

*Cohasset Public Schools*  
*143 Pond Street*  
*Cohasset, MA 02045*  
*Empower Students to Improve Communities*

**MINUTES**

**Regular Meeting of the Cohasset School Committee**

**Wednesday, January 08, 2025**

**6:00 PM**

In Person Participation

Learning Commons

Cohasset Middle and High School

143 Pond Street

Cohasset, MA 02025

**In Attendance:**

Craig MacLellan, Chair

Lance Dial, Vice Chair

Ted Carr, Secretary

Jennifer Lesky

Tori Hanna

Susan Owen, Director of Finance and Operations

Michael Stapleton, Director of Student Services

Mrs. Sarah Shannon, Superintendent

**All Cohasset School Committee Meetings Are Recorded.**

**AGENDA**

**Call to Order**

Mr. Craig MacLellan called to order the January 8, 2025 meeting for the Cohasset School Committee promptly at 6:00 PM. Members on the Cohasset School Committee who are present are asked by the Chair to please indicate so in **Roll Call**: **Mr. Carr-Present; Mr. Dial-Present; Mrs. Hanna-Present; Mrs. Lesky-Present; Chairman MacLellan-Present.** A full panel of five (5) members to start off the new year.

*In- person attendees who are able and willing are asked by the Chair to please rise to the recitation for the Nations Pledge of Allegiance, following Call to Order, and Roll Call at all Cohasset School Committee meetings.*

**Opening Remarks**

Before the meeting starts, the Chair would like to remind folks this meeting is being recorded, it's being streamed live on Facebook, also being broadcast on Cohasset 143TV. Folks can participate in-person and participate virtually by utilizing the zoom link that appears at the top on the School Committee's agenda. Once logged on, folks can comment if so, by utilizing the Q&A feature on hand to which a member of the school committee is monitoring this intermittently. The school committee welcomes any concerns or comments folks may have on the district calendar for the upcoming 2025-2026 school year. Please wait until the meeting arrives on the agenda for January 8, 2025 to make any comment, or concern.

**Public Comment**

No Public Comment.

**Superintendent Updates (Mrs. Sarah Shannon)**

• **Superintendent Update**

- **2025-2026 District Calendar (first read and initial discussion)**

[Exhibit D-1]

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**Superintendent Updates (Mrs. Sarah Shannon)**

• **Superintendent Update**

➤ **2025-2026 District Calendar (first read and initial discussion)**

[Exhibit D-1]

Mrs. Shannon would like to start first by wishing families in the community and students a Happy New Year! All members on the Cohasset School Committee received three (3) different proposed district calendars attached to exhibit D-1 for their review with pros and cons to all three (3) and the solution may end up being a combination of something. The school administration is proposing a few changes and options for the FY2025-FY2026 school year, so families can start making plans for next year's Winter break.

One of the few changes the administration would like to make is early release days with regard to Professional Day's. In the past, early release and Professional Development Days were back-to-back up to one another with more days of Professional learning for the staff in some months than others. An ideal situation for educators is to have learning spread out a little bit more over the course of the year and the administration would potentially like to move to the second full day, or a full Professional Development Day earlier into the school year so teachers had more opportunities and take advantage on what students were learning and the work they were doing rather than waiting until March. Traditionally, the last few years were backed up to an early release day, (e.g. early release Thursday, Full Day Friday, then the weekend with everybody back to school on Monday.) The administration is proposing to separate those two days for FY2025-FY2026 and still have an early release in March and move that full day to January so educators can take advantage of the learning and work for the remainder of the school year.

The district has early release days in almost every month except those with full days. November is a choppy month already with the Thanksgiving holiday and parent conferences. The district has kept early release in full days on Friday that has been historically done in the district. Not this coming year, but something for the school committee and the administration to think about the FY26-FY27 school years and continues to work best for Cohasset families. An idea came forward to the administration on late starts, instead of early releases for the school committee to consider falling into the FY2026-FY2027 school year.

There are two other options to talk about at tonight's meeting, which is the December holiday break. Where Christmas and New Year falls, it changes every year, this year it was on a Wednesday, and next year will be a nice long break with those two holidays fall on a Thursday. Mrs. Shannon has spoken with the leadership team and the CTA leadership about that break.

