Cohasset Public Schools

Empower Students to Improve Communities

COHASSET SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
Wednesday, October 16, 2024
6:00 PM

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

Virtual
Zoom *(chat enabled)*
https://zoom.us/j/93210720844
ID: 932 1072 0844 / Password: 461964
Dial In: +1 929 205 6099

Televised
Streamed Live on Cohasset 143TV

Facebook Cohasset Live Streaming
(watch/listen only)

In Attendance:

Craig MacLellan, Chair
Lance Dial, Vice Chair
Jennifer Lesky
Tori Hanna
Susan Owen, Director of Finance and Operations
Dr. Leslie Scollins, Assistant Superintendent
Mrs. Sarah Shannon, Superintendent

All School Committee Meetings Are Recorded.

AGENDA

Mr. MacLellan called to order the October 16, 2024 meeting of the Cohasset School Committee at 6:03 PM. Members of the school committee who are present are asked by the Chair to indicate so in a **Roll Call: Mr. Dial – Present; Mrs. Hanna-Present; Mrs. Lesky; Mr. MacLellan – Present. Mr. Carr - Absent**

Opening Remarks

As always, this meeting is being recorded on Cohasset 143 TV, it is also being live streamed via Facebook. To participate virtually, folks can log onto Zoom, using the meeting ID, and passcode on top of the agenda to utilize the Q&A feature on Zoom.

Public Comment

There is no public comment.

Public comment is reserved for comments, questions, or areas of concern that are not related to an item already on the agenda. If folks have a question, comment, or concern relative to an agenda item just wait until that point in the meeting. If there is something not related to anything on the agenda, please utilize the Q&A feature on Zoom and someone from the school committee will address their question or comment at an appropriate time.

Invited Guests

- **Mr. Bob Erlandsen - Share Statement Regarding Ballot Question 2**

Mr. Bob Erlandsen, Science Teacher at Cohasset Middle School, along with Mrs. Frazier, a member of SEPAC as well as a CPS parent are here to discuss Question 2 referendum coming up for a vote in November.

Invited Guests

- **Mr. Bob Erlandsen - Share Statement Regarding Ballot Question 2**

Mr. MacLellan would like to note the outs of this discussion and invite the school community, stakeholders, and especially their students to share their perspectives if they'd like and encourage participation at any level to the school committee. The Chair would also like to state that the Cohasset Public School district does not endorse a particular position on this. It is something that everyone has the right to vote on based on their own position and own judgement.

Mr. Erlandsen says other districts in the state have really stood up for their students. A YES vote will not stop MCAS testing, this will still continue, it's Federally mandated. It will not reduce the high standards that Massachusetts is known for, those are here to stay. What a YES vote will do is remove a narrow-standardized test for consideration on awarding high school diplomas to students. Over the past few weeks Mr. Erlandsen had the pleasure of participating in the Visioning exercises as the district works towards the goal of a new middle-high building and to what teaching and learning will look like in such a place. They've had conversations about project-based learning that will bring community involvement and other innovative means to teach as well assess students in their learning. In those conversations not once did Mr. Erlandsen hear about more standardized testing. Even though standardized testing is limited with a narrow mode of assessments, it doesn't measure the whole child. If Cohasset Public Schools truly believes in their mission that is focused on the student, they have to reject the system that punishes students simply for not being good test takers. They can argue about the validity of MCAS as a way to address the district inequity, accountability measures that it provides making sure standards are being taught. Those are valid discussion points that will be better yet to come, but it's indefensible to continue to deny high school diplomas to students who otherwise can meet graduation requirements and not solely on their performance on the MCAS test.

Mr. Erlandsen knocked on one-thousand doors literally across the South Shore this Summer and Fall. He's heard the argument that if students don't pass, they can take it over again, they have remediation courses. The problem with that is trying to force kids to the limited time MCAS testing takes. This drives away students from courses educators want them to be in such as Arts, Music, electives that give kids these wonderful square edges that if removed, educators deny students the pleasure of those creative arts instead for remediation courses.

Mr. Erlandsen had many conversations with business owners, visual artists and other creatives who felt that if they were not able to pass that test, they would have been denied a high school diploma. Not receiving a high school diploma, they can't get financial aid or get accepted into Trade programs.

