

**Cohasset Public Schools
143 Pond Street
Cohasset, MA 02025**

Empower Students to Improve Communities

REGULAR MEETING OF THE COHASSET SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Wednesday, October 19, 2022

6:00 PM

Learning Commons

Cohasset Middle and High School

143 Pond Street

Cohasset, MA 02025

Streamed Live on Cohasset 143TV

Virtual Access via Zoom and Facebook

In Attendance:

Ted Carr, Secretary

Paul Kearney

Craig MacLellan, Vice Chair

Lydia St. Onge

Also In Attendance:

Leslie Scollins, Assistant Superintendent

Patrick Sullivan, Superintendent

Officer Greg Taylor, SRO - School Resource Officer

All School Committee Meetings Are Recorded

AGENDA

Call to Order, Roll Call, Pledge of Allegiance, Opening Remarks

Vice Chair, Craig MacLellan welcomes everyone to the October 19th, 2022, meeting of the Cohasset School Committee at 6:00 PM. Ted Carr is not yet present, and Chairman Lance Dial is absent tonight. Members of the school committee who are present, please indicate so in roll call.

Roll Call: Paul Kearney-Present; Lydia St. Onge-Present; Vice Chair, Craig MacLellan-Present. Vice Chairman, Mr. MacLellan will be assuming the role as Chairman for this meeting only in Mr. Dial's absence.

Opening Remarks

Mr. MacLellan reminds we have an Executive Session today and reminds all members of the school committee and everyone present. Mr. MacLellan wants to have a comprehensive, fluent, and thorough discussion which will be towards the end of this meeting considering some **superfruit** remarks, just bear that in mind.

Public Comment - None

Invited Guest

Our School Resource Officer (SRO), Officer Greg Taylor who serves for the Cohasset Police Force for well over 10 years is graciously welcomed by Superintendent Patrick Sullivan and by members of the school committee.

Invited Guest

Officer Taylor is well respected by all students and staff and has built strong relationships with our students at the Deer Hill school and Osgood Elementary School that pays off when students come up to the middle and high school. Students know they can turn to Officer Taylor as a trusted adult in the building as many have and do and we're thankful for that.

Vice Chair, Craig MacLellan notes for the record that Mr. Carr is present at 6:03 PM.

Over these past 6 years, Officer Taylor has been a liaison between the schools in the district and the Cohasset Police department and has established a great collaborative with communication daily and certainly conveys on a weekly basis between the school principals. His presence is well known, and he is seen throughout our school district, whether its talking with the students, being at school assembly's and attends after-school activities and school sports events. Dr. Sullivan notes that quite frankly as Superintendent having Officer Taylor is essential to have in our schools for a variety of reasons. Officer Taylor collaborates with the school's crisis and safety teams. Over this past summer Officer Taylor along with Chief Quigley and other folks led the charge to make sure all our staff are trained appropriately with safety measures. He also helps to run drills as we get in the lockdown drills and safety drills that really prepares not only our staff, but for our students for the possibility of any situation that might come our way. If, and when occurrences happen outside of school that might fall back into the school, school officials are able to communicate appropriately within the realm of our memorandum and understanding to make sure that everybody is indeed safe.

Mr. Carr shares a recent story with Officer Taylor of having a member from the community who came to the previous school committee meeting. Parents were interested in considering self-defense courses for students and we'd love to hear Officer Taylor's thoughts if these types of programs are offered by the Cohasset police department. Mr. Carr wants to recognize the family who took the time and came here to share that information with us.

Officer Taylor states the Cohasset police department offers 2 different types of RAD programs. RAD is an acronym of (Resisting Aggression Defensively). There's one for younger school age students and one for older students in high school, sophomores, juniors, and seniors. Officer Taylor and Officer Lowrance who is the Cohasset Police Department Safety Officer are both trained in RAD for the younger school age students. For the adults and older school age students, the RAD program is a little more in depth with defensive tactics with all hands on. For younger student's, half of these classes are sitting in the classrooms and talking about home safety, good decision making and recognizing danger. We talk about how to deal with a bullying situation, household dangers and how to keep themselves safe on the street. This is a different structured course and both Officer Taylor and Officer Lowrance are looking to get certified to train the older school age students for a RAD course. This type of program isn't offered as much regularly, it's not close by, as it is for the younger RAD course. There have been 10 students who signed up through the recreational department for the younger RAD course that will be held at the Cohasset high school which starts November 1st from 4:00-6:00 P.M. Students can sign up and register at cohassetrecma.myrec.com

Invited Guest

Mr. Kearney asks Officer Taylor how many consistent weeks are offered for these RAD courses?