**Draft 1 District Calendar** school closed December 23, 2025 to January 1, 2026 with the Monday before break and the Friday falling following the New Year, being school days with January 16, 2026 being a full day of Professional Development and potential being the 180<sup>th</sup> day of school days being Tuesday, June 16, 2026.

**Draft 2 District Calendar** school closed Monday, December 22, 2025, returning to school on Friday, January 2, 2026 with a full day of Professional Development being January 16, 2026 that does push that potential 180<sup>th</sup> day school days till Wednesday, June 17, 2026.

**Draft 3 District Calendar** school being closed similarly from Monday, December 22, 2025 and for family's school is closed all the way through end of 2<sup>nd</sup> week through January 2, 2026 with a return to school for students on January 5, 2026. Professional Development Day would be Friday, January 2, 2026 with a return to school for the staff and January 16, 2026 becomes a regular school day. The potential last day of school being the 180<sup>th</sup> day of school days with this option would be Wednesday, June 17, 2026.

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**Superintendent Updates (Mrs. Sarah Shannon)**

• **Superintendent Update**

➤ **2025-2026 District Calendar (first read and initial discussion)**

[Exhibit D-1]

**DRAFT 1** **2025-2026 Cohasset Public Schools Calendar** 

SCM Dates have not been approved. - Added to help with scheduling

| Month          | Days           | Events                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|----------------|----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| July 2025      | S M T W TH F S | 4 Independence Day                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| August 2025    | S M T W TH F S | 21, 25, 26 New Teacher Orientation - Full Day<br>27 All Teachers' and ESPs' Opening Day Including Safety Training<br>28 All Teachers' and ESPs' Professional Development - Full Day                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| September 2025 | S M T W TH F S | 1 Labor Day - Schools Closed<br>2 Grades 1-12 - First Day of School<br>3 Kindergarten - First Day of School<br>8 PreK - First Day of School<br>9 JOS Open House<br>11 DHS Open House<br>19 Professional Development - Early Release<br>16 CHS Open House<br>18 CMS Open House<br>23-24: Rosh Hashanah                                                                                                                                                                               |
| October 2025   | S M T W TH F S | 10 Professional Development - Full Day<br>13 Indigenous Peoples Day - Schools Closed<br>22-23 PK-5 Conferences - Early Release JOS & DHS. Full Day of School CMS & CHS                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| November 2025  | S M T W TH F S | Oct 2: Yom Kippur<br>5-6 CMS and CHS Conferences-Early Release CMS & CHS. Full Day of School JOS & CHS<br>7 CHS Term 1 Ends<br>11 Veteran's Day - Schools Closed<br>14 CHS Reports Cards Available in Aspen<br>16 Early Release<br>23 Thanksgiving Day - Schools Closed<br>28 Schools Closed                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| December 2025  | S M T W TH F S | 5 CMS, DHS, JOS Trimester 1 Ends<br>12 Professional Development - Early Release<br>12 CMS Reports Cards Available in Aspen<br>15 DHS & JOS (grades K-5) Progress Reports Available in Aspen<br>23-31 Winter Break - Schools Closed                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| January 2026   | S M T W TH F S | 1 New Year's Day - Schools Closed<br>2 School Resumes<br>16 Professional Development - Full Day<br>19 Martin Luther King Jr. Day - Schools Closed<br>21, 22, 23 High School Finals - Early Release for CHS Students<br>23 PreK Semester 1 Ends<br>23 CHS Semester 1/Term 2 Ends<br>30 CHS Reports Cards Available in Aspen                                                                                                                                                          |
| February 2026  | S M T W TH F S | 6 Professional Development - Early Release<br>6 PreK Progress Reports Available in Aspen<br>16 President's Day - District Closed<br>16-20 February Break - Schools Closed                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| March 2026     | S M T W TH F S | 12 CMS, DHS, JOS Trimester 2 Ends<br>13 Professional Development - Early Release<br>20 CMS Reports Cards Available in Aspen<br>20 DHS & JOS (grades K-5) Progress Reports Available in Aspen<br>24-25 PK-5 Conferences - Early Release JOS & DHS. Full Day of School CMS & CHS                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| April 2026     | S M T W TH F S | 3 Good Friday - To be Discussed<br>3 CHS Term 3 Ends<br>10 CHS Reports Cards Available in Aspen<br>15-17 CMS and CHS Conferences-Early Release CMS & CHS. Full Day of School JOS & DHS<br>20 Patriots' Day - District Closed<br>20-24 April Break                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| May 2026       | S M T W TH F S | 22 Professional Development - Early Release<br>25 Memorial Day - Schools Closed<br>29 Seniors Last Day of Senior Classes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| June 2026      | S M T W TH F S | 6 Graduation<br>11 PreK & Kindergarten Last Day of School. Semester 2 Ends. Progress Reports Available in Aspen<br>12, 15, 16 High School Finals - Early Release for CHS Students<br>16 180th Day - Half Day<br>16 CHS Semester 2/Term 4 Ends<br>16 CMS Trimester 3 Ends<br>16 DHS & JOS (grades 1 & 2) Trimester 3 Ends. Progress Reports Available in Aspen<br>19 Juneteenth - District Closed<br>24 CMS & CHS Reports Cards Available in Aspen<br>30 Last Allowable Make-up Date |

