

Cohasset Public Schools
Empower Students to Improve Communities

COHASSET SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
Wednesday, June 26, 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, Chair
Tori Hanna
Jennifer Lesky
Craig MacLellan, Vice Chair

Also, In Attendance: Susan Owen, Director Finance and Operations
Dr. Leslie Scollins, Assistant Superintendent
Dr. Patrick Sullivan, Superintendent

AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Dial welcomed one and all to the regular meeting for the Cohasset School Committee for Wednesday, June 26, 2024 at 6:03 PM. The Chair asks all members of the Cohasset School Committee who are present to please indicate so upon **ROLL CALL**: **Ms. Hanna-Present; Ms. Lesky-Present; Mr. MacLellan-Present; Mr. Dial-Present. Mr. Carr will be arriving shortly.**

OPENING REMARKS

The Chair notes this is a Special meeting of the Cohasset School Committee with ends and new beginnings. Chairman Dial welcomes Ms. Tori Hanna as their newest elected member to the Cohasset School Committee as they begin a new term and the reorganization of the various officer ships, liaison positions with new beginnings. As far as the ends they obviously have the end of the school year and the end of the tenure of Superintendent Patrick Sullivan, and the beginnings for Sarah Shannon as Cohasset Public Schools new Superintendent starting July 1, 2024.

Principal Lisa Farrell has accepted a new position somewhere else, and the School Committee will be starting the process of a principal position at the Joseph Osgood Elementary School with a Principal Search Committee later on in tonight's meeting. The Chair would like to note for the record a letter he received from Principal Farrell and would like to read it aloud so that folks know the type of person Lisa Farrell is.

Dear Cohasset School Committee and Cohasset Community, I express my sincere gratitude for all the well wishes and kind words received over the last few weeks. I will absolutely miss the families and staff of the Cohasset community. Over the years, I've met some incredible dedicated, caring, and outstanding people during my time at Osgood Elementary and had the extreme pleasure to work with some of the most incredible and dedicated educators that I've met in my 34 years of education. During their time together, they've not only supported, cared for, and loved many students and families, but they've also come together as a family. In the eight years that I've spent at Osgood Elementary School. The Osgood School team has cared for and has lost three important members of their family and they'll forever be in my heart. We have survived and grown due to the experiences we have weathered with COVID, family tragedies, and many illnesses. I cannot think of any situation where the entire Osgood School staff did not step right up and give 100%. I leave you with a piece of my heart and a lot of gratitude for all you have done as a School Committee. May you always remember it's who we are and what we do that makes a difference. Sending love, peace, and kindness to you all, Lisa Farrell.

Cohasset Public Schools
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PUBLIC COMMENT

None

INVITED GUESTS

• **Recognition of the State Champion Cohasset Girls Lacrosse Team**

Dr. Sullivan acknowledges and congratulates the Cohasset Girls Lacrosse Team, along with Coach Fitzgerald, the entire team was tremendous and did a fantastic job! Dr. Sullivan shares a video clip, courtesy of the Patriot Ledger from the Girls Lacrosse Team victory against Walpole winning the State Championship. They certainly did Cohasset proud to Coach Fitzgerald and the whole team and Dr. Sullivan is very proud of them and something they'll remember for the rest of their lives. Most importantly they're wonderful kids in school as well as outside of the school and on the field. *Congratulations to the Cohasset Girls Lacrosse Team, a job well done!*

• **Acknowledgement of Superintendent Dr. Patrick Sullivan**

Chairman Dial would like to take this moment to acknowledge the dear esteemed Superintendent Dr. Patrick Sullivan. Dr. Sullivan's leadership in the schools has really left an indelible mark and has changed the trajectory of where their schools were going. It's due to Dr. Sullivan's leadership they are where they are. They're seeing lots of improvements in various metrics throughout the whole evaluation process. The schools are running better with his attention to the community, which is a gift, and the community certainly will miss him as he moves onward.

Ms. Lesky experience with Dr. Sullivan was as a parent. The district has such gratitude for what he has done, but also in the face of coming into a district that was in turmoil when he arrived and as a parent that was very unsettling. Dr. Sullivan took them through the pandemic and survived that and came out on the other side stronger in many ways. The fact remained open, encouraging, and it's been a delight to have Dr. Sullivan lead the schools and be a leader in the full sense of the term. To see Dr. Sullivan's career return him back to full circle in Marshfield where he'll be happy, but it'll be sad for Cohasset. Dr. Sullivan embraced Cohasset as his own while he was here and that too is such a gift and apparent in all that he did. Thank you for letting them be his pre-Marshfield, Marshfield and for all the work that he did, it's Yeoman's work at all times and appreciates all of Dr. Sullivan's amazing efforts.

