrs. Barbara Cerwonka)**

When MTSS meetings are held which are initial referrals that come through MTSS. There are also parent referrals and what Mrs. Cerwonka wants to highlight that those parent referrals can come from two (2) places that goes back entirely to our child find obligation. In our child find we are obligated to identify and offer an evaluation to all Cohasset students that might have a disability, who are requesting, or may need an evaluation as long as they're a Cohasset resident wherever they attend school. Mrs. Cerwonka always encourages families to either call her or email her with any questions or concerns they might have. We would conduct an evaluation and go through an entire individualized education plan as we always do to determine if that child has a disability and was not accessing the curriculum with difficulty, Student Services would then provide an IEP. These are services that a student, ages 3-22 years of age receives here in Cohasset Public Schools. Parents have that right to take their child's IEP and bring to another school that their child attends, like private schools that do not have to hold to this. This shines a clear light on what MTSS really does that clarifies what we're doing all around that. Previous monthly charts are shown and a packet for all members of the school committee for a historical view from previous months where referral sources came from. These monthly guides shown on prior page are ONLY presented at an open meeting with Student Services.

Mrs. St. Onge compliments Mrs. Cerwonka's updates, they are all very helpful and great guides.

<b>Active IEPs in Each School</b>			
<u>School</u>	<u>September 2022</u>	<u>January 2023</u>	<u>June 2023</u>
Joseph Osgood School	13.8%	17.01%	
Deer Hill School	15.7%	16.44%	
Cohasset Middle School	19.1%	19.7%	
Cohasset High School	13.1%	12.2%	

<b>Current Disability Category Percentages</b>	
Autism	5.5%
Communication	16.7%
Developmental Delay	13.4%
Emotional	5.11%
Health	22.8%
Intellectual	1.8%
SLD	26.0%
Multiple Disabilities	0%
Neurological	5.5%

## **Teaching and Learning**

### **Student Services Update (Mrs. Barbara Cerwonka)**

Mrs. Cerwonka would like to end her updated report to say it's an honor to have gone to all our schools here in Cohasset and attend all the MTSS meetings to see how we're progressing. The vertical alignment and all the things we talked about around MTSS and seeing how always strong and robust with more data driven enthusiasm by the team, to watch this in action, has been great.

Mrs. St. Onge appreciates seeing Mrs. Cerwonka's reports and the percentage that shares this information and is very helpful to have. Mrs. Cerwonka is ready to shine a light on this process and talk more in-depth from where we were a few months ago. Just sharing information that some of us on the inside take for granted is so important to share with people who aren't working in the school system is much clearer for them to understand.

Mr. Kearney comments we've made and saw so much progress with Student Services and it's nice to see the team we have here.

Mr. Dial states that Mrs. Cerwonka's reports have come a long way. There is one question Mr. Dial would like to ask. Earlier we talked about surveys and he asks Mrs. Cerwonka if this is still on her radar to do some kind of presentation on this?

Mrs. Cerwonka reiterates that she streamlined the parent survey forms and the feedback from them are better than ever and its great to see. 96% of the surveys have been positive, and Mrs. Cerwonka will continue to present this to the school committee in next meetings if they would like.

Mr. Dial would like to see if this triggers any change and would like to hear more about the feedback, he found them very valuable.

## **Budget, Resources and Governance**

### **Custodial Review (Head Custodian, Bob Tuscher)**

Dr. Sullivan would like to thank Mr. Tuscher publicly for being here and all that he does. Dr. Sullivan doesn't get a chance to thank the staff publicly. Mr. Tuscher has been working here in Cohasset for 18 years, who clearly shows what an asset Mr. Tuscher is to our community and our school community leading the custodial team. Mr. Tuscher and the custodial team have been doing all kinds of repairs with lots of changes going on. He worked very hard with his team through COVID even went into double time just with cleaning station situations. Mr. MacLellan initially asked for a report that was done some years ago regarding the amount of custodial staff we were short and what we needed to do to up the custodial staff, so that we could indeed go ahead to be a fully functioning school district with our custodial staff. A matter of creating a system to put in place that Mr. Tuscher had to do getting this on paper. Working with the custodians we knew exactly what we were doing with our cleaning routines and our tasks. Then we moved into contract negotiations making sure that we were all on the same page with what the custodial roles were doing with our facilities team and the DPW team. All that sort of played out into what you see now in Mr. Tuscher's goal review.

