

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

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
Wednesday, March 27, 2024
6:00 PM

Learning Commons
Cohasset Middle and High School
143 Pond Street
Cohasset, MA 02025

Streamed Live on Cohasset 143TV
Zoom (*chat enabled*)
Cohasset Live Streaming Facebook
(*watch / listen only*)

In Attendance: Ted Carr, Secretary
Lance Dial, Chairperson
Paul Kearney
Craig MacLellan, Vice Chairperson
Jennifer Lesky

Also, In Attendance: Charlie Lankow, Superintendent Student Advisory Council Liaison
Senator Patrick O'Connor, State Representative
Joan Meschino, State Representative
Barbara Cerwonka, Director of Student Services
Rock Roberts, Director of Data, Evaluation, and Curriculum
Susan Owen, Director of Finance & Operations
Dr. Leslie Scollins, Assistant Superintendent
Dr. Patrick Sullivan, Superintendent

All School Committee Meetings Are Recorded.

AGENDA

Call to Order

Chairman Dial welcomes everyone and called to order the regular meeting of the Cohasset School Committee for Wednesday, March 27, 2024 at 6:00 PM. Members of the school committee who are present indicated so with a **Roll Call: Mr. Kearney-Present; Ms. Lesky-Present; Mr. Carr–Present; Mr. MacLellan-Present; Mr. Dial–Present.**

Opening Remarks

They have quite a bit going on in the district and at the school committee level. The Chair would like to address everyone who may be watching or listening that tomorrow March 28th 6:30-8:00 p.m. they'll be having the Superintendent candidate finalists coming to the Cohasset Middle and High School. There will be 30-minute sessions with parents, students, and faculty to meet with the candidates personally and ask questions before they conduct interviews. Public interviews will be held on Wednesday, April 3, 2024 where this will not be held virtually or video recorded, but an open meeting. All three (3) candidates will be interviewed at this time by the full committee, and school committee where they'll deliberate if a decision is to be made, if not, they'll table a vote for a later meeting.

Public Comment

None

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Invited Guests

• Superintendent Student Advisory Council (SSAC) Liaison Report (Charlie Lankow)

Charlie Lankow would like to first address an answer to Mr. Carr's question he had last time about CPS having any alumni events. Charlie reached out to Mrs. Moriarty, Senior Advisor, where she said there's no formal process, it kind of varies depending on the grade and the people running it. There's a rise to it on social media playing a larger role that organizes school reunions. Past year's, people who've graduated 5 years ago have done a 5-year school reunion with donations like podiums and other things to the school for the class of XYZ.

Charlie along with other CHS senior classmates are very excited for the upcoming Senior Europe trip on April 10, 2024 to April 21, 2024 where they'll be touring France, Italy, and Switzerland. After the April break, Seniors will be preparing for graduation, which is also very exciting.

The school spring sports are underway such as tennis, lacrosse, and softball having scrimmages this week to get ready for their official season opener next week. The tennis team that Charlie participates in has their line ups with 3 singles, and 2 doubles teams. Since the weather forecast for the next couple of days will be rain, Mr. Ford, the tennis coach, said the tennis team could have a pickleball game in the gym for practice. The Winter school clubs that Charlie is involved in are wrapping up, like the debate team and the Math team that tend to wrap up late February, early March. The Medical Club with Mr. Savage is still going on, which is a great club that Charlie enjoys very much. For the Arts, the Acapella group and the Jazz Band Group meets weekly.

Most excitingly, Charlie would like to talk about the Superintendent Student Advisory Council (SSAC) meeting held yesterday with Dr. Scollins with a smaller group and had very fruitful conversations and they discussed a lot of things like the whole Superintendent Search and everything going on with that getting opinions from everyone there. The questions asked by the SSAC to the candidates were really great. Tomorrow night is the Superintendent Search Committee meeting with the finalists where they'll have student voice as this process continues on. Dr. Sullivan and Dr. Scollins have been great with student voice for the past 4 years since Charlie's been on Student Council and they definitely want to keep that going. Charlie is an officer on the National Honor's Society as well and advocated for student voice for any student who attends the Superintendent Search Committee where students can get their community service hours in, and he just found out students can get two (2) hours of community service just for attending. The deadline for students to put in their community service hours will be on April 5, 2024. The SSAC is trying to get more participation in the homework center. A few years ago, before COVID the homework center had tutoring that was provided by National Honor's Society students and the SSAC brought it back again to the Learning Commons space. There hasn't been too much interest from students at the middle school, so Charlie is working with other NHS officers along with Mr. Turner to drum up interest in that, it's definitely a great resource for students. The National Honor's Society is planning an end of year Gala, a new thing this year, and he's excited to say that everyone is invited. This is going to be sort of a wrap up for the year with members of NHS will present some of their projects where they've been doing so much work in the community and wants the underclass mates to have an opportunity to see what's coming in their future.

Today was the Seniors School Field Trip where they went to the Auschwitz Exhibit in Boston. Charlie wanted to report back to anyone watching online this was a really great field trip experience not knowing what to expect. Charlie noticed how everyone was respectful and this was really an eye-opening experience for everyone there.

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• Superintendent Student Advisory Council (SSAC) Liaison Report (Charlie Lankow)

Tonight is Charlie's last time reporting as an SSAC Liaison in front of the school committee and he says it's been very nice to be in front of them all for the past few years and thanks all members of the school committee for having him. The time Charlie has been on the SSAC has come to an end with 2 or more meetings left which Charlie says is sad and unfortunate because he has really enjoyed his time since 8th grade and has done so many important things.

Mr. Kearney says they're going to miss Charlie's great updates and hopes students stay safe and have a great time on the Europe Trip.

Ms. Lesky congratulates Charlie and thanks him for always giving the school committee very thorough and thoughtful reports, which really highlights what it's like to be a student at CHS. The Homework Center just came up at Ms. Lesky's house and asks Charlie if NHS came up with any adult centered communication for middle school parents about this opportunity. Ms. Lesky feels that some middle school students can't do things on their own where the Homework Center is kind of a pop in, pop out sort of thing. It would be an amazing thing because that peer to teacher can be so impactful and way better than having parents struggle through their child's math homework.

Mr. Carr thanks Charlie for slugging it out with the school committee here for a long time, congratulations on his parole. Mr. Carr says he thinks Charlie will find his way to other public service-oriented events. The Service team which is a partnership with a Boston based non-profit school will be going to Panama the same time as the Europe Trip, so there's lot of happenings going on here in the district and thanks Charlie once again for everything he has done.