For the older age RAD courses there are 3 or 4 classes that are 2-3 hours long. Each class is all hands-on, demonstrating tactic moves which is an intense course. Trying to depict real life situations and how to prevent to get out of those situations. Both Dr. Sullivan and Officer Taylor sit on the Steering Committee with Safe Harbors and most folks know how robust our youth ambassador program is and it's something that has really taken off. There were 40 students, a very large group for a small district involved making sure that we learn and stay away from the dangers of alcohol and drug use, it's a great program. We've talked a lot about social emotional learning and one of the key factors is responsible decision making. This is part of the department of education requirement to mold an SRO into everything the school does and there's a whole set of standards with it. This is not only important. but it also ties in what we're supposed to be doing in school.

Mrs. St. Onge wants to follow up onto Mr. Carr's conversation to possibly get some action steps, like an actual timeline on these courses offered? Mrs. St. Onge totally understands being certified for one level and not yet for another, from a perspective of the school and the future of our students having that training at the high school level. Is it something that would get integrated into the health curriculum? Is it something that's substantially a separate class through the Recreation department that people are signing up for? For what we see as a district and how it might look if we could identify the timeline. This program is for the older level because the program for the younger level already exists and ran over the summer, and it's running again. Is there something regionally that we could go to, we're a small town and have a small police force for training these types of programs. Is there something that we could collaborate with other surrounding towns like Scituate, Norwell, Hanover, Hingham, and see if there's something local that Cohasset could get in on, and perhaps advertise something like this in Dr. Sullivan's newsletter? Casting a broader net to see if we could do something with a regional approach and making it available would be beneficial.

Officer Taylor states it's more on the availability, more than anything, all the training falls under the MPTC, Municipal Police Training Committee. The RAD program for the younger school age students is offered through the MPTC. The RAD training for the older students doesn't fall under that, that is why the availability isn't quite as much there as it is for the younger students. As a school district this makes for a better collaboration with the recreational department and our police department and it's something that falls on the schools for that. Officer Taylor notices when working with the younger school age students the RAD program offers them empowerment and confidence if something should happen, they're prepared, and they'll have that skill set throughout till now.

Dr. Sullivan comments that we have a health curriculum that works with students making healthy decisions that works nicely since it's a real focus of this curriculum. It's just the self-defense portion of it would be a better collaboration with the Police department and the recreational department. As a school district this makes for a better collaboration with the recreational department and our police department and it's something that falls on the schools for that.

Invited Guest

Mr. Jeff Moy from 33 Ledgewood Drive has question for Officer Taylor and asks in terms of safety, and knows that Scituate offers a self-defense class now in which is the reason Mr. & Mrs. Moy wanted to see if Cohasset could offer this in the schools? Are these self-defense programs in one session?

Officer Taylor replies to Mr. Moy that Scituate has 2 or 3 RAD trained officers and it's something he could talk and maybe collaborate with the Scituate Police Department. This can be tough though because we have to get all of them on the same page and same schedule. Everybody's schedules are up in the air right now and some might be working the day shift and then work a night shift so it's kind of tough to collaborate with other towns to get that program. The classes are close to 3 sessions for the older students and are all hands on and run 2 hours long and are offered to anyone. Officer Taylor says he'll look into the matter and discuss any information he receives with Dr. Sullivan.

Mr. MacLellan states this is something for our sub-committee to define more of a purposeful parameter or timeline in terms of where we're going with this and what can be done like partnering with outside communities that are already certified while our own officers become certified. Mr. MacLellan absolutely acknowledges having worked in law enforcement before and working with members of law enforcement daily. Also, acknowledges that scheduling of officers is difficult, but not insurmountable, we just need to have some advanced planning and then we can do that. We just need to remember there are two elements to these types of programs and one of those we addressed in a meeting over the summer. Mrs. St. Onge alluded that to Mr. Sweeney and Mr. Ford who came to talk about the health curriculum as part of that. They did address some of the issues that Mr. MacLellan just mentioned that was responsive to some concerns that community members had like Mr. Moy had raised towards the end of the school academic year. That came onto the school committee's radar, and we started with a presentation from our health curriculum and one of the primary points of that was to address bullying, social emotional health, social media, substance abuse, things like that. Perhaps, now a more complex half of that is to identify how we could go about providing this. It's a great service, we should do it and offer it to the community. Mr. MacLellan agrees with Mrs. St. Onge that anything where we can provide value to our school community we want to do, but don't think we're going to be able to figure it out here and now. Outside of that, the school district has developed a strong relationship with the Cohasset Police Department and it's no small part due to Officer Taylor efforts and the collaboration that he and Officer Quigley brings interacting with the students. Not just from a security perspective, but from a social emotional well-being, they've developed relationships with students where thankfully they have a positive perspective on law enforcement and part of that is built upon. Our students feel safe going to Officer Taylor and want to point that out because it's really an important facet of what he brings and why we love having him here. We're very grateful for everything that Officer Taylor and the Cohasset Police Department bring to the school district and being mindful of their time.

