

Cohasset Public Schools
Empower Students to Improve Communities

COHASSET SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
Wednesday, May 22, 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: Paul Kearney
Craig MacLellan, Vice Chair
Jennifer Lesky

Also, In Attendance: Ella Lynch, Superintendent Student Advisory Council Liaison
Superintendent Student Advisory Council Liaison’s Awards & Recognitions
Wellness Committee Recognitions
Joseph Osgood School 2nd Grade Math Specialists, Teachers, and Students
Lisa Farrell, Principal Joseph Osgood School
Alexandra Sullivan, Principal Deer Hill School
Susan Owen, Director of Finance and Operations
Dr. Leslie Scollins, Assistant Superintendent
Dr. Patrick Sullivan, Superintendent

AGENDA

Call to Order was made by Vice Chair Craig MacLellan for Wednesday, May 22, 2024 at 6:01 p.m. All members of the Cohasset School Committee who are present are asked by the Vice Chair to please indicate so with **Roll Call: Mr. Kearney-Present; Ms. Lesky-Present; Mr. MacLellan-Present.**
Mr. Carr and Mr. Dial will not be attending this evening due to professional obligations.

Opening Remarks

Mr. MacLellan kindly reminds the audience and those attending virtually, the next section on the school committee agenda is for public comment. Public comment is reserved for questions, comments, inquiries, or thoughts that are not related to a subject matter of one or more agenda items. If anyone has questions, or comments relative to one of the agenda items, please wait until the meeting arrives at that point on the agenda with questions and/or comments.

Public Comment

None

Invited Guests

• **Superintendent Student Advisory Council (SSAC) Liaison Report (Ella Lynch)**

Ella Lynch is currently a Junior, and a rising Senior at Cohasset High School who also served on the Superintendent Search Committee. Ella reports “First and foremost, teachers and students are excited for the school year to be over”. There’s been lots of “End of Year” events happening at CHS this week. The National Honor’s Society Gala was held today for the first time which was really nice with members of the National Honor’s Society sharing their service projects from the year with Scholar Awards presented to CHS Senior class.

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• Superintendent Student Advisory Council (SSAC) Liaison Report (Ella Lynch)

Sports teams signed out at Cohasset High School with a successful season. The Girl's Lacrosse team is playing their last game tonight and hopes for a win. Softball, along with Track & Field have been in the leagues and states that qualified students for things. Everything is wrapping up nicely, everyone is just so excited for Summer.

• Recognition of Superintendent Student Advisory Council (SSAC) & Wellness Committee

Dr. Sullivan would like to share one of the best things that happened as Superintendent here is the increase in student voice, and this district should be very proud of that. Dr. Sullivan recalls 5 years ago he asked the Middle School and High School Principals if some students would like to provide input to share with Dr. Scollins, Leadership team, as well as himself. They wanted to know what students wanted to see more of or anything that needed to be attentive to. Some really big projects came out of this throughout the years. One was gathering student voice, and a couple years back was student's stress and how they would try to combat that. It was great because not only did they have Dr. Sullivan's ear on that but had all the building Principals as well and the building Principals really spent a lot of time drilling down into survey work, a lot of conversations with students, trying to figure out what indeed was causing the stress on students. This was reflected strongly in Principal Scott's emphasis on the process which is heard a lot here being a high achieving school district and have high achieving students and want to make sure they're whole and understand the leadership team are all here to support students to develop the whole child as well. The Superintendent Student Advisory Council also worked through COVID and through COVID the SSAC really became Dr. Sullivan's tie to how students were doing at home working virtually with their teachers. Dr. Sullivan had meetings with this group here tonight virtually and getting input on how that was going where he was very concerned with students' wellness at that point from a physical sense and also from a social, emotional sense with on-line learning. The SSAC and the Wellness Committee here tonight really helped build that bridge with the new Food Service Director coming in helping him with feedback from their fellow peers . Dr. Sullivan is really proud of them all for moving this forward for the district and for the entire town of Cohasset. This is filled with voices from students and it's nice to see more students feeling so proud about the food being served here every day and seeing students have more say in that, a job well done.

A couple of years ago, Dr. Scollins and the leadership team looked at ways on how to grow the Wellness Committee, revised the policy and within that they really looked at having more voice from a variety of stakeholders. This has been a game changer at least from Dr. Scollins perspective on the Wellness policy and everything they do because students are the consumers and know exactly what they need, and they've been really vocal about it. This group here tonight on the Wellness Committee has been great with the new Food Service Director and that was a big piece. They've also talked about what is needed in classrooms and around Physical Education, health, and wellness, this team here tonight was amazing!

