

Cohasset Public Schools

Empower Students to Improve Communities

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
COHASSET SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Wednesday, November 20, 2024
6:00 PM**

In Person Participation

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

Virtual

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

Televised

Streamed Live on Cohasset 143tv

Facebook (*watch/listen only*)
Cohasset Live Streaming

All School Committee Meetings Are Recorded.

In Attendance:

Lance Dial, Vice Chair
Ted Carr, Secretary
Jennifer Lesky
Tori Hannah
Susan Owen, Director of Finance and Operations
Rock Roberts, Director of Data, Evaluation, and Curriculum
Michael Stapleton, Director of Student Services
Dr. Leslie Scollins, Assistant Superintendent
Mrs. Sarah Shannon, Superintendent

AGENDA

Call to Order

Lance Dial called to order the regular meeting of the Cohasset School Committee for Wednesday, November 20, 2024 promptly at 6:00 PM. Mr. Dial asks members of the Cohasset School Committee who are present to please indicate so in **Roll Call: Mr. Carr–Present, Mrs. Lesky–Present; Mr. Dial–Present.** To astute observers, the Cohasset School Committee has two absences. Mrs. Hannah will be a few minutes late. Mr. MacLellan has another engagement in which Mr. Dial will be substituting as Chair for the November 20, 2024 regular meeting of the Cohasset School Committee. They do have a quorum with 3 of 5 members present to proceed with school committee business.

Opening Remarks

Mr. Dial would like to extend a specific thanks to the faculty going through parent/teacher meetings. This is extra work for the faculty and the staff to help coordinate and meet with Cohasset parents and families. As a parent of a middle school student, Mr. Dial has have benefited from having a parent/teacher conference with teachers and he just wanted to make sure the staff and faculty know that the school community here in Cohasset appreciates their willingness and attentiveness to those matters, it really helps connect with their children’s academic efforts in school. Thank you very much for that.

Public Comment

No public comments.

Cohasset Public Schools

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Invited Guests

• **Cohasset Middle School Quebec Trip 2025** (Ms. Kathleen Sanges)**

[Exhibit C-1]

Ms. Kathleen Sanges, Cohasset Middle School French Teacher is here tonight to propose and to organize a three (3) day school field trip to Québec City, Canada for 8th grade French Language students. Mrs. Sanges has been doing these trips for the past 16 years. Students will have the opportunity to visit one of the oldest cities in North America and participate in an immersive language and cultural experience. The Chaperone ratio is 1:10 and she has 15 students participating for the Québec City, Canada trip for this year. Since this trip will consist of a small group this year, Cohasset Middle School will combine this trip with students from the Scituate Middle School to keep costs down. Cohasset Middle School has done this trip with the Scituate Middle School for the past 3 years.

The dates for this trip will be May 8th, 9th, and 10th of 2025. The cost for this trip will be \$700-\$750 per student. Ms. Sanges has used Jumpstreet Tours of Montreal, Canada for several years. A Jumpstreet Tour guide will stay with Ms. Sanges and her group of students throughout the weekend. Transportation will be provided by motor coach from Cohasset to Québec City, Canada. Students will stay at Hotel Plaza or Hotel Concord with a chaperone ratio of 1 to 10 students. Ms. Sanges knows other CMS teachers will volunteer for this trip if needed. The Cohasset Middle School World Language Department believes that this excursion will help their students understand the importance of learning about other cultures through language and lay the foundation for further study abroad.

Mr. Carr comments he went to a different school where he took this trip when he was attending middle school and loved seeing one of the most iconic cities in history, a beautiful city.

Mrs. Lesky thanks Ms. Sanges for doing this trip and for the students who will benefit from this. This reminded Mrs. Lesky through this tradition it helps to build community and think of this trip being as one that her child has experienced as a Cohasset Middle School tradition, part of the tradition of being a student, taking a French language in the district. That too is something to also be recognized in terms of how they think about these sort of milestone moments for Cohasset Middle School students.

Mrs. Tori Hannah arrives at the meeting at 6:06 PM.