Mr. MacLellan asks Charlie what's most exciting for him about the Europe trip. Mr. MacLellan hopes Charlie will savor those experiences as much as possible when he's there for really robust memories of a place he's never gone to. Those places in Europe are so interesting and extremely old with so much history in them and knowing someone like Charlie will appreciate that. Also, Mr. MacLellan recognizes Charlie as the longest standing member on the Superintendent Student Advisory Council.

Dr. Sullivan couldn't be prouder of a student than Charlie, who is a shining student here in Cohasset and going off to Dartmouth College next year.

Chairman Dial wants to personally thank Charlie for all the work he has put in as a Liaison on the Superintendent Student Advisory Council and reporting the highlights for school committee members and somewhere out there right now, a former school committee member Lydia St. Onge is crying! This school committee has definitely benefited from Charlie's reports here and all the updates he's given them on what's going on in the schools at these meetings. Chairman Dial looks forward to seeing all of Charlie's future success and thanks him very much for all his insights.

Invited Guests

• Senator Patrick O'Connor & Representative Joan Meschino

Senator Patrick O'Connor and Representative Joan Meschino prepared a brief slide presentation on the current budget, the Governor's proposals, and some things they've accomplished in the Senate House as well as Legislation that is still pending that may be of interest to the Cohasset School Committee. They'll answer any questions that members of the school committee may have about where they're at as far as the education space goes.

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• Senator Patrick O'Connor & State Representative Joan Meschino

An editorial piece was prioritized for this presentation for education funding. From Senator Patrick O'Connor's opinion they were approaching a very interesting cliff prior to COVID where the State made strategic investments through the Student Opportunity Act (SOI) which he was proud to work on and be one of the negotiators for the final product. That impacted primarily about 21 to 24 school districts in the State that were the most economically challenged school districts Senator O'Connor supported that investment they made. They're into their 4th fiscal year and believe this is a 6-year plan to fully fund their commitment to the Student Opportunity Act, (SOI) which would then free up significant revenue moving forward to make other generational type investments into the education system. When they were at that cliff and saw school districts that had the least amount of resources were going to fall off that cliff, they made that through the SOI. Then, COVID hit, and federal dollars flowed through Esser Grants and other significant pockets of revenue that came from Federal that bridged them a little bit, but as it bridged them to where they're at now, the upcoming fiscal year, it also compounded the problem by structural deficits in school districts that now use the Esser Funds for permanent positions or investments that are needed for investments for the additional following years. They're now faced with what Senator O'Connor believes is going to be a significant number of challenges that municipal school districts will face in the next two years.

Both Senator Patrick O'Connor and Representative Joan Meschino represent Hingham that has already been put in place as an override, but even with that override there are significant budgetary challenges they have moving into this fiscal year. What they try to do in education with equity as the main lens is a disservice to communities because it's going to lead to a point in time where the communities that decide to vote for a proposition 2 ½ override have school districts that are adequately educating their children that don't or not, that is what led them to education funding in the first place, with the lawsuit that was filed in the Brockton School District. They have their hands full when it comes to this and going into numbers to do all this is important to talk about the realization, they have about what all the school districts are facing, and all communities are facing.

Senator Patrick O'Connor met with the Chair of *Ways and Means* this past Monday and said to the Chair that Chapter 70 itself is the formula that is on the precipice of collapse and they need to do a funding for the budget to review commission, in the meantime while that commission is hopefully uplifted it meets, they'll need to figure out ways inside the State budget to release some of the strain inside the school districts.

Senator Patrick O'Connor came up with a couple ideas through Chapter 70 to start the Circuit Breaker reimbursement with ways to do that as well as inflationary factors potentially banking years of high inflation. The inflation is capped at 4 ½ percent, so school districts are experiencing significantly more inflation and not getting reimbursed for that by the State. The last trigger to all of this in Senator Patrick O'Connor's opinion has been inflation, Chapter 70 funding formula that's broken and looking at the municipal budget as a whole, new growth really played a huge component for years and were able to experience if numbers of new growth that made sense and able to kind of put the band aid on it, and now they're seeing communities that don't have those new growth numbers like they used to and those communities are being impacted the most because that is where the raises are, the extra curriculums comes from where it kept Capital improvement projects that came from on all those things.

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• Senator Patrick O'Connor & State Representative Joan Meschino

Representative Joan Meschino states there's a lot of members in the Legislature who started and made that commitment through that Student Opportunity Act (SOI) and those investments are proper and good and they've been working. That was really where the most significant of those investments were because they know it costs a lot of money to educate more children who live in communities of poverty. There's a lot of people that go through that process, through that dialogue, and through those negotiations that came up, they really started to understand that Chapter 70 in terms of formula funding is old, and it's not necessarily current. People are feeling that strain as Senator O'Connor just stated and after the economic closure and the art of spending money, we're seeing a natural economic reaction. One of the other pieces in Chapter 70 is they're also seeing other school enrollment designs which is a big driver that's probably one of the most significant things and that's all across the State.

Representative Joan Meschino shares their Budget Plan for Fiscal Year 2024 that started with \$56.1 Billion that incorporated \$40.41 Billion of tax revenue forecast that was their consensus revenue figure as Senator O'Connor alluded to. This year the projections are last year's actuals, significantly under the revenue forecast. They've already made some cuts that came out of their budget and the Governor did most of that within her own operational budget based on education spending of \$1.5 billion for Early Education and Care Sector.

Care Sector is the Student Opportunity Act and Beacon Hill sought commitment for the 4th payment for \$6.6 billion for public schools through Chapter 70 funding (increase of \$600 million over FY22) and they've included that number to Chapter 70 for Cohasset which is \$2,955,742. They can see where the State is investing and it's through \$69 million dollars for permanent universal school meals, hugely important for children. Regional school transportation \$97.1 million dollars and those are the things that are challenges not necessarily predicted.

METCO is a tremendously successful program here in Cohasset Public Schools. Obviously, the big ones and always mindful of is the Special Education Circuit Breaker, which is 100%, and 75% of that reimbursement has always been a commitment to Cohasset Public Schools.

Senator Patrick O'Connor shows a slide presentation of the FY24 Budget Local Aid magnifying lens on Cohasset in general through their budget. \$1.27 billion dollars in funding for Unrestricted General Government Aid (UGGA), (increase of \$54 million over FY23). Cohasset UGGA is \$615,046, an account that can be used for anything. A check is sent to the community to choose what they want to do with that money. Chapter 70, which is obviously airmarked from the State for public education was at \$2.955,742 million dollars with an estimate based on savings of \$156,363.17 for free school meals. Special Education Transportation and reimbursements from the State were \$144,053 and Circuit Breaker reimbursements in total were \$1,034,108.