Certificates of Recognition Were Awarded to Members on the SSAC Presented by Superintendent Patrick Sullivan

Farah Wilson, Freshman CHS
Nathan Askjaer, Junior CHS
Charlie Lankow, Senior CHS
Ella Lynch, Junior CHS
Graham Simmons
Luke Hurley
Noah McDowell

Dominique Vechiola, 8th Grade CMS
Stephanie Williams, 8th Grade CMS
Louis Melville, Junior CHS
Lester Bodell, Senior CHS
Jack Kearney
Grace Shaughnessy
Dylan Jewell

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• Recognition of Superintendent Student Advisory Council (SSAC) & Wellness Committee

***Certificates of Recognition Were Awarded to Members on the Wellness Committee Presented by
Assistant Superintendent Leslie Scollins***

Louis Melville
Lester Bodell
Aiden Karaki

Lila Jackson
Nora Plastery
Brooke Smith

Ms. Lesky expresses her thanks to all members of the SSAC for being here tonight. Ms. Lesky is a new School Committee member herself and she says the SSAC has been hugely helpful for her hearing student reports at each School Committee meeting, their voices had impacting information for Dr. Scollins, Dr. Sullivan, to share with members of the School Committee. Ms. Lesky knows all the SSAC members have been extremely busy missing lunch with friends or a study hall, missing practices, and homework. All those things are a gift that they're all doing not only to the adults that help to run the school, but also to their schoolmates and the school community. She hopes they'll continue to do this to be involved in key needs, especially those involved in servicing communities they're in.

Mr. Kearney loves how the younger people in this community give back. All of the members on the SSAC and the Wellness Committee are really good role models and he's so proud of them all, keep up the good work. Also, thank you Dr. Scollins, it's nice to see the passion there because that was something that was built from a foundation 2 years ago.

Mr. MacLellan knows this is a big year for a lot of these students in different ways. They've put themselves in a position where they're called upon to give candid input to the adults that run the school, which can be sort of awkward and obviously burdensome in addition to everything that's already expected from them. This school district is so lucky to have these students who are willing to do that. The School Committee's goal is to make this district the best possible learning experience for students. The insights that the SSAC shared with members of the School Committee where they take the consumer's perspective into consideration are really so important and this School Committee can't thank them enough.

Invited Guests

• Joseph Osgood School Spotlight on Learning: Number Corner for Math
(Ms. Caitlin Conrad, Ms. Kailey Schneider, Ms. Marcia Campbell, Ms. Sarah Cucinatto and Students)

Number Corner is just one aspect of the Math curriculum taught at the Joseph Osgood School and the Deer Hill School. The 2nd grade class accompanying Math Specialists, and Math teachers demonstrate how students engage in the classroom with Number Corner.

Ms. Lesky likes everything about math language and the reinforcement of skills that were placed and demonstrated by the 2nd grade students here tonight and validated there are multiple ways to solve a problem. The most important thing about the Bridges Program is it allows students to work the way they like best.

Mr. Kearney appreciates how these 2nd grade students showed that Math can be fun.

Mr. MacLellan knows this can be hard for some students to be in front of an audience and these 2nd grade students naturally mastered that. Thank you to the teachers and students for demonstrating Number Corner tonight.

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- **Joseph Osgood School Handbook- (Principal Lisa Farrell) ****
 - Remove Staff List
 - Update District Calendar Link Pg 9
 - Update Snack Section Added Water Bottle Comment Pg 16
 - Update Title IX Grid Pg 6
 - Add AI Statement Pg 11 [*How technology is utilized in the school district*]
- **Joseph Osgood School Improvement Plan (SIP)- (Principal Lisa Farrell) ****

<u>Joseph Osgood School Data</u>			
<u>2023-2024 Student Enrollment</u>		<u>2023-2024 Average Class Size</u>	
Preschool	39	Preschool	10
Kindergarten	108	Kindergarten	18
Grade 1	118	Grade 1	20
Grade 2	128	Grade 2	21
Total	393		
2023-2024 Student-Teacher Ratio 11:3 (Includes Classroom Teachers, SPED Teachers, Specialists, and Curriculum Specialists)			

SMART Goal #1 The biggest addition to the Strategic Plan was for Goal #1 to align with Cohasset Student Opportunity Act. During the 2024-2025 school year, the Joseph Osgood School will continue to increase student learning in the areas of literacy and assessment. The increase will directly result from Professional Development offered throughout the year in literacy and continued Professional Development in assessment and data analysis. This improvement in student learning will be evidenced by progress in the Reading and Math i-Ready assessments of at least 30% school-wide.

