

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

Meeting Minutes
Cohasset School Committee
Wednesday, February 26, 2025
6:15 PM

In Person Participation

Innovation Commons (Library)
Deer Hill School
208 Sohier 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: +1 929 205 6099
Facebook (*watch / listen only*)
Cohasset Live Streaming

All Cohasset School Committee Meetings Are Recorded.

In Attendance:

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

AGENDA

Call to Order

Mr. Craig MacLellan welcomed everyone and called to order the February 26, 2025 meeting of the Cohasset School Committee at 6:18 PM. Members who are present are asked by the Chair to please indicate so in roll call.

Roll Call

Mr. Carr-Present; Mr. Dial-Present, Mrs. Lesky-Present; ** Mrs. Hanna-Not present upon roll call; Chairman MacLellan-Present.

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

No public comment.

Invited Guests

- **Superintendent Student Advisory Council Update (Amanda Fox)**
Amanda Fox, a junior attending Cohasset High School and also a member on the Superintendent Student Advisory Council shares updates to the school committee on the new change that has been put into place recently at Cohasset High School on the new cell phone ban, "Away for the Day." Amanda says so far, it's been pretty well enforced, and has definitely noticed more of her peers are paying attention and just more engaged in classes.

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Invited Guests

- **Superintendent Student Advisory Council Update (Amanda Fox)**

During lunch some students voiced their opinions thinking it should be allowed, and some have mixed opinions about it. Personally, to Amanda she's seen the difference in class among her peers and this is going well so far. The Winter sports are wrapping up, with Cohasset High School Hockey being in the playoffs, currently winning 3-1. The boys' basketball has playoffs tomorrow and girls' basketball has playoffs Friday, February 28th.

Mrs. Lesky is happy to hear the cell phone ban is going well, seeing students increasing engagement socially and hopefully increasing in their academics.

Amanda says it's a mix of both. During lunch and utility some students use it as a break, but at the same time Amanda has noticed there's more communication and interaction going on, especially during lunch.

** The Chair notes for the recorder, Mrs. Hanna arrives at 6:23 PM.

Chairman MacLellan thanks Amanda for sharing her fellow peer's interests and concerns from the upper-class level district's leadership. As the Chair always asks the student representative on the Superintendent student advisory liaison if they're reluctant to share any concerns, improvement in areas of anything that wasn't mentioned because the school committee is genuinely interested in supporting areas of concern for students.

Amanda says that recently at one of the Superintendent Student Advisory Council meetings they've talked about their curriculum, a lot of students have been mentioning adding more variety to the curriculum and more hands-on activities rather than just packets and the repetitiveness that happens in some classes. Another would be the grading in classes, especially with different teachers who teach the same class. There's different grading with different teaching and it should be consistent throughout the classes and teachers. Some classes are practice, lessons, and tests, and there's other classes like Amanda's Science class being taught more of a lesson. They practice, but there's also a lab where they learn through as a group project. Adding more different activities than just the same pattern of practice and lesson. Classes with the same grade level with two (2) teachers teaching that same subject at the same grade level there's some inconsistency in that class even though the class is the same.

Mr. MacLellan thanks Amanda for doing an excellent job and for choosing the right words, describing more variety in the curriculum that will help identify exactly what was being talked about.

Superintendent Report

- **Superintendent Updates**

Superintendent Mrs. Sarah Shannon would like to welcome everybody back from February vacation and hopes everybody has had a chance to rest, relax, and reset a little bit. Mrs. Shannon would also like to thank all the custodians for the work they did over vacation sanitizing and cleaning all their schools in the district. Leading into February vacation there was an influx of lots of viruses and they're in a better place and hope that what the custodians were able to do and with the warmer weather all of that starts to go away. Mrs. Shannon would like to take a moment and thank Officer Greg Taylor and Officer Greg Lowrance who are the two (2) Schools Resource Officer's in the district. February 15th was National SRO Appreciation Day which happened to be over February vacation and since this is the first school committee meeting back in school.

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Superintendent Report

• **Superintendent Updates**

Mrs. Shannon wanted to recognize both Officer Taylor and Officer G. Lo, which is what students at Osgood and Deer Hill School call Officer Greg Lowrance for all they both do to protect students and staff to really build relationships with students to enhance both in-school and their community experiences.