Chairman Dial notes for the record Mr. Carr arrived at 6:11 PM.

Mr. Carr is very sad that Dr. Sullivan is leaving, but very happy for him on his next adventure. It was very clear to Mr. Carr that Dr. Sullivan cared deeply about Cohasset and the people that worked with him. Dr. Sullivan has left this district much better than he found it and they are very, very thankful. Wish him the best of luck and thank you for everything he's done, he'll absolutely be missed around here.

Ms. Hanna hasn't known Dr. Sullivan very well but has seen him at all her kid's events. Congratulations on taking the next venture forward in Marshfield. Ms. Hanna and her family moved in the midst of COVID, and she can only imagine how that was. Ms. Hanna heard a lot of things from prior years and Dr. Sullivan is leaving them in a better place.

The Chair would like to recognize two special guests here in the audience tonight, a pair of Kearney's. Paul Kearney and his son Jack Kearney. Jack expresses how Dr. Sullivan is the most approachable guy he knows, which says a lot because he's the top dog. Being a part of the Superintendent Student Advisory Council and Dr. Sullivan's Fan Club, what's not to love. Jack says he and his fellow classmates always felt heard, which was really important, and the students appreciated that.

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INVITED GUESTS

• **Acknowledgement of Superintendent Dr. Patrick Sullivan**

Dr. Sullivan says Jack Kearney is a perfect example of a Cohasset kid in every way. Great things are ahead for Jack and Dr. Sullivan is really glad to have met him.

Paul Kearney would like to thank Dr. Sullivan for all he's done here generationally. The staff Dr. Sullivan put together during COVID was a storm and Dr. Sullivan really sailed that ship and made Cohasset a better place and Mr. Kearney loves Dr. Sullivan for that. Thank you and wish him all the best and to his family. Marshfield is lucky and they're lucky too with Dr. Sullivan leaving the district in a better place and they're in a good place. The district has a great School Committee and Mr. Kearney feels confident as a parent to carry this on in such a positive way.

Ms. Owen would like to thank Dr. Sullivan. The Central Office, and the leadership team are very, very sad, but they're very happy for him because it's a full circle for Dr. Sullivan and it's a perfect storm for where he's going. It's been an honor to be part of his leadership team. He's built a great team and they've done a lot of great things in a short period of time, touché. Thank you for everything and Good Luck in Marshfield.

Dr. Scollins reads aloud a letter for every part of Patrick Sullivan's name, PATRICK. **P** is for persistence, keeping students at the core of all that they do. **A** is for aims high so all students succeed. **T** is for being a tremendously terrific person. **R** is for resilient through all the challenges that occurred. **I** stand for inclusiveness, ensuring that all feel valued and heard. **C** is for courageous, often making difficult decisions. **K** is for kind with Dr. Sullivan being the kindest and most knowledgeable man she knows. It's been an absolute pleasure working together with him for so long. It's been a wild and amazing ride to have been Dr. Sullivan's sidekick and it's been an absolute joy. Dr. Scollins will miss him terribly but excited that he'll be going to Marshfield where his family and his life are. Their leadership team is so thankful for him, it's just been amazing.

Mr. MacLellan is just going to refer to Dr. Sullivan as Pat personally. Mr. MacLellan feels very highly of Pat and has a great deal of professional respect for Pat. When you have someone in a leadership position who is extremely passionate about what they do and they're in that position for all the right reasons it's always 100% of their time yields the right outstanding results, and that's what Cohasset realized from having Pat in the Superintendent's chair at the helm of the district. Pat brought a burst of energy, excitement, enthusiasm, and ambition into the leadership suite. Pat built an amazing leadership team around him and from that Cohasset saw a much-needed culture shift to one that placed the interest of students at the forefront and focal point of the operation to the district which is the number one thing they benefited from as a community from having named Pat as Superintendent serve that position for 5 years, and that's a big deal and it's not easy to do. They had Jack Kearney here earlier who said students felt heard and there's no greater accommodation to hear as a Superintendent than that. That's what they're encouraging students to do, to be heard and take some agency into their own domain in the community here. The major benefit of having Pat as Superintendent was the fact that he's a great communicator and this district just did not have that coming from the Aber Echelons of leadership in the district. Pat's openness, accessibility, availability, empathetic leadership, was just an absolute expert of communication to the community. It showed sincerity that the community needed to come out of that time that Ms. Lesky referred to earlier. Everything happens for a reason, COVID happened, and they had Pat, and he was the right match for the Town of Cohasset at the time. To this day, one of the most fulfilling paraprofessional experiences to Mr. MacLellan was that decisions had to be made purposefully in a very deliberate passion and tried to do the best they can and did a pretty serviceable job.