SMART Goal #2 During the 2024-2025 school year, the Joseph Osgood School will continue to implement responsive classroom strategies focused on promoting equitable opportunities for the social emotional wellness of students. The Joseph Osgood School will implement strategies from the Zones of Regulation curriculum and Social Thinking curriculum to support students in recognizing and expressing their emotions both in school and at home.

SMART Goal #3 Changes were made specifically with a survey from data just received. During the 2024-2025 school year, the Joseph Osgood School will continue to study the most effective ways of communication with all PreK-2 families. The communications will be timely, concise, and easy to access. Family engagement in classrooms and programs will be revisited as suggested through the Family survey. Community engagement will continue to be fostered through outside partnerships.

SMART Goal #4 The most important part for this section is the action plan to develop a monthly plan to include the high school, the middle school, and several other activities done this year. These collaborations will link the two schools and offer other support for both communities. During the 2024-2025 school year, the Joseph Osgood School will develop an Early Education Transition Program for incoming Kindergarten students and families. With the addition of a new Preschool classroom, they will enhance school wide communications to all new families, communications will be timely, concise, and easy to access. The transition program into Preschool then late Kindergarten will provide families with information about school and developmental information that will help as they begin the educational journey through the Cohasset Public Schools.

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• Joseph Osgood School Improvement Plan (SIP)- (Principal Lisa Farrell) **

Ms. Lesky asks where would a parent find a list of staff if this is removed from the JOS handbook? Would this be on the district website? Building the community with photos of staff members, not just a name, but a face would be helpful to make that connection.

Mr. Kearney can see student involvement in every action plan, and it’s so important especially to those grade levels, this is fantastic. A lot of folks in this town go to school community events and school meetings and he likes to see people more engaged other than just participate.

Mr. MacLellan thanks Principal Farrell for thinking of the working parent to innovate and find ways to incorporate their perspectives, that’s really creative and will be welcomed.

Invited Guests

• Deer Hill School Handbook (Principal Alexandra Sullivan)**

- Removed Staff Directory
- Removed Twitter in Opening Letter to Families
- Added Water Bottle Comment
- Update to Drop-Off Procedures for Student Items to Minimize Classroom Disruptions
- Update to Superintendent’s Name
- Update of Title IX Grid
- Update to AI Statement

• Deer Hill School Improvement Plan (SIP) – (Principal Alexandra Sullivan)**

<u>Deer Hill School Data</u>			
<u>2023-2024 Student Enrollment</u>		<u>2024-2025 Student Enrollment</u> <i>(anticipated)</i>	
Grade 3	110	Grade 3	128
Grade 4	105	Grade 4	112
Grade 5	105	Grade 5	105
Total	320	Total	345

<u>Deer Hill School Data</u>			
<u>2023-2024 Average Class Size</u>		<u>2024-2025 Average Class Size</u> <i>(anticipated)</i>	
Grade 3	18.3	Grade 3	21.3
Grade 4	21	Grade 4	22.4
Grade 5	21	Grade 5	21
2023-2024 Student-Teacher Ratio 1.10:6		2024-2025 Student-Teacher Ratio 1.11:5	
(Includes Classroom Teachers, SPED Teachers, Specialists, and Curriculum Specialists)			

The Deer Hill School had a very good year with MCAS results and received acknowledgements in growth. Today was the last MCAS makeup and those results will be shared out. Tomorrow the Deer Hill School will officially be done with MCAS 2024.

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• Deer Hill School Improvement Plan (SIP) – (Principal Alexandra Sullivan)**

Principal Alexandra Sullivan would like to acknowledge the wonderful school council at Deer Hill School. Karen Johnston, Teacher Representative; Michael Masari, Teacher Representative; Lauren Wagner, Parent Representative who co-chairs with Principal Sullivan; Emma Richardson, Parent Representative; Jessica Catadella, Parent Representative, and Jennifer Lesky, School Committee Liaison. The School Council members are very dedicated and put a lot of effort into analyzing survey results and help craft goals for Deer Hill School with input.