Approved by SC:  
**Bolded, Underlined & Italicized Dates** - SC Mgt  
**Shared Days** - Schools Closed  
**Half Shared Dates** - Early Release

The final thing for the school committee to consider is Good Friday. The last few years this has not been a day off of school but has been a topic of conversation when the district does their calendar. Operationally having school on Good Friday is difficult. This year, Good Friday proceeds April vacation and teachers do have in their contract to take a religious day and there are forty-two (42) scheduled absences for that day for their staff. This will cost the district at least three thousand dollars for substitute coverage and can't anticipate student absences on this day. Potentially having Good Friday as being an early release from school for those who attend religious services and not need a full day in order to get where they need to be. Other districts don't celebrate religious holidays, some districts call these low attendance days.

A community member reached out to Mr. MacLellan who was interested in next year's Winter break to which Mr. MacLellan invited member to the school committee meeting tonight but could not appear in-person but could be a panelist via Zoom invite to share their thoughts before the school committee deliberates on these considerations from the administration.

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**Superintendent Updates (Mrs. Sarah Shannon)**

• **Superintendent Update**

➤ **2025-2026 District Calendar (first read and initial discussion)**

[Exhibit D-1]

Amond Noveki from 191 Perils Lane, parent of a Junior at Cohasset High School, would like to share his views via Zoom invite as a panelist on the three (3) options Mrs. Shannon just spoke about. As a family, Mr. Nevias is very much in favor of option three (3), not having school resume with a return on January 2, 2026. From his perspective the months between Labor Day and the yearend break look disproportionately short for recovery time for both students and teachers. Many families travel internationally and having to be back on January 1<sup>st</sup> is pretty exhausting and also expensive. Even for families who don't travel it's relatively tough because the celebrations end the day before returning to school after the Winter break. Shortening the Summer break by a few days in the later part in June and adding those days at the beginning of the school year looks relatively easy from Mr. Nevias's perspective. Employers actually close over the holidays and this year was longer reopening business(s) January 6, 2025. Mr. Nevias is very much in favor of next year concretely closing on December 22, 2025 and a return first week in January, 2026.

The Chair would like to note that the school committee is trying to pilot a new approach via a Zoom invite. It's something the school committee haven't allowed in the past. It's to encourage participation from anyone in the community who's impacted by the district. The School Committee may want to consider messaging to the community if they have strong thoughts, opinions or any issues to share. Until it appears that it's not, encourage people to reach out to the Chair or any member of the school committee in advance so they can schedule time and to be ready to be a panelist in Zoom.

Mr. Carr likes the format and the idea of being more accessible as they can. In general, it's a pretty good idea if they can manage and accommodate this, it's very nice to have options. Mr. Carr wants to know if on draft 3 does the administration or the teachers have opinions of Professional Development Day being on Friday, January 2, 2026?

Mrs. Shannon says both the leadership team and the CTA leadership thought it was a nice way to ease back into school for the new year.

Mr. Dial would like to hear more feedback and perspectives on Winter break and Good Friday from other people in the community. Mr. Dial has a question on religious days being an exemption for teachers and do teachers get to choose which religious day to have off in advance. Are all Winter breaks abnormally long like this year for (10) days.

