

Cohasset Public Schools

Empower Students to Improve Communities

COHASSET SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES

Wednesday, August 21, 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:

Craig MacLellan, Chair
Ted Carr, Secretary
Jennifer Lesky
Dr. Leslie Scollins, Assistant Superintendent
Sarah Shannon, Superintendent

All School Committee Meetings Are Recorded.

Due to minor technical issues, the regular meeting of the Cohasset School Committee for August 21, 2024 Webinar started 24 minutes later.

AGENDA

Call to Order

Chair MacLellan called to order the Wednesday, August 21, 2024 meeting of the Cohasset School Committee at 6:24 p.m. There are 3 School Committee members present, and they are asked by the Chair to please indicate so with **Roll Call: Mr. Carr–Present; Ms. Lesky–Present; Chairman MacLellan–Present.** Mr. Dial and Ms. Hanna are not present.

Opening Remarks

The Chair would like to remind everyone the next item on tonight's School Committee Meeting agenda is Public Comment that is reserved for the audience attending in-person, or virtual audience to raise any concerns, issues, or questions they might have related to issues other than those issues that are listed on the agenda. If anyone has a concern, question, or something to raise relative to something on the agenda, just simply wait till they arrive at that point in the meeting. Folks attending virtually can access the Q&A feature via Zoom to make Public Comment. Facebook only allows the audience to view meetings and will not be able to participate with any questions or concerns they might have.

Public Comment

No Public Comment

Invited Guests

• Introduction of the Joseph Osgood School Principal, Ms. Amy Gaudette

Superintendent Sarah Shannon welcomes Ms. Amy Gaudette to introduce her to the Cohasset community. Ms. Gaudette has a wealth of experience, having recently relocated from California. Ms. Gaudette served as an Elementary Principal in the Newhall school district for a number of years where she fostered a rich learning environment. Ms. Gaudette has played several roles in the schools, everything from a teacher to an instructional pupil services coordinator to a coach to the Director of Induction for new teachers in that school district. Ms. Gaudette served as an Assistant Principal for Weymouth Public Schools since moving here.

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Invited Guests

• Introduction of the Joseph Osgood School Principal, Ms. Amy Gaudette

Ms. Gaudette's 1st day started August 1, 2024 where she has been very busy learning the ins and outs of the Joseph Osgood School building, the schedule, and the Joseph Osgood staff. She's been meeting with Principal Alexandra Sullivan of the Deer Hill School and Dr. Leslie Scollins to learn more about the curriculum and has also been meeting and engaging with families and students here in the community. There have been some nervous kindergarteners who are about to start school and Ms. Gaudette has been hitting the ground with tours of the Joseph Osgood School and getting to know students.

Ms. Amy Gaudette will be hosting a "Meet and Greet" on August 24, 2024 for families and she'll be combining it with some community gardening starting at 10:00-11:00 a.m. followed by a "bring your own lunch" picnic from 11:00 a.m-1:00 p.m.

Superintendent Sarah Shannon is very excited to have Ms. Gaudette here. Superintendent Sarah Shannon has heard so much positive feedback from families and other staff members who've had the opportunity to meet with her. Ms. Gaudette was by far the most famous person at the Ice Cream Social where everyone wanted to talk to her.

Ms. Amy Gaudette says she's been welcomed with open arms by the staff and the community, and it's been a fabulous experience so far, and looks forward to a great year!

Mr. Carr says the district was worried they wouldn't find the right person and they're very glad Ms. Gaudette is here and welcomes her. It's a tribute to the fact they have a great school district, and folks have options in their careers that generally find their way here to Cohasset, and very happy for that.

Ms. Lesky had the privilege of meeting Ms. Amy earlier through the hiring process. Ms. Lesky is so excited she's here for them, as they are here for her. Ms. Gaudette is a great match, and the district is looking forward to all the joy she'll bring at the Joseph Osgood School.