The Safe Harbor Youth Ambassadors advocated at offices in Beacon Hill, and Senator O'Connor wanted to save and secure some money in the State budget to try and make investments so Safe Harbor could do some things they may not have been able to. The State awarded \$10,000 in their FY24 budget for Safe Harbor Youth Ambassadors and \$100,000 Raising Harts founded in Cohasset is a phenomenal organization run by an amazing Cohasset resident and in Senator O'Connor opinion is going to be the future of what Autism Resource Centers will look like.

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• Senator Patrick O’Connor & State Representative Joan Meschino

They’ve already been able to get \$100,000 in the State budget and Senator O’Connor hopes to continue to make that investment and also get others to the actual physical location in Hanover to see what they’re doing. Senator Patrick O’Connor says he couldn’t be more impressed and prouder to have something like this created in the district that could be a model not just for the State, but really for the Nation. Both Senator Patrick O’Connor and Representative Joan Meschino really recognize the people who go above and beyond in communities. These are volunteer organizations predominantly able to connect with State resources to help grow their mission to helping people on the South Shore, and obviously people across the State are one of the most rewarding parts of the job.

Senator Patrick O’Connor and Representative Joan Meschino met in the Cohasset Public School Administration building on January 26, 2024 with the Massachusetts School Building Authority, MSBA to talk about the needs of Cohasset as well as the surrounding areas and investments they’ve already made to almost the entire region. Cohasset has been lucky with the huge demand that hasn’t been made in other communities. Now it’s time to really take a look at the infrastructure needs they have in place and the State is happy to get the MSBA back in Cohasset until April 12, 2024 which is the submittal period closure for the core program. The biggest takeaway from that was the demand that the MSBA has now with the number of resources and money it costs to build a school in the current environment we’re in with labor strains as well as inflation rates.

Cohasset Numbers in the State Budget			
Fiscal Year	FY23	FY24 (Final)	Change (%)
Chapter 70	\$2,873,722	\$2,955,742	+2.88%
UGGA-Unrestricted General Government Aid	\$ 595,975	\$ 615,046	+3.21%

These numbers continue to climb where they’ve been at a steady growth over time and the State will continue to advocate for that as they look ahead to FY25. Governor Healey has filed her budget and now that documents as one of the three that will be the final products. The House has budgeted which will be debated on in April and the Senate will debate they’re budget in May and at the end there will be a conference meeting on the three budgets that are reviewed, and they hope to take those numbers in all the budgets and make the most significant investment they can.

Mr. Carr notes the school committee is in their budget season and tightening up on things as the State is looking to do things differently. Sometimes they base their budgets on their own benchmarks on what things are going to come in at and when the numbers are lower, they have to scramble. Mr. Carr is curious if the State is seeing other things in communities around Cohasset when looking at their budget process differently.

School Updates

• School News (Dr. Patrick Sullivan)

Our school bands performed at our *ALL-TOWN* concert last Thursday, everyone did wonderful. Mr. Dykas Dance Party happened all week long at the Osgood School, which was fantastic and one of the best parts about this is these students look back fondly and becomes a magical memory for them, especially students who are seniors. Thank you, Mr. Dykas, and the Osgood School community families for being good sports in this. All the kids were outstanding with their dance moves!

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School Updates

• School News (Dr. Patrick Sullivan)

The Cohasset Middle High School will be hosting their 2nd Annual Mosaic Event on April 11, 2024, 6-8 p.m. This event was wonderful last year, it's a real demonstration of the many cultures they have in Cohasset. They'll be lots of Latin and African drums, Irish Step dancing, and plenty of food and Dr. Sullivan extends an invite to everyone in the community to please come and join them for that.

The Cohasset High School will have Recycled Parts next Thursday, April 4, 2024 at 6:00 PM. This has always been amazing to see what the students can do with recycled materials and turn it into an art piece. This will be posted in Dr. Sullivan's newsletter, and folks at home who might be watching, maybe have something in front of them that is recyclable and create art.

Teaching and Learning

• Special Education Update (Mrs. Barbara Cerwonka)

➤ Special Education Determination Rating Discussion

Every year the State puts out a Special Education Determination Rating. This year Student Services received their Special Education Determination Rating where there were requirements to needs assistance, needs intervention. Student Services was very adamant with DESE for answers and some clarification on verification of correction on non-compliance, an area of error adjusted by DESE. Student Services will continue to advocate for Individualized meetings and explanations that are forthcoming. The scores reflected in the rubric were very confusing and they did find out there was an error and they admitted to that right away. Some of these errors were in the coding of certain reports on certain students and the actual codes used were put in categories that may have looked like students who had dropped out or who had not graduated, which was not the case whatsoever. Students with disabilities do not have a high dropout rate or a low graduation rate. Understanding the report is a little bit better and the person coding in the numbers appropriately will get full credit for it. Special Education is performing the way they need to be. It was the coding and reporting that made the district fall into the category they fell into.

They continue to increase or match the funding every year from the previous year and provide students with disabilities with some flexibility in there that allows the Towns to not necessarily match that funding every year. That part of the requirement by DESE is to stay in the "needs assistance" category. The effects of this are not going to be significant should they stay in this category, but they'll continue to get the information they need and see where they'll land with that. A lot of these categories are for smaller districts this size with no excuses on anything, the district does have work to do.

Candice Hartford chimes in to ask can the district have that full report.

Vice Chair MacLellan says once they're confident that it's fair and correct they can somehow publish that to stakeholders.

Chairman Dial says perhaps once they feel like they've come to a resolution as they exhaust from all these things, they'll come back to the school committee and have a follow up report. If they need to do a publication or an explanation, they'll publish that. They would like to make sure the community knows what's going on because right now this is something we're not able to really learn from since it's not accurate.

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• **Special Education Update (Mrs. Barbara Cerwonka)**

➤ **Data Sharing**

<u>FEBRUARY 2024</u>				
<u>Meeting Type</u>	<u>Elementary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Out of District</u>	<u>Total Meetings</u>
Annual Review	2	6	3	11
Re-Evaluation	3 (2 eligible)	1 (eligible)		4
Initial Evaluation	4 (2 eligible)	3		5
Referral Source	MTSS: 1 (yes) Parent: CPS: 1 (no) Non-CPS: 2 (yes)	MTSS: 2 (yes) Parent: 1 (yes) CPS: Non-CPS:		
Independent Evaluation				
Total: 20 Meetings				

Parent surveys continue to come in with their IEP's and they all continue to be very positive. The number of Annual Reviews conducted were at the Elementary, Secondary, and Out of District areas totaling 11 meetings during the month of February. There were Initial Evaluations where students continue to be eligible at both the Elementary and Secondary level.

