

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

MINUTES

Regular Meeting of the Cohasset School Committee

Wednesday, February 5, 2025

6:15 PM

In Person Participation

Learning Commons

Cohasset Middle and High School

143 Pond Street

Cohasset, MA 02025

Televised

Streamed Live on Cohasset 143tv

Virtual

Zoom (*chat enabled*)

<https://zoom.us/j/93210720844>

ID: 932 1072 0844 / Password: 461964

Dial In: +1 0292056099

Facebook (*watch / listen only*)

Cohasset Live Streaming

All Cohasset School Committee Meetings Are Recorded.

In Attendance:

Craig MacLellan, Chair

Ted Carr, Secretary

Jennifer Lesky

Tori Hanna

Dr. Leslie Scollins, Assistant Superintendent

Mrs. Sarah Shannon, Superintendent

AGENDA

Call to Order

Mr. Craig MacLellan called the meeting to order for the Cohasset School Committee for Wednesday, February 5, 2025 at 6:17 PM. Members of the Cohasset School Committee present are asked by the Chair to please indicate so in roll call.

Roll Call

Mr. Carr–Present; Mrs. Hanna–Present; Mrs. Lesky–Present; Mr. MacLellan–Present; Mr. Dial – Absent.

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 to the Flag of the United States of America, proceeding meeting(s) being called to order at all Cohasset School Committee meetings.

Public Comment

There are no public comments.

Invited Guests

- **Spotlight on Learning: Cohasset High School Art COH-LAB-ORATION**
(Ms. Stephanie Moriarty, Mrs. Nina Berkowitz-Bock and Students)

Mrs. Stephanie Moriarty, Department Head for Arts proudly presents students ranging K-12 grade levels who had very few rules with lots of tools and supplies. Mrs. Moriarty would like to thank the many people for their support that allowed for this Arts Program to occur. An enormous thank you to the talented, creative, and kind students along with all the Arts Teachers, Ms. Nina Berkowitz-Bock; Ms. Sarah Anthony; Ms. Tammy Helveston; Ms. Lisa Sugrue; Ms. Laura Swartz and Ms. Ann Berman.

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Invited Guests

- **Spotlight on Learning: Cohasset High School Art Coh-LAB-oration**
(Ms. Stephanie Moriarty, Mrs. Nina Berkowitz-Bock and Students)

Students could be themselves, use materials, not have to talk but be able to talk if they wanted to, and being able to share with each other just being themselves. High school students connected with the younger students about the community they live in, and they all came up with what this community means to them and what it means to them being part of this community and what it's all about. Some students did sketches, some came up with their own ideas, some students took parts of their sketches to adhere to other pieces of sketches that transpired into something amazing. The only rule applied to students was to stay within the rectangle shape they were given, but able to use any type of tools or techniques they've never used before onto a canvas. All the Arts Teachers gave different techniques, and some advanced Arts students taught techniques. The biggest rule in the program was being kind to one another, listening to one another, to explore materials to use. Students used paint rollers as a tool, some used forks, toothbrushes, whatever they felt comfortable using. One student expressed that working with the community makes their community stronger.

Cohasset High School students, Sadie Spear, Isabelle LaBash and Grayson Corbett express how the Arts Program meant throughout their years attending Cohasset High School. Building Principals, Mr. Mills, Mrs. Sullivan, Mrs. Gaudette and Mr. Scott are in attendance as well.

Studying Art can positively impact on student's engagements, academic achievements, critical thinking, self-esteem and overall, their wellbeing. There are really no rules when it comes to Art, the point is to express themselves however they feel fit and having an outlet to express themselves. Students were allowed to use whatever materials and resources that were very generously provided by the Arts Department. Students' light up knowing they have a sense of independence especially the younger students at the elementary levels.

Enhances creativity when it comes to critical thinking and engaging in art activities makes students courageous with more opportunities to learn in an artistic environment. Students who enjoy and do well in the Arts program tend to develop their own problem-solving skills, creatively for some.