Mr. MacLellan expresses how this school district is very fortunate to have Ms. Gaudette, her experience speaks for itself. Fortunately, the timing brought her to this district time they needed a replacement for a beloved Principal, Lisa Farrell, at Joseph Osgood School. They've already heard great feedback from parents and Ms. Gaudette hasn't even started yet with students returning back to school. Ms. Gaudette has an incredibly important position because she'll be the Principal for the JOS building that hosts not only their youngest learners but also children and families attending Cohasset Public Schools for the first time. Obviously, Ms. Gaudette will play a huge role guiding families through that process as they enter the gateway to the Joseph Osgood School and their wonderful school system here in Cohasset. They're excited to have her and looking forward to all kinds of updates and wonderful feedback as she goes through her first academic school year here in Cohasset.

School Updates

• School News (Superintendent Sarah Shannon)

Superintendent Sarah Shannon had a really great entry into the district. She's been enjoying the Summer and had the opportunity to engage with folks through the onboarding process. Superintendent Shannon has been able to host some open forums for families and staff to talk with them, which has been great. People have been taking advantage of coming in to meet with her one on one, which has also been a really nice way to get to know folks here, hearing their experiences. Superintendent Shannon asked folks questions on what's working here, and what would they like to see potentially shift within the district.

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School Updates

• School News (Superintendent Sarah Shannon)

Superintendent Shannon says folks have been very forthcoming and really complementary about just the district. What she has learned quickly even though she already knew this is that she's entered into a wonderful district and there's so many things that are going right here in Cohasset. There are things that they can build on to continue to grow, but there's a lot of great work happening for students and staff alike.

Over the Summer, Superintendent Shannon had the opportunity to attend 2 conferences, The Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents which is a great way to network and get caught up on what else is happening in the schools right now across the state. She was also able to attend a conference with Dr. Scollins and METCO Director, Aleisa Gittens-Carle at William James College. This conference was on the surface about diversifying staff and creating cultures of belonging for students, staff, and families within the school community. The keynote speaker was Greg Singleton who gave a really powerful presentation. The entire 3 days really gave Superintendent Shannon both the opportunity to learn a lot more deeply about the district but also the opportunity to get to know Dr. Leslie Scollins and Aleisa Gittens-Carle turned out to be a really good time spent together. They did a lot of work and learned a lot from one another and Superintendent Shannon was grateful for that opportunity to attend this event at William James College.

Soon after the conference Superintendent Shannon held her very first leadership retreat in the district on August 6-7, 2024 and they were all so grateful to the South Shore Arts Center who allowed them to use their beautiful Arts space within their building to work. Vinnie Cordon, Director of Food Service kept them nourished so they could accomplish all the work they had to do. Superintendent Shannon had a long-time mentor there who always shared with them that "There are no new team members, there are only new teams." They really took that approach to the 2 days to move forward to create a new leadership team working on agreements, working together, and how often they'll meet. This conference accomplished a lot that needed to be accomplished in terms of getting ready to open school and creating new goals for the year that will bridge out the district from their completed strategic plan to a new strategic plan. Creating a new team with joy and laughter are all important and being able to balance the joy with hard work is something that Superintendent Shannon strives for in a team and they did a nice job accomplishing that.

Last Thursday the district hosted their "Back to School Ice Cream Social." Del's, Nona's, Safe Harbors, the PSO, and the CEF. Cohasset High School students from the National Honor's Society were there to do some face painting and some fake tattoos for some of the younger students. This was just a fun day with music, beautiful weather, families on the front lawn of Cohasset Middle School, and kids kicking soccer balls, running around, and rolling down hills. It was a good way to kick off the year with Ms. Amy Gaudette being the star of the show and they were there to support her. The football team and field hockey team were treated to some ice cream after their practice game, and they were all very happy to be invited over. It's been a great start to the school year, and she looks forward to next week with new staff coming in. The following week all staff will be returning back and on September 3, 2024 grades 1-12 will be joining them. September 4th will be kindergarteners, and on September 9th will be preschoolers and they'll have a full house in a matter of days, it's all very exciting.