➤ **Extended School Year - ESY**

The Extended School Year Program for 2024 for students will be conducted this Summer starting July 8th 2024 – August 8th 2024 (Monday - Thursday 8:30 AM - 11:30 AM) Students who within an IEP team meeting are found eligible or needing extended school year because some students suffer significant regression and recruitment time, post breaks in education such as long weekends and vacations. The ESY schedule will be sent to families as soon as this is finalized by Student Services.

➤ **New Individualized Education Program (IEP)**

Training on the new IEP continues for the teachers that will start in April, 2024. They'll have some PD days opportunities as well in May & June. From now to May they'll have an Interim Commissioner, Russell Johnston who was their commissioner in the area of Special Education before, but he committed himself to CPS in May to present the new IEP which he'll be doing and their PD opportunity with Alan Bloom in June. Student Services conducted the new IEP training in February with parents through SEPAC and this will be finished in their April 4th SEPAC meeting. The April SEPAC meeting will be on April 4, 2024 at 11:00 A.M.

➤ **Co-Teaching at Deer Hill School**

A Co-Teaching model has been in the district at the secondary level for a number of years now. That is a formal model of Co-Teaching in which both are in special education and general education teacher teach together in the same classroom and there is a lot of PD preparation work for that to happen. This year they brought it down to the Joseph Osgood School to start building this up toward middle school and high school where this has been for a while with great success and opportunities for teachers and students there.

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• Special Education Update (Mrs. Barbara Cerwonka)

➤ Co-Teaching at Deer Hill School

Student Services is looking to start training this Spring to start implementing this as a student segway from the Osgood School into the Deer Hill School and bring it all the way up to the High School. Student Services is very excited to bring that PD opportunity and that model all the way through the school system. This is a great program to invest in and they've had great success with this.

Jay Candela from 249 Beechwood was recognized by the school committee to address a couple of questions. Mr. Candela's daughter attends Deer Hill School and wants to know how parents will be reassured with the tight budget numbers that won't affect placement decisions for special education students as far as placing students outside the district if the district loses that money.

Mrs. Cerwonka replies that the special education budget is always in flux, and it's always recognized. It's the most volatile budget that exists within any school department anywhere. Student Services needs to provide students with what they need when they show us their needs in the school system. Then, Student Services looks for things like they did this year when the special education budgets tend to go over budget. The Special Education Extraordinary Relief Fund would be able to balance that and bring that money back into the schools when things were perhaps unexpected, or not planned, that need to be given to the students. There are measures in place to fund that and then recoup that. The Town has been supportive of that as well.

Jay Candela asks if that money would replace the money loss when a student leaves the school system.

Superintendent Patrick Sullivan says if a student leaves the school system and there's a high tuition rate it can be really crippling for a small district. The school would then use the special education extraordinary relief fund to allow them to continue with their budget because that relief fund would go towards that. They always make sure they fulfill their needs for their special education students. The Town of Cohasset is very committed to helping the schools with this.

The Chair reiterates it's the law for a school that is required to apply free appropriate public education, it doesn't matter what the cost is. If there's an out of district placement that needs to happen, it will happen. They do have a tight budget but it's not cutting their special education and it's not going to belabor this.

Jay Candela asks about the obvious conflict of interest that exists when the special education team decides on whether they place a student outside of the district if someone is going to lose their job. If there's less kids, there's less teachers.

Mrs. Cerwonka states the special education team makes decisions around the student's IEP's and placements which includes the parents as well as all the special educators. They really don't have that direct knowledge that it could affect somebody's job. The special education team makes these decisions within this silo if you will excuse any repercussions financially, they might have, are not for them to decide.

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

Dr. Leslie Scollins has one quick academic update to address that today MCAS started at the high school level. The High School students had their ELA MCAS this week on March 26th and this starts their MCAS season. This is posted to the school's navigator so families can see all the dates for next week. They have lots of testing starting at all the grade levels that will continue on until May.

➤ **Student Opportunity Act (SOA) Submission**

(Dr. Leslie Scollins, Mr. Rock Roberts, and Mrs. Barbara Cerwonka)

Materials have been enclosed in the school committee's pocket folders for the Student Opportunity Act, SOA. Senator O'Connor talked about the funding mechanism for that earlier, they do not get any funding for this, because they do not fall into the category. Originally when this was enacted there was no money to be had which threw them off about \$5,000. DESE expects them to use the increase they give them per pupil to fund whatever they're going to do. There really isn't a set budget for them for what they need to do. Mrs. Cerwonka, Rock Roberts, and Dr. Scollins worked together to create their SOA which is a 3-year plan where the district is finishing their most current SOA.

The Student Opportunity Act was enacted by the State of Massachusetts in 2019 and its purpose was to reduce the achievement gap in particular to target specific groups. This was to be used for evidence-based practices and to really create some ambitious targets for their targeted subgroups.

Their current SOA has been in place for almost 3 years and focused on students with special needs. They were also looking at MCAS scores in ELA particular and looking at those in third grade and above. They're also looking at students who are determined to have a Specific Learning Disability (SLD) in the upper grades to how they could reduce that gap. DESE gave school districts several categories to continue to do that in the new plan. DESE wanted the schools to look at these categories and then choose one. Dr. Scollins says this district really needed to look at their early literacy programs and they choose to work on that from pre-kindergarten to the elementary grades within that category, and decided to look at the Joseph Osgood Elementary School where their youngest students are. They also wanted to look at their multi-tiered systems of support, MTSS to target instructions in foundational reading skills at specific interventions on targeted skills based on student need, and progress monitoring.

The progress they've made in their current SOA is that they've improved their data systems to inform their in-home school learning and added some other measuring tools that has really helped with their data. They've unified their MTSS process and their looking at how it translates from school to school, how their form is set up and the process within those meetings. They've provided Professional Development on literacy instruction, and intervention practices over the past several years. Implemented some evidence-based literacy tools and assessment tools, very much like the i-Ready. They also added .5 reading and math specialists at each elementary school, a full-time special education reading teacher at Deer Hill Elementary School, and a full-time interventionist in both reading and math at CMS. In addition to that they've had training for general education and special education teachers designed to enhance instructional practices for a push in model.

Rock Roberts notes there's been some bullet points and Glows & Grows to their current SOA where they did reduce the performance gap between all students and students with disabilities in grades 3-5. They've implemented practices designed to better meet the needs of individual students.