Tuesday, February 25, 2025 was the final Feasibility Study Community Forum. Mrs. Shannon has been communicating after each of those forums and sharing updates from those forums in her Superintendent newsletter and will continue to do that this week so people will have a chance to review the presentation AI3 gave. This continues to share out on the conceptual design options should the district get invited into the MSBA Core Program Process. What came out of the final Feasibility Study Community Forum was the potential costs for a future building project. While no decisions have been made the whole point of this Feasibility Study was to identify some actual conceptual design options rather than continuing to have conjecture. AI3 Architects did a really nice job presenting exactly what the school district asked for, giving them a Feasibility Study report that will be finalized in the coming weeks. Mrs. Shannon will share this with the community, and this will be able to support their upcoming Statement of Interest, (SOI) that will be submitted by April 11, 2025. Thank you to AI3 Architects and specifically Troy Randall and Julie Rivera who are two partners in that organization for their partnership, collaboration, and professionalism in the design process and ideas. The district landed in a place where they have some really good designs, ideas, and some really good options and no longer living in a world of “*What If’s*.” The district will have some more probable options should the district get accepted by the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA).

Just as that process wraps up, they’re ready to begin their Strategic Planning process. The first meeting of the Strategic Planning Committee will be held next Tuesday, March 4th and will continue through the end of May and present the new strategic plan at a school committee meeting after that. They have a Strategic Planning Committee of approximately thirty-two (32) people who represent the school committee, administrators, teachers, parents, and students. Mrs. Shannon is very excited to work with such a diverse group to dig in and plan for the future of Cohasset Public Schools.

On Tuesday, February 25, 2025 Mrs. Shannon, Dr. Scollins, and the METCO Director, Aleisa Gittens-Carle attended the METCO Legislative Breakfast at the State House. Many State Senators and Representatives were in attendance with Superintendents and METCO Directors from across the State. Many on METCO’s legislative Agenda were asking for an additional \$3.1 million dollars to support the program and to hear some compelling research data that has revealed a significant impact the METCO program has on students enrolled in the program. The METCO program is a program that not only benefits those students who are Cohasset students who reside in Boston but also their students who reside in Cohasset. All of them benefit from the opportunity to build a diverse learning community and they’ll be going back to the State House on March 20, 2025 to continue to support and advocate for the METCO Program.

Mr. MacLellan would like to see students at the secondary school level who might benefit or could participate in advocating for the METCO Program at the State House, he’ll be attending on March 20th. It would be a great experience and such a wonderful opportunity for the kids. He’s noticed some districts brought students prior years and would like to see that happen for the kids here in the district.

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Superintendent Report

• **Superintendent Updates – Mrs. Sarah Shannon**

Mrs. Shannon would like to revisit the last school committee meeting held on February 5, 2025 with the conversation about athletics. Students involved in the school athletic programs are safe when participating. As a district, one of the goals this year has been to engage in the analysis of their resources and some of these reviews have been done internally and some have engaged with outside consultants to support the school district.

Given the conversations on February 5th and have desire to evaluate the athletic program against the new NEASC standards for athletics that have been created. Principal Scott and Superintendent Mrs. Shannon have reached out to *Mark Adonatelli*, a former Athletic Director in Taunton and designer of the new NEASC athletic standards to see if he'll be able to do an independent evaluation of the Cohasset Public Schools Athletic Program. The evaluation will include forums with students, parents, coaches, school administration, and the school committee as well as documents and financial reviews. The school has set dates with *Mark Adonatelli* and those dates will be published to the entire community to encourage anyone who has anything to share to participate. Mark will be able to start and perform this evaluation for the schools once the contract is signed to have the evaluation. The school administration will have both a written report and a presentation of the findings to present to the school committee and community as soon as this is wrapped up. This process will help independently identify the strengths and opportunities for growth in CPS athletic programs. The goal is to continue to grow and enhance student athletic experience.