Officer Taylor and Lieutenant Lowrance are certified in what's called ALICE. It's more related on a school incident, church incident or a business incident. ALICE is taught throughout the country and the Northeast and here in Massachusetts has really gripped onto this training.

Invited Guest

ALICE stands for ALERT, LOCKDOWN, INFORM, COUNTER and EVACUATE. It doesn't have to be run in that specific order. Lieutenant Lowrance and Officer Taylor train ALICE every summer and this past summer was a little more in depth than years past. They both train ALICE to all school faculty and staff. We go through each letter talking about it and then all faculty and staff implement that like lockdown drills. We also have rally points in place, so when they do this more and more it becomes second nature to them. As we run through this, if something did happen, they have a rally point and know where that rally point is. Officer Taylor says it's been going great, and everyone has been receptive to it. We've not only done training for all the staff, but we're always training as a police department and we're now starting to work with other police departments around our district with the schools. We've been training for school incidents and during the summer we had Norwell, Hingham, Hull, and Scituate. Officers from all those departments came here to Cohasset during the summer and we walked around the schools to get familiar with the buildings. We discussed if something were to happen, this is probably where it's going to be, or this is where they would go. They were shown a layout of what we do here in Cohasset in an emergency and we went and visited their schools, so we understood their schools and surroundings in their district. If something were to happen, we're going to have officers from all these towns come in and it's good to have that familiarity. We have what's called a central dispatch, so if anyone was to call 911, it goes to Cohasset dispatch here with no delay, and it also goes to Hingham, Hull, Norwell, and Cohasset's central dispatch and we have what's called tackling away. If anything were to happen in any of those towns where they need resources, they call for tackling away, where they're going to get resources from all those towns. The Cohasset Police Department partnered with the Department of Transportation where Officer Taylor demonstrates bike safety at both Deer Hill and the Osgood school to talk about this. He also integrates with our technology classes at the middle high school as well with the elementary technology classes, talking about cyber safety.

Dr. Sullivan notes we have satellite offices created in all our school buildings where officers can come in and do work which is just another option to write their reports when they're at our schools. This helps them get familiar with all the staff and faculty at each building and students see their presence. They also established an app called "text and tell" which can be found on the school's website. There's a lot that we're doing, and we'll continue to strengthen that relationship with the Cohasset Police Department.

School Updates

• Superintendent's Student Advisory Council Report (Mercedes O'Neil)

Mercedes O'Neil has some updates from a student's perspective. Mercedes Euro class went to the Elizabeth Stewart Gardner Museum which was nice and this week we have a pickleball tournament going on for Breast Cancer Awareness and it's been exciting to go to the gym during utility time and watching that. The medical club recently had a shipment of suture kits come in and 30 students who are part of the club went and learned how to suture. Mr. Savage who was here at our last school committee meeting runs the medical club. Next week is Spirit week which is always a good time, everyone is planning out their outfits that culminates their homecoming which will be held on October 28th.

School Updates

• Superintendent's Student Advisory Council Report (Mercedes O'Neil)