MCAS data is collected with distracting good teaching and the cost from Massachusetts taxpayers that is way overpriced, but the use of that data to punish students is offensive. Frankly, it makes Mr. Erlandsen very upset as it should to all reasonable educators who know and understand the limitations of assessments and make allowances for students on a daily basis to show their understanding in the modes they do best. With that in mind, Mr. Erlandsen implores the community to take a stand with the sixty plus State Legislators, dozens of School Committees, 4 State Representatives including Ayanna Presley and Elizabeth Warren who are all in favor of this to pass this resolution in support of their students that are the reason they do what they do.

Mrs. Frazier, member of the Cohasset SEPAC received an email from Patrick O'Connor, State Senator who thanked the Cohasset SEPAC for all their support that addresses the long-standing equity issues associated with the high-stake nature of the MCAS test. Passing this bill into law is a victory for all and creates a more equitable and accessible education system, and he truly appreciates advocacy of passing this bill.

Invited Guests

- **Mr. Bob Erlandsen - Share Statement Regarding Ballot Question 2**

Mrs. Frazier is a member of SEPAC and she's representing Cohasset SEPAC tonight because she has children that are on IEP's who are smart, creative, and very highly intelligent kids that don't do well on standardized tests and should not be penalized for that. Mrs. Frazier wrote a letter to members of the Cohasset School Committee that SEPAC would like to express their support of this ballot initiative and encourage parents, and educators to vote YES on Question 2. Massachusetts is one of the only states which requires a high school graduation test for a diploma. This is an unfair and inequitable requirement for students with disabilities and for students in underprivileged communities. The MCAS test is not changing, the test will continue to be administered, and it will be used as a diagnostic tool. Data collection will continue to be helpful in determining a student's eligibility for an IEP service and delivery accommodations. Children with learning disabilities are at a higher risk for depression, anxiety, and other mental health issues. They often have to work harder than their peers to just access the curriculum. They need accommodation which is not provided during an MCAS exam, and these students should not be punished because they have a disability, they deserve to get a high school diploma. Removing the MCAS score as a graduation requirement will reduce stress and also empower the teachers that they trust to do their job. This will relieve all students from the pressure of performance on a standardized test that is not a reflection of their intelligence. Mrs. Frazier would like to emphasize the miscommunications about this MCAS bill, specifically, the test is not being taken away or holding the school accountable because SEPAC needs that data for IEP eligibility. Mrs. Frazier is not a teacher but from talking to teachers, it takes over the classroom with time to prepare for the MCAS and do sample tests. This puts a lot of pressure on the kids, especially the ones with disabilities who are already under it on a daily basis. All kids deserve this, especially attending school to get a high school diploma.

Mr. Erlandsen asks the school committee, as representatives of the town to represent the educational system they have there to take a stand and vote to approve this resolution and be supportive of their students with their uniqueness and their ability to move on with their dreams.

Mrs. Hanna asks how many kids are failing and how this will change teaching and the stress that is put on. If MCAS is not a graduation requirement will the students still need to take it.

Previous years, CMS had 3 MCAS test, last year CMS piloted 4 MCAS test and teachers time went into all of that.

The Chair appreciates Mr. Erlandsen and Mrs. Frazier perspectives on this very important issue that is related to education and thanks them both for bringing it up to the table for discussion. Mr. MacLellan is not going to entertain a motion to adopt this resolution. It is not because as a school committee they disagree with it or know where everyone's perspectives are on this because it is not the school committee's role or purview to endorse a particular vote. That is for the constituents to individually go and decide how they feel about an issue. The school committee will obviously adapt however the law comes out, if it passes, the school committee will need to follow that and if it doesn't, then they'll continue as they have. As a public body representing a public entity it is not appropriate for the school committee to tell people how they should vote, that is a private individual decision in a democracy.

Invited Guests

- **Disposal of Designated Weeded Library Books in Learning Commons** (Ms. Montse Garriga)**

Mr. Dial would like a refresher on how these library books were chosen, what criteria made the books subject to their disposal from this list of publications. Will these books be replaced because there's a lot of books to dispose on the list.