## **Budget, Resources and Governance**

Custodial Review (Head Custodian, Bob Tuscher)

All the custodians do a lot outside work now, making sure our work on the outside ends and begins where the DPW ends and begins. Prepare for storms during the winter season then have Spring and Fall cleanups as well. For the most part, we pretty much worked that out with the DPW.

Mr. Tuscher says they maintain the courtyards and small areas of the landscaping. In his 18 years working here he never did any of this, it wasn't part of his job description. It was always the Tree and Park and the DPW who did the parking lots, signage and the Tree and Park did all the landscaping. We never did any of this, until this year. Mr. Tuscher and his staff enjoy doing it. For the longest time it looked overgrown and wasn't looking good either. We're working all year round and we take pride in it, and we want to continue doing it.

At one point it was like who does what here! Some of the teams he mentioned we've learned a lot working with them to differentiate if something deals with a system like our plumbing system or our electrical system which is directed to the facilities team. The facilities team obviously works with outside vendors and they need to procure them to do that, but everything else the work the custodians do to keep things clean and replacing parts on things.

When Mr. Tuscher first started working here that wasn't even part of their job description. We do 80% of the painting in the buildings. A couple of summers ago we painted 50 classrooms. Mr. Kearney was recently at the middle school, and he saw how remarkable and clean the rooms looked which Dr. Sullivan and Mr. Kearney talked about a few years ago.

Mr. Kearney would like to thank Susan Owen and her leadership and the community for coming together to some of the sub-committee meetings. We came up with a list of who's responsible for what and this has been paramount to the success that we've all seen.

Mr. Tuscher says having an extra body would be very valuable, now that we're doing all the landscaping. Having that extra hand out there would be tremendous because it's a big area that we do. With all the extra products we have like painting and there's a lot of paint that needs to be done and having another person there to help would be very valuable to the custodial team.

Mrs. St. Onge doesn't have any specific questions, but she does appreciate Mr. Tuscher being here and sharing this with the school committee. The changes that have happened over the past two (2) years seem to be effective.

Mr. Kearney is grateful and thankful. For the past 4 ½ years he's been sitting in the seat, and he's never seen so much progression. Mr. Tuscher's leadership and the overall enthusiastic of his staff is overwhelming especially three (3) years ago, the fact everybody knows in the community we were negotiating contracts.

## **Budget, Resources and Governance**

Custodial Review (Head Custodian, Bob Tuscher)

Mr. MacLellan wants to thank Mr. Tuscher and his team personally. Having served on this committee throughout the COVID years he became acutely aware there are many groups that comprise the staff at Cohasset Public Schools and the custodial staff is one of those groups. Early on, everyone was very concerned and nervous and uncertain how contagious COVID was and what it could do, and there really wasn't. It was a concern to make sure the school was still operating well, and Mr. Tuscher and his team never blinked an eye when making sure our students and staff we're always safe.

## **Teaching and Learning**

### **Superintendent Mid-Cycle Review For 2022-2023**

[Materials E-3]

Superintendent Patrick Sullivan addresses to the school committee the design of this is to check in, get input on where he is and where he's going, and it doesn't have to stop from there. The first point Dr. Sullivan wanted the school committee to see where we are in this process. The first step is the Superintendent Self-Assessment which we did coming into the year, along with Cycle Step 2, which was the analysis goal setting and plan development in public meetings. We've already done that at a public meeting that included the goal setting.