The high school seniors have been very busy getting back into their school schedules with lots of quizzes. Mercedes just came from volleyball practice where she plays volleyball on the girls Cohasset Skippers. Our sports teams are up and running and doing wonderfully and looking forward to several teams in some playoffs. Mercedes would like to mention that some students have been asking about their lunchtime visiting their teachers. She's not sure if this is the place to bring this up? There's been recent instances where students want to make up their quizzes and giving our utility block doesn't allow us to go to every single class. Mercedes was just wondering on Dr. Scollins and Dr. Sullivan's opinion on that? Dr. Sullivan reiterates that they would want to work that through with Principal Scott and Assistant Principal *Noyes*. Dr. Sullivan's first thought is to make sure that everybody has a full opportunity to eat lunch as well as a chance to meet the teachers too. Some of the key use might be in the use of the utility block, it bears more conversation as we particularly look at our MTSS, we're trying to help all students meet them where they are. It's a tough decision to make with a definitive answer on this because Dr. Sullivan would have to see the situation, but we can discuss that with Principal Scott and Assistant Principal *Noyes*, and we'll do that. Mercedes states that our utility blocks are useful and their only 28 minutes and recently we heard we can only go to one utility and it's difficult to do. Dr. Sullivan notes that this is a good topic for our Superintendent's Student Advisory Council which comes up on the second week in November. This would be a great 1st topic to discuss, so let's do that.

Mr. MacLellan says this is the kind of stuff we want to hear from a student's perspective and glad that Mercedes brought this attention to the school committee, Dr. Scollins and Dr. Sullivan.

Mrs. St. Onge notes it's so nice having Mercedes back and so good to have a student voice back in our rotation. Mrs. St. Onge also wants to say to members of the school committee that she went to a volleyball game the other day and it was so exciting, she loves that Cohasset has a volleyball team and Mercedes is so involved in the game. She overheard some of the younger girls say they can't wait to play volleyball and it's really nice to grow into that and Mercedes has been a major leader in that important feature of being a role model for our younger girls'. Also, Mercedes can bring up every and any single topic she wants to bring, it's exactly what we need to hear because kids of different ages have different interests and Mercedes has a seat at the table for student voice, thank you so much.

• School News (Dr. Patrick Sullivan)

We had our very first ever middle school cross country home meet today. The coaches figured out a course and Coach Ford worked with the coaches that we have along with a couple of staff members and two wonderful parents that helped us, it was very exciting to see.

Our Parent teacher conferences were held today and tomorrow they'll be held at the Deer Hill School. We had our METCO block party, and this is one of the wonderful things that Alicia *Carl* does with our METCO program. Dr. Scollins and Dr. Sullivan were able to attend the first one which was held at the Mattapan bus stop, and it was great event being with the families there, everything was wonderful. We have another one coming up that will be a larger group which will

School Updates

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

be held at the Franklin Park bus stop, (weather permitting). We have “High Five” Fridays with our first responders. Our police and fire department will be outside our school buildings as students come to school in the morning and Dr. Sullivan wants to mention if anybody’s watching that to just keep that in mind because they’ll see extra police and fire vehicles there, so don’t be alarmed because they’ll be giving our students high five’s as they come in the building. Dr. Sullivan will remind everyone with an email around that. We have a “Fun Run” on October 26th, our PSO fundraiser will be held at both the Deer Hill and Osgood schools. Our CEF will be having their fundraiser “Fall Night Out,” this coming Friday, October 21st from 7-10 PM at Paragon Blvd. Folks can purchase tickets at the door for this fabulous fundraiser. We have a “Trunk or Treat” another PSO fundraiser event which will be held on October 28th from 4:30-5:30 PM at the Osgood School. All these wonderful fundraisers go directly to help our students and staff.

- **Track and Turf Update**

Superintendent Patrick Sullivan shares pictures of the new track that has been recently completed. The contractors did an exceptional job and it’s nice to see that come in fruition. Dr. Sullivan thanks the school committee and the town for helping push that work through, especially Michelle Leary and obviously Sue Owen and Steve Rontandi for their work with the school. Dr. Sullivan anticipates a more thorough update on the new turf surrounding the track from Steve Rontandi on November 2nd.

Teaching and Learning

- **Academic Initiatives/Updates (Dr. Leslie Scollins)**

- **MCAS Update**

The family reports for students in 4th to 10th grade went home last Wednesday, October 12th. They were sent *via* postal mail, and just wanted to remind parents of that. We had good growth, we want to stay in-between 40-68 percent of growth for most of it. They’re looking at the data obviously as a district, we’re also going into the schools and working with all the departments and teachers to analyze the data. Dr. Scollins will be doing a more comprehensive presentation on the MCAS data for the school committee on November 2nd.