Mr. Dial asks Mrs. Sanges if she could give an aspect of how the kids will be supervised, with gender appropriate separation and overnight accommodation, etc.

For security purposes, Mrs. Sanges says herself and Mr. Mills, Principal of CMS, travel together all the time whether it's a walking tour or split off into smaller groups. Students are with a chaperone at all times. All students and chaperones stay on one floor at the hotel with the boys in one section and the girls in the other, with a chaperone lodging in the middle. There will be overnight security from 10:00 PM to 6:00 AM and report to Ms. Sanges with any issues.

Mr. Dial says for himself and the community as a whole are very supportive of these trips. These are incredible educational and memory building opportunities for their students and thank you so much for putting this trip together. Mr. Dial would love to see at some point an inventory of which trips they have because one thing that Mr. Dial worries about is the aggregate burden on families. These trips cost money and don't want to create a situation where there are some students who are able to do tons and tons of things and other students who are not able to do other things. Fundraisers help with the cost and Mr. Dial would love to see how these are mapped out because the reality for most families it would be great to understand as the school committee approves these trips where that burden falls on a family who wants to do as much as they can.

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• Cohasset Middle School Quebec Trip 2025 (Ms. Kathleen Sanges)**

[Exhibit C-1]

Mrs. Hannah comments that she absolutely agrees with the fact these opportunities are crucial and important for students.

Principal Mills of Cohasset Middle School says in the past some families had difficulty covering the tuition for this trip and the schools helped out to make it affordable. Also, for the last couple of years, Ms. Sanges has been working with Scituate so that Cohasset Middle School students share a motor coach bus with Scituate Middle School students to keep the price down.

A motion was made by Mrs. Lesky to approve the Cohasset Middle School Québec City trip for May 8th, 9th and 10th, 2025, seconded by Mrs. Hannah.

Aye – All

Invited Guests

• Cohasset High School Europe Trip 2026 (Mr. Jim Willis)**

[Exhibit C-2]

This is the 12th year for Mr. Willis doing the Europe trip where they tend to go every year to leave room for other trips and opportunities that pop up. This Europe trip is an international relations focus starting in Geneva and ending in Munich. Students will travel through Switzerland and go to Salzburg and Austria and end up in Munich, Germany. The Europe trip is for 10-11 days, and the chaperone ratio is 1:6 with a Tour Director from EF who accompanies Cohasset High School students and chaperones at all times. The itinerary is a customized itinerary through EF with Mr. Willis who has been working on this for the past 6 months. Mr. Willis is hoping to get the costs down for students with an early registration bonus. The goal is to get students to sign up, fully committed before January, 2025 to bring some costs down and this also give the students families a full year to make payments towards the Europe trip.

The Europe trip will be over the April break in 2026. Chaperones will be worked out between Mr. Willis and Mr. Scott, Principal of Cohasset High School. Students who go abroad will miss 2-3 days maximum of school on the front side of April break, 2026. This trip dominates mostly Seniors, Juniors with a few Sophomores in past years.

A motion was made by Mr. Carr to approve the Cohasset High School Europe Trip for 2026, seconded by Mrs. Hannah.

Aye - All

Superintendent Updates

• Cohasset Middle and High School Feasibility Update and Community Forum (Mrs. Sarah Shannon)

Mrs. Shannon, Superintendent of Cohasset Public Schools would like to start first by congratulating and recognizing the Educational Support Professionals which was celebrated today. The ESPs are integral to the success of the district, teachers, and students. They are the people students, and the staff rely on the day-to-day basis, and they are often the first people who celebrate a student when they need to be celebrated or they're the first person to notice a student struggling to give them a pep talk that a student might need. Their kindness, their compassion, their skill for working expertly with students does not go unnoticed and they would be lost without them. All the schools in the district celebrated ESPs today and Mrs. Shannon wants to publicly thank them for all that they do on a regular basis, they could not function without them.