Invited Guests

- **Disposal of Designated Weeded Library Books in Learning Commons** (Ms. Montse Garriga)**

Ms. Garriga says more vibrant language cycles are used in fiction books that were replaced with fiction books that were 31 years old. Basically, the books are in the process of aging, the library kept some books classified as classics. The staff in the library noticed the newer fiction books were being checked out. The way they gather more books is going through different lists as Exhibit C-1 presented to the school committee.

A motion was made by Mrs. Hanna to approve the proposed disposal of listed books that appear in exhibit C-1 on the October 16, 2024 school committee meeting agenda, seconded by Mrs. Lesky.

Aye – All

Invited Guests

- **Cohasset High School French Exchange 2026** (Mr. Keither Grasmann and Mr. Jeff Kotter)**

Mr. Grasmann is in the process of starting up the Cohasset Middle/High School French Exchange Program for 2026 registered via FORUM by Prométour. At the present time, 20 students showed interest which doesn't include all students enrolled as sophomores and juniors who will for this trip in 2026 be juniors and seniors. Those are the two grades that would be able to join and participate. There will be more students when the Spring semester of students enroll in the French language curriculum.

The goal is to have a pedagogical, immersive experience that reaches all 3 aspects of the vision of the graduate with some inspiring character that allow students to take risks outside their own comfort zone, the purposeful traveler becoming global citizens, and not just a way they're aware, but to have first-hand real-life experiences that they can. They come back and become agents of change, which is one of the standards, the framework for Massachusetts foreign language standards.

In December, 2024, Mr. Grasmann would like to start sign-ups to get a sense of who signed up, who is going to start filling out forms about their interests to begin pairing them with families. Once March and April happen students will be able to start the rapport where they'll have an opportunity to meet online, emails, text messages, all being overseen by Ms. Elsneth and Mr. Grasmann. During the summer, students will have other opportunities that are informal to get to know each other. On December 10th -20th 2024 is the anticipated arrival of the French groups who will come here to Cohasset and spend one week with families and do everything the families do. Generally, students would have one weekend to have more free time, that's just with the host families.

The proposed trip will be from February 6th - February 19th, 2026. The cost for this trip is $4,118 per student. Cohasset students will be paired up with students in Strasbourg. Both Cohasset and Strasbourg families will be CORI checked or equivalent as France. The lead teacher in Strasbourg assured Mr. Grasmann this would be completed. Families who have children in the school systems who will be participating will be screened by the lead teachers. The lead teachers will be present when students arrive to ensure they go with the safe, registered and correct families. Ms. Elsneth, who is an English teacher, has experience with how to welcome the families and what to look out for.

In February 2026, Cohasset students will stay with their partner and their host families. Students will go to their school in France to do activities in the afternoons. Then in the Spring, 2026 Strasbourg students and their lead teacher will come to Cohasset to do the exact style of visit students from Cohasset did in February, 2026.

Invited Guests

- **Cohasset High School French Exchange 2026** (Mr. Keither Grasmann and Mr. Jeff Kotter)**

Mr. Kotter has done six (6) Exchange Programs when he was teaching solely French language at CMHS in 2006 where they had great participation in it. It's a credit bearing class in the program of studies, there is a working product associated with this that includes a lot of elements that will help students strengthen their French language so they can perform well in any class to help achieve the seal of literacy they strive for. Data has shown that's the one modality students have the hardest time achieving in order to achieve the seal of literacy. There's been strong Exchange Programs at CMHS with students over the years where students saw the world differently and gained confidence more importantly. Mr. Kotter says that has always been a matter of concern, it's similar to any athletic endeavors or other trips. Students will know ahead of time and teachers will have them work ahead of time that needs to be achieved in February. This gives ample time for students to catch up on that weekend when they return back home to adjust to jet lag and do some work. Depending on the classes students take, some teachers help them identify some kind of work they can do. Students who participate in the French Exchange will not be considered absent.

Mr. Dial's view on these trips is absolutely priceless, the learning experiences they give to their students with memories they'll have forever. Mr. Dial wants to know how they deal with students out of school for this week. Do students have to make up work with their other teachers, how is that covered? Will these be considered absences? It would be helpful to see a calendar of these various trips that were approved for opportunities so families can plan out their trip budget, especially families who have multiple kids in different grades.