Mr. Carr hopes to see more presentations like this from the Arts Department, this was very nicely done.

Mrs. Lesky would like to give applause & amin's all around. She 100% agrees these are the things they need to be doing for kids. Especially hearing students face lights up knowing they have freedom to create around the materials and tools to use. Making critical decisions using creativity is an incredible move forward for the district. Thank you, *Mercedes Spears, Isabel Rach and Greyson Corbett*, for being peer leaders to multi-age-year-old students with their approach to creative ideas on teaching and learning is so connected and incredibly important. This was the tip of the iceberg moving forward for the district

Mr. MacLellan thanks the students for their courage and for coming to the school committee meeting tonight to speak about the Arts. Their experiences speak volumes in themselves and show the importance of having the Arts in schools where students have different interests and have different outlets to express themselves in their academics.

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Budget, Resources and Governance

- **Open Architects Report (Mr. TJ Plante)**

Mr. Plante has twenty-five (25) years' experience in the public sector of finance and has been a school C.F.O. and a municipal C.F.O. working at the State Senate Ways of Means for a number of years. Mrs. Shannon and Mr. Plante looked closely at some risk assessments related to the Town's finances and the school's finances.

The first area of strengths Open Architects found was the improved collaboration between the Town and the schools that are monthly meetings with the Superintendent, Town Manager, Select Board, and the School Committee. This is a huge step forward to communicate the challenges that Cohasset Public Schools are facing. This trickled down to having conversations with various departments and collaboration both the Town and the Schools want to do together, opening up the lines of communication to be on the same page.

The FY25 budget is definitely a challenge with the potential deficit. The spending freeze was put into place on November 1, 2024, which is not easy to do especially in a school district where teachers are trying to educate kids. The school district runs a lien budget but has strong internal processes on the Town side and school side where there aren't a lot of frozen in the budget, it covers exactly what Cohasset Public Schools need. The Town does a good job on behalf of the schools. Open Architects was impressed with Student Services and accurate projections based upon what their budget needs are.

Mr. Plante explains from Open Architects experience and industry Cohasset Public Schools' first challenge is long-term planning and multiyear financial planning where everything seems to be short term, trying to put out fires rather than looking at long term on everything that creates a challenge with collective bargaining and some unforeseen circumstances, making sure to align staffing to the budget, a big challenge for Cohasset seen by Open Architects.

Cohasset Public Schools applies for a lot of grants and does not necessarily win a lot of grants and that's a challenge. Mr. Plante gives kudos to the team that keeps trying to find alternative funding sources to help the students of Cohasset.

Open Architects looks at a domain on how to deal with unforeseen budget circumstances. The last couple of years Cohasset Public Schools have had some challenges, tapped out their resources, now facing a potential deficit for FY25. [Open Architects calls this "blueberry pots."] A place to go and find money, to solve a problem where there aren't a lot of places to go, and this is where Open Architects considers Cohasset to be a pretty high risk and doesn't want to create further strain knowing FY26 is already posing a challenge since Mr. Plante had conversations with many folks in Cohasset. Now that Open Architects knows the Governor of Massachusetts budget numbers are out publicly, Open Architects can now work with the Town.

The Appropriation of Circuit Breaker was to balance the budget, and the school district tapped into all the resources and the Town's resources to solve FY24 problems. The other challenge seen by Open Architects is position control of hiring, making sure enough FTEs are needed, account for them and their salaries, and project out into remainder of this fiscal year, plus future fiscal years and taking account for their collective bargaining and what that will look like.

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Budget, Resources and Governance

- **Open Architects Report (Mr. TJ Plante)**

The work done by Open Architects is done on spreadsheets in which they call this “Shadow System.”

There’s a lot of disparate systems that Open Architects can pull together. Mr. Plante states the final high-risk category is the collective bargaining agreements coming up in June, 2025. Everyone has seen what’s going on around the Commonwealth of Massachusetts with strikes and a number of shared requests from the Union. It’s the sustainability of what both the schools and/or the Towns can afford which poses a risk for the Town of Cohasset. If a Town can only afford a certain amount and request are higher than that it requires other budgetary decisions.