We are now in Cycle Step 3 and Cycle Step 4. Cycle Step 3 is Dr. Sullivan will implement the plan which he's been doing since we designed it in August and September. With the assistance from the school committee is appropriate and that we're collecting evidence. Dr. Sullivan is collecting evidence and the school committee is taking evidence, any way they see fit to fulfill whatever is needed from Dr. Sullivan for his final report is something that the school committee will put together with Dr. Sullivan's assistance of course.

Cycle Step 4 is where exactly we sit right now. The Mid-Cycle Goal Review and at the public meeting, which is right now, and a series of meetings. If there is something that the school committee wants Dr. Sullivan to show more of, he can come back at our next meeting and do that. Dr. Sullivan reports on progress being made on the goals in the annual plan. The school committee can offer feedback any mid-cycle adjustments that he needs to make, and we simply move to the end of the cycle which is the last step in the cycle where in a public meeting provided a summary report on Superintendent Patrick Sullivan which not only talks about his success, or lack of success.

The first and foremost of Dr. Sullivan's goals looks at the standards for being an effective Superintendent and provides input on that for him. So, without further ado, Dr. Sullivan is going to recap his goals and talk a little bit of the progress and some of the other facts that Dr. Sullivan shared without going into the other facts, unless the school committee wants him too.

These are all in conjunction with the compass points of our strategic plan one of the five (5) compass points. The 1<sup>st</sup> compass point is teaching and learning needs that we've articulated in our strategic plan and that we're continuing to dip into throughout the year.

## **Teaching and Learning**

### **Superintendent Mid-Cycle Review For 2022-2023**

[Materials E-3]

Focusing the district on the implementation of the elementary comprehensive literacy approach K-5. Dr. Sullivan promises a review on that only within the next few meetings, we need to determine a forum on that. Middle school science “Open Science” education program, thank you Mr. Mills for talking about that because that is one of Dr. Sullivan’s goals. In computer science pathway (K-12), some of that input came from Principal Scott on that in the meeting today and the curriculum review process, in the areas of math that we heard about at the meeting today.

In Arts K-12 the data that indicates areas of need which obviously we’ve been working on. The school committee has done a great job of making sure we’re focused on that too, thank you, that’s important! The key actions tie in at that goal, work with Teaching and Learning Alliance, our data analysis. We’re finding that sometimes when in these goals, it tells what else is needed.

We have the opportunity to advocate for a director of data curriculum and evaluation, that came from this work looking at data and analyzing data. We are seeing that a more granular look is needed and we’re going to have someone who’s going to do that work. All this lines up with the goal on “Open Science” education program work creating essential questions in both the Arts and Math. Working with our Computer Science pathways with some of the benchmarks that Dr. Sullivan provided data in regards to our professional development plan.

We’ve done a lot with data dialogues at every school building. We’ve had to do some training to refresh and train our administrators to make sure we can do that properly. There’s more work to be done there and having a person pick that up is going to be helpful. This is basically the first one we did on data showing areas that need an action plan which we’re fully implementing as we move along.

Professional development is going to provide this school committee at some point in time, I-Ready diagnostic data and talk about some of the progress we’ve made with I-Ready. Everyone is doing a lot more data analysis and we’re putting together a nice data package. We’re having frequent meetings throughout the year. Dr. Leslie Scollins meets with our reading and math specialist frequently. We had a wonderful math literacy night at the Osgood school. We have an SEL night coming up and Deer Hill School literacy night is tomorrow night and very excited about that. We have some I-Ready reporting documents being sent by all levels at the middle school.

Creating systems regarding transportation facilities looking at our learning spaces and updating those with our technology and of course our facility systems and establishing and implementing a district wide strategy. This is a systems goal for recruiting a more diverse staff. Dr. Sullivan gives credit to this to Lydia St. Onge who brought up something on utilizing our METCO Alumni network who want to be teachers from our METCO program to try and foster a recruitment scenario to us.