• **Cohasset Public Schools Field Trips / Overview – *Updated as of January, 2025***

The school committee has approved several out of state and some on campus field trips. Those discussions have happened, and questions have come up about what field trips Cohasset Public Schools offers across the district. Mrs. Shannon has talked to all building principals and field trips are both off- campus and on-campus field trips because sometimes just as valuable as an experience they'll be a speaker or a program that is brought to the district. Starting in 1st grade and every grade level has at least one opportunity to have a field trip off-campus.

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Field Trip</u>	<u>Time of Year</u>	<u>All Students / Volunteer Trip</u>
Pre-K			
Kindergarten			
1 st	Webb Memorial Park	Any	ALL
	Holly Hill	Any	
	Pratt Library	Late Spring	
2 nd	CSCR	May/June	ALL
	Maple Sugaring in Sharon	March	
	Museum of Science	Any	
3 rd	Pratt Library	October	ALL (2 classes at a time)
	Walker Between Worlds Native American Storytelling (on campus)	November	ALL
	CFD Fire Safety Presentation (on campus)	December	ALL (3 classes at a time)
	New England Aquarium	December	ALL
	David Ezra Stein Author Visit (on campus)	January	ALL (2 classes at a time)

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<u>Grade</u>	<u>Field Trip</u>	<u>Time of Year</u>	<u>All Students / Volunteer Trip</u>
3 rd	Safe Harbor <i>Samantha Skunk Presentation</i>	Spring	ALL
	Historical Cohasset Bus Tour led by	May	ALL
4 th	Willcutt Commons	Spaced out over the year	ALL (1 class at a time)
	Earth View Interactive Geography (on campus)	November	ALL (1 class at a time)
	South Shore Art Center	March	ALL (½ grade at a time)
	Whale Conservation Interactive Assembly (on campus)	May	ALL
	Heritage Gardens (tentative – may substitute for another outing)	Spring	ALL
5 th	Company Theatre Production, “A Christmas Carol”	December	ALL
	Theatre Espresso, Uprising on King St. (on campus)	February	ALL
	North & South River Watershed “WaterSmart” Workshops (on campus)	March	ALL
	All grade 5 - The Museum of Science	March 28	ALL
	Theatre Espresso, The Trail of Anthony Burns (on campus)	May	ALL
	CSCR Environmental Science Rotations	May	ALL
	Social Studies field trip (Boston Tea Party Museum? Freedom Trail? - Still in planning stages)	Spring	ALL
ALL Grades 3-5	Bullying Awareness Assembly with <u>Chris Poulos</u> (on campus)	September	ALL
	Holly Hill Gardening & Environmental Science Lessons (on campus)	3x a year per grade level	ALL (1 class at a time)
	Reading Rovers with Cohasset Working Dog Foundation (on campus)	2x a year per class	ALL (1 class at a time)
	Fun Run (on campus)	October	ALL

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Grades 3-5	Circus Smirkus Circus in Residence (on campus)	December (weeklong)	ALL Gr. 3: 1 class; Gr. 4: 2 classes; Gr. 5: Multiple classes plus, performance
	Coh-Lab-Oration Art Workshop at CHS	February	2 students chosen per grade from applicants
	Autism Awareness Day <u>Shawn Peters</u> author visit (on campus)	April	ALL
	Techsploration – Forces and Motion (on campus)	April	ALL (ASSEMBLY) GRADE 4 ONLY: Hands on Workshops
	Bike to school With Mr. You	Spring	Voluntary (ALL Welcome)
6 th	Field Day (on campus)	June	ALL
	Winter Olympics (on campus)	Winter	ALL GRADE 6
	STEM Day at Gillette Stadium/Pats Hall Field day	Spring	ALL GRADE 6
7 th	Science 7 - PCIS Planetarium Field day	Late winter Spring	ALL GRADE 7 ALL GRADE 7
8 th	Read to JOS K students (walk 2-3 times no bus used)	Fall/Spring (Winter/weather permits)	ALL GRADE 8
	Civics/Cohasset History	October/November	ALL GRADE 8
	Treetop Adventures	June	ALL GRADE 8
	Inclusivity Club Field Trip	January	Club members, all grades (approx. 30)
9 th	Coast Sweep Canobie Lake	October June	ALL GRADE 9 ALL GRADE 9
10 th	Hingham District Courthouse MA Historical Society Cohasset Police Station JPH Retreat Water Treatment Plant EMK Institute	Fall Fall Fall Spring Fall Spring	Intro to Law (Gr. 10 & 11) AP US Intro to Law ALL GRADE 10 ChemComm ALL GRADE 10