Cohasset Public Schools

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Superintendent Updates

• Cohasset Middle and High School Feasibility Update and Community Forum (Mrs. Sarah Shannon)

The school district is halfway through the Cohasset Middle and High School Feasibility Study Process. The Visioning Sessions are finished and had smaller meetings about the number of spaces they'll need. A lot of the location studies have been completed and today they did a traffic study, and they're ready to update the community where they are. They'll be holding a Community Forum on Tuesday, December 3, 2024 at 6:30 PM in the Learning Commons. Information will be sent out tomorrow and they hope people will come and listen and ask questions. It's definitely still a work in progress and they won't be completed with the Feasibility Study Process until mid to end of February, 2025. It's really important that the community gets regular updates and invites everybody to come.

As part of Mrs. Shannon's entry plan, she has scheduled and planned to spend whole days in all of the schools, and she was able to spend the day at Deer Hill and the Osgood School already. Tomorrow Mrs. Shannon plans to be at CMS and spend the day at CHS on Friday and her visits have been really fun and has been able to see a regular school day in each school and it's been great. This is a practice that is a part of Mrs. Shannon's entry plan but actually it's a practice she'll continue to try to do twice a year because Mrs. Shannon finds there's great value in being available for any check in or touch base whatever the case might be.

Congratulations to all the Fall Sports teams, most have wrapped up their seasons. The Girl's Soccer team played a tough game last evening against Sutton 3-1. The Boys' Soccer team play on Saturday at Curry College in the State Tournament for Soccer for Division 4. The time is TBD, but as soon as they know they'll publicize that among the community.

Mrs. Shannon encourages the entire community this Friday night, November 22, 2024 at 7:00 PM and/or Saturday afternoon, November 23, 2024 at 4:00 PM, Cohasset Middle School Musical is having "High School Musical Junior." They'll also be publicizing that with the Elementary Schools because it'll be a great play for elementary students to enjoy and get their first taste of theater. Students at CMS put in a lot of time and energy to make this performance happen and do it well.

Teaching and Learning

• Academic Initiatives

➤ Student Achievement Update MCAS/Data (Dr. Leslie Scollins)

➤ 2024 Fall Data Report (Rock Roberts, Dr. Leslie Scollins, Michael Stapleton)

Rock Roberts, Director of Data and Curriculum says his position the last 2 years in Cohasset is really being able to see their data in all the different buildings and creating this presentation is really creating their story because the data tells a story. There's a lot behind the data and every data point is its students, its teachers, it's one grade leading into the next grade. This district is exceptionally high performing, and they have a lot to celebrate. They're proud of their students, their teachers and they're always looking for the areas to grow and at the areas where they can improve and seek to improve in those areas.

In the 2 years Rock Roberts has worked in the district of Cohasset he sees the school district's vision, their mission, core values, and their vision of a graduate. This is the whole notion students are shaped by those things. The Presentation Overview shows data for accountability percentile of student's performance meeting or exceeding targets at each building. Data was collected in 2022-2023 to look at 2 years and now they'll be looking at 3 years of data for comparison.

Cohasset Public Schools

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Teaching and Learning

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➤ Student Achievement Update MCAS/Data (Dr. Leslie Scollins)

➤ 2024 Fall Data Report

They'll also be looking for Chronic Absenteeism because it now has a lot of weight than it did in the past. At the High School they'll still be looking at achievement, student growth, high school completion rate. Looking at English Language proficiency which isn't a big problem because they don't have a lot of students who are multi-language learners, as well as Chronic Absenteeism. Looking at the number of students that take advanced courses at the high school level. The number of Chronic Absenteeism is higher at the elementary level than they would like it to be, it gets a little better in middle school and not a problem at the high school. The school will work with families around this trying to get students into school and figure out why they're not coming to school and then supporting those families to get students in school. Accountability Percentile 2024: Meeting or Exceeding Targets - Cohasset High School ranked 95%; Cohasset Middle School 93%; Deer Hill School 87%.

Mrs. Lesky asks what the definition of Chronic Absenteeism is and the Accountability Percentile for the high school meeting or exceeding 95% is what the state believes they should be doing.

Dr. Scollins says Chronic Absenteeism is considered to be 10 days or more.