**Teaching and Learning**  
**Superintendent Mid-Cycle Review For 2022-2023**

[Materials E-3]

Dr. Sullivan brought this attention to Aleisa Gittens-Carle, METCO Director, who will bring this to METCO CEO/President Milly Arbaje-Thomas, to see if they have someone from METCO who would be a powerful and valuable resource.

We work with Facilities, and we've done this to foster a progression in MSBA, Massachusetts Schools Building Authority and we're at the end of this process. Vice Chair, MacLellan offered to lend a hand with this. We're hoping after February break to formalize the submission of our Statement of Interest, (SOI).

We continue the technology pilot work in our learning space, a creation that is continuing with our budget resource Sub-Committee to address our budget needs regarding facilities. Mr. Kearney with Mr. Carr have been working on that with very positive and has an effective group to continue to improve our facilities processes. We have heard some of the advanced parking plans for the district school buses. Dr. Sullivan will continue to work to improve our Food Services with the Food Services Sub-Committee. We have a Curry College Career Fair and Principal Mills and Principal Farrell are attending to help promote Cohasset Public Schools and other positions we have.

We did run a senior study visit presentation and Dr. Sullivan put back in our Statement of Interest, SOI to the MSBA because the senior study visit presentation which was transparent for purposes organized with a lot of help. Dr. Sullivan delivered the presentation to that team from MSBA and that is in there of evidence of our continued technology pilot program, that is seen in our capital request for the middle school panels we're using and we're looking at one right now that is tremendous!

The evidence of agendas and outcomes for the budget and resource sub-committee and then our Food Nutrition Sub-Committee provided for what Dr. Sullivan referenced the duties for each of the custodial teams at each of the buildings that is new and has been effective as well. The school bus parking lot diagram which the school committee has seen a few times and a parking study that Glenn Pratt put together working with Susan Owen. That is very good evidence for the school as well. The school committee asked Dr. Sullivan to present in future meetings of what we might be looking at and Dr. Sullivan did have a presentation to show them with the cost analysis. This was needed for the school committee to reference all the security work we've done and will continue to do.

Goal 3 has to do with social and emotional wellness, but Dr. Sullivan really focused on the idea in conjunction with our strategic plan, building equity, culturally responsive teaching, and inclusivity. Dr. Sullivan talked about the strategy that falls in there because it's about a diverse hiring process, with a cultural responsiveness to look for and we do that. We do Learning walks regularly, and we're stretching this out with a bunch of groups that will look for student engagement in the classroom environment and looking at a culturally responsive workforce in which Dr. Sullivan already provided, in terms of evidence.

**Teaching and Learning**  
**Superintendent Mid-Cycle Review For 2022-2023**

[Materials E-3]

Goal 4 is about family engagement, a higher level of communication that we're working on. This is a continued effort of work for a strong family engagement with our staff, it just can't be done with just the principal. In order to get an effective family engagement, the staff needs to hear families' thoughts to go over any obstacles and get involved in particular activities to process which are effective to engage families. Our staff listen to families about what is being effective and that is the survey we'll be doing. We'll all be doing a school improvement plan that is coming up and part of that will be hearings, which is a credit to Mr. Kearney on a uniform survey across all schools that will gage family engagement.

Dr. Sullivan's plans are articulated differently but they do have information in there. The evidence of a cohesive communication structure is in all Dr. Sullivan's newsletters. Twitter is somewhat of a dying social media outlet but we're on Twitter all over the place. Twitter is a nice mode for education, it's a way to share things and we're constantly tweeting various aspects of things and how proud we are of our schools. Superintendent Patrick Sullivan says he's always looking for ways to be an effective communicator, but also an effective collaborator with families. If there are ways that Dr. Sullivan can do this better, he would love to hear ideas from them for anybody who is listening out there, because he would do that.