Open Architects recommendations is an Enterprise System, (ERP System) that pulls together everything from payroll, position control, and all these other things into one system and doesn’t have to be what is known as “Munis.” Munis is a big system that most cities/towns and school districts use, a similar system is a contract module, requisition process with proper workflow pulling all together, so it’s not four (4) or five (5) different systems.

Hiring position control is huge and out there in itself. With vacancies and knowing how many positions will be needed and the hiring that needs to be filled is based upon the budget with Human Resources and Payroll talking to each other through a system like ERP and right now spreadsheets might be fine, this does pose a little risk if they’re not updated in a timely fashion to really understand the needs. Trying to run a school system and educate students is really the top goal and understand the real needs to reinvest the funds quickly to maximize education.

Making sure the budget process is sound and then a multiyear financial plan looking back three (3) years and looking out 3-5 years depending on the sense where it doesn’t need to be 100% accurate, it just needs to have enough information to know where their heading.

When Cohasset Public Schools goes into contract negotiations with a vendor and have a spike in something they’re not aware of, they’ll know what that’s going to mean long term.

Mr. MacLellan has a question on the recommendations from Open Architects and asks if there is a recommended next step in terms of doing a deep dive into the financials. If so, will this cost the district extra to do that and if so, how much.

Mr. Plante says if data comes from “Soft Write,” and data is easy to maneuver that data can be put onto an Excel spreadsheet. Open Architects can manipulate it and turn it around with relative speed if the data is easy to pull out. If not, they might be having a different conversation. Mr. Plante will be forwarding a data request to get that information and see what that will look like to have a further conversation.

Mr. MacLellan says that it would be helpful and asks if those two (2) processes just described by Mr. Plante would be trying to identify areas of waste, or redundancy, realizing some level of savings to mitigate their shortfall.

Mr. Plante says yes, the hope is too latter and tighten up payroll projections based upon all the collective bargaining agreements and based upon the salaries and the assumptions in the budget. Then, Open Architects can do the “Other Than Personal Services, (OTPS), below the salary line and figure out areas of some savings.

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Budget, Resources and Governance

- **Open Architects Report (Mr. TJ Plante)**

Mr. MacLellan is interested in exploring that next step with Open Architects. He'll get back to Mr. Plante on the data platform if it's easy to extract as described by Mr. Plante. Looking forward to seeing what, and if any extra cost may be for the district. Thanks, Mr. Plante, very much for the presentation and his attendance tonight.

- **FY26 Draft Budget (Mrs. Sarah Shannon)**

[Exhibit D-1]

The information that was just reported from Open Architects was this current year, and Mrs. Shannon is going to present the FY25-FY26 school year. There's a lot of people interested in the school budget for the next school year. Mrs. Shannon explains some understanding on how schools are funded and how the schools specifically look to fund schools. For two (2) years in a row, the school has been running in a deficit, and they need to create a FY26 budget that is a balanced budget that is fiscally responsible. It's a bit hard to give firm number information for this coming school year because there are a lot of unknowns. Even though the Governor of Massachusetts budget numbers just came out, it's a draft that still has to go through its process and the Town will exactly know what the Governor's budget numbers will look like and will benefit the Town of Cohasset.

Mr. Plante alluded to the current negotiations with all five (5) Unions. It's really hard to predict where the school district will land in terms of salary increases for the staff. The school administration had to build a budget not quite knowing what that real budget number will be.

There are two ways to close a budget shortfall, one is to reduce, the other is to increase revenue. In the presentation Mrs. Shannon is showing opportunities to increase revenue in a draft FY26 budget. Also looking to continue to collaborate and partner with folks on how to solve this budget problem moving forward.