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<u>Grade</u>	<u>Field Trip</u>	<u>Time of Year</u>	<u>All Students/ Volunteer Trip</u>
11 th	Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum	Fall	AP Euro
	Marine Science Research / Sandy Beach	Ongoing	Students - Marine Science (Gr. 11 & 12)
	State Civics Fair (BSU)	Spring	Selected students
	Level 99	Spring	ALL GRADE 11
12 th	Auschwitz Exhibit	Fall	ALL GRADE 12
	Senior Week Trip (Varies)	Spring	ALL GRADE 12
	Grocery Store	Spring	AP Econ
	Self-Defense RAD Training	Spring	ALL Senior Girls
	Holly Hill Farm	Spring	Environmental Science Gr. 11 & 12
	Credit for Life Fair	Winter	ALL GRADE 12
	Virtual Spanish Conversations	Ongoing	AP Spanish
	AIMS Grocery Store	Periodic	AIMS Students
<i>Cross Grade</i>	HBCU College Fair	Fall	Volunteer (Gr. 10 & 11)
	Safe Harbor Peer Leadership	Fall	Substance Abuse Awareness Club
	JPH Retreat	Fall/Spring	Various grades by invite
	Captains Leadership Workshop	Fall	Sports Captains
	MSAA NHS Conference	Spring	Gr. 11 & 12 (NHS)
	Museum of Science	Spring	AP Science Courses
	Samantha Skunk	Spring	Safe Harbor Students
	Boston Opera House	Fall	Students -American Musical Theatre
<i>Other</i>	Various Elementary Trips	Ongoing	Independent Study Courses, AP Chem, AP Spanish, AP Language
	Photography Classes	Ongoing	Students enrolled in in photo classes
	Elementary/Senior Center/Sunrise	Winter	All chorus and band
	Cohasset Greenery	Fall	Art Major Students (Pet Parade)
	Black Heritage Trail	Fall	Volunteer
	Variety of co-curricular trips (Model UN, Debate, etc.)	Ongoing	By Club

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• **Cohasset Public Schools Field Trips / Overview – Updated as of January, 2025**

Mr. Carr is impressed with all the fantastic field trips this district offers with the range of things that students can do looks great. It's a tribute to how much people care about making sure students get to see things outside the classroom as well, it's really well done.

Mr. Dial appreciates the field trip list of everything, it's something he personally asked for. One thing he'd like to note just by virtue of circumstance is experiential learning for every grade level in every class to get an opportunity to have a field trip and take intentional efforts to create those opportunities which is talked about all the time among this school committee,

Mrs. Shannon says these field trips might not have happened because of COVID, it's been a work in progress to bring these field trips back and the district is seeing more and more being added overtime. There may be students who've haven't had that experience really value what a field trip can bring to them.

Mrs. Hanna says students at the middle school in general 6th, 7th, and 8th grade, didn't get a lot of field trip experience because of COVID like the New England Aquarium and the Museum of Science being cancelled. Could they look at grade levels of what field trips students actually have gotten to do and then compare that to make sure when students do go into high school maybe add in a couple more extra field trip experiences for them

Mrs. Hanna appreciates the perspective from the athletic program, she appreciates everything that is taken place here. Her concern is, it's more a trust issue with parents and athletes willing to come forward without having their name attached to it. There's no way for them to come forward in an anonymous way, given the situational things of examples that have happened. This consultant can hold forms, but this will have a real problem having parents and students come forward, unless they've graduated and are out of the school system.

Mr. Dial wonders if there's a way to have one on one with parents or invite individualized communications. If they hire an individual consultant to come in, a person that can keep that confidentiality to help give people a safe space to speak. As a school committee being the representatives for folks who may want to talk with them, they'll honor their confidentiality.

Mrs. Lesky really appreciates this field trip list, but as she looked at this list it was contrary to what other members of the school committee were saying. Mrs. Lesky sees a separation as a parent and as an educator, a difference between events as opportunities and field trips. Many students have had the opportunity to see the Paul Pratt Library before they even enter Pre-K. Mrs. Lesky would love to see the district move in a direction more broadly that utilizes those resources available particularly with their suburban location. There are amazing things for students to learn that are free at the Harvard Libraries and the Boston Public Library.