Cohasset Public Schools

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INVITED GUESTS

• Acknowledgement of Superintendent Dr. Patrick Sullivan

Dr. Sullivan would like to say he's been absolutely honored to have been the Superintendent of Cohasset Public Schools for the last 5 years. He's actually been in the district for 7 years and reflects back seeing it's not a very long time in one's career, but it was the number of heavy issues they tackled as a team over the 7 years that certainly paralleled with COVID. When Dr. Sullivan started working in the district, Cohasset was in a place where it seemed there was a lack of trust in the community they needed to rebuild. Dr. Sullivan is very honored and proud of their first line of their strategic plan to place students first. Dr. Sullivan believes that was at the core of what Cohasset was about when he arrived here, and he was very happy to emphasize that and project that through his time here. Every day when Dr. Sullivan saw students like Jack Kearney and sees their achievements, it's that first line "*Empower Students to Improve Communities*" because that's really what everything should be about in any school district and that certainly now shines through with the increased student voice here in Cohasset. Dr. Sullivan thanks Craig MacLellan for noting that he prides himself on communication and engaging the community, it's been a lovely community to engage with.

Dr. Sullivan says he's been lucky to work with some amazing School Committee members. Their service helped him grow as a leader and they've done some fantastic human services for Cohasset starting with Jean Masino who was here when Dr. Sullivan was an Assistant Superintendent moving to Superintendent. Jen Madden, Katie Duggan, Lydia St. Onge, Barbara Stepen, Ellen Maher who was the Chair when Dr. Sullivan was hired, and she did a lot to support him personally and he wants to give a big thank you to Ellen. Ashley Colleary who was such a great person to have on the School Committee during COVID where she really balanced them as a team and had a different perspective in a lot of situations to make this district stronger, and now moving into this wonderful team.

Dr. Sullivan really appreciates Jen Lesky as an educator and a teacher in the perspectives she always brought to them. Ted Carr with his kindness, balance, and class that really shines through and makes him proud to be part of it every time he's here. Paul Kearney's urgency and his advocacy for making Cohasset a better place has really made a difference and he's very proud of that. Dr. Sullivan says he was then very blessed to work with two amazing Chairs, both of whom are very intelligent guys and driven who held him accountable throughout the whole process and was really a great thought partnering with both of them. It's been an absolute pleasure to work with Lance Dial with the process-oriented mode that sets very well for Cohasset. Dr. Sullivan often says this to his leadership team to think about the unintentional consequences of decisions and Lance is geared that way. He's constantly thinking about unattended consequences just by his nature that makes Cohasset a better place. Craig MacLellan has put in the same amount of thought partnering with Dr. Sullivan and he can't think of anyone in his career who has thought partnered with except for Dr. Scollins deeply working in unbelievable circumstances. There were times that Dr. Sullivan thought he was an Epidemiologist, a Havoc Specialist, and found himself talking about ionic bipolarizations. Dr. Sullivan was always trying his best to advocate for this community, for this staff, and the staff are amazing here in Cohasset. They care about the kids and genuinely work to give students the best education possible. The leadership team that Dr. Sullivan had a hand in creating, he's so very proud of them. They're ready to move on to the next chapter where they've hired a fabulous Superintendent, Sarah Shannon, who will come in and roll with it and move to the next chapter, and that's all you can ask. If it weren't for a very unique situation for Dr. Sullivan and his family in Marshfield, Cohasset would be his place, but things happen for a reason and this next shift is going to bring Cohasset to an even more prominent place than it is right now.

Cohasset Public Schools

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INVITED GUESTS

• Acknowledgement of Superintendent Dr. Patrick Sullivan

It's been an absolute honor and pleasure, and Dr. Sullivan thanks all the members on the School Committee for acknowledging him and glad he played a small part in people's lives and in the lives of the kids who went through the Cohasset Public Schools the last 7 years, and he'll always look back fondly on it. Dr. Sullivan will certainly miss the Central Office team and of course Sue Owen who has been amazing with the respect of work she does and her friendship. Barbara Cerwonka is moving on to a new chapter and obviously, Lisa Farrell is moving onto a new chapter. No one has supported him more other than Leslie Scollins in terms of friendship. Dr. Sullivan has known Leslie for a long time and he's very lucky to have been given a chance to work with her. The thought partnership was rich, and the friendship was richer.