Mrs. Hanna would like to add to what Mr. Dial said about these trips being invaluable learning experiences. It would be great to understand all the trips across the board and thanks Mr. Grasmann and Mr. Kotter for their efforts into this and putting this trip together for CMHS students.

Mrs. Lesky would like to add her appreciation for the efforts putting this trip together and the opportunity for students to challenge the language and the culture to grow a little bit by being away from home, Mrs. Lesky is fully in support of that. Will financial aid be available for these kinds of trips. Also listening to feedback from last time around the concerns with the CORI checks, she appreciates Mr. Grasmann for taking that to heart.

Mr. Grasmann reiterates it's essential to have equity amongst all students. Fundraising to bring the cost down is separate from this statement. Mr. Grasmann has difficulty communicating with students to join via interest brochures for the French Exchange, this is more face-to-face communications with the families. He would like the message to be transmitted to people that really need to know that they want to support and be there for them and everything is a yes where they can somehow find a solution. The Cohasset community and students have already helped Mr. Grasmann giving him ideas for fundraising.

The Chair commences both Mr. Grasmann and Mr. Kotter doing this for students. It's exactly the type of thing they want students to be doing. There's a lot of planning that went into this and Mr. Grasmann obviously is very passionate about his job and students are benefiting from that passion.

A motion was made by Mr. Dial to approve the 2026 French Exchange Program as presented and proposed by Mr. Kiether Grasmann and Mr. Jeff Kotter at the October 16, 2024 school committee meeting, seconded by Mrs. Lesky.

Aye – All

Superintendent Updates

- **Visioning Updated (Mrs. Sarah Shannon)**

It's been a busy 2 weeks, but a really good 2 weeks. Part of that was their full Professional Day on Friday, October 11th and then celebrated Indigenous Day on Monday, October 14th. Mrs. Sarah Shannon is excited to share they have successfully held 2 of 3 Visioning meetings for the Cohasset Middle/High School Feasibility Study. They've met two mornings bringing in administrators, teachers, students, parents, town committees, school committee, and architects to talk about the future of student learning experiences in the Cohasset school district. The hands-on work has been collaborative, and highly engaging which is exactly what they're trying to produce for student learning experiences. It has celebrated what their schools and teachers do well currently and push themselves to challenge what else is possible.

Mrs. Sarah Shannon would like to give thanks to Amara Pierce, Shaira Gibson, Fiona Renny, Nora Khan, Zach Sheeran, Finley Sheffield, Jack Ryan, and Caroline McCallion for their time. They've all been awesome, and she's so glad they're part of the process.

Mrs. Shannon would like to also thank METCO for helping. Aleisa Gittens-Carle, Director of METCO hosted a leadership retreat for Dr. Scollins and Mrs. Shannon for a powerful retreat and they were able to learn from Dr. Darnisha Amante Jackson and Lee Tuttle who are wonderful facilitators and powerful presenters about diversity, equity, and inclusion. They brought things to them that help push their thinking about what their practices are that are critical for students. Mrs. Shannon was grateful for that opportunity and looking forward to December when METCO has another workshop.

Teaching and Learning

- **Academic Initiatives**
  - ➢ **Update on October 11, 2024 Professional Development (Dr. Leslie Scollins)**

The Cohasset Middle/High School Educators continue their work looking at their curriculum. Last year they showed mapping of the curriculum and now looking at benchmark assessments and that work was done with the whole school and departments on Friday, October 11th which was wonderful.

The Elementary Schools worked on responsive classrooms with a presentation by the Deer Hill teachers at the Deer Hill School. They also did a lot of data analysis on MCAS and iReady data which was a really healthy day for them. The Osgood School staff worked on MTSS with the new Principal to do some work to build capacity. The Teaching and Learning Alliance consultant did some work on literacy.

Dr. Scollins says they also secured a grant with METCO to train another team on Restorative Justice practices that was really wonderful. Teachers were trained in Safety/Security that need to be certified every two years.

One of the many great things that came out of this Professional Development Day was the Community Circles that Mrs. Shannon started this school year. This was an opportunity for all PreK-12 staff to come together and be in groups that are universal.

The Massachusetts Queue Conference is happening today and tomorrow at Gillette Stadium in Foxboro. This is a massive conference on technology and innovative learning. Principals, Teachers, and Instructional Technology Instructors participated.