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➤ **Student Opportunity Act (SOA) Submission**

(Dr. Leslie Scollins, Mr. Rock Roberts, and Mrs. Barbara Cerwonka)

The percentage of all students meeting and exceeding expectations on MCAS has grown with each grade in both ELA and Math. With all that said the schools still have gaps in both ELA and Math in terms of all students versus students with disabilities in grades 3-8 which has become the focus as they move into their next SOA plan.

The Proposed SOA target is to reduce the Math Achievement gap for students with disabilities. DESE gave school districts some key maps around what they determined as some of the gaps that exist. There were 3 objectives to choose from and they chose objective 2 to promote deeper learning so that all students engage in grade level work that is real world, relevant, and interactive.

The first focus area is to select and skillfully implement high quality and engaging instructional materials that support culturally and linguistically sustaining practices and foster deeper learning. They'll continue with early literacy and actually grow with it since it's a continuation of what they're doing in the current SOA.

The second focus area is the use of the MTSS process to implement academic support and interventions that provide all students, particularly students with disabilities and multilingual learners, equitable access to deep learning. In particular they'll be looking at high level practices for students with disabilities and also a collaborative teaching model.

Mrs. Cerwonka says the reason why individual MTSS teams has grown so much at each school is they train all special education staff in high level instructional practices designed for students with disabilities, (e.g., providing scaffolded supports, explicit instruction, flexible groupings, and adapting curriculum, and tasks based on students' specific learning goals.) The other piece is the collaborative teaching model that will develop or expand co-teaching and other evidence-based models that really leverage collaboration to best serve students with disabilities and multilingual learners. From 1st grade to all the way leading up to 8th grade this will really impact and influence the learning for those students. Their MCAS scores as they go along and all these things that the school district is putting in place are going to impact all students.

Mr. Roberts says the SOA plan will target the Osgood, Deer Hill School, and CMS for grades K-8. They'll be looking at evidenced based intervention programs in math and literacy in the intervention level that might make a big difference for students with disabilities. They've refined their systems utilizing data in a much more effective way to inform teaching and learning, that's part of it. The great thing about putting the SOA plan together is to really see how all these things are coming together to help all students. MTSS will continue to improve upon the process with the district and building based data teams, and they're building that out now as Mrs. Cerwonka mentioned earlier on co-teaching for grades 3-5. Really working to create a systematic data analysis into the dialogue protocols at the district level and at the building level. They'd like to conduct an assessment audit to see if the assessments used are the right assessments to use. Whether that's in the screening process, the progress monitoring, or any of the assessments.

Cohasset Public Schools
143 Pond Street
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Teaching and Learning

➤ **Student Opportunity Act (SOA) Submission**

(Dr. Leslie Scollins, Mr. Rock Roberts, and Mrs. Barbara Cerwonka)

Dr. Scollins says they'll explore, pilot, implement Tier 1 and Tier 2 intervention programs even though they already have them now, but they want to see what else is offered out there through research to make sure they have interventions for all of those. They'll investigate intensive Tier 3 math intervention programs and see how they can develop into that. Provide Professional Development for all staff on interventions to understand that Tier 1 core instruction special education piece so they'll all get what they need. Provide coaching for math specialists, reading specialists, and special education teachers on any new kind of intervention or approaches to intervention like Mr. Roberts talked about conducting an assessment audit to make sure they're using the best assessments they can. They'll continue to develop data teams and data dialogue protocols in the Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS).

The assessments will help monitor success of achievement and growth over the next 3 years from larger statewide assessments from MCAS on ELA, and Math. The school district metric will continue to use DIBELS 8 Edition (K-5); i-Ready Diagnostic for math and reading (K-8); i-Ready My Path personalized learning to see how students are doing at the elementary level (K-5); Forefront data tools for math (K-5) will help the ability to look at the student's assessments and be able to almost create a pie chart of the standards to see where students are having trouble.

Superintendent Patrick Sullivan says it's been interesting watching Mr. Roberts do this work to match i-Ready Diagnostics with the MCAS performance, it tells them a lot when they do line up for the students about the next steps they'll have to take.

Dr. Scollins notes the SOA plan was shared with the school committee today and a little presentation was shared with SEPAC and their teachers this March, so they'll know what the plans are in April as well as the school councils and the PSO. Every year, the SOA plan is shared with stakeholders, so a survey will go out every year to ask families, teachers, administrators on how the progress is going and what things need to be done a little differently. They'll reconvene to create an instructional leadership team for literacy and create learning walk look for in elementary literacy looking for trends and patterns specifically around the interventions that are happening. Creating instructional leadership team to create look for in math (K-8).

Alison Bryant from 44 Hall Road comments she's heard there's a lot of Professional Development around Reader's Workshop and not being used for research based, but the research has shown that Readers Workshop is not an effective curriculum to use for students with reading disabilities. In terms of MTSS is the district looking to do more at the lower grades like Osgood School. When Ms. Bryant looked at some of the data that was provided for reading, there were groups that popped up and she asks is the school district frontloading the plan to specific learning disabilities starting early as possible to where they're not spending quality time later.

Dr. Scollins says there's all sorts of data out there and some of the data seen around Readers Workshop isn't that they're looking all around this to help students by using foundational skills, around phonics and phonemic awareness. They want to make sure students can read complex text and understand how to respond to what they're reading. In general, for students who are having challenges they want to know how that works and what more is needed to support those students.

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Teaching and Learning

➤ **Student Opportunity Act (SOA) Submission**

(Dr. Leslie Scollins, Mr. Rock Roberts, and Mrs. Barbara Cerwonka)

Dr. Scollins says they’ve been really looking at intervention along the way on how they’re going to intervene specifically for student’s needs. This is why they’re digging even deeper to see what’s out there, so they’ll have a pool of resources for their general education teachers and special education specialists.

Ms. Lesky appreciates the goal of closing the gap between special education students and regular education students but would also like to see more special education students “meeting expectations” on MCAS. Looking at the data from years past a disproportionate number of special education students are not “meeting expectations” and that to her is unacceptable, and they really need to focus on that population where many of whom do not suffer from intellectual disabilities, but rather learning disabilities. This laud that overarching goal and Ms. Lesky understands why that’s the goal for this particular project, but couched in that would be of her interest really seeing a significant change in the number of students that are “meeting expectations” on MCAS, making that leap from one designation to the other.

Motion to approve the Student Opportunity Act Plan for 2024-2027 as presented at the March 27th school committee meeting made by Mr. Carr, seconded by Vice Chair MacLellan.