- **I-Ready Diagnostic Professional Development Update**

We received a grant from the state and curriculum associates came in the school these past two weeks and worked with our K-8 students and with teachers so they could understand where to find all the reports, what all the reports were, and look how to read and interpret the data. Also, to look at the resources that there are, so we can work with small groups, or specific interventions which is so important, and teachers are really happy with it. Dr. Scollins sat in several of the trainings and one of the things the curriculum associates said was that our data looks pretty good. They do this all over the country and all over the state. They’ll be coming back after our winter diagnosis as part of the grant and they’ll do more work with the teachers, which will be nice. We’ll give teachers several months to look at the data to work with and they’ll have more questions as we go forward. This will be presented to the school committee in a more of a data package with some other data points that will give a good sense of how our students are doing and what we need to really focus on in terms of our teaching and learning and quite frankly our resources.

Teaching and Learning

➤ I-Ready Diagnostic Professional Development Update

We'll be able to give that data which will be our next move with our teams looking at all that data and working with Lisa Radner who is helping us create ways to get the data all in one spot so that it will be easier for the teachers to look at. It has been a great collaboration experience and Dr. Scollins will have more to share as they go on.

Mrs. St. Onge overheard there's an I-Path for math in I-Ready for grades 3-5 and she was wondering if part of that was up to grade 8? Will this be targeting on the standards which were weaker when taking the diagnostic? Is that part being targeted when the students are taking that? It would be much easier and nicer for the students to learn the style of using I-Ready when they have more experience with that exact product to make it easier to do the diagnostic. Mrs. St. Onge will be curious to see those results.

Dr. Scollins replies we're focusing on that, we received a grant to pilot it this year, so we had to wait for the diagnostic to happen and then we'll be rolling that out. We want to see the core of it first and see how it works. We've been using DREAMBOX at the elementary level which is still an adaptive math program that students can practice on, and it works on their skills where they are. We want to see how the I-Ready component would be on the personalized learning in comparison to what we have with DREAMBOX. We're wondering how that will impact their ability to take the I-Ready diagnostic. We can use them separately, don't have to use the diagnostic and the personalized learning, but we're going to try it and see how it works. If it's something that we think is valuable, we'll look at that for math. We're looking at our assessments, looking at our programming to make sure that we're being effective and efficient too. We can combine platforms where we're not having multiple platforms, to using one.

Mr. Kearney states one of his daughter's didn't receive her MCAS results, she has been searching on the school's website for it.

Dr. Sullivan reiterates if anybody else out there didn't receive this for some reason, to please call the schools office and this will be put in as a reminder to parents in Dr. Sullivan's weekly newsletter.

Budget, Resources and Governance

• Budget and Finance (Ms. Susan Owen)

As of September 30, 2022, the School Department has expended \$3,543,604 out of the \$22,345,352 budget awarded (24.80%). A significant increase from the August reporting as school year staff have returned and their payroll has begun. We have encumbered supplies and materials on purchase orders in the amount of \$1,999,983 and this number will change throughout the year. There is a remaining balance of \$16,801,764 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.

Budget, Resources and Governance

• Budget and Finance (Ms. Susan Owen)

The good news is our SPED tuitions were budgeted at \$1,149,811 and are currently encumbered on purchase orders. To date, there were no unanticipated tuitions, our budget is on target with no negatives and no surprises right now in our special education tuitions.

The report of each school's budget, what has been expended, encumbered and balances is shown.

Circuit Breaker funding received in FY22 was \$701,856. This amount was carried over in its entirety into FY23. This amount was based on a 75% reimbursement rate. 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.

Capital Outlay Funds for FY23 - \$484,500

\$90,000	School bus lease -completed.
\$75,000	Middle/High paging zones – completed.
\$35,000	Furniture replacement – student & staff (Deer Hill School cycle) – In process.
\$52,000	Replacement of aging Chromebook (540-3-year lease \$143,000) – completed.
\$100,000	Retile some classrooms at Deer Hill school – completed.
\$60,000	Field lights – completed.
\$12,500	Locker mechanisms for Middle school – completed.
\$20,000	Install AC/Heater split for Middle school health clinic – completed.
\$40,000	Create hallway at Middle school to access bathroom in Room 223 – completed.
\$484,500	Total

We have less grants than we had last year. The grants for FY23 total \$1,186,097 and funds are used to employ approximately 12.3 additional staff.

The Revolving accounts chart is shown. Our deficit is the school use of facilities revolving **(512,598)**. We've adjusted our fees to offset those costs. Our school lunches are free for now but once that ends, the amount totals will decrease. Revolving accounts cover the salaries for approximately 25.50 personnel whose jobs relate to the account from which they are paid.