Mr. Dial asks is the high school Accountability Percentile at 95% out of all districts in the state or does this mean their meeting or exceeding 95% of the things they should be doing.

Rock Roberts says it's their comparison with other schools.

Mr. Carr asks if Chronic Absenteeism is by semester or within a year. Will there be communication around that strategy?

Dr. Scollins says 10 days in a year, so anything over 10 days or more is considered Chronic Absenteeism.

Mrs. Shannon notes Michael Stapleton will talk more about this towards the end of the presentation. They do have a system in place with certain rules, regulations, and laws that actually dictate how to deal with attendance. When a student is absent for 5 days unexcused will get a letter, 10 days unexcused get a letter and if it progressively becomes more to the extreme, they'll have parent/teacher meetings where it does become a thorough process, but it's very rare.

MCAS is no longer considered part of a competency determination when graduating. The earliest the law can take effect is December 5, 2024. Students taking the Fall MCAS or making it up it still counts. More will be revealed as they move through this and see what it actually is going to look like in the Spring when they get more information after the law takes effect.

Rock Roberts shows composite scores on what 2023-2024 Dibels looks like for grades K-2. The Dibels testing has a lot of components around literacy that shows where a student was at the beginning, middle, and the end of the year. At the Osgood School they have i-Ready that correlates with Dibels, it's worth noting all the students at Osgood School don't have anyone who's more than one grade level below which is impressive. The literacy demands are a little bit more complicated, but the data shows that Dibels for grades 3-5 at the Deer Hill School are above average.

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➤ 2024 Fall Data Report

The MCAS data for ELA for grades 3-5 at Deer Hill shows a slight dip between 2023-2024 but it shows that student's growth is at the expected growth rate. It's also worth noting students exceeding in Math is rising pretty consistently and total number of students exceeding is at 70% which is a nice number to see. There's a significant number of students taking AP courses and a significant number of students are doing very well at the high school level.

Celebrations for all 10th grade students, all met the MCAS Competency Determination not to mention Cohasset High School being recognized as a National Blue Ribbon School for Academic Excellence, an AP Platinum School. Students attending Cohasset High School Early Language Arts, (ELA), 93% of students meet or exceed expectation and ranked as the 3rd highest in the state. None of Cohasset High School students scored not meeting expectations.

The 6th grade students at Cohasset Middle School had the highest ELA scores in the state with 8th grade ranked the 5th highest with ELA scores in the state. 67% of CMS students meet or exceed expectations in Math. High need students saw growth in partial inclusion on Math scores from not meeting to partially meeting.

Achievement scores are higher in all subject areas for the 5th grade. 4th grade students exceeding expectations in Math increased 9%. The 3rd grade students exceeding expectations in ELA increased 8%. First time test takers in grade 3 had a small number of students not meeting expectations.

There's growth opportunities for ELA writing skills and students are doing benchmark assessments related to writing this year. In Math and Science, identifying growth standards in relation to the curriculum to look over 4-to-5-year span. They'll always be moving the margins to look at students just on the border and how they'll move students to the higher percentage for growth. Using the new data dashboards to drive instructional decisions. The district as a whole will be looking at the development of benchmarks.

Mrs. Hannah comments that from a data standpoint the numbers are obviously good. What will teaching look like in the test versus teaching in general and when looking at the data are they looking for any gaps like COVID, especially middle school years or students in 4th grade now were in kindergarten during COVID where it affected every child in every grade level in different ways. Are there any certain patterns or trends being seen at certain grade levels.

Rock Roberts says looking at the i-Ready assessments is what's driving the data points. The MCAS really helped address all the standards to use that data and go back to the curriculum and look at benchmark assessments. They're seeing a little bit of impact from COVID with the longest delay being the literacy piece, but the data coming out of the Osgood School is really strong.

Mr. Carr comments he worked in a city that lost control of their data in a public school because they didn't have any of these data tools and is thankful this district does. Mr. Carr says he's pleased with the results and knows there is always room for improvement. It's great this district is transparent with what the results looked like.