SCHOOL UPDATES

• School News (Dr. Patrick Sullivan)

This is Dr. Patrick Sullivan's last episode of the school news. Dr. Sullivan points out some ends of the school year reminders are posted to the school's Navigator. For folks watching or watch this video if they have any questions about when the schools are open during the summer, these are the typical hours for each school. Please call ahead and get in touch with the principal of the school to make sure that school is open during this time. If dates change or something changes, there's an invite to all Cohasset Public Schools students, families, and staff to welcome them to the 2024-2025 Ice Cream Social event which has been great, those who go get free ice cream. This event is a nice family mixer and a fun opportunity to meet, in this case the new Superintendent of Cohasset Public Schools, Sarah Shannon and her team.

Dr. Sullivan acknowledged the Girls Lacrosse team on their victory winning the State Championship earlier in tonight's meeting. The Boys Lacrosse team also had a fabulous season losing a round of 8, a very close game.

There was a nice farewell to Principal Farrell at the Joseph Osgood School where students and staff lined up along the hallways to say goodbye. A lot of genuinely happy kids were happy to be part of her life and their lives. All the students loved Principal Farrell, she leaves such a legacy, and she'll be missed very much. There was a very lovely 5th grade send off, finishing with a great kickball game.

Vice Chair MacLellan would like to thank the parents who organized the kickball game they did a great job. This was a lot of work and Mr. MacLellan would like to acknowledge Kathleen Burns, Naper Romano, Megan Berry, and Susie Roberts.

They also had a wonderful 8th grade dance at the Willcutt Commons, a nice tradition which was great. Dr. Sullivan would like to thank Willcutt Commons for letting them use their facility space. Happy that it was a successful end of the school year, ready for some rebooting and some fun in the sun, then come back, the futures bright.

Dr. Sullivan has been transitioning with Superintendent Shannon whom they've both known for a while. It's been a very open and comfortable transition and she's in a great spot and she'll do a great job.

• Joseph Osgood School Principal Search/Timeline

Both Dr. Scollins and Superintendent Shannon met to come up with some dates for the Joseph Osgood School Principal search. On June 14, 2024 the position was posted and advertised, with 14 very qualified candidates who have already applied, which is really nice.

Cohasset Public Schools

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SCHOOL UPDATES

• Joseph Osgood School Principal Search/Timeline

Today they established the Principal Search Committee that will finish up to have their first meeting tomorrow and go through the same consistent process with dates being flexible. The key is to always never settle. They trust this process and always trust the system. The hope is to find the right candidate but if they don't, they'll keep going. Dr. Scollins reached out to the volunteers who are willing to give them their time with 5 staff members who play different roles volunteered with some family members who volunteered to decide who will be on the Screening Committee, which is so important. Tomorrow they'll meet and will meet again on Friday, June 28th to go over all the candidates and choose the ones they want to interview, and that process is going to take place on July 9th & 10th, 2024. The hope is to have 6 candidates with the finalist on July 23rd, 2024. Dates and times will be determined later when all this happens. Hopefully they'll have candidates introduce themselves to the School Committee after this is done sometime in early August, late July.

Vice Chair MacLellan asks who are the staff members that were elected, and families.

• Joseph Osgood School Principal Search Committee

Superintendent Sarah Shannon, Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Leslie Scollins, Anne Marie Papasodro, Dave Vinton, Liz Deininger, Leslie Dimini, Lisa Gowell, Principal Alexandra Sullivan of Deer Hill Elementary School, and Principal John Mills will be the secondary grade level principal. The family members are Greg Pilotte and Elizabeth Brennan.

The Chair states Jen Lesky has volunteered to also sit on the Principal Search Committee as a liaison for the School Committee. He knows Ms. Lesky has the best interest for this community.

Chairman Dial has one concern around the whole process, ending up with the wrong person because that's something really impossible to undo and can do a lot of damage to what they're trying to achieve. He's curious to know if Dr. Scollins has seen these 14 candidates as so far this is definitely the person that can do the job. Do they have people that are already okay.

Dr. Scollins says Superintendent Shannon and herself have seen some familiar names, but it depends on what the school committee itself is looking for and how they present themselves. They have some very highly qualified candidates to interview for this position.

TEACHING AND LEARNING

• Academic Initiatives (Dr. Leslie Scollins)

Obviously, the focus will be bringing new people on board. Dr. Scollins and Superintendent Shannon have met, and they've been keeping in contact talking about the transition and what that will look like. Over the Summer they'll reset for the next school year. The Reading and Math Specialists will be on call for a 4-to-5-week period starting July 8 - August 8, 2024 for those families who need some help with the digital pieces of iReady to answer any questions. This is something new they're trying and hopefully families will like it and the students will appreciate it and feel more comfortable when they come to school.