Families will receive information around iReady and Dibbles diagnostic scores. For grades 1-5 those will be available tomorrow and are available by logging onto ASPEN.

Teaching and Learning

- **Academic Initiatives**

➢ **Update on October 11, 2024 Professional Development (Dr. Leslie Scollins)**

Along with that if a student needs extra support, families will get notifications as well. MCAS scores will be available on Friday, October 18th and that notification will go out to families tomorrow. Everything can be found in ASPEN for families.

Mr. MacLellan says they frequently hear about Responsive Classroom and asks Dr. Scollins if she could briefly describe what that is for everyone.

Dr. Scollins says it's really based on social, emotional learning, building, and creating relationships in the classroom. It's a way to manage classrooms, it's respectful and everyone knows what their expectations are. It also involves making sure children learn how to self-regulate. Students learn how to make amends or a situation hurting someone's feelings and how do they communicate that. It aligns really nicely with Restorative Justice and those are the things they're going to be looking at.

Also, the Chair asks if any families have questions on how to interpret the scores they'll be receiving, who would be the best person for them to contact?

Dr. Scollins suggests their classroom teacher would be the best contact. If families receive a letter from a Reading or Math Specialist, they should certainly reach out to them. Within the content of the letter sent to families there is a link for parents to get some information such as what Dibbles means and what does that report mean, there's some self-help within there too.

Budget, Resources and Governance

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

➢ **Monthly Update**

The voted school budget for FY25 is $23,909,407 plus a separate one-time allotment of $342,399 to cover the special education shortage. This is a total of $24,261,806 available to spend for FY25. As of September 30, 2024, expended $3,496,485 or 14.41% of the budget being 25% through the school year. Encumbered supplies and materials on purchase orders in the amount of $2,521,204. There is a remaining balance of $18,234,117 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. Closely monitor accounts and freeze them as they become exhausted. They will not allow any overrides to these budgets, meaning no deficits unless the Superintendent approves. Encumbered entire payroll on a purchase order to ensure they have funds to cover payroll through the end of the year. Manually spend the purchase orders down as they finalize each payroll, that number will be shown in the October report.

Special Education Tuitions were budgeted at $926,416 and are currently encumbered on purchase orders. There is a shortfall in Special Education Tuitions in the amount of -$263,140. Since the final voted budget, the district had 3 unanticipated out placements, and one student moved from a collaborative school to a private school.

School	Budget	Expended	Encumbrances	Balance	% Used	FTE
Osgood	$4,514,368	$521,850	$203,169	$3,789,349	16.06%	52.10
Deer Hill	$4,380,032	$481,380	$157,869	$3,740,783	14.59%	46.40
Middle	$4,218,395	$423,824	$ 14,668	$3,779,903	10.39 %	46.00
High School	$7,241,994	$996,593	$525,830	$5,749,571	24.81%	66.80

Budget, Resources and Governance

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

➢ **Monthly Update**

Circuit Breaker Funding received in FY24 was $1,177,034. Due to budget shortfalls and unanticipated expenditures, the district needed to utilize $1,078,643 leaving a balance of $98,391 to be carried over into FY25. Circuit Breaker Funding to be received in FY25 will be $1,097,956 being paid in 4 installments. Circuit Breaker is a state program providing school districts with reimbursement for some of the costs incurred for providing "free and appropriate education" to students with special needs.

Capital Outlay Funds for FY25 - $435,070

School Bus Lease	$ 90,000
Electric School Bus Lease	$ 7,000
Furniture Replacement – Student & Staff (Deer Hill Cycle)	$ 35,000
Replacement of Aging Chromebooks (540–3-Year Lease $143,000)	$ 51,337
Replace Smart Projectors/Panels in All Rooms (CHS)	$225,483
Deer Hill Chromebooks	$ 26,250
TOTAL	**$435,070**

Capital Outlay Stabilization Fund for FY25 - $450,000

Middle/High School Fire Alarm Study	$150,000
Deer Hill Completion of Retiling Floors	$300,000
TOTAL	**$450,000**

The Food Service Department continues to be very successful with many upgrades and enhancements including a new pizza oven. Cohasset Middle School and Friends of Holly Hill Farm School Garden curriculum program is feeding student bodies and minds this school year.