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For Mrs. Lesky, as an observer, she's seen sort of a static staginess to the number of students to the population operating below grade level on Dibels, i-Ready and MCAS at the elementary level. By the time these students are in high school that seems to go away. What concerns Mrs. Lesky about this is the self-esteem aspect around struggle and presumably these students are sitting in the classroom struggling in one way or another, whether it's struggling academically or struggling emotionally and socially to engage. What can be done about that to move the needle, because that needle statistically really wasn't significant enough.

Mr. Dial would like to add to what Mrs. Lesky talked about are these populations static and will they see students come out of the red zone move to green and back to the red zone. Are they seeing the same students struggling year to year. Mr. Dial says the school district should be lauded to these data points, being ranked as the 3rd- 5th highest in the state with students are meeting or exceed expectations. These are not dominium's accomplishments, kudos to the staff, kudos to the administration, kudos especially to the students!

Michael Stapleton comments confidentiality is really important in this type of venue when looking at students partially meeting at the middle school level. The numbers are not large, and no student is falling into those red zones. They all want high achieving students in some variability to how students perform and it's important to emphasize the students who are not meeting. Those students have been identified as receiving special education support to help them globally, not just the assessment component.

The Student Achievement Update on MCAS/2024 Fall Data Report presented by Dr. Leslie Scollins, Rock Roberts and Michael Stapleton is available on the school website.

Budget, Resources and Governance

• Budget and Finance

➤ Monthly Update (Mrs. Susan Owen)

[Exhibit F-1]

The voted school budget for FY25 is \$23,909,407 plus a separate one-time allotment of \$342,399 to cover the special education shortage. A total of \$24,251,806 is available to spend for FY25. As of October 31, 2024, they have expended \$5,421,608 and they have encumbered supplies and materials on purchase orders in the amount of \$2,170,731. Also, they have encumbered the remaining payroll on a purchase order in the amount of \$17,276,090 to ensure they have enough funding to complete payroll through the end of the year, leaving them in a shortfall in the amount of (\$616,624). The Finance and Operations Department are closely monitoring all accounts, and the budget has been frozen. They will not allow any overrides to these budgets, meaning no deficits unless Superintendent approved.

Special Education Tuitions were budgeted at \$926,416 and are currently encumbered on purchase orders. There is a shortfall in tuitions in the amount of (\$263,140) which has not changed since the September report. Since the final voted budget, the district has had 3 unanticipated out of district placements and one student moved from a Collaborative School to a Private School.

Cohasset Public Schools

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Budget, Resources and Governance

• Budget and Finance

➤ Monthly Update (Mrs. Susan Owen)

[Exhibit F-1]

Budget line items which show shortfalls:

SPED Tuitions	\$263,140
Utilities	\$189,149
SPED Transportation	\$ 10,370
Custodial supplies/materials	\$ 10,456
Salaries	\$143,509

<u>School</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Expended</u>	<u>Encumbrances</u>	<u>Balance</u>	<u>% Used</u>	<u>FTE</u>
Osgood	\$4,514,368	\$ 880,852	\$193,747	\$3,439,770	23.8 0%	52.10
Deer Hill	\$4,380,032	\$ 824,682	\$148,835	\$3,406,516	22.22 %	46.40
Middle	\$4,218,395	\$ 747,172	\$ 13,222	\$3,458,002	18.02 %	46.00
High School	\$7,241,994	\$1,607,015	\$445,639	\$5,189,340	28.34 %	66.80

Circuit Breaker Funding received \$1,177,034 in FY24. Due to budget shortfalls and unanticipated expenditures, the district needed to utilize \$1,078,643 leaving a balance of \$98,391 to be carried over into FY25. Circuit Breaker Funding to be received in FY25 will be \$1,097,956 being paid in four (4) installments, and they've received their first payment in the amount of \$274,489. Circuit Breaker is a state program providing school districts with reimbursement for some of the costs incurred for providing "free and appropriate education" to students with special needs.