Mr. Kearney who is part of the sub-committee as well thanks Dr. Sullivan for this well thought out report. He feels that the school community would love to hear from Dr. Sullivan more and share out, because we have a school full of smart parents here who sometimes convey with Mr. Kearney.

Mrs. St. Onge thanks Dr. Sullivan for all his impressive work. She's sees him diligently documenting his work on everything and she always appreciates his responsiveness and has great confidence Dr. Sullivan will continue to do that for his goals.

Mr. Dial says that was a good, summarized full report and hopes the community recognizes that Dr. Sullivan is everywhere, all at once! We appreciate all that he is doing, and it seems to Mr. Dial based on this mid-term report that Superintendent Patrick Sullivan is on track to accomplish his goals.

**Budget, Resources and Governance**  
**Budget and Finance (Ms. Susan Owen)**

[Materials F-1]

As of January 31, 2023 the school department has expended \$10,506,039 out of the \$22,345,352 budget awarded (52.99%) and we are 58% through the year. We have encumbered supplies and materials on purchase orders in the amount of \$1,1336,225. There is a remaining balance of \$10,503,087 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. Our SPED tuitions were budgeted at \$1,149,811 and are currently encumbered on purchase orders. There is a deficit in the amount of **-\$67,541** deficit due to a transfer from a collaborative to a private school. There is a slight reduction in the deficit from last month's reporting (\$7,208) which was an adjustment to a purchase order.



**Budget, Resources and Governance**  
**Budget and Finance (Ms. Susan Owen)**

[Materials F-1]

<u>School</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Expended</u>	<u>Encumbrances</u>	<u>Balance</u>	<u>% Used</u>	<u>FTE</u>
Osgood	\$3,807,659	\$1,713,732	\$ 94,468	\$1,999,458	47.48%	45.60
Deer Hill	\$4,124,544	\$1,799,552	\$ 89,739	\$2,235,253	45.80%	43.23
Middle	\$3,878,477	\$1,723,585	\$ 19,943	\$2,134,949	44.95%	46.0
High	\$6,759,931	\$3,189,119	\$ 249,913	\$3,275,899	51.53%	65.90

Circuit Breaker funding received in FY22 was \$701,856. This amount was carried over in its entirety into FY23 as part of the budget. This amount was based on a 75% reimbursement rate. Circuit Breaker funding expected to be received in FY23 was originally reported at \$627,110 but the final allocations have been posted at \$1,170,609, an increase of \$468,753, which will be rolled over in its entirety into FY24 as part of the budget.

The reimbursement rate has remained at 75% for several years. Circuit Breaker is a state program providing school districts with reimbursement for some of the costs incurred for providing “*free and appropriate education*” to students with special needs.

<u>Year</u>	<u># of Students</u>	<u>% Reimbursement</u>	<u>Reimbursement Amount</u>
FY23	18	75%	\$1,170,609
FY22	18	75%	\$ 701,856
FY21	14	75%	\$ 648,533
FY20	19	75%	\$ 726,908
FY19	14	75%	\$ 592,920
FY18	13	75%	\$ 534,554
FY17	14	75%	\$ 446,704

**Capital Outlay Funds for FY23 - \$484,500 – ALL PROJECTS COMPLETED**

<b>\$ 90,000</b>	School Bus Lease
<b>\$ 75,000</b>	Middle/High School Paging Zones
<b>\$ 35,000</b>	Furniture Replacement – Student & Staff (Deer Hill School Cycle)
<b>\$ 52,000</b>	Replacement of Aging Chromebooks (540 – 3 Year Lease \$143,000)
<b>\$100,000</b>	Retile Some Classrooms at Deer Hill School
<b>\$ 60,000</b>	Field Lights
<b>\$ 12,500</b>	Locker Mechanisms for Middle School
<b>\$ 20,000</b>	Install AC/Heater Split for Middle School Health Clinic
<b>\$ 40,000</b>	Create Hallway at Middle School to Access Bathroom in Room 223
<b>\$484,500</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>