Mr. MacLellan asks if Ms. Owen could provide at some point the decreased amounts once the meals are no longer subsidized. We should identify some priority areas so that it doesn't feel a little bit daunting with all these accounts to look at. This money is obviously used to operate the existing programs. As a sub-committee we can sit down and identify some areas of primary interest and Ms. Owen can maybe identify areas where there's a fairly apparent surplus. We could use those surplus funds to act proactively to improve the programs they need to be allocated to.

A snapshot is shown of the breakdown of staffing headcount and FTE. We have a total of 274 headcounts in the school district for a total of 222.34 FTE's. Regular education salary totals \$12,804.856.

Budget, Resources and Governance

• Budget and Finance (Ms. Susan Owen)

Mandated special education salary totals \$3,516,077. Undistributed salary totals \$2,531,127 with a grand total of salaries \$18,852,059. A snapshot is shown of a scale for FY23 salaries. Regular education salary is up in the \$12,000,00 range and mandated special education salary is close to \$4,000,000 range and undistributed salary range is \$2,000,000. The FY23 Electric and Heat summary chart month to month is shown. We used more kilowatts last year than we did this year. Total Grants – FTE / Headcounts report is shown as well as the total revolving FTE/Headcounts. At this point in the school year, without the usual concerns for utility costs and unforeseen tuition expenses, the budget is proceeding based on projections. If folks have specific questions, please contact Sue Owen prior to the meeting so that she can be prepared to fully answer questions/concerns at 781-383-0611.

➤ Budget Priorities for 2022-2023**

We sat down as a team with Compass point #1 being teaching and learning. Compass point #2 is social emotional wellness (SEL). Compass point #3 is Resources. In conjunction with our recent Statement of Interest (SOI) to the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA), we will continue to explore significant renovation or new construction at our Middle and High School. Compass point #4 is communication & engagement. These are the budget priorities Ms. Owen's department put together for this year as a team.

Mrs. St. Onge notices a correction to be made with an extra period at the end of the first sentence in the social emotional wellness block.

Motion by Mr. Carr to approve the budget priorities for FY22-23 as presented by Ms. Owen, seconded by Mrs. St. Onge.

All - Aye

➤ Budget Calendar for 2022-2023**

The Cohasset Public Schools Budget Calendar for FY24, [agenda item F-2], is presented by Ms. Owen and shown to the school committee. The budget calendar is similar to last years. The only changes are just the dates that align with the school committee meeting dates. We've already met with our principals to find out what their maintenance needs are. We had a leadership meeting on September 21st which was our 1st meeting to discuss our budget needs. As of right now, we're bringing in our capital requests with a list of a bunch of information that has already been sent out to the principals and district leadership to prepare the budgets for FY24. Even though we're just starting into FY23, we're already sending them into FY24 budget. Dr. Sullivan just wants to note to make sure everyone knows this is a collaborative systematic approach to budgeting whereas a leadership team we're talking several times a year about positions we need, we're bringing forth data that determines some of those academic data points. Others are more on what we're seeing and hearing and what teachers are telling us, so we'll be able to provide. We're assessing that a few times a year and then bringing it to the school committee into that discussion

Budget, Resources and Governance

➤ Budget Calendar for 2022-2023**

to talk about community priorities. This equates to a systematic collaborative approach that should result in the community and school leaders being in lockstep with our needs, it's a matter of advocating.

Mr. Kearney suggests we ask school leadership teams of what they really need and what they really want. They all do a really good job with what they have but Mr. Kearney feels like this year they should fully ask right down to the coaches of what they need. We have Steve Rontandi in the buildings who needs bins for equipment and other stuff. Those big pods that Scituate has which looks good, we talked about buying 3 of those to store stuff. Mr. Kearney would just like to see an all-out ask, because this is important stuff and we're going to have to start to get used to it if our schools aren't really where we're at. He also feels like we go to one board and that board says no to everything. If we don't show what we really need and we're programmed to show what we can get away with, he doesn't think that's a good way of giving our students what they really need. This year, Mr. Kearney would really like to encourage the school leadership team to ask teachers and ask the sports teams and our music programs. We don't have the buildings, but we should have the resources if we're not going to supply the buildings. For a long time, the schools have been underfunded and it's because we don't ask, and we don't do a good job of asking the right people and we ask one committee that always says no.

Dr. Sullivan states its incumbent upon us to make sure the community knows what we feel we need to maximize our students.