Capital Outlay Fund FY25 - \$435,070

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

Capital Outlay Stabilization Fund FY25 - \$450,000

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

FY26 DRAFT CAPITAL LIST	SUM of 2026
Bus Lease (8 diesel buses)	\$ 156,000 Q
Electric Bus Lease	\$ 25,000 Q
Bus Lease (1 additional bus to replace the Blue Bird bus)	\$ 20,650 Q
Window Shades-Fix and Replace in all Buildings (In process of gathering numbers)	\$
Replace all Projectors with Interactive Presentation Equipment (Osgood/Deer Hill)	
(In process of gathering information)	\$
Security Equipment – (52 DW)	\$ 181,435 Q

Cohasset Public Schools

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Budget, Resources and Governance

• Budget and Finance

➤ Monthly Update (Mrs. Susan Owen)

[Exhibit F-1]

FY26 DRAFT CAPITAL LIST	SUM of 2026
Furniture-Replace Main Office Furniture at Deer Hill	\$ 42,829 Q
Furniture-Replace Counseling Offices CMS	\$ 20,000 Q
Furniture-Replace Teacher Desks/Classrooms CMS/CHS (Waiting on Quotes)	\$
(2) New Athletics 15 Passenger Vans (48 Month Lease)	\$ 33,666 Q
IPADS at Osgood - Each class will have own set (Waiting on Quotes)	\$
CHS Babain Conference Room (See quote in worksheet tab)	\$ 15,389 Q
CHS Guidance Office Wing (Pending quote to be received by 11/15/24)	\$
Soft Starter for Elevator at CMHS (Nick and Jake Getting Quotes)	\$
Facilities to Build Multiyear Plan and Obtain Quotes for Remaining Items (Nick and Jake)	\$
Asphalt Road & Sidewalk Between DHS and JOS Needs to be Resurfaced (DHS)	\$ 120,000
Asphalt Road from Pond Street needs to be Resurfaced (CMHS)	\$ 100,000
Replace Sidewalk and Curbing on Entry Road to CMHS (CMHS)	\$ 250,000
Extend Sidewalk to Pond Street (CMHS)	\$ 50,000
GRAND TOTAL	\$1,014,969

The Food Service department continues to be very successful with many upgrades and enhancements. The Food Service department is still looking to hire several food service workers, if interested please apply to VCoron@cohassetk12.org. The Cohasset Middle School Garden Education program and Friends of Holly Hill Farm are feeding student bodies and minds this school year.

A review of transportation is ongoing as ridership has increased. The old “Blue Bird Bus” has been permanently retired as it is no longer repairable. Mrs. Owen is working with the Town to surplus the “Blue Bird Bus” along with the “minibus” which has been out of commission for many years. They are making a request through Capital to replace the “Blue Bird Bus” for next year.

The FY25 budget has been frozen, and no further expenses will be incurred without the Superintendent’s approval. Mrs. Owen says this school district is not alone, there’s a lot of other districts that have started to see these shortfalls in all these areas. Their major areas of concern are utilities, tuitions, transportation and salaries.

➤ FY26 Budget Calendar (Mrs. Susan Owen)

[Exhibit F-2]

September 11	Principals and Leadership team meet to discuss capital and budget needs.
September 13	Superintendent and Director of Finance meet with Facilities Dept, School Facilities Committee and School Committee liaisons to discuss capital needs.
September 18	Superintendent and Director of Finance meet with IT Dept to discuss technology Capital needs.
November 20	School Committee receives draft budget calendar for review.
November 20	Budget information sent to Principals and discussed at leadership meeting.
December 4	Superintendent and Director of Finance present FY26 budget priorities to School Committee for input and present FY26 Draft Capital Request list.