Mr. MacLellan would like to see the field trips segregated to on-campus programming, Cohasset site visits, and field trips. That will help identify the deficiencies a little bit better, specifically to something in line with their current curriculum. Examples would be Civics, Law, History, Arts. He saw no field trips to the State House, or the Supreme Judicial Court, and knows many students at the 5th grade level have benefited from going on field trips into Boston like the Freedom Trail, a treasure to have here and would like to see the district embrace Boston a lot more for field trips.

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- **Cohasset Public Schools Field Trips / Overview – Updated as of January, 2025**

Silva Family from 40 Sparrows Lane comments via Zoom that their kids loved all these field trips and appreciated the opportunity to go. The Silva Family would like to know when the Middle School will be going on any off-campus field trips in the near future.

The 6th grade class will be going on a field trip to Gillette Stadium next week. The 8th graders will be going to Tree Top Adventures in Canton for sort of the school year end celebration. The 7th graders will be going to the Science Museum Planetarium in Boston.

Teaching and Learning

- **Academic Initiatives (Dr. Leslie Scollins)**

There's a lot of language around Competency Determination for Cohasset High School Program of Studies since the state voted on MCAS, no longer a graduation requirement. The Department of Education has recently decided to do some work on this, realizing that law changes everything and every district is making its own determinations. The Department of Education will have this determination by May, 2025 and Dr. Scollins along with Principal Scott will present this determination at a school committee meeting soon thereafter.

- **Cohasset Middle School Program of Studies FY26 (Mr. John Mills)** [Exhibit E-1]

The Department of Education Secondary Education put out frameworks for the Wellness program in 2023. Dr. Scollins has been working with DESE, unpacking those standards, looking at what's being taught, and making those changes as necessary with seven (7) standards and practices in the Wellness Programming for grades 6-8. Principal Mills notices some repetitiveness that connects to these standards. CMS introduced bullying each year making some modifications with CMS strengths in the Wellness curriculum with a lot of literacy goals and the teachers are doing a good job reinforcing those literacy skills.

Mr. Carr says it's such a nice compliment to give students at that age in middle school self-awareness and anti-bullying, it's all related and it's a great age that gets the message across.

At Cohasset Middle School for 8th grade, a unit that refers to "I believe in you", a curriculum that encourages healthy relationships and self-acceptance that helps students achieve some of the bullying goals that's done through explicit skill instruction as well as reflective writing. One of the strengths in the CMS Wellness curriculum is that the teachers at CMS do a really nice job reinforcing those skills that's a multi-year group reviewing the curriculum. At this point, they're really focusing on the wellness learning objectives. That work will continue for the rest of this year into next year. Also, focusing on the physical education standards and Principal Mills hopes to be at a school committee meeting at the same time next year, talking about the changes in the refinements to the physical education standards. The Department of Education, Secondary Education (DESE) did a really nice job recognizing how important teachers think of students academically, emotionally, physically, spiritually and how students feel about themselves. The frameworks encourage teachers to work that in the curriculum.

Cohasset Middle School, in collaboration with the PSO have invited Elizabeth A. Winder from Bridgewater State Aggression Reduction Center an expert on bullying and a healthy adolescent using technology. This event will be in the evening and will be held in the auditorium at CMS on April 3, 2025 for all parents, especially for Deer Hill School and CMS parents. The PSO created a "Mystery Night" student that will be held in the Learning Commons and this event will be sent out via the schools' newsletter.

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Teaching and Learning

➤ **Cohasset Middle School Program of Studies FY26 (Mr. John Mills)** [Exhibit E-1]

Mr. MacLellan recalls early discussions at a school committee meeting on programming on digital citizenship curriculum at the elementary school level, being responsible for the use of technology. Teaching elementary students' permanence of some of the messaging that appears in social media and online and the long-lasting damage it can do. Mr. MacLellan would just like to put out those concepts that middle school and high school have in place. He'd love to see this being a meaningful curriculum developed at the elementary school level.