SMART Goal #1 During the 2024-2025 school year, Deer Hill School will explore pathways to increase opportunities in Social Studies and Science. The transition with their strategic plan was they chose the language very carefully with action plan items around exploring, analyzing, and getting a lot of input. They've given attention to their Math and Literacy programs in rolling those and done a lot of work in integrating time to balance those pieces. The Action Plan has a logistical piece and has already gotten a lot of attention to analyzing classroom and schoolwide scheduling to maximize instructional time and provide opportunities for deep dives into Social Studies and Science content. Focus on that publicity piece so families know what's happening at Deer Hill School. High School students from the Green Team, and the Environmental Studies class have been huge partners in science education in the DHS classrooms this year.

SMART Goal #2 During the 2024-2025 school year, Deer Hill School will engage all stakeholders in an analysis of current homework practices and the development of cohesive expectations within and across grade levels. This came out through family surveys on the importance of literacy, but there's really no anchor or compass to really guide them. This year they're really going to be leveraging this to get parents participatory in their processes and perhaps hosting a forum where families are invited to participate and talk about this. Principal Alexandra Sullivan is looking for a Representative from each of these stakeholder groups. In some ways this gives it a little cachet and it feels more interactive opposed to being talked to. The Student Advisory Council will definitely have some opinions about homework. Principal Sullivan had already received a letter from Daniel Bradshaw, a 5th grade student who shared his thoughts in a very well written essay making some great points.

SMART Goal #3 During the 2024-2025 school year, Deer Hill School will explore participation with teacher to parent involvement and incorporate a minimum of 3 new engagement opportunities for families. There was a leadership team meeting earlier this year that really resonated with Principal Sullivan that talked about Epstein's model of parent involvement where she found herself referencing it in staff meetings in different times that seemed appropriate as a whole on different ways they're engaging. The first step is making this very visible with what that model is and looking at those different buckets of how parents can get involved with more concrete pathways to that. They had a great meeting earlier this Spring with Mr. MacLellan and other members of the leadership team to talk about how they can collaborate with the Norfolk County District Attorney's office on digital safety and literacy, with all those pieces really bubbling up. Principal Alexandra Sullivan says they were very fortunate this year with 3 teachers were able to attend a METCO conference and they came back energized and really vested to how to build those relationships.

Ms. Lesky says it was an honor to be a part of the process and see what a wonderful council they have.

Mr. Kearney feels it's such a good and safe community environment over at the Osgood School and Deer Hill School with Principal Farrell and Principal Sullivan there.

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• Deer Hill School Improvement Plan (SIP) – (Principal Alexandra Sullivan)**

Mr. MacLellan notes an edit to Principal Farrell's School Improvement Plan Elements [bottom of pg. 3]. Also, Mr. MacLellan would like to point out to both Principal Farrell and Principal Sullivan in terms of family engagement about the attendance of events seem to be backloaded in the school year at the Osgood and Deer Hill School. He feels that a lot of the parents are feeling these events are scheduled towards the end of the year all at once, and perhaps these family engagement events could be spread out a bit more throughout the school year that relates to Principal Sullivan's SMART Goal #3. The district is very lucky to have Principal Farrell and Principal Sullivan. He sees how the kids interact whenever they're at the Osgood and Deer Hill Schools, thank you both so much for all their hard work.

**The motion was made by Ms. Lesky to approve the Handbooks for both the Joseph Osgood School and Deer Hill School as presented tonight by Principal Farrell and Principal Sullivan, seconded by Mr. Kearney.
Aye-All**

**The motion was made by Mr. Kearney to approve the School Improvement Plans for the Joseph Osgood School and Deer Hill School as presented tonight by Principal Farrell and Principal Sullivan, seconded by Ms. Lesky.
Aye-All**

School Updates

• School News (Dr. Patrick Sullivan)

Principal Mills spoke with the 5th grade and 6th grade classrooms about the step-by-step transition process that is yielding with some great results namely from students that are just really excited to come into Cohasset Middle School and they feel comfortable for next year. This started with a survey where students were able to give their thoughts on it. Students tour CMS and then there's also a family engagement night that happens too. This has been the Cohasset process over the last few years getting students and families excited about Middle School.

Dr. Scollins notes the 5th grade class took a pair assessment on the social, emotional checklist to see where students are at so that information will go to the Middle School. This gives a baseline to educators as new students are coming to CMS.

The Deer Hill School held an amazing Spelling Bee with Dr. Scollins as a Judge with Mr. MacLellan there that was a lot of fun and very successful. A big thank you to the Cohasset Educational Foundation (CEF) for sponsoring this great event.

May the 4th be with you has become a staple around many schools in the country where students and staff are using the Star Wars theme "May the 4th be with you" opposed to "May the force be with you," which is obviously celebrated May 4th.