Mrs. St. Onge has a question about the Capital walkthrough and asks will we all get an email? We obviously know it's November 15th, but will we get an email so we can prepare ourselves?

Dr. Sullivan will be forwarding an email on the Capital walkthrough with town officials and school leaders that will be on November 15th. With respect to the school committee, they want to be able to see what we're talking about, and Dr. Sullivan appreciates that. They've come to look at these issues when we've raised them.

November 15, 2022 – Capital Walkthrough (walkthrough) with town and school leaders.

Motion by Mr. Carr to approve the budget calendar for FY22-23 as presented by Ms. Owen, subject to the revision Mr. MacLellan suggested, seconded by Mrs. St. Onge.

All - Aye

➤ Facility Goals Moving Forward

Mr. Dial asked Dr. Sullivan to talk a little bit about some of our facility goals moving forward. In general terms this is something that we had discussed this past summer. We talked about all our needs in terms of teaching and learning, in terms of student services, and then in terms of our

Budget, Resources and Governance

➤ Facility Goals Moving Forward

facilities goals and just in a nutshell, there are a lot of things that Mr. Kearney mentioned that we need to improve upon. Certainly, we have a whole list of safety upgrades that were made apparent in AI3's report working with *Barzano and Associates* that we'll be bringing forward at different points in different ways, some of them will be through Capital. There are other facility improvements that we're working on and will basically tie into pretty much everything that we're doing. Some of them are improving our learning spaces as they stand. A good example of that is what we did in this room, the learning commons. This is a great example of a CEF funded approach to improve a room that had the bones of being a great space, but at the time was cluttered and didn't have a real dynamic look of a learning space. This is exactly what we're moving to do with our Deer Hill School library which we'll make into a learning common. Ms. Owen is going to talk about the school bus parking which is a major facility need of ours and a facility that the school bus drivers can use, perhaps incorporating some alternative energy solutions regarding that as well. The arts department as we grow it and as we grow the opportunities for our students to participate in arts at our elementary level, Dr. Sullivan would love to see something that highlights that. We really don't have a notable auditorium or any spaces that really spell out a robust music program. Dr. Sullivan would like to be able to offer that at that level and that would be a community effort moving forward. Keep in mind that the facilities committee did a tremendous job working with AI3 to get a report on all our buildings, none of them were perfect, and they're all going to need updates. The Osgood School which is sort of our best from a physical point of view, had some major work that needed to be done moving forward. All of that will be realized as we move forward asking Capital for various ways to get those things done. Then of course, our most, perhaps pressing need right now is at the middle and high school. This is going to take up a major portion of our goals. Having been in a community that built a flagship school previous before Dr. Sullivan came to Cohasset, once they built that school, it had a triple-down effect to every single building and every single teaching and learning component in that district. It immediately was a boost of energy and going forward Dr. Sullivan will be trying to sponsor that and working with his team to get that going here in Cohasset.

➤ Alternative Energy Committee (AEC) Update, Electric Bus

The Alternative Energy Committee is listed on the electric bus update is listed here on the agenda and Mr. MacLellan is not certain how it ended up ultimately being something that we were going to have a full presentation on tonight. At first, Ms. Bodell was planning on doing this, but we decided not to do that because we knew we wouldn't have a full school committee present and there might be some budget concerns. We want to have a full vote for something like this.

Mrs. St. Onge comments that Mr. Dial sent her an email and he was not comfortable having this presentation by AEC today and would like this to be on the next school committee's meeting agenda and Ms. Owen and Dr. Sullivan and herself can give an initial update at next Wednesday's meeting and therefore that is why he left this alignment on today's agenda. There's a lot of enthusiasm surrounding this project from the AEC Committee perspective. They're hoping to move this forward since there's a bunch of different committees in town that need to have this

Budget, Resources and Governance

➤ Alternative Energy Committee (AEC) Update, Electric Bus

presented too, but obviously being a school product, this is a very pivotal decision. Tanya Bodell prepared a presentation that is very pedestrian friendly and layout friendly. We'll all receive in our next packet for the next school committee meeting so we can preview the layout before she presents which will also be helpful, we just want to be prepared for any questions. When the call came about this a couple weeks ago, the opportunity sounded super exciting, it's just the financial stuff that's the question.