A review of transportation is ongoing as their ridership has increased. There were over 80 students who registered in the first week of school. The school was notified by EnelX the lead in their electric school bus project is going out of business and the school will need to find a new company to support their e-charger.

Mrs. Susan Owen says at this point in the school year, without the usual concerns regarding utility costs and unforeseen tuition expenses, the budget is proceeding based on projections.

Mr. Dial has a question on special education tuitions that looks like they have shortfall of $263,140 and asks if they have an identified source where they'll be able to obtain that money to make those payments. It remains to be seen where that money will come from.

Mrs. Owen states no, not yet. Between now and the end of the school year that number is going to fluctuate up and down.

Mrs. Lesky asks why CHS has the biggest budget, being a population relatively equal amongst the other schools.

The Chair would like to add another color to the financial situation. He asked Superintendent Mrs. Shannon to provide a tangible update to a path of remediation.

Mrs. Owen and Mrs. Shannon have engaged with an organization called Open Architects. Basically, a Financial Institution that works with Municipalities who come in and do a financial overview.

Budget, Resources and Governance

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

➢ **Monthly Update**

Open Architects come in to assess risks in all areas and provide recommendations on how to adjust when expected to be at a deficit at the end of the year. They'll be using all of their Circuit Breaker Funds and will still have a deficit. Open Architects come in and look at the big picture of everything and provide recommendations as to how to close that gap. CPS will be moving forward with Open Architects services and are optimistic they'll be able to help identify a stronger path forward. Open Architects has helped many other districts do this. They're not going to solve all the problems because some of the problems are even bigger than they can solve.

The Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents does a lot of legislative lobbying trying to address some of these issues, everything about how Chapter 70 is funded to putting some caps on the out of district partners. However, they think Open Architects can help the schools with what they can control. They'll be engaging with them and the goal was to come to the school committee towards the end of November with a plan and path forward. Once Open Architects starts, they said it will be a 6–8-week process.

Mr. Dial would like to know how Open Architects will be compensated. Will they be compensated with a percentage of savings? Will it be a flat fee? One solution to explore is obviously working more with the Town about greater allocations from the Town. Have they engaged yet with Chris Senor and Ms. Maher about how to do that. As a longtime resident, the one area Mr. Dial learned as a sensitive nerve is the allocation of new revenue that was apparently fixed in an agreement that was very difficult amongst the Town several years ago. They landed on a percentage of new revenue that goes to the schools and people are not presenting happiness about that but opening that to debate for more that might bring out people who are opposed to it. The earlier they can canvass and campaign for that, the better off they'll all be.

Mrs. Shannon says it's a flat fee of $9,500. Chair MacLellan and herself met with Chris Senor and Ms. Maher twice now monthly. They have another meeting in October and the Town is aware of the situation and will continue to keep them updated. Open Architects will look at the Town and the school relationship and identify if there are any areas where they can suggest some shifts.

Budget, Resources and Governance

➢ **Capital Budget - Initial Conversation**

FY26 DRAFT CAPITAL LIST	**SUM of 2026**
Bus Lease (8 diesel buses)	$ 156,000
Electric Bus Lease	$ 25,000
Window Shades-Fix and Replace in all Buildings (In Process of Gathering Quotes)	$
Replace all Projectors with Interactive Presentation Equipment (Osgood/Deer Hill)	$
Security Cameras – (Scheduling Walk Thru with Vendor to Identify Areas Needing Cameras)	$
Furniture-Replace Main Office Furniture at Deer Hill (Waiting Quotes)	$
Furniture-Replace Main Office Furniture and Counseling Offices CMS (Waiting Quotes)	$
Furniture-Replace Teacher Desks/Classrooms CMS/CHS (Waiting Quotes)	$
(2) New Athletics 15 Passenger Vans (48 Month Lease)	$ 33,666
IPADS at Osgood (each class will have own set)	$
Soft Starter for Elevator at CMHS (Nick and Jake Getting Quotes)	$

Budget, Resources and Governance

➢ **Capital Budget - Initial Conversation**

FY26 DRAFT CAPITAL LIST	**SUM of 2026**
Facilities to Build Multiyear Plan and Obtain Quotes for Remaining Items (Nick and Jake)	$
Asphalt Road & Sidewalk Between DHS and JOS Needs to be Resurfaced (DHS)	$ 120,000
Asphalt Road from Pond Street needs to be Resurfaced (CMHS)	$ 100,000
Replace Sidewalk and Curbing on Entry Road to CMHS (CMHS)	$ 250,000
Extend Sidewalk to Pond Street (CMHS)	$ 50,000
GRAND TOTAL	**$ 734,666**

Community Relations / Communication

- **Reports from School Committee Subcommittees and Liaisons**

There are no reports from School Committee Subcommittees and Liaisons.