This school district is a district that puts students first. It's a budget designed to meet their vision of a graduate and guided by FY26 budget priorities. The school committee approved the school's budget priorities a couple of months ago that were based on the schools' goals and former strategic plan. Cohasset Middle School & Cohasset High School Feasibility Study was to show what the education vision will look like for Cohasset Public Schools in the future and what it will look like across the entire district. In their current budget the schools have worked towards creating opportunities for students and CPS doesn't want to see dismantle and want to continue to move forward with those enhancements. This is a budget to prioritize maintaining things on what makes Cohasset so great.

Superintendent Updates

- **2025-2026 District Calendar ****

[Exhibit E-1]

Both district calendars show the same 1st day of school Tuesday, September 2, 2025 grades 1-12. Kindergarten students will start Wednesday, September 3, 2025. Pre-K will start Monday, September 8, 2025. Both district calendars show two (2) full weeks of Winter recess for students and families with Monday, December 22, 2025 being a Professional Development Day for the staff.

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Superintendent Updates

• **2025-2026 District Calendar ****

[Exhibit E-1]

The first draft 2025-2026 district calendar has an option on Good Friday, April 3, 2026 recognizing this as an early release day, with the last day of school being Wednesday, June 17, 2026.

The second draft 2025-2026 district calendar has another option on Good Friday, April 3, 2026 recognizing this as a no school day due to operational challenges, with the last day of school being Thursday, June 18, 2026. Those Good Friday options and the last day of school are the two (2) differences.

Superintendent Mrs. Shannon says even though the school committee may be voting on the 2025-2026 district calendar tonight, due to recent news coming out from Washington, D.C., State Government may have some potential changes to Federal and State holidays. If State holidays change, the school committee may have to revisit some of this calendar, but it's prudent to move forward with this decision.

The Chair encourages anyone watching tonight's meeting at home that may have an opinion or perspective to share to please chime in via Zoom to which he's monitoring the Q & A feature on Zoom, the school committee and administration would love to hear from folks.

Mr. Carr has no questions, just observation on both calendars being very well thoughtful all the way through.

Mrs. Lesky asks is the challenge operationally with not enough students in attendance or there are not enough teachers in attendance to afford the curriculum.

Superintendent Mrs. Shannon says at this point it is both. She has tried to discover but cannot ascertain which came first, they're now in a place where it is both, especially at the secondary level and becoming more so at the elementary level with each passing.

The Chair asks Superintendent Mrs. Shannon to please share those 552 survey responses for Good Friday with everyone at this meeting and for everyone at home [256 responded- 46.4% - (½) day]; [154 responses- 27.9% - no school]; [142 -25.7% full day of school.] This survey was extremely helpful with guidance in making this decision, even with this where it's a little bit more split and clearly the selected choice that most people agreed upon.

A motion was made by Mrs. Hanna to approve the 2nd draft 2025-2026 district calendar that presents Good Friday, April 3, 2026, as a no school day, hearing no second, there will be no vote taken on this motion. Mrs. Hanna would like to voice her concern before making any vote after just going through extensive reasons when there's a major deficit. The last time this was talked about was as a school committee with significant savings by having no school on Good Friday because of the lack of students in the buildings. A major increase in having substitutes. To go and vote on this and go through this ignores the fact that there's significant savings to keep the buildings closed.

Mrs. Lesky is voting and would like to state her comment on public record. With the caveat, hopes to continue this conservation in subsequent years around the quality of education that if there's a half day of school or schools open and being used for educational purposes. The district needs to pay attention to the attendance data both in terms of the cost, but also in terms of educational value.

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Superintendent Updates

• 2025-2026 District Calendar **

[Exhibit E-1]

Mrs. Lesky strongly agrees about the separation of schools from religious holidays. However, given the situation, their job as members of this school committee is to educate students and students need to be here. Looking at the data, she hopes families will be here, and that teachers will be here and find ways to observe Good Friday outside those school hours.