Cohasset Public Schools

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Budget, Resources and Governance

➤ FY26 Budget Calendar (Mrs. Susan Owen)

[Exhibit F-2]

December 10	Superintendent and Director of Finance meet 1:1 with Principals and Directors.
	December 18 – Principals and Leadership team meet to discuss FY26 operating budget needs.
December 18	◆ School Committee finalized budget priorities and budget calendar at the December 18 th School Committee meeting and finalizes FY26 Capital requests.
December 19	Submit capital requests to Town Manager/Capital Budget Committee.
January 8	Superintendent and Director of Finance and Operations present overview of proposed FY26 operating budget to School Committee.
January 15	Superintendent and Director of Finance meet 1:1 with Principals and Directors.
January 21	Budget Workshop with District Leaders and School Committee (Tuesday during the day)
February 5	FY26 Preliminary Budget presentation to School Committee.
February 26	School Committee discussion of the FY26 Budget.
March 3	District publishes notice of upcoming public hearing in local newspaper.
March 5	School Committee discusses budget and receives presentation of state budget. (<i>Representative Meschino and Senator O'Connor</i>) attend March 5 th School Committee meeting.
TBD	Joint meeting of School Committee, Selectmen, and Advisory Committee.
March 19	School Committee Public Hearing on budget preceding the March 19 th School Committee meeting.
April 2	◆ School Committee votes final adoption of budget and certifies budget figure.
May	Town Meeting
June	Final Account Line budgets sent to Principals and Directors.
	◆ School Committee Votes

➤ Update on Electric Bus (Mrs. Susan Owen)

[Exhibit F-3]

Mrs. Owen spoke with someone from EnelX and was assured that even though the division that started and handled their electric school bus project has moved to Spain. There are other divisions of EnelX based out of California that have taken over their project and will continue to support the software for the charger and take over the contract, so they won't see a loss in service.

Mr. Carr asked if there was an issue with the bill on the level three charger for the electric bus. Mr. Carr and Mrs. Hannah will be conveying in a subcommittee meeting on budgeting, they'll be digging into that over the next two weeks.

Mrs. Owen says the bill for the electric bus charger is being paid.

Mr. Dial asks about the hiring of Food Service workers as he's preparing for discussions with their bargaining units. He also noticed one of the provisions on their contract is that teachers do not do lunch supervision or monitor lunches and asks if there's a potential avenue, they can explore to hire people to do lunch supervision and would that fit into their Food Service budget to supervise students during their lunch. Mr. Dial asked Mrs. Owen if she could provide the number of meals (breakfast and lunch) are being served to all students and faculty and what percentage are they selling. He's curious as to what the percentage of lunches are being served versus students bringing lunch from home.

Mrs. Owen says she can get that percentage of lunches being served to Mr. Dial at the next school committee meeting. Lunch monitors cannot be covered by Food Services because they're not actually preparing or serving the meals to students.

Cohasset Public Schools

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Budget, Resources and Governance

➤ Update on Open Architects (Mrs. Susan Owen)

Mrs. Owen and Mrs. Shannon had a kickoff meeting with Open Architects today. Open Architects was given a list of the schools and the people to talk to in the Town. Open Architects is doing a full risk assessment and part of their task is to find opportunities to help them close this gap. There aren't any places for them to cut. They've stopped spending and may not find other alternatives other than what Open Architects can find for them at this point. Chair MacLellan and Mrs. Shannon have been talking with the Select Board and the Town Manager so they're aware of where they are and will continue to keep them updated. Then, going into the following year is where they'll be able to start to make some decisions and close that gap. It might look like raising fees, making some cuts in places they would prefer not to but don't really have many choices. They're going to have some hard decisions to make going into the next year. They're starting the budget process with their building principals and hopefully they'll receive a report from Open Architects by the end of this calendar year to build a more sustainable budget moving forward.

Open Architects is going to do a deep dive in ten (10) areas identified in school districts and do a risk assessment of financial operations to cover. They'll look at all of it from Student Services, transportation, to fees, to spending utilities and usage. Hoping Open Architects can help in the areas where they can in their shortfalls and give some recommendations for how to move forward in a way that gives a balanced budget which is not what they currently came into the year with. There is a reality with fee increases given for this year with utility costs continuing to rise and those aren't things that the schools can choose to cut, they can't choose not to use the electricity or the heat. It's going to be a collaborative effort to close that gap.

Mrs. Shannon would like to thank all the folks on the Town side for meeting with Open Architects on their behalf. She really appreciates their time in supporting their efforts.