The Chair would like to make it clear this is initially the first time they're discussing the district calendar. There will be more substantive main discussions at the next school committee meeting with final decisions following that meeting.

Mrs. Hanna tends to agree with days that fall on a Monday, Thursday, or Friday to use these days in ways that actually will benefit. The more they can reposition those days to make them useful and make them for education. From the cost perspective and absences for Good Friday is how the community seems to be speaking up about this in their own way. Mrs. Hanna likes the puzzle pieces Mrs. Shannon put together on draft 3 of the district calendar.

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**Superintendent Updates (Mrs. Sarah Shannon)**

• **Superintendent Update**

➤ **2025-2026 District Calendar (first read and initial discussion)**

[Exhibit D-1]

Mrs. Lesky would like to know those districts that have low attendance days and is that just nomenclature they're using to close school due to anticipated low attendance versus any operational prototype to avoid the appearance of taking or having school closed.

**All three versions of the 2025-2026 District Calendar have Good Friday as a day of school.** If this were to become a day of no school then the 180<sup>th</sup> day of school days does bump a day, unless they had snow days. The administration sees other districts shift to 10 days as the Winter break and sees that shift happening in the professional culture as well. More and more school districts are also trying to conserve costs and Cohasset Public Schools are seeing that happen to open school for that one day. To heat a building for that one day doesn't always make sense. This year and next year are sort of unique, so it will come in cycles.

Mr. MacLellan says he's in line with what Mrs. Hanna articulated. If this is what they have to do year after year, it makes sense and might be a good thing knowing the CTA is in support of something like that. Maybe have the administration send out a simple survey and encourage participation at future meetings. **There are no decisions being made to the district calendar tonight.**

**Superintendent Updates (Mrs. Sarah Shannon)**

➤ **Feasibility Study Update**

The Cohasset Public Schools Administration Office were officially notified in December they were not accepted into the MSBA Core Program for this next cycle. Once they have the results of the Feasibility Study the administration will resubmit a revised SOI (Statement of Interest) for the next round of consideration. The deadline for that submittal is April 11, 2025. AI3 Architects will be presenting some conceptual designs for Cohasset Middle High School on Tuesday, January 28<sup>th</sup> 6:30 PM for a Community Forum to be held in the Learning Commons at Cohasset Middle and High School. This is the first step having AI3 Architects show conceptual designs. Then, AI3 Architects will take the time to look at what the cost estimates would be for those conceptual designs. That meeting will be towards the end of February, 2025. If CPS was part of the MSBA process they would take all that information and utilize a rubric to help decide about what right option is for the district, because they're not in the process yet.

On Friday, January 10, 2025, Mrs. Shannon has been invited to attend the Deer Hill School PSO meeting and there they'll be speaking specifically about the Feasibility Study for the Deer Hill families who want to attend and listen.

The strategic process is getting started. Mrs. Shannon sent an email to all families and staff on Monday outlining their process. This begins next week with some forums they'll be holding for families in the community. The first meeting will be held in-person on Tuesday, January 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM in the Learning Commons at Cohasset Middle and High School. A Zoom option for families who can't attend in person will be on Wednesday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:15 PM. Additionally on January 24<sup>th</sup> a survey will be sent out to all families and hope all families will take a few minutes and complete that survey. This will give the administration a lot of information and data they can use as they go into the strategic planning process. Between the surveys and forums, the administration hopes all families will have an opportunity to share their thoughts, feedback and voice.

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**Superintendent Updates (Mrs. Sarah Shannon)**

➤ **Feasibility Study Update**

Mrs. Shannon says the Administration is looking for folks, six to eight parents or caregivers who want to be on the committee that actually takes all of the different data that the district does that has some analyzation and assessment of that and helps write the Strategic Plan. This is a more significant commitment which was stated in the letter that Mrs. Shannon sent out on Monday night. The letter detailed the dates and times of those committee meetings, which also provided a link for those who might be interested in being on that committee. Mrs. Shannon will continue to send out reminders about that in hopes of getting some support there. It's really important that all stakeholder voices are a part of this process, and these two things will make families be a part of it at their appropriate level of participation.

The Strategic Planning Forum for the Cohasset School Committee will be on Wednesday, January 22, 2025 right before their actual regular school committee meeting. Mrs. Shannon has invited a couple of members of the school committee to be part of the Strategic Planning Community Forum as their schedule allows.

