



Cohasset School Committee Meeting

Joint Meeting with Cohasset Advisory Committee

School Committee Minutes

Thursday March 30, 2017

Cohasset Town Hall

Selectmen's Meeting Room

Highland Ave

Cohasset, MA

In Attendance: Jeanne Astino, Chairman

Ellen Maher

Barbara Stefan

Amanda Zani

Also in Attendance: Louise Demas, Superintendent

John Tuffy, Interim Business Manager

Call to Order and Roll Call-Chairman Astino called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. **Roll Call Vote;** **Jeanne Astino-Present, Ellen Maher-Present, Barbara Stefan-Present, Amanda Zani arrived at 7:05pm. Present from Advisory; Nan Roth, Rich Fitzpatrick, John Chapman, Tanya Bodell, George Chamillard, Paul Carlson, Lee Jenkins, Lynda Mooney**

Supt. Demas and Mr. Tuffy presented the FY 18 School Budget highlighting the fact that the school budget is on the Town Manager's recommended number.

The budget was articulated through the lens of the Vision Statement for the District, the Strategic and Technology Plans with the final criteria for decision making "What is best for the children". Leadership was creative in assessing needs and finding solutions to fulfilling those needs.

Highlighted items included:

1. Overall staff reduction of -2.0 as well as student enrollment trends
2. Fulfilling FY 17 deferred requests of transitional ESP at the CMHS and as well as the dual certified HS Social Studies/Sped position.
3. Deployment of Special Education co-teaching model in the 6th and 9th grade in English and Math based on the Shillingslaw report, with the foreshadowing that further deployment of the model in FY 19 may have budget implications
4. Circuit breaker strategy to get back on traditional allocation by FY 19.

The Advisory Committee voted 8-0 to support the School Budget.

Review of the Special Education Reserve Fund article took place, highlighting the change from the current Special Education Stabilization Fund. The Advisory Committee voted in favor of the warrant article 8-0.

Discussion of the status of the Cohasset town and school playgrounds and the required compliance for accessibility, Supt. Demas and Recreation Director Ted Carroll highlighted where they are in the process. Significant discussion took place regarding timelines, scope of work, fines for non-compliance, sourcing of the work. Supt Demas and Mr. Carroll advised that they have worked with the CPC and the CPC has committed to funding the improvements. Supt. Demas also advised that private fundraising is being done to replace the playground at the Osgood School.

The Advisory Committee voted 6-2 to support the playground CPC funding.

The School Committee adjourned their meeting on a motion by Mrs. Astino, seconded by Mrs. Maher, all AYE.

After exiting Executive Session, Mrs. Astino moved to close the open session at 7:56 pm seconded by Mrs. Maher, all Aye