A motion was made by Mr. Carr to approve Draft 1 of the 2025-2026 District Calendar that presents Good Friday, April 3, 2026 as an early release day (1/2 day of school), with the last day of school being Wednesday, June 17, 2026, seconded by Mrs. Lesky, followed with a **Roll Call Vote**: Mr. Carr – Aye; Mrs. Hanna – Nay; Mrs. Lesky – Aye; Mr. MacLellan – Aye.

DRAFT 1

2025-2026 Cohasset Public Schools Calendar

July 2025						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

August 2025						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

September 2025						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

October 2025						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

November 2025						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

December 2025						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

July 2025						
4	Independence Day					

August 2025						
21, 25, 26	New Teacher Orientation - Full Day					
27	All Teachers' and ESPs' Opening Day Including Safety Training					
28	All Teachers' and ESPs' Professional Development - Full Day					

September 2025						
1	Labor Day - Schools Closed					
2	Grades 1-12 - First Day of School					
3	Kindergarten - First Day of School					
4	PreK - First Day of School					
5	JOS Open House					
6	DHS Open House					
7	Professional Development - Early Release					
8	CHS Open House					
9	CMS Open House					

23-24: Rosh Hashanah

October 2025						
10	Professional Development - Full Day - No School for Students					
13	Indigenous Peoples Day - Schools Closed					
14	22-23 PK-5 Conferences - Early Release JHS & DHS. Full Day of School CMS & CHS					

Oct 2: Yom Kippur

November 2025						
5-6	CMS and CHS Conferences-Early Release CMS & CHS. Full Day of School JHS & DHS					
7	CHS Term 1 Ends					
8	Veteran's Day - Schools Closed					
9	CHS Reports Cards Available in Aspen					
10	Early Release					
11	Thanksgiving Day - Schools Closed					
12	Schools Closed					

December 2025						
5	CMS, DHS, JHS Trimester 1 Ends					
12	Professional Development - Early Release					
12	CMS Reports Cards Available in Aspen					
12	DHS & JHS (grades K-5) Progress Reports Available in Aspen					
14	Professional Development - Full Day - No School for Students					
15	23-31 Winter Break - Schools Closed					

14-22: Hanukkah

January 2026						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

February 2026						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

March 2026						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

April 2026						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

May 2026						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

June 2026						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Approved by SC:

Balanced, Underlined & Italicized Dates - SC Mps
Shaded Dates - Schools Closed
Half Shaded Dates - Early Release

January 2026						
1	New Year's Day - Schools Closed					
2	Winter Break - Schools Closed					
3	School Resumes					
4	Martin Luther King Jr. Day - Schools Closed					
5	21, 22, 23 High School Finals - Early Release for CHS Students					
6	PreK Semester 1 Ends					
7	CHS Semester 1/Term 2 Ends					
8	Professional Development - Early Release					
9	CHS Reports Cards Available in Aspen					

February 2026						
6	PreK Progress Reports Available in Aspen					
16	President's Day - District Closed					
16-20	February Break - Schools Closed					

March 2026						
12	CMS, DHS, JHS Trimester 2 Ends					
13	Professional Development - Early Release					
14	CMS Reports Cards Available in Aspen					
15	DHS & JHS (grades K-5) Progress Reports Available in Aspen					
16	PK-5 Conferences - Early Release JHS & DHS. Full Day of School CMS & CHS					

April 2026						
3	Good Friday - Early Release					
3	CHS Term 3 Ends					
10	CHS Reports Cards Available in Aspen					
15-17	CMS and CHS Conferences-Early Release CMS & CHS. Full Day of School JHS & DHS					
20	Patriots' Day - District Closed					
20-24	April Break - Schools Closed					

April 1-5: Passover

May 2026						
22	Professional Development - Early Release					
25	Memorial Day - Schools Closed					
29	Seniors Last Day of Senior Classes					

June 2026						
6	Graduation					
12	PreK & Kindergarten Last Day of School. Semester 2 Ends. Progress Reports Available in Aspen					
12, 15, 16	High School Finals - Early Release for CHS Students					
17	180th Day - Half Day					
17	CHS Semester 2/Term 4 Ends					
17	CMS Trimester 3 Ends					
17	DHS & JHS (grades 1 & 2) Trimester 3 Ends. Progress Reports Available in Aspen					
19	Juneteenth - District Closed					
24	CMS & CHS Reports Cards Available in Aspen					
30	Last Allowable Make-up Date					