There are lots of families sending their college students off to school in the next few weeks. Superintendent Shannon would like to wish all of those students and their families well whether they're heading off to work, college, or the military. It's a time of change for all families and Superintendent Shannon, having just gone through it, has a soft spot for all those who are feeling those emotions right now.

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Teaching and Learning

• Academic Initiatives (Dr. Leslie Scollins)

It's been a busy summer with lots of teachers doing work over the summer. They had grade 5 teachers working on Social Studies, Readers Workshop and created some really amazing lessons and units to pull all together and integrate those. Last year they worked with Scituate and implemented some Professional Development with the Department of Education on Investigating History which is a program that is an open source for grades 5-7 and they're working with grades 3-4 right now. It's been amazing and at the same time, Jim Willis, Department Chair for Social Studies for grades 6-12 is now working with the 5th grade team along with the Middle School and High School and how they're going to align making sure students are writing and how they're writing. This all came together really nicely from the document they sent that was fabulous.

The Deer Hill Reading Specialists worked with TLA all summer long creating lessons related to Response to Reading and connecting that to units. This is really something they're focusing on, a need to focus on writing. There are several things in action right now that are amazing. That will be rolled out with the Deer Hill staff August 29, 2024. The Middle School teachers have been implementing Open Science Ed through a large grant they received last year with lots of new materials. The teachers worked really hard and did a lot of training over the summer from the grant that was well received.

Also, over the summer the school offered an iReady for Math for students coming into grades 1-5 with some students from the Middle School that used it, so they'll have the opportunity to use iReady. Some families were invited to be monitored by Math Specialists just to try something out. These families opted into it and hoped it helped a little bit from that summer slide that can happen for some students. They'll know from the data they'll receive whether this was successful or not. Dr. Scollins will have more information on how that went for the School Committee when Rock Roberts gets back and will have some data to talk about.

IT Facilities, Custodial Facilities, and the Leadership Team had a Safety meeting with the Cohasset Police, and Cohasset Fire Department which is and has always been a good thing to get together making sure all protocols and safety procedures are in place. CPS is looking forward to all the cooperation the schools have with them, and they'll continue to have meetings throughout the year with them. It's just nice to have everyone at the table and all working together brainstorming about things they need to do to continue to keep the kids safe.

Cohasset Public Schools now has a new website, and it will continue to grow. They're being very conservative with it right now because they want to make sure what they put out there is good and apologize if there's little glitches here and there, still learning how to use it. Dr. Scollins would like to give special thanks to *Lisa Souretis, Jerilyn Ballard, Cassy O'Brien, Adam Sasso, and Andy Ayers*. They have been working on this all of last year and Lisa really took hold of it this year because it was not a smooth transition at all. It's a more dynamic resource than what they had on their previous website. The features are all still there with the district calendar there and can be used on cell phones which is really another good reason when using the website. Families should be able to navigate it fairly easily. If there are any questions or problems, they can reach out to Dr. Scollins.

Tomorrow, they have 6 new teachers that will be coming in for a 3-day introduction and joining the school community which is really exciting. This is just a way of acclimating them to some basic things, especially when technology comes in to set them up.

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Teaching and Learning

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The benefits are having conversations with the Town Hall that do a lot of nice things to make them feel part of the community and get them set up and meet their mentors. The CTA has always partnered with them and they're doing it a little differently this year with breakfast and lunch to co-facilitate the first part of the day, so they'll see them as partners because they are. There's a new person this year, a liaison to the teachers from the Teachers Union which they've never had before. Dr. Scollins says one of the things they do is take them on a tour in a bus around Cohasset. This year Dr. Scollins reached out to the Historical Society and Glenn Pratt will give them a tour. The Leadership Team, Superintendent Shannon, Ms. Amy Gaudette will be attending along with Dr. Leslie Scollins as well.

All the staff will return on August 28th, and it'll be a great day filled with team building and being excited to be back. They'll have some Chapter Title training, school policy rights they go over and always have Safety training on the first day on all the procedures and protocols people need to know so they're all prepared.