The Strategic Plan is the guiding document for all of the work that the schools will be doing for the next three (3) to five (5) years. There was a Strategic Plan for the district from 2019 to 2024. It was a very robust plan, and a lot of that work was completed in those spans of years. The new Strategic Plan will take all the data to determine what the priorities for the direction of the district for the next three to five years that will guide decision making, budgeting, all the work they are doing as they move forward until the completion of that Strategic Plan, it will be their driving force. Having all voices participate is really crucial.

The Chair states as a school committee they should collaborate on how they get the message out, it's a super important process. It has actually been the most fulfilling experience Mr. MacLellan has had these past six (6) years as a school committee member. The district leadership, staff, and students are all involved in it. If folks have a lot of passion and interest in the school district to get involved, it's much more succinct time commitment.

**Teaching and Learning**

• **Student Services Update (Mr. Michael Stapleton)**

➤ **Data Sharing**

[Exhibit E-1]

| December 2024                                       |                          |                          |                 |                           |
|-----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|
| Meeting Type                                        | Elementary<br>(JOS, DHS) | Secondary<br>(CMS & CHS) | Out of District | Total Meetings            |
| Annual Review                                       | 5                        | 6                        | 2               | 13                        |
| Re-Evaluation                                       | 4 (4 Eligible)           | 2 (2 Eligible)           | 0               | 6                         |
| Initial Evaluation                                  | 0                        | 1 (Not Eligible)         | N/A             | 1                         |
| Initial Evaluation                                  | MTSS: 0                  | MTSS:                    |                 |                           |
| Referral Source/<br>Eligibility                     | Family: 0                | Family: 1                |                 |                           |
| Cohasset Resident<br>Evaluation<br>(Private School) |                          |                          |                 |                           |
| Independent Evaluations                             |                          |                          | 1               | 1                         |
|                                                     |                          |                          |                 | <b>Total: 21 Meetings</b> |

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**Teaching and Learning**

• **Student Services Update (Mr. Michael Stapleton)**

[Exhibit E-1]

➤ **Data Sharing**

From September, 2024 to December, 2024 there are 64 signed accepted IEPs and there are six (6) IEPs in the process to adhere to the ten (10) day timeline. Student Services is waiting for twenty-one (21) responses from families from meetings that have happened. So far, Mr. Stapleton has received positive feedback from family members on the new IEP format. This is from all the hard work teachers have been working on adjusting to the new IEP format.

➤ **Student Success Plan**

[Exhibit E-2]



**Cohasset Public Schools**  
**Student Support Team Initiative**

**Student Support Plan**

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                     |                      |                                       |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>Student Name:</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <b>Grade Level:</b> | <b>Meeting Date:</b> | <b>Meeting Type: New Success Plan</b> |
| <b>Area of Disability:</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                     |                      |                                       |
| <b>Plan Summary:</b> STUDENT was recommended for a student success plan based on recommendations from the school psychologist and independent evaluator after the team determined that they do not require specially designed instruction. STUDENT is making effective progress. |                     |                      |                                       |
| Description of student strengths/ areas of challenge based on evaluation data.                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                     |                      |                                       |
| Description of current level of performance from current general education teacher (strengths/ weaknesses/ successful strategies).                                                                                                                                               |                     |                      |                                       |
| Determination that the student's needs can be supported in the General Education Setting using DCAP supports which are aligned to the recommendations of both evaluators.                                                                                                        |                     |                      |                                       |
| <b>DCAP Accommodations:</b> List the accommodations that will be implemented for student support. Leave blank any boxes that are not appropriate for the student. <a href="#">DCAP</a>                                                                                           |                     |                      |                                       |
| Instructional                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                     |                      |                                       |
| Organizational                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                     |                      |                                       |
| Attentional                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                     |                      |                                       |
| Behavioral/Social                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                     |                      |                                       |
| Sensory                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                     |                      |                                       |
| <b>Additional Information/Next Steps:</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                     |                      |                                       |

Mr. Stapleton created a student success plan for this school year that is completed after an evaluation whether it's an initial evaluation or re-evaluation. If a student is not found eligible that student may not be eligible for a section 504 plan. This form is to document the hard work that is done from evaluators and parents from outside an evaluation to help the Student Services Department get a good snapshot and overview of a student's profile that may not be eligible for an IEP or a 504 plan. The bottom part on the form is specified at DCAP which is an area for services for specific accommodations based on best practices accommodations, important accommodations to memorialize in a written format or plan. There's a limited number of student success plans following initial evaluation or re-evaluation meetings so information can be found in one spot and teachers are aware of what type of evaluation occurred. This form has been uploaded to ASPEN for general education teachers to be aware of as well.