Cohasset Public Schools
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BUDGET, RESOURCES AND GOVERNANCE

• Budget and Finance

➤ **Monthly Update (Mrs. Susan Owen)**

As of May 31, 2024 the School Department has expended \$19,663,537 out of the \$22,905,421 budget awarded (87.18%) and school is 92% through the year. They have encumbered supplies and materials on purchase orders in the amount of \$307,025. There is a remaining balance of \$2,934,859 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 Tuitions were budgeted at \$940,275 and are currently encumbered on purchase orders. The shortfall in tuition's has remained at **-\$436,518**. A request has been made in the amount of \$200,000 to draw funds from the SPED Stabilization Fund to help offset this deficit.

• Budget and Finance

➤ **Individual Schools Budget**

| School | Budget | Expended | Encumbrances | Balance | % Used | FTE |
|---------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------------|----------------|---------------|------------|
| Osgood | \$3,993,308 | \$3,312,113 | \$18,961 | \$ 662,234 | 83.41% | 53.10 |
| Deer Hill | \$4,071,421 | \$3,240,724 | \$12,953 | \$ 817,744 | 79.91% | 45.80 |
| Middle | \$4,138,878 | \$3,086,869 | \$ 1,769 | \$1,050,241 | 74.62% | 46.0 |
| High School | \$7,097,617 | \$6,091,575 | \$29,312 | \$ 976,731 | 86.23% | 66.80 |

➤ **Circuit Breaker**

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. The School Department 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. They did not qualify for the FY24 “Extraordinary Relief.” The School Department also applied for a program called “Reserve Relief” to help offset the 14% increase to private school tuitions this year. Reimbursements will be paid in May, 2024. They’ll need to utilize the entire \$141,015 to help balance the FY24 budget.

| Year | # of Students | % Reimbursement | Reimbursement Amount |
|-------------|----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| FY24 | 14 | 75% | \$1,034,108 |
| FY23 | 18 | 75% | \$1,170,609 |
| FY22 | 18 | 75% | \$ 701,856 |
| FY21 | 14 | 75% | \$ 648,533 |
| FY20 | 19 | 75% | \$ 726,908 |
| FY19 | 14 | 75% | \$ 592,920 |
| FY18 | 13 | 75% | \$ 534,554 |
| FY17 | 14 | 75% | \$ 446,704 |

At the Special Town Election, a new School Special Purpose Stabilization Fund was passed which will provide the district with a \$1.5M fund from which they can pay for important repair and maintenance projects. ***Thank you for all the support for the schools and for the students and staff.***

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BUDGET, RESOURCES AND GOVERNANCE

• **Budget and Finance**

➤ **Monthly Update (Mrs. Susan Owen)**

FY25 VOTED CAPITAL LIST

| | | |
|---|--|-------------------|
| C | Bus Lease (8 Diesel Buses) | \$ 90,000 |
| C | Electric Bus Lease | \$ 7,000 |
| C | Replacement of Aging Chromebooks (540 - 3-year lease) | \$ 51,337 |
| C | Replace all Projectors with Interactive Presentation Equipment at CHS (46) | \$ 225,483 |
| C | Replacement Furniture –Students/Staff (Deer Hill) | \$ 35,000 |
| C | Add Chromebooks at Deer Hill Elementary (75) | \$ 26,250 |
| | | \$ 435,070 |
| S | Fire Alarms, (CMHS) Engineering Study | \$ 150,000 |
| S | Finish Retiling All Classrooms at Deer Hill | \$ 300,000 |
| | | \$ 450,000 |
| | GRAND TOTAL..... | \$ 885,070 |

FY24 ELECTRIC SUMMARY THROUGH MAY 31, 2024

| <u>SCHOOL</u> | <u>FY24 COST MAY 2024</u> | <u>FY23 COST MAY 2023</u> | <u>FY24 KILOWATTS MAY 2024</u> | <u>FY23 KILOWATTS MAY 2023</u> |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Osgood Elementary | \$ 96,220.36 | \$ 87,688.78 | 350,100 | 378,000 |
| Deer Hill Elementary | \$ 96,899.69 | \$ 72,341.35 | 338,600 | 344,800 |
| Middle/High School | <u>\$281,204.20</u> | <u>\$196,967.92</u> | <u>1,027,500</u> | <u>949,500</u> |
| | \$474,324.25 | \$356,998.05 | 1,716,200 | 1,672,300 |

FY24 GAS SUMMARY THROUGH MAY 31, 2024

| <u>SCHOOL</u> | <u>FY24 COST MAY 2024</u> | <u>FY23 COST MAY 2023</u> | <u>FY24 KILOWATTS MAY 2024</u> | <u>FY23 KILOWATTS MAY 2023</u> |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Osgood Elementary | \$ 33,864.53 | \$ 29,315.85 | 39,688 | 39,146 |
| Deer Hill Elementary | \$ 28,798.07 | \$ 24,792.80 | 33,731 | 33,467 |
| Middle/High School | <u>\$ 98,455.12</u> | <u>\$ 74,281.49</u> | <u>119,164</u> | <u>101,784</u> |
| | \$161,117.72 | \$128,390.14 | 192,583 | 174,397 |

Mrs. Owen had a concern with utilities in FY25, it was taken off this list for budgeting and revenue reasons.