Superintendent Patrick Sullivan would like to thank *Mr. Yeomans* and the Cohasset Educational Foundation (CEF) who provided a grant for enough bicycles to use for a gym class at the Deer Hill School. They're trying to organize a school day on June 5th where students can ride their bicycles to school. They're in the process of getting a sense of how many people want to do this because that's a big factor in making sure it's safe.

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School Updates

• School News (Dr. Patrick Sullivan)

One of the best things about this program is there are students who may not know how to ride a bicycle. In this arena, students can feel safe even if they don't know how to ride a bicycle, because some kids do ride scooters. It's a different comfort level, but Mr. Yeomans also teaches students how to change a tire with that mechanical piece to it, a wonderful program at the Deer Hill School.

The Cohasset High School held their Arts Night that was wonderful. Dr. Sullivan thanks Ms. Berkowitz, Ms. Moriarty, and all the teachers at the High School who always do a fabulous job in showcasing amazing students in the Arts.

There were lovely Spring outdoor concerts at the Joseph Osgood School with K-2 students. Dr. Sullivan would like to thank the Music teachers and the whole Osgood School community who did a fabulous job there.

The Cohasset Public Schools now has a tradition with pictures of all students throughout the school's campus grounds. A special thanks to Mr. MacLellan for his work in getting the ball rolling with this. It really sends a message about how much they value all the students here in Cohasset and makes it a real family community. The Senior Prom is this coming Friday at 6:00 PM. Dr. Sullivan expresses his gratitude and thanks to the Congregational Church in Cohasset who is helping since they no longer have a Town Hall. A scholarship evening will be held after the long Memorial Day weekend and Dr. Sullivan would like to thank everyone in the community who makes this a special event for the students. They're gearing up for Graduation for the Senior's which will be held on June 1st which is a major event at the South Shore Music Circus.

Mrs. Hanson's class held a Mock Trial at the Courthouse, an introduction to a Law course. Vice Chair MacLellan was gracious enough to attend, which he's done this a couple of times, and Dr. Sullivan would like to really thank him for providing this opportunity, a real authentic learning experience for the students. Some students are going into law, and all of whom are learning about the process of law.

Vice Chair MacLellan has participated in a Mock Trial with Mrs. Hanson's interlock course for the last few years and it's great. The Hingham District Court is the closest courthouse to support this in the county. Vice Chair MacLellan works at the Hingham District Court and knows a lot of folks there as well as the presiding Judge, Heather Bradley who makes this possible for this district. The course includes an observation day where students come and observe real court proceedings and each representative of each major department in the court, the Presiding Justice, Chief Probation Officer, Chief Court Officer, Supervising District Attorney, Victim Advocate, Defense Attorney Representative who is usually Mr. MacLellan, and police prosecutors from the Hingham Police Department participates in this as well and speaks to the students. Then Mr. MacLellan will go into the classroom and instruct students a little bit on the specific cases that they're working on to help put their thoughts together into direct examinations, cross examinations, closing arguments, or opening statements depending on the student's role in this. The final part of this law course for the students is where students come into the Court House with a court room reserved for a little jury where students can see the jury and attorney cross examining the witness. This is a great experience for the students and Mr. MacLellan is glad they were able to do this project-based learning experience for them.

Mr. Kearney thanks Vice Chair MacLellan, his daughter Bella had a blast participating in the Mock Trial. This is another thing for getting kids out of their comfort zone and introducing students to law is so exciting.

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Teaching and Learning

• Academic Initiatives (Dr. Leslie Scollins)

Recently, Dr. Scollins attended an “End of the Year” celebration with 13 amazing new teachers, this is what she loves the most about her job is spending time with the teachers. The district really lucked out with the new staff hired. The mentors are amazing and some of them have done this for many, many years, and for some it’s their 1st time.

Today the PreK Professional Development wrapped up their series for Preschool teachers. This program grew in the district here and these teachers worked with the TLA and created a consortium with Plymouth, Hingham, and Duxbury that gives 3 series throughout the year around how to merge a curriculum with preschooler’s they were able to present their unit planning that was really exciting to see.

Ms. Lesky really likes the attention given when mentoring new teachers and knows how critical that absolutely is the first year of teaching in a new district. Recognizing the end of the school year as a milestone is absolutely lovely and meaningful because it really helps educators stay connected to each other and to the idea of being an educational community versus someone coming in a classroom punching in and out. That togetherness is so critical that made her think about co-teaching that also allows for some really wonderful mentoring that puts the district in a really great position when there is a turnover there to be an ongoing mentor and have supervision in some classes as needed.