➤ **Cohasset High School Program of Studies FY26 (Mr. Brian Scott)** [Exhibit E-2]

The only requirement the state has is Algebra I, Geometry, and 10th grade English. Principal Scott added Algebra II for consideration and vote by the Cohasset School Committee. Also added on for consideration was taking MCAS itself for students up until the 10th grade. The district is required and still held accountable to the MCAS measures with the district and families that benefit substantially from that. For many schools the district's stature as a high-performance school translates into tens of thousands of dollars in college merit.

Principal Scott talked with the department heads and school council about Pathways, typically referred to career and technical education that Cohasset High School doesn't offer. Across the state, Pathways has trades that lead to internships that lead to jobs. Principal Scott would like to bundle some extra courses into like-minded disciplines. These courses are for students' interest in areas that could end up as 1st semester independent study for Seniors where they demonstrate the cross connections they've learned over the four (4) years at CHS taking a variety of courses. It's a great way for students to dive in a little bit more deeply and figure out if they like it or not. If a student is very well versed in the curriculum and can demonstrate a capstone, it could be a very attractive college application, add-on for students to show their interest, ability, and commitment to it.

Mrs. Hanna asks if a student is interested in taking Pathways, will students have a school advisor to guide them through it.

Principal Scott says yes with any independent study the student needs a Faculty Advisor. There are all kinds of cross connection disciplinary pollinations that could be overseen by doing better research, coming up with thesis and evidence to support their thesis and coming up with a particular product. This will also give parents and students a different lens through which to view their course of study. Packaging these courses all together and interests to something might lead the student to a new career path. These alternative pathways might help students identify their interests as they navigate through it will be great for students and teachers. On Tuesday, March 11th, Cohasset High School will have a curriculum night with 8th grade students and parents are invited to meet with department heads and counselors to give an overview of the student's four (4) year planning.

Mrs. Hanna really likes that piece that will help students figure out what they want to do in life that won't be an overwhelming experience. She'd like to know how many students do independent study at high school.

Mr. Dial really likes Principal Scott's presentation on Pathway Possibilities and thanks him for putting it together. The program of studies discussions are usually his favorite discussions because it just drives home how in depth their academics are in Cohasset Public Schools. Looks forward to hearing about Pathway's success.

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Teaching and Learning

➤ **Cohasset High School Competency Determination (Mr. Brian Scott)**

The language now being used in Cohasset High School Program of Studies is Competency Determination, a language that goes back to Edwin G. Foreman in 1993 when the MCAS was developed and became a graduation requirement to receive a high school diploma. At that time MCAS was to align schools across the state with common standards basically, a baseline for earning a high school diploma entailed with the state requirements and local requirements. Cohasset High School local requirements have always far exceeded the state requirements. Competency Determination (CD) is an add-on of the mastery of MCAS itself. Since the vote in November, 2024, it took that graduation piece away and the state has asked to describe how the district is going to show they've met that standard in the absence of the test. Principal Scott says the vote itself was misinterpreted by a lot of people who thought the MCAS was going away forever. It was just removed in order to graduate. Principal Scott will be sending out an email to families on Cohasset High School course scheduling and what that process is. Cohasset High School will be having a Course Fair scheduled for next week during Utility and inviting all parents to talk with their kids and teachers of the courses offered and of interest so they can go right into course selection with an educated view of what students might want to take.

Myra Toffey from 9 Orchard Drive comments via Zoom, adding the language about taking the MCAS as Competency Determination participation is circumventing the vote that was overwhelmingly passed and is the law.

➤ **Cohasset High School Cell Phone “Away for the Day” Pilot (Mr. Brian Scott)**

Principal Scott says the cell phone ban was well enforced, but not well received. Principal Scott has been impressed with the level of maturity the students have. There's a lot of chatter and louder in the cafeteria and Principal Scott says he's never had any negative interactions with the cell phone “away for the day” at all. He's pleased the school committee agreed to do this a little bit longer.