BUDGET, RESOURCES AND GOVERNANCE

➤ **FY24 ENROLLMENT as of JUNE 1, 2024**

| School | June 1, 2024 | Number of Classes | Class Size |
|----------------------|--------------|-------------------|------------|
| Joseph Osgood | 394 | | |
| Preschool | 40 | 2 | 20 |
| Kindergarten | 108 | 6 | 18 |
| Grade 1 | 118 | 6 | 20 |
| Grade 2 | 128 | 6 | 21 |

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BUDGET, RESOURCES AND GOVERNANCE

➤ **FY24 ENROLLMENT as of JUNE 1, 2024**

| School | June 1, 2024 | Number of Classes | Class Size |
|------------------|--------------|-------------------|------------|
| Deer Hill | 319 | | |
| Grade 3 | 110 | 6 | 18 |
| Grade 4 | 104 | 5 | 21 |
| Grade 5 | 105 | 5 | 21 |

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|------------|--|--|
| Cohasset Middle School | 291 | | |
| Grade 6 | 97 | | |
| Grade 7 | 107 | | |
| Grade 8 | 87 | | |

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------|--|--|
| Cohasset High School | 406 | | |
| Grade 9 | 95 | | |
| Grade 10 | 111 | | |
| Grade 11 | 101 | | |
| Grade 12 | 99 | | |
| GRAND TOTAL | 1,410 | | |

• **FOOD SERVICE**

Congratulations to the new Food Service Director, Vinicio Cordon, on a very successful first year in Cohasset Public Schools. They have made many upgrades and enhancements and will continue to do so in future years.

• **TRANSPORTATION**

The Electric Bus has arrived and is being used for one of their daily school bus routes with no areas of concern at the end of this school year.

• **Budget and Finance Conclusion**

The school year is over, and the only concerns are the Special Education Tuition deficit and the utility accounts. Mrs. Owen recommendation again for next year would be to increase their utility accounts to accommodate the rising cost of energy. If folks have specific questions, please contact Sue Owen prior to the meeting so that she can be prepared to fully answer questions/concerns at (781) 383-0611.

Ms. Lesky has two questions, the 1st question will the fire alarm and refinishing of the retiling of the classrooms at Deer Hill School happen over the Summer? Ms. Lesky's 2nd question is the energy usage something that can be a cultural shift around how energy is used, and/or is there a possibility to bid out for a supplier, or is that Town mandated? Ms. Lesky feels there's some fluctuation in actual use, but also culturally thinking about budgets in general where staff/teachers can unplug devices when not in use while school is out during the February and April breaks and over the Summer. When it comes to the budget, whether or not there are areas of taking a mindset of frugality might help the School Committee to act on some of that.

Mrs. Owen says yes to Ms. Lesky's 1st question and to her 2nd Mrs. Owen talks with the School Facilities where they've already updated all the lighting which really wasn't a huge savings. Contracts are made between the Town and the supplier the School Department doesn't play any part in that.

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BUDGET, RESOURCES AND GOVERNANCE

• Budget and Finance Conclusion

Mrs. Owen says the retiling of the classrooms at Deer Hill School will be done over the Summer. Some custodians came in early so they can start working on that right away. Once the final accounting is done in July, they'll have a better idea of the actual bottom number is. Then they'll make transfers from the Revolving Accounts over and transfer the money to any grants they have with unused balances.

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

This was presented by Mrs. Owen at the May 22, 2024 School Committee meeting to propose an increase in their user fees. Any student not legally required to be transported that chooses to ride a school bus pays a fee. MGL c71 sec. 68: 7-12: K-6 outside of 2 miles. Students who are eligible for reduced lunch do not pay. Currently, it costs \$350 per student with \$590 Family Cap. There are 450 students who pay to ride and obviously the school budget has a deficit in Revolving Accounts for Transportation Revolving with a lot of things that came into account. The current student ridership for the Joseph Osgood School has **275** students who use the school bus. There are **235** students who take the school bus to Deer Hill School, and **294** students who need to take the school bus to Middle/High School, and a total of 8 bus routes.