Superintendent Patrick Sullivan comments that one of the many things Dr. Scollins has championed in the district is the idea of everyone getting a facilitator or a mentor no matter what their teaching experience is. First of all, they need to do something good viral that needs to get acclimated, but also create an amazing Professional Learning Community where they have teachers in a group who have no experience in teaching but a tremendous amount of potential. Not every district does this, and Dr. Sullivan hopes Cohasset continues to do this because it’s paying off.

Vice Chair MacLellan would like to note for the record during the Elementary Principal’s presentation stated they’re very appreciative to what they do. Mr. MacLellan doesn’t want constituents just believe that everything is “hunky dory.” They’re always looking for ways to improve and always very sensitive as administrators are to the most vulnerable learners and they all believe they’re only as strong as the most vulnerable learners are. This comment came from the generalization of the student’s experience and acknowledges that the struggle to come to school every day needs to be addressed.

Budget, Resources and Governance

• Alice and Walter Shuebruk Scholarship Discussion Regarding Terms **

One of the things the Administration has been doing recently is working with the new Town Accountant and really looking at scholarships. They have many, many scholarships they were fortunate enough to be able to provide to students. Some of these scholarships have been with them for decades. The particular scholarship Dr. Sullivan is going to talk about is the “Alice and Walter Shuebruk Scholarship” that was established in 1979. There’s a principal amount of money on it and that money earns interest on it as it goes. They wanted to make sure how much they had on all of these scholarships based on the interest that’s accrued from 1979 to give a sense of what they can use for each scholarship, and how much money they can use each year to successfully perpetuate scholarships throughout the years. They’re also looking at the criteria that were set for each scholarship. With changes to building principals, and changes with scholarship committees, the wording can get a little different and cannot necessarily stick with what the inception of the scholarship is for.

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Budget, Resources and Governance

• Alice and Walter Shuebruk Scholarship Discussion Regarding Terms **

The Alice and Walter Shuebruk Scholarship which was established in 1979 with beneficiaries who are a person graduating from Cohasset High School who gives promise of contributing to the wellbeing, knowledge, or enjoyment of the people of his/her community, state, or nation, who will continue training education at an educational institution approved by the Superintendent with the consent and approval from the School Committee. There's a note to this scholarship that says the Town of Cohasset or the Superintendent with the consent and approval of the School Committee may prescribe rules to effectuate the scholarship in terms set in the forum. Dr. Sullivan would like to propose they allow Principal Scott and whoever may be the Principal in future years prescribed it, hopefully for a long time as they move forward and can make changes to this if need be, but allow the Principal and the scholarship committee as they do to award this in reflection of what it's supposed to be awarded as, to whomever they wish and how many people they wish to be awarded.

A motion was made by Mr. Kearney the Superintendent of Cohasset Public Schools recommends the person with the finger closest to the pulse of a particular class makes the decision as best suited and best posture to do so be awarded the Alice and Walter Shuebruk Scholarship, seconded by Ms. Lesky. Aye-All

• Gift from PSO (Ms. Susan Owen)**

The PSO is excited to partner with the Cohasset Public Schools to aid in the Cohasset Middle School/High School Library Refurbishment project. They're aware of the current condition of the non-fiction collection and the significant need to bring this collection up to date. The Cohasset PSO is committed to funding this project over the next 5 years with a total gift in the amount of \$50,000. The PSO is excited to embark on this project and for the impact on this collection refurbishment will have. The donation schedule will be as follows:

2023-2024 academic year: \$20,000 to be paid in Spring 2024
2024-2025 academic year: \$10,000
2025-2026 academic year: \$10,000
2026-2027 academic year: \$ 5,000
2027-2028 academic year: \$ 5,000

A motion was made by Ms. Lesky to accept a gift in the amount of \$20,000 from the Cohasset PSO, seconded by Mr. Kearney. Aye-All

Budget, Resources and Governance

• Budget and Finance

➤ Monthly Budget Update (Mrs. Susan Owen)

As of April 30, 2024 the School Department has expended \$17,618,640 out of the \$22,905,421 budget awarded (79.73%) which is running a bit ahead which is good, and their 83% through the year. They have encumbered supplies and materials on purchase orders in the amount of \$644,849. There is a remaining balance of \$4,641,933 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.

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Budget, Resources and Governance

• Budget and Finance

➤ Monthly Budget Update (Mrs. Susan Owen)

SPED Tuitions were budgeted at \$940,275 and are currently encumbered on purchase orders. The shortfall in Tuitions has remained at **-\$436,518**. A request has been made to draw funds from the SPED Stabilization Fund and the Town Select Board will be meeting on June 11th to vote on this that will help offset this deficit.