Aye – All

Budget, Resources and Governance

• **Budget and Finance (Mrs. Susan Owen)**

➤ **Monthly Update**

As of February 29, 2024 the school department has expended \$13,701,927 out of the \$22,905,421 budget awarded (65.49%) and they are 66.67% through the school year. They have encumbered supplies and materials on purchase orders in the amount of \$1,301,049. There is a remaining balance of \$7,902,444 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. SPED tuition was budgeted at \$940,275 and is currently encumbered on purchase orders. The shortfall in tuitions has decreased from last month to this month of **-\$578,246 to -\$445,970**. This is a decrease in the amount of \$132,276 as they budgeted for full year tuition in one of their out of district programs and did not require the entire amount. A request has been made to draw funds from the SPED Stabilization Fund to help offset this deficit that needs to be approved by the Select Board.

<u>School</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Expended</u>	<u>Encumbrances</u>	<u>Balance</u>	<u>% Used</u>	<u>FTE</u>
Osgood	\$3,993,308	\$2,337,458	\$ 82,609	\$1,573,241	60.60%	53.10
Deer Hill	\$4,071,421	\$2,269,014	\$ 53,314	\$1,749,093	57.03%	45.80
Middle	\$4,138,878	\$2,154,803	\$5,339.45	\$1,978,736	52.19%	46.0
High School	\$7,097,617	\$4,246,348	\$ 194,867	\$2,656,403	62.57%	66.80

The schools are at 66.67% for this school year and they were awarded 65.49% and they’re watching this amount very carefully. Circuit Breaker Funding received in FY23 was \$1,170,609. This amount was carried over in its entirety into FY24 as part of the budget. This amount was based on a 75% reimbursement rate. Circuit Breaker Funding expected to be received in FY24 has been posted at \$1,034,108, a decrease of \$136,501 which will be rolled over in its entirety into FY25 as part of the budget. The reimbursement rate has remained at 75% for several years.

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Budget, Resources and Governance

• Budget and Finance (Mrs. Susan Owen)

➤ Monthly Update

Mrs. Owen says this year they’ve applied for the “Extraordinary Relief Fund” thru Circuit Breaker which is a program that allows districts to claim for extraordinary relief when claimable special education costs exceed 125% of previous year’s claimed costs. Reimbursements will be paid in May, 2024 and cannot be carried into next year. There is also a new program called “Reserve Relief Fund” which helps offset the 14% increase to private school tuition this year, and they have also applied for this. Reimbursements will be paid in May, 2024 and may be carried forward one year. The only concern is the special education tuition deficit which hopefully will be offset by the Circuit Breaker “Extraordinary Relief Fund” and the SPED Stabilization Fund.

The Chair has a question on the deficit on the current fiscal year budget of **-\$445,970**. This school committee approved a transfer from the Special Education Stabilization Fund of \$200,000 which was confirmed they can quote the full \$200,000 in their budget deficit for this fiscal year around \$245,000. Is this where they’ll use the potential accelerating the recognition of the Circuit Breaker Funding to close the gap if the other funding is unavailable.

Mrs. Owen says yes that the “Extraordinary Relief Fund” that comes in May has to be used in the budget. They don’t know what that number will be. Two years ago, they received about \$250,000 that will definitely close that gap. They also have the “Reserve Relief Fund” which could be used this year. Mrs. Owen will keep the school committee posted on that.

➤ FY25 Capital Update FY25 Draft Capital List

C	Bus Lease (8 Diesel Buses)	\$ 150,000	Q
C	Electric Bus Lease	\$ 25,000	Q
C	Replacement of Aging Chromebooks (540-3 yr. lease \$143,100)	\$ 69,000	Q
C	Replace all Projectors with Interactive Presentation Equipment (46-CHS)	\$ 225,483	Q
C	Replacement Furniture –Students/Staff (Deer Hill)	\$ 35,000	Q
C	Add Chromebooks (100 - Deer Hill Elementary)	\$ 35,000	Q
C	Indoor Signage in classrooms/hallways (CMHS)	\$ 50,000	
C	(2) New Athletic 15 Passenger Vans (48 Month Lease)	\$ 31,946	
C	Alumni Field Fence	\$ 80,000	

Chairman Dial would like to remind members of the school committee the FY25 Capital list hasn’t been approved as of yet. The next meeting will be preceded by a public forum and at that meeting where they’ll be asked to approve the budget. They need to do a soft circle of where they are as a committee this evening so they can proceed with those things. The Chair asks members of the school committee if there are any discussions or concerns about the Capital Items on this list shown. Earlier this week, Chairman Dial learned that the Capital Committee may take issue with the electric bus lease in the sense that their approval of the original request was premised on the school committee giving up a diesel bus and replacing it with the electric school bus. Apparently, there’s a significant concern on the Capital Committee about our school’s fleet growth.

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Budget, Resources and Governance

• **Budget and Finance (Mrs. Susan Owen)**

➤ **FY25 Capital Update**

FY25 Updated *Draft* Capital List

C	Bus Lease (8 Diesel Buses)	\$ 150,000	Q
C	Electric Bus Lease	\$ 25,000	Q
C	Replacement of Aging Chromebooks (540-3 yr. lease \$143,100)	\$ 69,000	Q
C	Replace all Projectors with Interactive Presentation Equipment (46-CHS)	\$ 225,483	Q
C	Replacement Furniture –Students/Staff (Deer Hill)	\$ 35,000	Q
C	Add Chromebooks (100 - Deer Hill Elementary)	\$ 35,000	Q
C	Indoor Signage in classrooms/hallways (CMHS)	\$ 50,000	
C	(2) New Athletic 15 Passenger Vans (48 Month Lease)	\$ 31,946	
C	Alumni Field Fence	\$ 80,000	

The Chair will be meeting with Capital on Monday, April 1st about the official Capital list to present the budget and they'll talk about the needs that they have now to their fleet growth. This relates to a number of reasons, one being, even though they have a fleet enrollment they'll have later start times, the reconfiguring of their start times has required them to go from three (3) separate routes to two (2) routes that means the school buses will be more crowded, and the routes will take longer. The district used to only have seven (7) individual bus routes, now they have (8) eight. They were finding especially at Deer Hill the crowds of students coming off the buses at the elementary schools led to bus times around 45 minutes at the long end for kids which made it difficult for the kids to meet their needs. They're running into a situation where they really need nine (9) buses. The Chair raised this because apparently this is going to be an item of discussion with Capital as to whether or not they can have a nine (9) bus fleet as opposed to the current. Capital is very concerned about the idea of adding a bus to their fleet which they understood and approving the electric bus they would be adding a bus, but Capital understood that they would be. There seems to be a disconnection, in any event, they do need to operate in the scheduling that they have now, and they'll need nine (9) buses.