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**Teaching and Learning**

• **Student Services Update (Mr. Michael Stapleton)**

➤ **Special Education Strategies Task Force Update**

[Exhibit E-3]

The first Special Education Strategies Task Force Family Forum took place on December 10, 2024 with great representation from each grade level from each building and parents. The forum talked about different experiences from families and from staff as to why proficiency gap may exist and how to move things forward for students. The conversations ranged from curriculum concerns to executive functioning supports that was a nice overview of why this proficiency gap exists.

The second Special Education Strategies Task Force Family Forum was held on Tuesday, January 7, 2025 in addition to creating an action plan to target work specifically which aligns nicely with the Strategic Planning process on how to consider special education student performance. There are different categories of types of support the community and teachers collaborated on to identify why this proficiency gap may exist and how to close that gap for students. There were eight (8) categories that came up from this meeting.

- 1) Early Intervention & MTSS
- 2) Curriculum & Instruction Strategies
- 3) Family & Home Support
- 4) Accommodations & Testing Environment
- 5) Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) & Positive School Environment
- 6) Test Preparation & Executive Functioning Support
- 7) Curricular Clarity & Alignment
- 8) Academic Environment & Growth

These categories were specific recommendations made by teachers and by parents to really focus on three (3) to five (5) potential action steps to do to close the gap and address the needs assistance classification from the state. This work will continue with Rock Roberts and Michael Stapleton reconvening after every meeting for strategies that work and help their Strategic Plan move forward. These two (2) meetings have been productive, and they'll reconvene for a third Special Education Strategies Task Force Family Forum to polish the action steps that will be published through the venue of the school committee and the work the Department of Student Services does working with students specifically.

Mrs. Lesky thanks Mr. Stapleton for doing this. She was curious how the student success plan project was going to work. When student success plans are developed, is it developed with the parent, classroom teacher, special education team, who is the party to this? Is there an approval process once it's written or is it an internal document. How does this student success plan exist once it's alive, and what does it do?

Mr. Stapleton explains once recommendations are made a formal team venue between parents, general education teachers, special education teachers, and any findings of no eligibility that's written always make recommendations at end of evaluations with a follow up that is completed with a lot of information. The Department of Student Services makes sure this is carried over to support students. Those recommendations have been made in the new IEP format

Mr. MacLellan has a question for Mr. Stapleton relative to the IEP Acceptance pie chart shown in exhibit E-1 in the school committee's packet. What happens to rejected IEP's?

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**Teaching and Learning**

**• Student Services Update (Mr. Michael Stapleton)**

➤ **Special Education Strategies Task Force Update**

[Exhibit E-3]

Rejected IEPs are resolved with families through the mediation process, reconvene team meetings to come to an agreement with families.

Mr. Stapleton had a Student Services Department meeting this past week with the elementary team chair, Colleen Farrow, who did submit her letter of resignation who moved on to a different district. This was posted for public knowledge so that the community is aware. Ms. Farrow will be working until January 31, 2025. A transition plan will be forthcoming with a notification for an interview committee and Mr. Stapleton welcomes feedback from the elementary level on that. By the end of next week should give Mr. Stapleton a more formalized timeline. This was posted to the School Spring website with two (2) applicants for this important position.

Mr. MacLellan thanks Mr. Stapleton very much for his presentation tonight. Mr. MacLellan has been at the last two (2) Special Education Strategies Task Force Family Forum's and have been well received. Mr. Stapleton is doing a wonderful job, and everyone would agree.

If they don't have somebody in that position by the time of January 31, 2025 the administration will be working through that and will share if it becomes necessary, ideally it won't.