<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	\$2,981,699	\$ 40,835	\$ 970,775	75.68%	53.10
Deer Hill	\$4,071,421	\$2,912,242	\$ 14,899	\$1,144,279	71.89%	45.80
Middle	\$4,138,878	\$2,774,663	\$ 4,326	\$1,359,890	59.66%	46.0
High School	\$7,097,617	\$5,484,861	\$ 51,159	\$1,561,598	77.99%	66.80

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. This year they've applied for "Extraordinary Relief" through Circuit Breaker which is a program that allows districts to claim for extraordinary relief when claimable Special Education costs exceed 125% of the previous year's claimed costs to which they did not qualify for the FY24 "Extraordinary Relief." Reimbursements will be paid in May, 2024 and cannot be carried into next year.

There is also a program called "Reserve Relief" which is to help offset the 14% increase to Private School Tuitions this year. They've also applied for this and qualified for the "Reserve Relief" in the payment amount of \$141,015 that will be received in May, 2024. They planned on using "Extraordinary Relief" funds to help offset their deficit in Special Education Tuitions for FY24 but did not qualify and may need to use the "Reserve Relief" funding to balance out FY24 operating budget instead of rolling funds into FY25 to help balance the budget. Reimbursements will be paid in May, 2024 and may be carried forward one year.

➤ Discussion on FY25 User Fees (Mrs. Susan Owen)

Any student not legally required to transport and chooses to ride a school bus MGL C.71 sec.68: 7-12; K-6 outside of 2 miles. Students eligible for free and reduced lunch do not pay. \$350 per student with \$590 Family Cap. They've asked Capital to pay for the entire bus lease because the lease price goes up every year. Large yellow school buses are rated for 77 passengers for Elementary students versus the capacity of 52 Middle or High School students. The capacity decreases based on student age / size.

FY24 Ridership	Current \$350	Proposed \$400	Proposed \$425	Proposed \$450
Pay to Ride 450	Revenue: \$157,500	Revenue \$180,000	Revenue: \$191,250	Revenue \$202,500
Additional Revenue Potential		\$ 22,500	\$ 33,750	\$ 45,000

Current Student Ridership

Joseph Osgood School 275	Deer Hill School 235	Middle / High School 294
Number of Bus Routes 8	8	8

Cohasset Public Schools
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Budget, Resources and Governance

➤ **Discussion on FY25 User Fees (Mrs. Susan Owen)**

Athletic Fee Proposal

FY24 Participation	Current \$250	Proposed \$300	Proposed \$325	Proposed \$350
Number of Participants 270	Revenue \$67,500	Revenue \$81,000	Revenue: \$87,750	Revenue \$94,500
Additional Revenue Potential		\$13,500	\$20,250	\$27,000

Vice Chair MacLellan would like folks to know if anyone is watching the meeting or watching a recording of this meeting the School Committee is considering increasing bus transportation fees, and athletic fees in order to construct increasing costs and have to divide ways to confront that challenge to accommodate those higher fees. This is being shared with the community, so they'll have opportunities to share their perspective and insight with the School Committee through either phone calls, emails, or speaking at future School Committee meetings.

• **Food Service**

The Senior Skipper Café is now open and serves meals to the Senior class. There is also new signage at the Elementary Schools which showcase menus and options for lunch and breakfast. The “Tower Garden” in the Middle School/High School cafeteria is growing and they've harvested their first greens.

• **Transportation**

The electric school bus has arrived and is now being used as one of the daily bus routes. It's been holding steady at 80% after driving the morning route. The school year is almost over, and the only concerns are the Special Education tuitions deficit and Utility accounts.

Ms. Lesky is curious how the mileage range is on average with the electric bus. If it comes back at 80% after a bus route it might be able to go further.

Mr. Kearney likes Ms. Lesky's question because he would imagine the electric bus could easily go to Boston and back.

Community Relations / Communication

• **School Facilities Committee Update and Discussion**

➤ **School Facilities Committee Charge****

Vice Chair MacLellan reports draft changes were made to incorporate input from Jason Earls, Chairperson on the School Facilities Committee which had delayed the School Committee because they revised the School Facilities Committee Charge. What the School Committee is primarily trying to do is broaden the scope of the School Facilities Committee to expressly include where it had evolved with the School Facilities Committee who are necessarily involved in the repair and maintenance in the schools. When Mr. MacLellan had drafted the School Facilities Committee Charge the first time, they had reconstituted the School Facilities Committee with the primary purpose or objective of exploring new facilities throughout the district. The School Committee had not considered it because it's going to be a wonderful resource to also help the School Committee develop a short and long-term R&M plan. This is all incorporated in Mr. MacLellan's draft of the School Facilities Committee Charge of the changes to explicitly stating there's collaboration between numerous groups and just ensuring the School Facilities Committee involvement and reporting to the school committee incorporating Mr. Earls input.