Large yellow school buses are rated for 77 passengers. Capacity decreases based on a student's age and size. A school bus that is rated for 77 passengers can only hold 52 Middle or High School students. Current transportation concerns are an increase in school bus driver salaries and incentives. They have a new school bus lease expense, where they added the electric school bus and getting funded for. There's a monthly school bus parking lot lease expense as well as hiring additional school bus drivers for backup. The Transportation Supervisor recommends an additional bus to be used for sports trips and field trips. Adding additional bus routes to evenly disperse students on current routes to avoid overcrowding. The School Department doesn't have the funding to purchase another school bus. Tried to push this through Capital for 15 athletic vans to help with athletics transportation, but that did not pass through Capital either.

Registration through MySchool April 1st through May 31st. A late fee of \$50 incurs after June 1st. Deadline for registration is July 30th. School bus routes will be posted on the school website on or before August 15th. Bus passes will be available in Aspen after August 15th. All updated information will be posted on the school website.

The proposal to increase transportation fees to \$400 would be \$22,500 additional revenue. If transportation fees are increased to \$425, an additional of \$33,750 would be an additional revenue and \$450 would bring in an additional \$45,000 to the potential revenue. Mrs. Owen proposes an increase of \$450 that would bring in an additional \$202,500 in revenue. Some districts charge \$570 but not in this area.

Mr. Carr reviewed this increase in a subcommittee meeting with Paul Kearney before he left and came out of the consensus the suggestion on the lower end of the fees were going to be considered and probably the most amount of sense they could live with if they should need that. Now with the additional fees the numbers look like they're leaning towards the lower end.

Mrs. Owen says the \$400 fee is good, but it doesn't keep things systematic, changing bus routes throughout the year. Sometimes the riders' fee is very inconsistent based on the day, the weather, and on a lot of factors, so it's hard to be dependable with that, but it's definitely worth looking at.

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BUDGET, RESOURCES AND GOVERNANCE

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

Chairman Dial doesn't want to make any decisions to this that may impact a single child household that will not actually raise any real revenue. There's a couple of facts the School Committee doesn't have and that one is the adjusted additional revenue. The other one is do they know how much it costs per student to run the buses. The Chair is okay charging a fee to make sure that fee reflects cost. The costs are increasing so their fees need to increase, but right now they would be just arbitrarily saying okay let's just add \$50, \$75, \$100, and here what the revenue is. It's not tied to what the increase in expenses is and don't know the cost side by the ledger well enough to look at the revenue side. What Chairman Dial does see they are high and he's curious how other districts are able to maintain these costs with lower fees. Maybe they do need a bigger allocation in their general budget.

Vice Chair MacLellan can see this being one of those things even though it seems a little minor especially the athletic fees. He suggests they table this item because they didn't roll this out and need to make sure everyone in the community is aware of the fact that they're talking about this.

Dr. Sullivan says this was presented at the May 22, 2024 School Committee meetings but there just wasn't enough attendance to vote on this and they need to get this done as quickly as possible so it would be going to a place for the next fiscal year. The user fees need to be charged over the Summer and if they ran out of runway because of the attendance of the School Committee.

The Chair would like to propose they have an actual agenda item on transportation to talk about the overall thing including how much it costs, how many buses they have, how many school bus drivers they have to get a full user fee increase on what it costs per student. The Chair is also curious about that \$200,000 increase in salaries. School bus drivers' salaries went from \$25 to \$32; it doesn't feel like that math adds up, it looks like it's almost double.

Ms. Hanna would like more understanding on the single family versus the family cap and understanding how many people have actually signed up already.

Vice Chair MacLellan suggests providing a comparison chart to see the other fees to show what the other surrounding 5 districts charge per rider cost for transportation to show where they are in that.

The Chair would also like to suggest options for cost savings and other places with too many school bus drivers and too many routes. He doesn't know the answer now, just doesn't want them to trip while falling adding a new revenue source. They've fully exhausted any potential processes. The other thing that would be helpful is if there is a way they can reallocate internally and create a larger forward-looking budget in their school budget as opposed to raising user fees. Obviously, transportation is critical for getting the kids to school. If there's other things they can do within the budget and the allocation they now have needs to be seen, these are operational things that could be problematic.

Ms. Lesky has a clarifying question. The number 450 is paid riders, paying students. Are they using paid students to try and subsidize the ridership they're required to provide transportation for. Ms. Lesky feels this gets a little bit complicated based on population density such as where people live, and how many of those people are close to school and able to walk and not pay. It's more of a complicated reason as to why their costs are higher when looking at that. Taking a small population of the whole student body in school to take care of an issue.