Budget, Resources and Governance

• **Finance and Operations Update – Fees (Mrs. Sarah Shannon)**

Superintendent, Mrs. Sarah Shannon, would like to update everybody on the budget process that discusses fees. In order to do this in a timely way because the fee discussion in the school committee's eventual votes on that fee discussion do impact both the schools' ability to finalize the schools' budget for FY26, but also it impacts the number of reductions the administration may or may not have to make. If the schools have fewer fee increases, or additional reductions, it is only fair that the school lets those staff members know sooner than later that they could be impacted. If the school committee agrees to the fees as Mrs. Shannon presents, it will have fewer impact on staffing and it's important for the staff to know.

Fees to consider for the district to move forward with the budget that will be voted upon by the school committee March 19, 2025. The first fee proposal to FY25 would reinstitute a full-day Kindergarten fee bringing \$300,000 to offset shortfall. More information needs to be collected from other surrounding districts that have kindergarten fees.

Another proposal for consideration is an increase in area transportation fees to increase scheduled transportation fees for higher transportation fees that would impact CPS revenue. Proposing an increase in athletic fees with a two-tier fee structure. Hockey, swimming & football fees would be in Tier 2, higher cost to run these sports. [\$500 per student, \$2,000 Family Cap.] Other sports fees in Tier 1 [\$350, \$1,400 Family Cap.]

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Budget, Resources and Governance

• Finance and Operations Update – Fees (Mrs. Sarah Shannon)

An increase in ridership transportation fees even though Cohasset is towards the higher end of transportation fees. The only other district with higher transportation fees is the town of [Hingham \$360 per student for riding the bus with a \$625 Family Cap, not until September, 2025.]

Area transportation fee proposals would increase revenue. Proposal #1 – increase ridership transportation \$400 per student, \$750 Family Cap: Potential revenue, \$27,750. Proposal #2 – increase ridership transportation fee \$425 per student, \$800 Family Cap: Potential revenue increase \$39,500. Proposal #3 – increase ridership transportation fee \$450 per student, \$850 Family Cap: Potential revenue increase \$55,500. Superintendent Mrs. Sarah Shannon will not be asking families for any fees until these conversations and decisions are made.

Proposing an increase in athletic fees with a two-tier fee structure. Hockey, swimming & football fees would be in Tier 2, an additional higher cost running these sports. [\$500 per student, \$2,000 Family Cap.] Other sports fees would be in Tier 1 [\$350, \$1,400 Family Cap.] The Ski team currently pays \$250 per student with a ski pass to the Blue Hills.

Another thought for consideration but not a proposal was an increase in gate fees with the school district being aligned with other surrounding districts' gate fees bringing into the schools \$40,000. Proposing a new fee of [\$60 per student activity fee at CMS] and [\$100 fee per student activity fee at CHS.] There are many schools in the surrounding district that do charge a fee for student activities. Proposing to institute a student parking fee of [\$2.00 daily per student at CHS] that would bring in \$41,400 in revenue that would be prorated based on when that Senior student, Junior student started driving to school.

Mr. MacLellan asks Superintendent Shannon if she could compile this list of fees and forward to the Town of the discussions they'll be having on these fees.

➤ Finance and Operations Monthly Update (Mrs. Susan Owen)

[Exhibit F-1]

The approved school budget for FY25 totals \$23,909,407, with an additional one-time allocation of \$342,399 to address the special education shortfall. This brings the total available budget for FY25 to \$24,251,806. As of 01-31-2024, expenditures amount to \$12,288,914, with encumbrances for supplies, materials, and remaining payrolls on purchase orders totaling \$12,779,963. This results in an estimated shortfall of **(\$817,071)**, an increase from last month's shortfall of **(\$740,327)**. No budget overrides will be permitted, no deficits will be allowed unless approved by the Superintendent. The Special Education (SPED) tuition budget was set at \$926,416 and is currently encumbered on purchase orders. There is a shortfall of **(\$180,935)** in tuition costs, which remains unchanged from last month. Additionally, the SPED transportation shortfall has increased from **(\$56,454)** to **(\$111,384)** over the past month. Budget line items with shortfalls:

SPED Tuitions	\$180,935
Utilities	\$154,178
SPED Transportation	\$111,384
Custodial supplies/materials	\$ 40,884
Salaries	\$329,690

Cohasset Public Schools

143 Pond Street

Cohasset, MA 02045

Empower Students to Improve Communities

Budget, Resources and Governance

➤ **Finance and Operations Monthly Update (Mrs. Susan Owen)**

[Exhibit F-1]