Mrs. Owen would like to add they've always leased eight (8) school buses. Several years ago, they only had six (6) routes and then when they went to two tiers, they added seven (7) routes. They have two (2) buses that are spares for athletics, field trips, or had breakdowns. The fleet grew to be eight (8) school buses and eight (8) routes because of overcrowding. They haven't added a bus to their fleet, they've always had two (2) that just sat. When they met as a sub-committee this list is what they came up for from the Stabilization Fund.

S	Fire Alarms (CMHS) Engineering Study	\$ 175,000	Q
S	Alumni Field Fence	\$ 80,000	Q
S	Safety of Buildings-lighting, health & infrastructure considerations, and signage	\$ 250,000	
	Middle School/High School		
S	Osgood Roof (funding towards roof \$3M-\$4M)	\$ 695,000	
S	Finish Retiling all Classrooms at Deer Hill	\$ 300,000	
	Grand Total	\$ 2,071,429	

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Budget, Resources and Governance

- **Budget and Finance (Mrs. Susan Owen)**
 - **FY25 Capital Update**

Mr. Carr says they looked at this as a mechanism for them to accomplish the recommendations from the experts that reported the things they need to keep up with.

Mr. MacLellan notices that the paving is now not on the list.

Mr. Carr says the cost of paving is very expensive for them at the moment and they should go after the things that they could accomplish. The safety of buildings would be a one-time expenditure out of this year's budget to accomplish the things that are on their recommended list to get done.

Mr. Kearney has been on this school committee for the last 5 years and he feels like he kind of wasted his time trying to fight for things that are needed for the schools, they just keep kicking the can down the road. He feels ridiculous to walk around the grounds here and see stuff that can be just power washed, painted, it's not a lot of things. It's these little things that's not a big ask.

The Chair says he supports all this, but the bigger purpose of these things is the Stabilization Fund. The Stabilization Fund is not meant for any of these. The Stabilization Fund is recognition of the long term of the next 10 years, and they have massive expenses coming up for their schools. This Stabilization Fund is already spent. They told the Town when they approved it that's what they're going to do. As much as these needs are acute, important, safety, and aesthetics issues, the ones that fit in the Stabilization Fund with Chairman Dial having been part of that committee that helped establish this are the fire alarms, an unexpected counter expense if they're going to get a million dollars that will fit here. The Deer Hill tiling is a Capital expense that they need to get done for the purpose of maintaining the buildings. The roof doesn't need to be in the budget in particular. Another important thing to keep in mind about the Stabilization Fund is the money is in the account. Every year it changes and every year it is banked. It is the school's money, and the only thing they have to do is get approval from the Select Board at a Town meeting.

Mr. Carr says they should spend things they can afford, fix the stuff that needs to be fixed, save for the future, and accomplish these things in a very tight budget with help from this new fund. If some of this stuff is not permissible in the new fund, Mr. Carr is much more in favor of this approach.

Mr. Kearney says this school district needs a full-time school facilities director most districts do. They can split someone with the Town. If they had a facilities director this person could go out and get all these things done.

Vice Chair MacLellan says none of the decisions he makes related to the budget have anything to do with what he feels on the Capital's opinion will be about it. Mr. MacLellan has had so many interactions with them that have been in his opinion extremely discouraging to the point where he doesn't concern himself with their perception of what is correct or meritorious or not it is. Vice Chair MacLellan says he makes decisions based on what he thinks is best for a person, makes the best decisions for students, for the staff, and for families.

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Budget, Resources and Governance

• **Budget and Finance (Mrs. Susan Owen)**

➤ **FY25 Capital Update**

Vice Chair MacLellan asks if they could somehow switch line items on the FY25 Capital list such as \$250,000 to work with like improved signage, painting, aesthetics, power washing around the buildings because then this looks like at least they're making progress here. Hearing Mr. Kearney's point, Vice Chair MacLellan feels torn about this.

The Chair says nobody here doesn't disagree about all the things Mr. Kearney said. The only question he has which is up for debate is whether or not the Stabilization Fund is the appropriate vehicle for that, and the Chair feels strongly it's not. All the things that Mr. Kearney identified are stuff they need to do every year, and that money is meant to be spent every year. The Chair worries about taking this away from the Stabilization Fund in particular, but for the Capital Fund because it minimizes the fact that these are recurring expenses. They need to budget for these, not just put a band aid on them. The only objection the Chair has with the Stabilization Fund on the Capital list is the Alumni Field fence that should be taken off this list.

S	Fire Alarms (CMHS) Engineering Study	\$ 175,000	Q
S	Alumni Field Fence	\$ 80,000	Q
S	Safety of Buildings-lighting, health & infrastructure considerations, and signage Middle School/High School	\$ 250,000	
S	Osgood Roof (funding towards roof \$3M-\$4M)	\$ 695,000	
S	Finish Retiling all Classrooms at Deer Hill	\$ 300,000	
	Grand Total	\$ 2,071,429	

Mr. Carr points out the item line with the safety of buildings and lighting, and all the other stuff is appropriate for the Stabilization Fund and that they should budget every year for that line item constantly, they have to start somewhere. The other line item the Chair would like to take off the list is the Osgood roof because they don't need to earmark that money it just stays in the account, use for other functions going forward.

Ms. Lesky feels the \$250,000 line item is just too broad and too big, because she agrees with all of those things. As a committee they should have that AI3 report come back and be able to say it's these four (4) things that they're taking care of that's where these ideas came from. It's not the content, it's just the specifics around it.

The Chair proposes the FY25 Capital list be presented to Capital since they don't have a consensus view from this school committee.

➤ **FY25 Budget Update**

Chairman Dial states this is the last formal school committee meeting they'll have before they have a public forum on FY25 budget.

Mrs. Owen says the sub-committee had discussions about the FY25 budget as well along with Chairman Dial, Dr. Sullivan, and the Town's Facilities Manager, Chris Senior. The salary rollover scale was \$1,335,253 which is reflected as part of their entire salary rollover.

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Budget, Resources and Governance

• Budget and Finance (Mrs. Susan Owen)

➤ FY25 Budget Update

The next group is the special education SPED tuitions that changed with a decrease in Circuit Breaker Funding of \$136,500 increasing tuition to \$464,425. Mrs. Owen found out a lot of districts are doing this because of their deficit in SPED tuition. The other districts are using that one-time payment to help offset their SPED tuition deficits. The Circuit Breaker Funding can be spent contemporaneously in the year it comes or the year that follows. Mrs. Owen says they usually hold back a year and wait for budget practices but the consensus on many other financial decisions this is how they're solving it. They could do this every year and keep going. Obviously, what most of them want to do is recap that money if this is the year they don't have as much savings, they don't use it. They don't use it and they can build it back up in a full year.