Dr. Sullivan wanted this on the agenda, looks forward hearing from AEC, we just wanted time, so we'll be able to dig deep to give some answers. There are some areas of interest where we consider appropriate for an electric school bus, we just want to know how this will be positioned in our fleet along with some of the lease terms involved.

Mr. MacLellan wants to make it clear to the community who may be listening out there on this recording that the point is that we are considering an electric bus pilot program here in Cohasset to see how that works. There are some intricacies and budget questions that we have to address in more detail for this meeting.

➤ School Bus Parking Update

Sue Owen shows a drawn diagram of the driveway leading from the Osgood School towards Deer Hill School with school buses facing Sawyer Street towards the front of Deer Hill School, with an additional 10 spaces for other vehicles. The next step is talking with the conservation department to make sure the wetlands back beyond the tree lines are okay before we move forward, this is in the very early stages right now.

Mr. MacLellan asks if Ms. Owen could provide this diagram to Michelle Leary the Assistant Town Manager and Glenn Pratt in Town, they should have this, if they don't have it already.

• Food Service

We're still trying to schedule our next nutrition sub-committee meeting, which is branched out to our Wellness Committee, but we have it listed as a sub-committee. This doesn't usually have a place on the agenda for a school committee meeting, but it does for us. This is an operational standing agenda point.

• Report from School Facilities Committee

This is on a holding pattern, this was reported earlier by Dr. Sullivan and Ms. Owen that we're just awaiting word from the MSBA, Massachusetts School Building Authority relative to our SOI, Statement of Interest.

Community Relations/Communication

• Reports from School Committee Sub-Committees and Liaisons

Mr. Carr would like to see more opportunity to what Ms. Owen spoke earlier on renovations on the room at Deer Hill School, as it relates to the waiting period on possibly a new school. We discussed that at our last meeting, and it is still ongoing.

Community Relations/Communication

• Reports from School Committee Sub-Committees and Liaisons

Mrs. St. Onge comments they just had their first general school council meeting last week. It's great to see new members and it's also nice to be back on a regular school schedule. We're not in a rush to get a school improvement plan, or 2 in 1 year. She wants to just dive a little deeper into our goals, it's nice to be able to get back to a more regular rhythm and have the schools think about how they're developing their own culture and action plans.

School Committee Governance

• Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair – None

• Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Carr is catching up on several sets of minutes and will have these for the next school committee meeting for approval by members of the school committee.

• Future Agenda Items

- Mrs. St. Onge will look for more resources on programs with more information like the RAD courses for the older school age level as discussed at the beginning of this meeting. Also, once the fall season of volleyball ends, Mrs. St. Onge thinks having a little bit of a briefing on how their season went from a player perspective or coach perspective. This is a new sport, we don't get a lot of new sports, just to see how it went and how we could grow with it and how it could change and be recognized too, we could have this on our agenda as a student spotlight.
- Mrs. St. Onge would like to suggest an important gesture to the school committee to hold their meeting at the new METCO headquarters building. We talked about that after the opening in Nubian Square which would be so wonderful to see and then we could invite families to come there as well.
- Mr. MacLellan would like to look at our METCO program to have another presentation in both semesters for lack of a better phrase so we can see how things have been and what their experiences has been like. The demands on our younger METCO students are high and it's a lot. He just wants to make sure that we're doing everything we can to support them. It would be nice to hear from them in the first part of the year, then the latter part of the year. We want to know if their expectations were met, where they need to meet, what challenges they encounter. Then, we could do another one towards the end of the school year like we had last spring. Not only focusing on their overall experience, but also getting back to those points that may have been raised earlier on so we can see if we need to implement some changes that could help their experience. This is just a suggestion for Dr. Sullivan to consider in conjunction with Chairman Lance Dial.
- Mr. Carr would like to thank the school committee for remembering *Dr. Jean McGuire* when we were talking about our METCO program. For those at home, Jean McGuire is one of the founders of the METCO program on Civil Rights, a pioneer here in Boston. She was a victim of a random act of violence and Mr. Carr is happy to report that she is out of the hospital. The Cohasset Public School district sent her well wishes in a letter and they're looking to send some more well wishes.

School Committee Governance

Executive Session¹ - #3. Strategy in anticipation of collective bargaining and litigation

We have a reason to go into Executive Session which is #3 and involves strategy in connection with collective bargaining and litigation.

Motion made by Mr. Carr to go into Executive Session¹- for reason #3 as stated, seconded by Mrs. St. Onge.

All - Aye

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.**

Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM

**Requires School Committee Vote/Action
--