Mr. Carr wants folks to know if they haven't met Glenn Pratt, his family has been involved in the Town of Cohasset Government for a long time and there's no one better that can give a tour of this town than Glenn Pratt, they're very lucky to have him do this.

Ms. Lesky has a question to the access intro on iReady and asks Dr. Scollins if they have a name for that program to prevent summer slide. Were those children already identified through MTSS or was this an additional offering.

This was to help and encourage students in the program that uses iReady for 40 minutes each week. Students who had been identified were at risk and they wanted to see if this could prevent a little bit of that summer slide that could happen. The whole community knew they could get access to iReady and this was broadcasted. This was put in emails and newsletters they send out. This was their first year doing this and they were curious. There's lots of ways of opportunity to grow this and it'll be a nice way to just engage students over the summer, it does rain sometime!

Mr. MacLellan asks if that was an option generally disseminated to the school community or just to the folks that were identified that may be at risk. Mr. MacLellan suggests that maybe this should be broadcasted a couple weeks later when the school year ends. Some families might be interested in taking advantage of it. Year-end events happen at the end of the school year with everyone finishing up. It makes sense the ones who were most concerned would have access to it. Suggesting next year somehow communicate this a little bit better as a general resource that might be considered 2–3-week program with a name to it during the summer if families want their student to have more opportunity to explore iReady as an easier way to use it.

Ms. Lesky would like to add onto the newly formed leadership team that she's so appreciative of the enthusiastic anticipation that both Dr. Scollins and Superintendent Shannon expressed for this coming school year. The fact that both of them are going to share that with all of the other educators coming in just feels really wonderful, it's palpable. Thank you both for bringing that energy into the district and into the school year, hearing lots of great words like collaboration, partnership that's wonderful and excitement for all these little ones who are about to step through all sorts of thresholds and run amuck, that's why they're here!

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Budget, Resources and Governance

• Budget and Finance

Ms. Owen, Director of Finance and Operations, is not here tonight. They've had much of a by way of robust budget updates.

The Chair states they do have a budget related item to discuss and in order to discuss that he would like to invite Superintendent Shannon to introduce them to this concept.

• Nurse Substitute Rate (Mrs. Sarah Shannon)

Superintendent Shannon, Chair MacLellan, and Mr. Dial recently met with some of their nurses about some ongoing struggles they've been having with finding nurse substitutes. They had a really good discussion and recognized the need to do some additional work to build a stronger pool of substitute nurse candidates. Nurses are essential to schools and the schools can't function without them. They provide needed health support for many students who have chronic health needs, and they help with all of the other things that people think of when they think of school nurses. They help students who come down with a tummy ache, but it's really not a tummy ache no matter how old they are. It's about something more, it's about a grade they're anxious about or something that happened at home and school nurses are often the first line of defense when that happens. Although people often think of school nurses as superheroes in the buildings, they are human as well. There are days they need to take care of their own families, and they too get sick.

This is something that is important for the School Committee to discuss because nurses can make a lot of money in other districts and per diem work in Emergency Rooms. To entice nurses to come here and substitute in the Cohasset district, Superintendent Shannon says they really need to have a competitive salary rate for nurse substitutes. With Ms. Owen's help and Ms. Ballard's help they did a little bit of reconnaissance with area substitute rates for nurses and right now they have a rate of \$160 a day for some nurses which is not the lowest rate, but it's on the low side for nurses in the area. Hull, Hingham, Kingston, Marshfield all pay \$175 per day. Hanover pays \$35 an hour which totals \$227 a day for a 6 ½ day. Norwell is just a little above Cohasset, a rate of \$165 daily, and Duxbury rates are \$150 a day. In order to support school nurses and have the coverage they need for students, Superintendent Shannon recommendation to the School Committee is to increase their Nurse Substitute rate to somewhere between \$180-\$200 a day that would help some of the eek out over some of the area schools currently do to entice nurses to come to this district instead. Superintendent Shannon would like to open this conversation to all members of the School Committee.