Cohasset Public Schools

Empower Students to Improve Communities

BUDGET, RESOURCES AND GOVERNANCE

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

The Athletic fee is currently \$250 with 270 participants and the district is not in the highest costs category regarding sports fees, they're right in the middle of what everyone around the surrounding towns is paying, some are more, some are less. The Athletic Director had some concerns with the Fitness Center equipment lease, increase in Game Staff, contracted bus service for transportation. The Athletic Director's wish list is dedicated van(s) for sports. Ron Ford did a whole reorganization of all the stipends for all the coaches and put them in different categories for increases. They negotiated on this, but this definitely raised the costs. Steve Rotondi has stated he needed an increase in Game Staff partly because they keep winning. The more they win, the more they play and travel more. For every sport a student plays pays \$250 with a family cap \$750 per year.

Vice Chair MacLellan suggests sending out a district email explaining the School Committee is considering increasing user fees because of the increased costs, especially when athletics are involved, it will catch people's attention.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS / COMMUNICATION

• Reports from School Committee Sub-Committees and Liaisons

Mr. Carr has a report regarding Community Relations. The subcommittee was asked to provide a tour of the Cohasset High School for the 50th school reunion class. Mr. Carr gave the tour with about 35 returning 50th school reunion class members that went very well. Each one of them remembered what each classroom was used for when they were here. They asked a lot of thoughtful questions, they're from all over the country. They had done a movie in Super 8 that took 1,000 hours for them to make when they were graduating from Cohasset High School 50 years ago. The movie was about riding a bicycle to school, it was very interesting. Mr. Carr recalls a moment from that tour while they were sitting down and talking, and somebody said look how they have high tech stuff for school security and Mr. Carr turned to say they have a good plan, and they practice everything. On that second, comes walking out of the School Resources Office in uniform, Resource Officer, Greg Taylor. They were all impressed with the security they have at Cohasset High School. They also asked Mr. Carr to share with the School Committee how thankful they are, and Mr. Carr now has a copy of that movie to share as well!

SCHOOL COMMITTEE GOVERNANCE

• School Committee Reorganization Plan

• SCHOOL GOVERNANCE

Chair: Craig MacLellan

Vice Chair: Lance Dial

Secretary: Ted Carr

Policy & Standards

Collective Bargaining

Superintendent Eval

• COMMUNICATIONS

Ted Carr

Jen Lesky

• BUDGET & RESOURCES

Ted Carr

Tori Hanna

Finance & Facilities

Security

Projects & Technology

• FOOD SERVICE & NUTRITION

Jen Lesky

Tori Hanna

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SCHOOL COMMITTEE GOVERNANCE

• **Superintendent's Evaluation**

Superintendent Patrick Sullivan is leaving the district but apparently the School Committee is still required to evaluate him. They have an evaluation prepared, it's not included in the materials because the Chair egregiously was late sending it out and soliciting comments from the School Committee. However, the Chair did solicit comments from the School Committee and the Chair is happy to say Dr. Sullivan was proficient, and his evaluation will look very similar to last year's Superintendent evaluation with proficiency in all marks.

The Chair would like this to be read in the record, the conclusion from the Superintendent evaluation. This notes earlier on that the reviews were provided in summary forms given Dr. Sullivan's departure. As noted above, this review is provided in summary form given Dr. Sullivan's pending departure from the district. That said, the School Committee unanimously and strongly believes that Dr. Sullivan has been an exemplary Superintendent throughout his tenure at Cohasset Public Schools. He has fostered a culture of continual improvement, attractive and fantastic administrative, and educational staff and made this district a better place. The Cohasset Public Schools are a better place because they have had Dr. Sullivan as a Superintendent, as a representative of the community and as a committee member. The Cohasset School Committee wishes Dr. Patrick Sullivan all the best in his future endeavors.

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

There were no topics reasonably anticipated by the Chair.

• **Approval of Minutes**

There were no minutes to approve.

• **Future Agenda Items**

2024-2025 User Fees. Have more discussions about the process of Collective Bargaining. Send out notifications to the community at the end of each school year of improvements, areas of potential growth, positive experiences, challenges, things like that nature from the previous year. Something like a summative year-end review. Things they're targeting they can include in this little missive they'll send out as a joint message to the community in a district email sometime mid-summer to send out. Talk more about alternative energy to see if those will help cut costs in the school's utility bills.

• **Executive Session¹ ****

The Chair states there is no reason to go into Executive Session.

• **Adjourn ****

A motion was made by Mr. Carr to adjourn the regular meeting of the Cohasset School Committee on Wednesday, June 26, 2024 at 8:31 PM, seconded by Vice Chair MacLellan.

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

****Requires Committee Vote / Action**

ALL SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETINGS ARE RECORDED.