Teaching and Learning

- Student Services Update (Mr. Michael Stapleton)
 - Data Sharing

[Exhibit F-1]

JANUARY 2025				
Meeting Type	Elementary (JOS, DHS)	Secondary (CMS & CHS)	Out of District	Total Meetings
Annual Review	7	4	0	11
Re-Evaluation	4 (4 Eligible)	9 (9 Eligible)	1	13
Initial Evaluation	6 (5 Eligible) (1 Not Eligible)	2 (1 Eligible)	N/A	8

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Teaching and Learning

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

➤ **Data Sharing**

[Exhibit F-1]

JANUARY 2025				
Meeting Type	Elementary (JOS, DHS)	Secondary (CMS & CHS)	Out of District	Total Meetings
Initial Evaluation	MTSS: 1 (1 Eligible)	MTSS: 1 (1 Eligible)		
Referral Source/ Eligibility	Family: 5 (4 Eligible)	Family: 1 (Not Eligible)		
Cohasset Resident Evaluation (Private School)	1	0		1
Independent Evaluations	1	0	0	1
Total:				34 Meetings

The IEP Return Data from September 1, 2024 through January 31, 2025 shows 106 IEPs have been accepted 68.8%; 13 IEPs are being written 8.4%; and 35 IEPs responses are pending 22.7%. Another very positive and successful month for Student Services in special education.

Ms. Davis, SEPAC member and parent, is invited to the table to speak to the school committee to talk about the great meeting SEPAC had with Mr. Stapleton last month. Mr. Stapleton reported on all of their different types of programming they have for special education in Cohasset. A lot of people turned out where they had some good conversations. Families learned a lot of the coding teaching modules they really didn't know much about. The next SEPAC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 27th 2025. Ms. Davis will let the Chair know of the time of the meeting since there's no presenter.

Mr. Stapleton says those components on how Student Services can build out programming, knowing what strengths they have right now and areas of improvement to build those up over the years is so important to have. The feedback from families of their understanding, programs CPS offers and areas for student growth.

Community Relations / Communication

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

Ms. Lesky reports she met with the Cohasset High School Council last week along with Mr. Scott who reviewed budget proposals and some of the impacts. What makes the High School Council really interesting is that students participate as well. Ms. Lesky thinks it's great that students are beginning to understand how their school district works. There was some discussion about scheduling and new courses which was a proactive move by the High school in anticipation of some budget decisions that needed students to choose their courses for next year and staffing would be needed. There was some discussion of the competency determination approval related to MCAS graduation from a while ago. The Cell Phone Task Force Committee meeting went great. Students talked about their experience the first week for "cell phone away for the day." The CEF gave \$87,000 dollars to the schools back in the Fall across all four (4) schools with some amazing grants. The CEF is looking to add board members and if anyone is interested in serving on that board, please speak to one of the current CEF members or go to their website where there's an email address if interested. The CEF will be meeting on March 3rd and March 4th 2025. Mrs. Lesky is very appreciative of the CEF and all that they do for their schools.

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Community Relations / Communication

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

Spring grants are due on April 5th, 2025. The Spelling Bee for grades 3-5 will be held on May 19, May 20, and May 21, 2025.

Mrs. Hanna would like to know who she should contact on the Food Service Committee or the Wellness Committee.

Mr. MacLellan says the contact for Food Services would be Mr. Cardone, Director of Food Services, who has been here in the district slightly over a full calendar year. Mr. Cardone has done a lot, and Mrs. Hanna could meet with him and with Mrs. Lesky streamlining the service, who may offer a wider array of healthier options.