The Chair would like to add that the level of frequency this need is implicated, it's not an overly huge budgetary item or allocation. There is time to time an acute need for it, where nurses need to attend field trips and there needs to be coverage in the building for those students with chronic conditions and need to have someone there. This is a consideration they can't overlook from the meeting Mr. Dial, Superintendent Shannon and Mr. MacLellan recently attended.

Mr. Carr says it's a great idea and equitable throughout the district and this pay rate is a good idea. They've had some issues before Superintendent Shannon came here that were worked through with the nurses and the unions about this matter. Mr. Carr recommends this would something they should probably coordinate a little more closely as they talk about collective bargaining. This can affect collective bargaining and Mr. Carr's motion is whatever everybody is comfortable with. This is a good idea and it's important they have a solution for these challenges like they had in the past.

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Budget, Resources and Governance

• Nurse Substitute Rate (Mrs. Sarah Shannon)

Mr. MacLellan and Superintendent Shannon both raised the issue about the new contract cycle that is looming that needs to engage in negotiations. First of all, this particular issue is a short term they need to have in place and need to address this especially with the new school year starting and the negotiations process could take months and months, and it will take months. There will be other asks around this, but this is something they should step up and address immediately to show good faith and make sure the district is properly staffed and covered for students' safety and health concerns are covered.

Ms. Lesky asks how does that high end \$180-\$200 a day compare with the contracted nursing service in terms of an hourly or daily rate. How does that compare then if they were to prorate the salary of nurses making all of those things equal and not creating other issues around payment or salary.

Superintendent Shannon states the contracted services would be approximately \$100 per hour. The hourly rate of a nurse depends on where they are on the salary scale, experience, and level of degree so that is harder to answer.

A motion was made by Mr. Carr to raise the per diem to \$200 per day for the Nurse Substitute rate, seconded by Ms. Lesky.

Aye - All

School Facilities

• Joseph Osgood School Roof Update (Superintendent Sarah Shannon)

Superintendent Shannon has a few facility updates to give to School Committee members tonight. The roof at the Joseph Osgood School is 25 years old and it's reaching the end of its technical life span. As part of reaching that end of life there was a Statement of Interest submitted and the MSBA is doing their due diligence and reaching out to many of the schools who have submitted a Statement of Interest for the accelerated repair program. Last week, the School Facilities held a meeting regarding the roof with the MSBA and they'll be coming to Cohasset this coming Friday to look at the JOS roof. There was a team that included Superintendent Shannon, Mrs. Owen, Chair MacLellan, Chris Senor, Nick Berardi, Amy Gaudette, and Jason Earls. They all met with the MSBA and had a really good conversation with financial support from the Town on how they would meet the financial responsibilities with the MSBA to make this project happen. In anticipation of this visit, some members of the School Facilities actually did a field trip to the roof at JOS, and they were able to really see what they were talking about, which was an important step for many of them. There's definitely a need for a new roof at the Joseph Osgood School. It became apparent to Superintendent Shannon the School Facilities team here does a really nice job being proactively responsible for trying to fix leaks before they become an issue or fixing them very quickly when they become an issue repairing things that need repair after a leak happens. The School Facilities do a really good job with patching, repairing, and stemming leaks, really fortunate to have this preventative maintenance cycle in place. It still does leak at times, and there is a need. The School Facilities will show the MSBA some other areas at the JOS building that are impacted by these leaks.

The MSBA will consider all the different accelerator repairs on the Statement of Interest they have and will decide by October 30, 2024 for schools who will get invited into their next cycle. The MSBA's accelerator repair program is a two-year cycle. If Cohasset doesn't get invited, then it's another two years. The MSBA puts a lot of weight on schools and towns that are willing to put in work to maintain buildings.