Cohasset Public Schools
Empower Students to Improve Communities

Community Relations / Communication

- **School Facilities Committee Update and Discussion**
 - **School Facilities Committee Charge****

Mr. Kearney is very pleased to see this, it's something he wished had been done 10 years ago. Going forward he feels like Cohasset is in a really good position to see what the School Committee is going to do for long term goals. This all started with just taking a walk through the school buildings where the School Committee never did that before, and they looked at the really long term of maybe a new school. They'll continue to apply for it every year to see what's out there. Mr. Kearney would like to commend Mr. MacLellan for putting this together and Ms. Owen and all her work with the school facilities. The last couple of years this School Committee has been able to do what they could, as a member of the School Committee he would like to have done more, but he does see the future being really good with this and he's very thankful.

Ms. Lesky says it's important and doesn't think this is part of the charge, going forward setting calendars and agendas with sub-committees. To have scheduled in regular periods of collaboration with the School Facilities Committee and the School Committee to potentially the Select Board. Those surveys from all the benefits with the School Facilities Committee Charge to really focus unwaveringly on facilities which none of these other entities are able to do but to really make sure that this feels like a real and impactful role for any volunteer members serving on that board, so they have the opportunity to have that voice and feel engaged and not speaking within their own echo chamber.

Mr. MacLellan thinks the whole School Facilities Committee experience has been a fairly slow burn just getting reconstituted was an uphill battle and that it grew into its gravitas, he couldn't agree more with Ms. Lesky's comment taking the time to serve on something. At one time Mr. MacLellan saw some wheels spinning to what they were accomplishing and what their objectives were there. The School Facilities Committee is charting a good course it's just been slow to develop, and this is why Mr. MacLellan put 3 and 4 on this track draft charge so the School Facilities Committee can express they're going to have a level of collaboration in there all relevant to the Town committee's and Boards. The School Facilities Committee shall establish a comprehensive long-term repair and maintenance plan so now they're expressly involved in that process. Now that the School Facilities Committee is part of the process, the School Committee is going to have the School Facilities Committee come in and make their proposals relative to repairs and maintenance needs of the school buildings, necessarily a part of the discussion rather than the School Committee discussing this amongst themselves.

Motion to approve the School Facilities Committee Charge with the incorporated changes as presented tonight at the School Committee meeting was made by Mr. Kearney, seconded by Ms. Lesky.

Aye-All

- **Reports from School Committee Sub-Committees and Liaisons**

Ms. Lesky presented the integration of Social Studies and Science to faculty members at Deer Hill School.

School Committee Governance

- **Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair**

Ms. Levine's 5th grade class has been working on persuasive writing. A few students decided to direct that assignment to the School Committee so students will have a few persuasive letters written to the School Committee about banning homework at the elementary level extending recess and allowing cellphones and i-Watches.

Cohasset Public Schools
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School Committee Governance

• Reschedule June 19th School Committee Meeting**

The Chair proposed to reschedule the June 19th School Committee meeting to June 26th. Juneteenth is a Federal Holiday and schools will be closed.

A motion was made by Ms. Lesky to reschedule the June 19th 2024 School Committee meeting to June 26th, 2024 seconded by Mr. Kearney.

Aye-All

• Approval of Minutes**

There are no Minutes to approve.

• Future Agenda Items

Discussion on FY25 User Fees (Mrs. Susan Owen)

Invite Officer Taylor to School Committee meeting.

Inviting Mr. Cordone, Food Service Director, to June 5th School Committee meeting.

• Executive Session^{1} #3. To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation**

A motion was made by Mr. Kearney at 8:43 p.m. to move into Executive Session¹ for reason #3. To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation and will not reconvene in regular session, seconded by Ms. Lesky.

Aye-All

¹ 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

The regular meeting for Wednesday, May 22, 2024 of the Cohasset School Committee adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

**** Requires Committee Vote / Action**

All School Committee Meetings Are Recorded.

Cohasset School Committee Meeting Minutes
Submitted by *Kathleen Bock*
May 29, 2024