**Budget, Resources and Governance**  
**Budget and Finance (Ms. Susan Owen)**

[Materials F-1]

<b>CAPITAL FUNDS FOR FY24 - \$1,312,398</b>		<b>SUM OF 2024</b>
1.	Bus Lease (2024-2027) (District) 8 Diesel	\$ 151,331
2.	Bus Parking Lot	\$ 200,000
3.	Replacement of Aging Chromebooks (540-3 Year Lease \$143,100)	\$ 52,000
4.	Replace Smart Projectors/Panels in All Rooms (CMS) 28	\$ 155,161
5.	Replace IPADS at Deer Hill and Osgood School to Include <b>(253 IPADS &amp; Cases, Charging Station)</b>	\$ 93,960
6.	Continue Retiling of All Classrooms (DHS) <b>All Spaces with Old Tiles/Carpet</b>	\$ 200,000
7.	Continue to Replace Furniture-Teacher/Students Deer Hill School * <b>Adding a New Grade 3 Class</b>	\$ 35,000
8.	Fitness Center MS/HS (5 Year Lease at \$48,000/Year)	\$ 48,000
9.	Asphalt Road from Pond Street Needs to be Resurfaced. (CMHS)	\$ 80,000
10.	New Scoreboard for Alumni Field	\$ 95,000
11.	Asphalt Road & Sidewalk Between Deer Hill & Osgood School <b>Needs to be Resurfaced. (DHS)</b>	\$ 120,000
12.	Extend Sidewalk to Pond Street (CMHS)	\$ 50,000
13.	(2) New 15 Passenger Transit Vans (Athletics) 48 Month Lease	\$ 31,946
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>		<b>\$1,312,398</b>

<b><u>GRANTS</u></b>	<b><u>FY23 Grant Amount</u></b>	<b><u>FY23 Expended</u></b>	<b><u>FY23 Encumbered</u></b>	<b><u>FY23 Balance</u></b>
ESSER III #119	\$390,890	\$331,073	\$45,004	\$ 14,813
School Improve Education Quality Grant (Title IIA) #140	\$ 19,310	\$0	\$0	\$ 19,310
School SPED IDEA Grant #240	\$352,885	\$ 142,513	\$0	\$ 210,372
School SPED Early Childhood Grant #262	\$ 10,372	\$ 5,148	\$0	\$ 5,224
School Title I #305	\$ 46,587	\$ 16,334	\$0	\$ 30,253
Title IV #309	\$ 10,000	\$0	\$0	\$ 10,000
METCO #317	<u>\$ 355,405</u>	<u>\$ 155,165</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$ 200,240</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,185,449</b>	<b>\$ 650,233</b>	<b>\$45,004</b>	<b>\$ 490,212</b>

**Budget, Resources and Governance**  
**Budget and Finance (Ms. Susan Owen)**

[Materials F-1]

FY23 Grant funds are used to employ approximately 13.3 additional staff.

Revolving Accounts are looked at closely, breaking down the accounts to split them. We can see what has been received, what has been spent, and what to expect coming in. Our rental of the school facilities is still in the negative **-\$17,964**. The Revolving Accounts cover the salaries for approximately 25.50 personnel whose jobs relate to the account from which they are paid.

FTE's and FTE breakdown by school(s) and department(s) can be found in Ms. Susan Owen's Presentation and a summary of utilities used such as electricity and gas for FY23 comparison to FY22, FY21 & FY20 can be found in [Materials F-1.]

**Budget, Resources and Governance**  
**Preschool Fees (Ms. Susan Owen)**

Projected increase in Preschool tuition to support program.

**COHASSET PUBLIC PRESCHOOL TUITION COMPARISON – 1<sup>st</sup> DRAFT**

<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

**Budget, Resources and Governance**  
**Preschool Fees (Ms. Susan Owen)**

Mr. MacLellan asks Chairman Dial if the Preschool Tuition could be tabled for another meeting. We still have a lot more to do on this, since this is the first time putting it out there.