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School Facilities

• Cohasset Middle and High School Feasibility Study Update (Superintendent Sarah Shannon)

Superintendent Shannon states they are starting to move forward with the Middle School/High School Feasibility Study with AI3 Architects as their partners. There are two tracks of work that happen simultaneously when a building Feasibility Study is done. Those two tracks are land, the facility track, and then the educational track. The work has started on the land and the facility track. AI3 Architects sent their partner consultants out and they've started to do their work. They've done an environmental site analysis, wetland delineation, ground penetrating, and radar borings. When AI3 Architects meets with the School Facilities Committee they will then present and explain this at a School Committee meeting. Superintendent Shannon is very grateful to all the folks within the School Facilities Department and the Town who are helping to facilitate those processes that are happening.

The second track is the educational vision and programming track. This is the part they've been talking about teaching and learning and how that drives the design of a facility in a new school building. That work does not happen in isolation, it happens on multiple levels with a lot of input. They kicked off this process on Monday, August 19, 2024 with a leadership team of the district and AI3 Architects. They built out what the process is going to look like here in Cohasset. They're going to run some visioning sessions after a smaller district team does some school visits. They're going to visit some schools that have new facilities so they can get a sense of what some new buildings look like and go to some schools that have some really innovative progressive teaching and learning happening within that building. They'll come back and talk about how those two overlap and where that intersection is between teaching and learning and school design. Afterwards, they will host some visioning sessions that are inclusive of staff, students, parents, guardians, administration, and the school committee to talk about what do they want for teaching and learning within the Cohasset Public Schools. While they'll be talking about this in regard to this project it will also help drive their strategic plan that they'll create in the Spring. This is really an important process, and they'll invite people from all of those stakeholder groups including Town Committees to be a part of that design process. The folks who are part of that process will be asked if they're able to commit to 3 sessions. Superintendent Shannon says they'll share the dates out before they ask for their commitment. These meetings will occur over the course of 3 mornings from 8:30 AM – 11:30 AM over a couple of weeks. They're hoping family members who work will allow them to be a part of this and then go off to work. These meetings will be during the school day so students and staff who are able to participate can. Those meetings will be really energetic, creative, and collaborative. They'll help them think about where they want to be as they move into the future within the Cohasset Public Schools. Superintendent Shannon knows not everybody can make that type of a time commitment, but they want everybody to be as involved and informed as much as possible and they'll be holding Community Forums all along the way that will be held in the evenings so folks who can't come during the day sessions can attend. They're going to encourage folks to attend as much as they can, and if they can't attend all the meetings they can come to one. Superintendent Shannon would really like to record the meetings so they can share these meetings so that people who can't attend can view them whenever they can.

This project will run throughout the end of this school calendar year that will then allow them to write an educational program and vision so when the time comes if they're not invited into the MSBA process they'll resubmit an SOI and attach that to say they've done that as part of their whole Feasibility Study. AI3 Architects will then be able to do some schematic design as well and some ideation about what a new building could look like based on the vision they're creating for teaching and learning. They've worked with AI3 before who do a really great job listening to the districts and considering what they're trying to do for students, then making a building that does it. The exciting part of this work is seeing that come to life after they've designed what a student learning experience should be.

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School Facilities

• Cohasset Middle and High School Feasibility Study Update (Superintendent Sarah Shannon)

Mr. Carr would like the School Facilities Committee to be really engaged with the Feasibility Study. He recalls some of those tests that Superintendent Shannon just mentioned have been done by the Town in the last 10 years and would be on file with the Town Hall. They can do a little research to the extent this might be a savings in cost for them. They've already done these tests and they're reasonable and they should think about looking at these. Mr. Carr says there are some State grant programs where they might consider solar panels for the Joseph Osgood School roof and start engaging with the Alternative Energy Committee.

AI3 is actually going to present this at the School Facilities Committee meeting next week. Jason Earls has been invited to all of these meetings and will definitely be invited to be a part of the visioning sessions as well. Superintendent Shannon and Mr. Earls met recently to talk about all of this work. Nick and Jason oversee the Town and did a report on it, and they know all of the details for this project. As part of the schematic design process, they require solar as part of that process.