They had four (4) ESP positions that were not filled this year, and Mrs. Cerwonka felt that because her department went without these four (4) ESP positions this whole year where she could use two (2) ESP positions with the budget of \$50,000. They don't know what they'll receive from the SPED Reserve Relief Fund that will come to them in May. Mrs. Owen made some reduction changes to some of the supplies/materials on what they have to have and what they could live without and saved \$19,887. Currently they have savings of \$74,887 to help offset their budget. Mrs. Owen says they're looking at \$1,422,765 in the FY25 budget with 6.21% they need.

The Chair asks if Mrs. Owen could look through the FY25 budget to see if there are areas where they can make reallocations and find a way to create a maintenance line for their buildings. This might be a worthy goal if nothing else, then they can create a line item and put it to zero. They can start thinking about that in future years as funding becomes available. This will help them to be more disciplined in their planning around the budget. The FY25 budget will be presented at the Budget Forum two Wednesday's from now and reminds members of the school committee they come 30 minutes earlier, the School Budget Forum is at 5:30 PM, not 6:00 PM, then they'll have their regular school committee meeting at 6:00 PM.

• Food Service

The new Food Service Director, Vinnie, has been working diligently to get the "Senior Skipper Café" open and ready to serve meals to senior students by May 1st so current Seniors have a chance to experience it. There is also new signage at the Elementary schools which showcase menus and options for lunches and breakfast.

Community Relations / Communication

• Reports from School Committee Sub-Committees and Liaison

The charging station for the new electric school bus has been installed and charged. The commissioning of the station has happened, and they are now waiting for training to be provided by the vendor to all school bus drivers, the electric school bus should be arriving soon!!!!

Mr. Carr reports he spoke with the AEC and the electric school bus is coming soon and the AEC would like to work with the Town and the school committee for a sunny celebratory event potentially during Earth Day week, the end of April. This would be good for the school committee to participate in. What's great about this electric school bus is all maintenance is included and the fuel is free. There are certain benefits for the Blue Bird bus to go off to happy hunting grounds. The AEC have worked really hard partnering with the school committee to get this electric school bus.

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Community Relations / Communication

• Reports from School Committee Sub-Committees and Liaison

Vice Chair MacLellan along with the leadership team had a meeting this past Monday with the Norfolk County District Attorney's Office and their community relations division along with CPS leadership team and representatives from the D.A.'s office for loose plan for a presentation they hope to try and roll out in the Fall relative to the digital citizenship issues where CPS has a partnership with the District Attorney's Office and then this will be linked to a family presentation for a student and staff presentation and it'll be linked to lessons that students receive throughout the year, and try to make this an annual event.

School Committee Governance

• Vote for Statement of Interest for Cohasset High School**

Having convened in an open meeting on March 27, 2024, prior to the SOI submission closing date. The school committee of the Town of Cohasset in accordance with its charter bylaws, and ordinances has voted to authorize the Superintendent to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest form dated March 26, 2024 for the Cohasset High School located at 143 Pond Street Cohasset, Massachusetts which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the primary categories for which an application may be submitted in the future. One, elimination of severe overcrowding. Two, replacement renovation, or modernization of school facility systems such as roofs, windows, boilers, heating, and ventilation systems to increase energy conservation and decrease energy related costs in a school facility. Three, replacement of, or addition to obsolete buildings in order to provide for a full range of programs consistent with State and approved local requirements and hereby further specifically acknowledges that by submitting this Statement of Interest form, the Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance or approval of an application. The according of a grant or any funding commitment from the Massachusetts School Building Authority or commits the Town of Cohasset to file an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

Motion made by Vice Chair MacLellan to approve the Statement of Interest for Cohasset High School seconded by Mr. Kearney.

Aye - All

Cohasset Public Schools
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Empower Students to Improve Communities

School Committee Governance

• Vote for Statement of Interest for Cohasset Middle School**

Having convened in an open meeting on March 27, 2024, prior to the SOI submission closing date. The school committee of the Town of Cohasset in accordance with its charter bylaws, and ordinances has voted to authorize the Superintendent to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest form dated March 26, 2024 for the Cohasset Middle School located at 143 Pond Street Cohasset, Massachusetts which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the primary categories for which an application may be submitted in the future. (1) elimination of severe overcrowding, (2) replacement renovation, or modernization of school facility systems such as roofs, windows, boilers, heating, and ventilation systems to increase energy conservation and decrease energy related costs in a school facility and (3) replacement of, or addition to obsolete buildings in order to provide for a full range of programs consistent with State and approved local requirements and hereby further specifically acknowledges that by submitting this Statement of Interest form, the Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance or approval of an application. The according of a grant or any funding commitment from the Massachusetts School Building Authority or commits the Town of Cohasset to file an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

Motion made by Vice Chair MacLellan to approve the Statement of Interest for Cohasset Middle School, seconded by Ms. Lesky.

Aye - All

School Committee Governance

• Superintendent Search Committee Report

The Chair addresses members of the school committee that there will be a Special School Committee meeting for Wednesday, April 3, 2024 for the sole purpose of interviews with the three (3) finalists for the new Superintendent of Cohasset Public Schools. This meeting will not have any virtual options.

• Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair

A gift was given to the school from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Norfolk District Attorney office that they provide to schools every year for \$500 for Prom and Graduation night safety celebrations. This gift will go to the PSO to help fund alcohol awareness and drug free events held at Deer Hill.

Motion was made to accept gift from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Norfolk District Attorney Office by Mr. Carr, seconded by Vice Chair MacLellan.

Aye - All

• Approval of Minutes**

The school committee has two (2) sets of minutes to approve. The first set of minutes are February 28, 2024 to which Mr. Carr was not present. The second set of minutes are for March 13, 2024.

A motion was made to approve the February 28, 2024 school committee minutes by Vice Chair MacLellan, seconded by Ms. Lesky with one abstain from Mr. Carr who was not present at that meeting.

Aye – All

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School Committee Governance

• **Approval of Minutes****

A motion was made to approve the March 13, 2024 school committee minutes by Vice Chair MacLellan, seconded by Mr. Carr.

Aye – All

• **Future Agenda Items**

The Chair states there are none.

• **Adjourn****

A motion to adjourn the March 27, 2024 regular meeting of the Cohasset School Committee at 10:06 PM made by Vice Chair MacLellan, seconded by Ms. Lesky.

Aye - All

****Requires Committee Vote / Action**

Minutes for the March 27, 2024
Cohasset School Committee meeting,
respectfully submitted from Kathy Bock
April 4, 2024