Mrs. Davis, SEPAC liaison says that added piece about rejected IEPs this year and how quickly they get resolved is great. The student success plan is an amazing way for parents to be heard with and so much of what SEPAC needed has really bridged that gap between the school and the family. They're all there together to help students move along is really an important piece. Mrs. Davis thanks all the members of the Cohasset School Committee for the fact that they do this every other week and the service they do for the community.

At the Special Education Strategies Task Force Family Forum parents felt great being there and being able to speak and share at the first meeting. There were great conversations and so much information came out which was good too.

There will be a SEPAC meeting tomorrow morning in the Community Room, Thursday, January 9, 2025 at 11:00 AM. SEPAC's primary concern is how changes are going to be made, so far, they've received some positive feedback from different people with some trepidation still with progressing different ways and is it going to be the same rules. More people are understanding the explanation of basic rights and are less on edge, more comfortable going forward.

**Budget, Resources and Governance**

**• Budget Update (Mrs. Sarah Shannon)**

Mrs. Shannon says there's not a lot to report. She spoke with folks at Open Architects earlier this week and they will have the findings of their analysis in time to present those findings at the January 22, 2025 Community Forum. There will be more information to share there. On February 2, 2025 at the school community meeting there will be discussions on the FY26 budget proposals. Mrs. Shannon welcomes all families who are really interested in participating and/or pay attention to those two (2) meetings specifically and she'll continue to keep people updated through her newsletter.

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**Budget, Resources and Governance**

• **Budget Update (Mrs. Sarah Shannon)**

Once things are presented at a school committee meeting this will be made public through the Superintendent's newsletter and the presentation will be posted to the school website. This is to make sure everybody has access to all of the information being shared. In the meantime, if anyone has any questions or concerns, or ideas Mrs. Shannon welcomes them to call her office to meet with her along with Mrs. Owen to have that conversation.

*The Chair notes for record at 7:02 p.m., Mr. Dial needs to excuse himself from the school committee meeting.*

• **Executive Session Minutes**

Mr. MacLellan says there's been an inquiry regarding the Cohasset School Committee's meeting minutes and Executive Session minutes as an open meeting law, on how their minutes are taken and posting policies and practices to keep in line and bring themselves more into compliance and thank that person for pointing that out. The Cohasset School Committee wants to do the best they can and strive to meet every regulation requirement they can. As Mr. Dial exited, he indicated to the Chair he hadn't finalized them yet. When Mr. Dial does finalize them, the school committee will see this item periodically pop up on their agenda so that they'll move into Executive Session to decide whether or not they're going to declassify Executive Session minutes. Depending on whether or not they classify them, they'll then approve the Executive Session minutes in an open meeting and then post them. Declassification can depend on a number of different variables on whether the sensitive nature of information remains sensitive. A lot of it has to do with building security or personnel, it may remain sensitive for an extended period of time.

**Community Relations / Communications**

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

There were no reports from school committee subcommittees and Liaisons.

**School Committee Governance**

• **Approval to use the Deer Hill School Gym for the May 17, 2025 Election \*\***

**A motion was made by Mr. Carr to approve the use of the Deer Hill School facility for Saturday, May 17, 2025 Town Election, seconded by Mrs. Hanna.**

**Aye - All**

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

There were no topics brought to the Chair's attention within 48 hours.

• **Approval of Minutes \*\***

There were no minutes to approve. The Cohasset School Committee meeting minutes are caught up and are compliant with the state.

*Cohasset Public Schools*  
*143 Pond Street*  
*Cohasset, MA 02045*  
*Empower Students to Improve Communities*

**School Committee Governance**

**• Adjourn\*\***

**Motion made by Mr. Carr to adjourn the Wednesday, January 8, 2025 regular meeting for the Cohasset School Committee at 7:07 PM, seconded by Mrs. Hanna.**

**Aye – All**

**\*\* Requires Committee Vote / Action**

Materials used at the regular meeting on Wednesday, January 8, 2025 for the Cohasset School Committee  
2025-2026 District Calendar *Draft* (first read and initial discussion) (Mrs. Sarah Shannon)..... [Exhibit D-1]  
Student Services Update - Data Sharing (Mr. Michael Stapleton) ..... [Exhibit E-1]  
Student Success Plan (Mr. Michael Stapleton) ..... [Exhibit E-2]  
Special Education Strategies Task Force Family Forum Updates (Mr. Michael Stapleton) ..... [Exhibit E-3]