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

Minutes Public Hearing on School Choice
Cohasset School Committee
Wednesday, April 16, 2025
5:45 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 (*watch / listen only*)
Streamed on Cohasset Live

All Cohasset School Committee Meetings Are Recorded.

In Attendance:
Craig MacLellan, Chair
Lance Dial, Vice Chair
Jennifer Lesky
Mrs. Susan Owen, Director of Finance & Operations
Dr. Leslie Scollins, Assistant Superintendent
Mrs. Sarah Shannon, Superintendent

Call to Order
Craig MacLellan called to order the Public Hearing on School Choice for the Cohasset School Committee held on Wednesday, April 16, 2025 at 5:48 PM. The purpose of this Public Hearing is to invite public comments as the law requires on the Cohasset School Committee's deliberation on School Choice. Members of the Cohasset School Committee that are present are asked by the Vice Chair, Mr. Dial to please indicate so in roll call.

Roll Call
Mr. Carr - Not Present; Mr. Dial -Present; Mrs. Hanna – Not Present; Mrs. Lesky -Present; Mr. MacLellan -Present.

Opening Remarks
Superintendent of Schools, Sarah Shannon introduces the concept on school choice stating every year, each school district needs to revisit the idea of school choice. Should the school committee vote for school choice this would mean that Cohasset Public Schools district would allow students from other school districts to make their choice to attend Cohasset Public Schools and the district would modify expenditures from the sending districts. Cohasset Public Schools is not currently a school choice district. The purpose of this Public Hearing is to invite public comments as the law requires on the Cohasset School Committee's deliberation on School Choice.

Opening Remarks

Chairman MacLellan would like to remind all community members who are participating virtually they can utilize the Q&A feature on Zoom to generate any concerns, questions, or perspectives be known at tonight's Public Hearing on School Choice. The Chair will now be asking members of the Cohasset School Committee for their comments or thoughts on school choice.

Public Comment

Mr. Dial asks if the district were to opt-in on school choice that would mean the district would be able to receive students from other school districts, and CPS students can still go to school in other districts, (e.g. Hingham.) The school district can always lose students, it's just a question of whether the school district wants to receive students from other districts. No more comments or thoughts from Mr. Dial, he'll stay the court.

Superintendent of Schools, Sarah Shannon says yes, it's as though students would be choosing to go to perhaps a private school.

Mrs. Jennifer Lesky says financially it doesn't seem like it works in the district favor right now. The school committee should continue to revisit this each year, it seems like the right thing to do. If there are any opportunities at some point to open the doors wider, but at this time it would not.

Mr. Craig MacLellan has concerns in terms of infrastructure being overburdened with an influx of students the district wasn't necessarily anticipating, especially in light of the decisions the school committee just had to make confronting the school budget fiscal crisis. However, it may be something to warrant more serious discussions in the future. Cohasset students can already take advantage of school choice for any participating districts, Cohasset is not currently a participating school choice district.

There were no public comments received from community members at the Public Hearing on School Choice, Wednesday, April 16, 2025.

*****_Members of the Cohasset School Committee will motion a vote on school choice that is on the agenda, under School Committee Governance at the regular scheduled meeting of the Cohasset School Committee followed by the Public Hearing on School Choice on Wednesday, April 16, 2025._

A motion was made by Mr. Dial to adjourn the Public Hearing on School Choice held on Wednesday, April 16, 2025 at 5:59 PM, seconded by Mrs. Lesky.

Aye – All

***A motion was made to decline Cohasset Public Schools participation in school choice by Mr. Dial, seconded by Mrs. Lesky.**

Aye – All