Mr. MacLellan met with the Superintendent, Mrs. Shannon, as part of the Superintendent Evaluation process mid-year check-in. He found Superintendent Shannon is well on her way to accomplishing all the goals she presented at the beginning of the year. There's adequate evidence in terms of what she's been doing to accomplish those goals and fulfilled strategic objectives and initiatives. Every member of the school committee will be asked to fill out a form that Mr. MacLellan will distribute to the school committee at the end of the year. One of the major roles as a school committee is to evaluate the operational head of the school district which is the Superintendent. It is done on a specific form and traditionally the school committee presents this in July. Superintendent Shannon has asked the Chair if they do this earlier this year, and the Chair will circulate those forms in May, 2025.

School Committee Governance

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

Mrs. Hanna would like to propose creating a subcommittee for Athletics. It's been brought to Mrs. Hanna's attention that the community is scared to speak out in retaliation for their children. Most of the kids in the district play sports and the success of their teams has been masked in the operational concerns of the department and it's time they dig into it to understand more of how coaches are hired, and how coaches are fired. Mrs. Hanna knows there's questions about safety protocol policies and scheduling Athletic competitions. The list goes on, and Mrs. Hanna is proposing the school committee look towards the Athletic Department. The district has successful sports teams, and their athletes are not necessarily getting the support and the safety protocols they deserve and actually part of their rights. The hires of coaching staff with kids who are actually more with than with their teachers depending on the blocks in their schedule. Those coaches are incredibly important for their growth and wellness of the students. When kids hit the athletic field versus a structured classroom it's fairly unstructured because they're doing different things and being tested in different ways. If coaches aren't professional in doing this, it can actually have some negative consequences.

Mr. Carr would like to volunteer to serve on the Athletic Committee along with Mrs. Hanna, sort of an Ad hoc committee working with the Superintendent, Mrs. Shannon, to see what that will look like and how it will be launched.

Mrs. Lesky says this department is also one that serves so many students that uses a bigger budget for consideration and for those two (2) reasons in itself, she also agrees. She asks to keep the school committee fully informed on the sort of the operations of it.

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

School Committee Governance

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

Mr. MacLellan truly believes the Athletics Department is a major part of the district, students are outside the walls of the classroom a lot of times, this could be getting the attention it deserves. The school committee highlights different facets of the school district such as they've done with the Student Services Department and the Food Services Department. These types of efforts from the school committee have improved the district over the years that Mr. MacLellan has served on this school committee.

- **Approval of Minutes ****

There are no meeting minutes for the school committee to approve upon.

- **Future Agenda Items**

There are no future agenda items from any members of the school committee.

- **Executive Session^{1** 3} to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining and negotiations**

Pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 30A, Section 21(a) the school committee will move into Executive Session^{1** 3} to engage in strategy surrounding collective bargaining, negotiations, and/or litigation.

A motion was made by Mrs. Lesky, the school committee will move into Executive Session^{1** 3} to engage in strategy surrounding collective bargaining, negotiations, and/or litigation and will not return back into an open session, seconded by Mrs. Hanna. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Carr – Aye; Mrs. Hanna – Aye; Mrs. Lesky – Aye; Mr. MacLellan – Aye.

Adjourn **

A motion was made at 8:28 p.m. by Mrs. Lesky to adjourn the regular meeting for Wednesday, February 5, 2025 for the Cohasset School Committee, seconded by Mrs. Hanna.

Aye – All

**** Requires Committee Vote / Action**

Materials Used for the Regular Meeting for the Cohasset School Committee on February 5, 2025:

Spotlight on Learning: Cohasset High School Art Coh-LAB-oration.....	[Mrs. Nina Berkowitz-Bock and Students]
Budget, Resources and Governance - Open Architects Report.....	[Mr. TJ Plante]
FY26 Draft Budget – [Mrs. Sarah Shannon].....	[Exhibit D-1]
Superintendent Updates - 2025-2026 District Calendar ** Vote	[Exhibit E-1]
Student Services Update – Data Sharing [Mr. Michael Stapleton].....	[Exhibit F-1]