<u>School</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Expended</u>	<u>Encumbrances</u>	<u>Balance</u>	<u>% Used</u>	<u>FTE</u>
Osgood	\$4,559,387	\$2,137,314	\$112,448	\$2,309,626	49.34 %	52.10
Deer Hill	\$4,335,012	\$2,014,031	\$ 89,392	\$2,231,590	48.52 %	46.40
Middle	\$4,218,395	\$1,909,707	\$ 3,895	\$2,304,794	45.36 %	46.00
High School	\$7,241,994	\$3,745,407	\$245,746	\$3,250,841	55.11 %	66.80

Circuit breaker funding received for FY24 \$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 \$1,097,956 and will be paid in four (4) installments, in which the school received the first two (2) payments in the amount of \$274,489 each, a total of (\$548,978). In Massachusetts, the program reimburses 75% of eligible special education costs that exceed four times the state average per pupil foundation budget. This support is crucial for districts managing the financial challenges of delivering specialized education services to students with significant needs.

Capital Requests FY26

School bus lease – (8 buses)	\$ 151,300
Electric school bus lease	\$ 25,000
1 Additional school bus	\$ 20,650
2 District vans lease (5 years)	\$ 33,690
Interactive boards (³ / ₄ year)	\$ 117,628
Security enhancements (approx. \$6,500-\$9,500)	
Security cameras & PA upgrades	\$ 91,338
CPS Furniture (Babain HS & MS Counseling Rooms)	\$ 35,672

Osgood School ipads and CPS window shades requests moved to FY27

FY26 Requests Total **\$ 484,778**

Reviewing transportation needs due to an increase in ridership. The old “blue bird bus” has been permanently retired, as it is beyond repair. The school is coordinating with the Town to surplus both the “blue bird” and the “minibus,” which has been out of service for several years. Cohasset Public Schools, Finance and Operations Department has submitted a capital request to replace the blue bird bus in the upcoming year.

Community Relations / Communication

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

No reports from school committee Subcommittees and/or Liaisons.

School Committee Governance

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

There are no topics not reasonably anticipated in 48 hours by the Chair.

• **Approval of Minutes ****

Three sets of Cohasset Public School Committee Meeting Minutes to approve for January 8, 2025; January 22, 2025; February 5, 2025. Members of the school committee who were not present at these meetings must abstain from that vote.

Cohasset Public Schools
143 Pond Street
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School Committee Governance

- **Approval of Minutes ****

Secretary Mr. Carr would like to note to the Chair before the vote about the Arts Program with the students who came to the February 5, 2025 school committee meeting. The names of students that are typed in italic font need to be correctly spelled for the February 5, 2025 minutes.

Motion made by Mr. Dial to approve the February 5, 2025 meeting as presented by the Secretary of the Cohasset School Committee Mr. Carr, seconded by Mrs. Lesky.

Aye – All

Motion made by Mr. Carr to approve January 22, 2025 regular meeting of the Cohasset School Committee, seconded by Mrs. Lesky.

Aye – All

Motion made by Mrs. Lesky to approve January 8, 2025 as presented, seconded by Mr. Carr.

Aye – All

Motion carries with a vote of four (4) members, one (1) abstain.

- **Future Agenda Items**

School Community concerns for Athletics Programming.

- **Adjourn ****

A motion was made by Mr. Dial to adjourn the February 26, 2025 at 8:19 PM for the regular meeting of the Cohasset School Committee, seconded by Mrs. Lesky.

Aye - All

The Cohasset School Committee meeting for Wednesday, February 26, 2025 adjourned at 8:19 PM.

Contents/Documents used at the 02.26.25 Cohasset School Committee meeting:

Exhibit

Cohasset Public Schools 2025 Field Trips.....	Mrs. Sarah Shannon
Teaching and Learning-Cohasset Middle School Program of Studies (Mr. John Mills).....	E-1
Teaching and Learning-Cohasset High School Program of Studies (Mr. Brian Scott).....	E-2
Budget, Resources and Governance-Finance and Operations Monthly Update (Mrs. Susan Owen) ...	F-1

**** Requires Committee Vote / Action**