Mrs. St. Onge comments that this is important to note though for she was at an Advisory meeting the other day and they asked if our preschool tuition had changed over the years. We are asking for more money to expand this program and what help will we need.

Chairman Dial asks Ms. Owen if she could look to what our original budget cost was that we asked for? Thank you, Ms. Owen for this update.

Please contact Susan Owen with specific questions or concerns prior to meetings so that she can be prepared to fully answer questions/concerns at (781) 383-0611.

**Budget, Resources and Governance**  
**Transportation**

We have contracted with DATTCO to lease eight (8) new school buses as our current lease will expire 6/30/23. The current lease for eight (8) school buses is \$151,331 over the course of four (4) years. The new lease will be for same number of buses (new ones) and the same length of time in the amount of \$151,331.

Also, we're working out the details to lease our 1<sup>st</sup> electric bus to be utilized for the next school year either by adding an additional route or using it as a spare, or back up bus. This is being made possible by both a grant initiated by the AEC and \$25,000 from the Special Town Meeting Capital requests.

The school district has partnered with First Student School Bus Company on a TEMPORARY basis to assist with shortage of school bus drivers. First Student has taken over two (2) of the bus routes through the end of this school year to give us time to recruit more school bus drivers.

Dr. Sullivan states that the bus stop finder, the GPS application has some glitches due to the use of First Student School Buses. We thought it would be easy just to transfer this tool and we're finding it to be a more complex situation, but we're working on it.

**Food Service**

The Middle and High School now have new serving lines and accessories were delivered on December 23, 2022. The new kitchen is up and running along with their new snack room and looks fabulous! The new vending machine has been a big hit and sells out daily. In the process of purchasing and setting up tall tables in the senior class dining area.

**Report from School Facilities Committee**

The new track is complete at the Alumni Field. The field is now covered with new turf. Once RAD completes the gluing/inlays, they will be ready to infill.

**Community Relations / Communication**  
**Reports from School Committee Sub-Committees and Liaisons**

Mrs. St. Onge says she has a policy update. After many technology challenges, we were able to review our policy binder. Mrs. St. Onge addresses to school committee members that Lance Dial, Dr. Scollins and herself have been working on policies that need to get dated. The past years, Mrs. St. Onge along with Dr. Scollins and Mrs. Cerwonka have been going along placing dates when policies are made and when they're updated. These policies will be outlined to the school committee on what aligns with our mask policy binder, with tiers that we still need to work on there. This is a long-term project, taking some big chunks out of it, but these large group of policies will be shared out with or without changes to these policies and hoping to come back to the school committee with these by the end of March 2023.

**Budget, Resources and Governance**  
**Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair**

Chairman Dial states the only topic not reasonably anticipated is #4 under Executive Session <sup>1</sup> to discuss matters related to building security that is placed on today's agenda that must have been put there by the end of the deadline.

**Approval of Minutes\*\***

No minutes to approve.

**Future Agenda Items**

Mr. Kearney would like to discuss more offerings for after school programs.

Chairman Dial states we have two (2) reasons to move into Executive Session. One is to discuss some strategy matters and anticipation of collective bargaining and litigation. The second one is matters related to building security. Chairman Dial would like to propose that we move into Executive Session and not reconvene to a general session after this meeting.

**Executive Session <sup>1</sup> - #3.** Strategy in anticipation of collective bargaining and litigation.\*\*

**#4.** To discuss matters of building security.\*\*

<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.

**Motion made by Mr. MacLellan to move into Executive Session without a reconvene to another session for reasons #3 and #4, seconded by Mrs. St. Onge. Mr. Kearney-Aye; Mrs. St. Onge-Aye; Mr. MacLellan-Aye; Chairman Dial-Aye.**

**Meeting adjourned 8:52 P.M.**

\*\*Requires Committee Vote / Action