School Committee Governance

- There were no topics not reasonably anticipated within 48 hours of the meeting by the Chair.

- **Approval of Minutes**

There are no minutes to approve.

The Chair would like to bring up an issue in the minutes. The district recently received through the Chair a request on the Cohasset school committee meeting minutes for 2023-2024. The request came from a gentleman by the name of Patrick Higgins, an open meeting expert who seeks to enforce certain open meeting laws and has done so connecting with various districts throughout the Commonwealth. Mr. Higgins happened upon the Cohasset district and pointed out several deficiencies with the Cohasset school committee minutes. The Chair had a nice conversation with Mr. Higgins and the school committee will endeavor to rectify those issues with Executive Session Meeting minutes and rectify the posting process as well as some content areas of school committee meeting minutes. Minutes should list documents that were included as exhibits to each meeting. The Chair along with Mr. Carr will make these changes as members of the school committee are a volunteer board and want to make sure their serving their constituency in the district in an excellent fashion as they can. Mr. Higgins provided a template with a set of meeting minutes for the district associated with this and the school committee will adapt to that template a little bit more, making sure the district is compliant with that. Anyone can access the minutes for every committee in every town for any town board on that town's website in the agenda section to get these documents.

Mrs. Shannon would like to thank and give credit to Jennifer Souretis and Lisa Portalese for all the work they both did to the Cohasset Public Schools website to obtain not only the minutes but also the documents that were included as exhibits for each meeting shown on the right-hand column.

- **Future Agenda Items**

Mr. Dial would like an item put on the agenda of school trips for the upcoming year and trips students have taken. Another request from Mr. Dial is on the Capital list where there's a lot of good items there but nothing for the Stabilization Fund. This would be helpful to see how their planning is and working with the School Facilities to see how they're budgeting for some of the giant items they know are coming like roofs, boilers, and things like that. How will that Stabilization Fund be deployed over the next 5 years and invite the School Facilities Committee.

Cohasset Public Schools

Empower Students to Improve Communities

School Committee Governance

- **Future Agenda Items**

Mrs. Lesky would like to see some updates on where the curriculum project is and where they are now. What final steps will they be taking to see that project come to fruition. Last year they talked about writing in the schools that being a focus of the district.

Mr. MacLellan notes some spotlights on learning will be invited to school committee meetings in the near future. Also, Mr. MacLellan asks Mrs. Owen to find what the participation rate for the Food Service Program is at each building. Also, at some point would like to see a showcase from the Garden Club at CMS from the students who plant and harvest vegetables.

- **Executive Session [1]** #3: Litigation and Collective Bargaining**

A motion was made by Mr. Dial for the School Committee to move into Executive Session[1] G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21(a) to discuss #3 Litigation and Collective Bargaining. The School Committee will not reconvene in regular session to adjourn, seconded by Mrs. Hanna. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Dial-Aye; Mrs. Hanna-Aye; Mrs. Lesky-Aye; Mr. MacLellan-Aye.

- **Adjourn****

The Cohasset School Committee meeting for Wednesday, October 16, 2024 adjourned at 7:39 PM

****Requires Committee Vote / Action**

[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.

Materials used for the October 16, 2024 Cohasset School Committee meeting:

Disposal of Designated Weeded Library Books in Learning Commons** (Ms. Montse Garriga)	Exhibit C-1
Cohasset High School French Exchange 2026** (Mr. Keither Grasmann and Mr. Jeff Kotter)	Exhibit C-2
Budget and Finance Monthly Update (Mrs. Susan Owen, Director of Finance & Operations)	Exhibit F-1

Submitted by
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