Chair MacLellan has a question relative to what has been done in the recent past to whether they needed to duplicate those efforts that have been raised. He had looked into that and there were no recent results showing where they had done this about a year ago. When Mr. MacLellan was initially running around to different stakeholder groups in Town proposing this and the funds for this were approved last November, 2023. Mr. MacLellan presented this trying to get support for this, which was one of the issues raised and he went to confirm or dispel whether or not that information was available to them, and it wasn't.

Ms. Lesky expresses her appreciation for Superintendent Shannon for particularly getting the ball rolling with this. It feels like a marathon as they continue to take steps forward on all the projects that are important with the School Facilities. Ms. Lesky appreciates the attention to it because it's just one other thing to be doing and it will keep simmering, the boil is a long time from now.

Superintendent Shannon says it's really important for people to be aware of where they're talking about this and it's going to build a lot of excitement and they're not even a part of the MSBA process yet, it is a marathon, not a sprint. They need to have patience and to know they're still doing good work because even if they don't get a new building for a much longer time the educational vision they're creating can still be implemented within the facility. They can still move forward with the teaching and learning piece of it.

Chair MacLellan states some folks may want to know that the Accelerated Repair Program and the MSBA Core Program are exclusive, so they don't compete with one another. Even though they have applications into both it's not as if they get invited to the Accelerated Repair Program that then makes it no way they can be invited to the Core Program. What they can't do is be invited to the Core Program for two different buildings in the same district in the same cycle that wouldn't happen, AI3 and the MSBA Core Program won't compete with each other. Another point that Superintendent Shannon just alluded to is they have not been invited to the MSBA Core Program yet. They've applied to it 3 times and will get the decision on whether or not they're invited in connection with their 3rd application this December. Having not been invited twice the School Committee and the School Facilities Committee position it would be wise to try and create their own Feasibility Study or move forward with their own Feasibility Study so that they weren't spinning the wheels in a perfect system that was a 6–7-year project from the first time they first started the Feasibility Study to the time they cut the ribbon. Meanwhile, all these years they've applied to the MSBA Core Program and wait a whole year with all those additional years matriculating students through the building.

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School Facilities

• Cohasset Middle and High School Feasibility Study Update (Superintendent Sarah Shannon)

The School Committee is trying to gain some concrete information on the front end that will benefit them on whatever debate comes their way. It's unlikely the community has the appetite to move forward with a project like this without the State subsidy. It's relatively dependent on the MSBA which will require their own Feasibility Study and the elements from this Feasibility Study will be transferable, so it won't be a complete loss. This makes the district a bit more competitive as an applicant because it adds a lot of substance to their application in general. Perhaps, and most importantly this demonstrates to the MSBA that as a community, they're taking this very seriously because they've already invested hundreds of thousands of dollars looking into this and that announces to the MSBA that likely if invited the community would now have an appetite to move forward.

Community Relations / Communication

• Anxious Generation Conversation

There's a book called the "Anxious Generation" written by Jonathan Haidt. This book explores the impact of technology, particularly smartphones on child development and the impact it's had on free play and socialization as children grow. Chair MacLellan has recently been made aware that Buttonwoods, Books, & toys at Cushing Plaza to which a group of folks put together a community discussion on this book. It was raised to some school administrators as well as to principals about the relevance of it who found it extremely relevant to a school district. Mr. MacLellan reached out to the folks who were organizing this book discussion and asked if they could somehow do this at the schools.

September 18, 2024 at 7:00 PM at the Cohasset Middle/High School Auditorium Buttonwoods Books & Toys will host this event around this book. Cohasset Public Schools and this School Committee will not be putting this event on, Buttonwoods will be hosting this with a panel discussion with a few different individuals. There will be a pediatrician there, one of their teachers along with Ella Lynch who served on the Superintendent Search Committee and a few others will be on this panel. This will be a nice gateway for the School Committee to have conversations that supports students physical and mental health wellness.

Superintendent Shannon connected with some of her educator friends who've been reading this book where it almost became like a summer reading program. She actually received an email from a High School teacher here in Cohasset who actually runs a book club with other staff members and asked if she and Dr. Scollins could read it, so they'll be able to have conversations about it. This book was a required reading for students at Cohasset High School in AP classes. This book has implications for all grade levels from Pre-K through 12 where they need to protect children from all the dangers in the world whether it be physical dangers or online dangers where this has created a generation who are worried, anxious, and stressed as well as parents who are worried, anxious, and stressed. They want children to have opportunities to have free play to learn how to interact with one another in a way that isn't always so micromanaged by adults.

Over the course of this upcoming school year in those conversations as a district they would also invite families into those conversations because this extends outside of the school day. They can talk about what purposeful play looks like and what a phone free environment looks like from 8:15 AM - 2:55 PM. It's when students go home and what that looks like, so they want to collaborate as a community to help students have healthier and have a *digital wellbeing* in addition to their emotional, social, and physical well-being. The time has come for having these conversations as a full community. They all want what's best for their children and having these conversations will be what's best for children.

Cohasset Public Schools

Empower Students to Improve Communities

Community Relations / Communication

• Anxious Generation Conversation

Ms. Lesky says it's an issue that is extraordinarily fraught from an emotional level, from a perspective around technology that provides so much. They want to model good technology and digital wellbeing for students because they are looking, and she's looking forward to this journey.

• Reports from School Committee Sub-Committees and Liaisons

There were no reports from any School Committee Sub-Committees and Liaisons.

School Committee Governance

• Appointment of Mr. Paul Kearney to School Facilities Committee**

Mr. Paul Kearney indicated he would like to serve on the School Facilities Committee now that he no longer serves as a member of this School Committee and the School Facilities Committee needs a nominee.

A motion was made by Ms. Lesky to nominate Mr. Paul Kearney for the School Facilities Committee, seconded by Mr. Carr.

Aye – All

Chair MacLellan states anytime there's a change in the law the school policies change throughout the year that are mandated. Dr. Scollins is very good in identifying school policies to notify the School Committee with the necessary language attached to these policies.

- First Read of **Policy IJ** **Instructional Materials****
- First Read of **Policy JIC** ~~**Student Discipline****~~ There is no language change.
- First Read of **Policy JB** **Equal Educational Opportunities****
- First Read of **Policy IGB** **Support Services Programs****
- First Read of **Policy GBA** **Equal Employment Opportunity****
- First Read of **Policy AC** **Non-Discrimination Policy Including Harassment and Retaliation****
- First Read of **Policy ACR** **Non-Discrimination Policy Including Harassment and Retaliation****
- First Read of **Policy ACE** **Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability****
This policy is listed as I-9, handicap not being preferred a nomenclature. Dr. Scollins is aware and notes changes to Policy ACE.
- First Read of **Policy ACAC** **Other Forms of Harassment****
- First Read of **Policy ACAB** **Sexual Harassment****

Motion was made by Mr. Carr to approve the revisions to all the policies outlined on the agenda, in addition to adding the new policy ACR that was presented tonight by Assistant Superintendent of Cohasset Public Schools, Dr. Leslie Scollins, seconded by Ms. Lesky.

Aye-All

• Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair

There were no topics not reasonably anticipated by the Chair.

• Approval of Minutes

There were no Minutes to approve.

Cohasset Public Schools

Empower Students to Improve Communities

School Committee Governance

• Future Agenda Items

Mr. Carr would like to start discussions for an Executive Session as it pertains to Strategy for Collective Bargaining sooner, rather than later.

Ms. Lesky would like to talk about grants with last year grants being exceptional. It would be interesting for the public to see how the CEF and grant recipients do a lot of work to disseminate the information and how they allocate funds and present this to the School Committee as well.

• Executive Session¹

No reason to move into Executive Session¹.

• Adjourn**

A motion was made by Mr. Carr to adjourn the regular meeting for August 21, 2024 of the Cohasset School Committee at 7:40 PM, seconded by Ms. Lesky.

Aye – All

****Requires Committee Vote / Action**

DRAFT SUBMITTED

August 30, 2024

Kathy Bock