Mr. Carr asks if consultants who work for a bunch of other districts can look at or give suggested solutions that wouldn't give shortfalls or tips on their best practices categories.

• Vote on Osgood Roof and Fire Alarm System Funding Requests**

The School Committee has been asked to vote on 3 items of appropriations from the Stabilization Fund, two (2) of those are in connection with the MSBA approval for the accelerated repair of the Joseph Osgood School roof and the 3rd one is in connection with the repair of the Cohasset Middle High School fire alarm system. Mr. Dial asks if he can confirm they have funds in the Stabilization account to make these requests and on any pending requests related to the repair of the Joseph Osgood School roof.

The Town voted an additional 2.5% to go into the fund.

The 1st item to vote on is the hiring of a Project Manager for the overall roof repair which will be a request from the Stabilization Fund to the tune of fifteen thousand dollars, (\$15,000). The MSBA stated that price will not be exceeded. The 2nd line item is the hiring of a Designer Engineer for the Osgood roof. Nick Berardi has gone out to look for similar roles for similar projects and the number is estimated to be about One Hundred Thousand dollars (\$100,000) for that work. The 2nd request would be One Hundred Thousand dollars (\$100,000) for appropriation from the Stabilization Fund in order to pay for a Project/Designer Engineer.

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Budget, Resources and Governance

• Vote on Osgood Roof and Fire Alarm System Funding Requests**

The 3rd request is the Fire Alarm System replacement which was a big-ticket item from the Stabilization Fund in the amount of \$1.43 million dollars to replace the Cohasset Middle High School fire alarm system. Vote to request funds from the Stabilization Fund that eventually go on the Town warrant and be voted onto the Town.

A motion was made by Mr. Carr for the \$15,000 allocation from the Stabilization Fund for a Project Manager for the Joseph Osgood School roof replacement, seconded by Mrs. Lesky.

Aye – All

Motion made by Mr. Carr for the approval of a transfer of \$100,000 for the hiring of a Project/Designer Engineer for the Joseph Osgood School roof replacement, seconded by Mrs. Lesky.

Aye – All

A motion was made by Mr. Carr requesting an allocation of \$1.43 million dollars from the Stabilization Fund for the purpose of replacing the Cohasset Middle High School Fire Alarm System, seconded by Mrs. Lesky.

Aye - All

Community Relations / Communication

• Reports from School Committee Subcommittees and Liaisons

Mr. Dial is a school committee liaison on the middle school council that he dutifully did not attend. He heard there was a point of discussion from a couple years ago of a survey that went out to middle schoolers that talked to them about different activities in connection with Safe Harbor. They looked carefully at that survey to address some of the concerns that were raised a couple of years ago. That has happened and they're moving forward with other policies.

School Committee Governance

• Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair

There were no topics not reasonably anticipated in 48 hours to extend by Chair MacLellan or by Vice Chair, Mr. Dial.

• Approval of Minutes**

There are no Minutes to approve.

• Future Agenda Items

Mr. Carr asks if the School Committee can set aside Executive Session discussions around Collective Bargaining.

Mr. Dial says he can't speak on behalf of the Chair, the Chair calls them when they have news to report. On behalf of the subcommittee team that is being worked on and their engaging, but there's nothing at this point to report to the school committee. Mr. Dial recalls some data points from a couple years ago where the school committee really focused on special education students that showed 60% of students, a high percentage, were not meeting expectations. He would hope that has improved over time and asks Mr. Stapleton for an update on that number where things have now changed.

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School Committee Governance

• Executive Session^{1**}

Mr. Dial states there is no reason for the Cohasset School Committee to move into Executive Session.

Adjourn**

Motion made by Mrs. Hannah to adjourn the November 20, 2024 regular meeting of the Cohasset School Committee at 8:12 PM, seconded by Mrs. Lesky.

Aye - All

****Requires Committee Vote / Action**

Chapter 30A, Section 21(a) mandates that in order to go into Executive Session the Committee must:

1. Do so on a roll call vote
2. State the purpose for executive session.
3. Indicate whether the body will reconvene in public session.

Materials used at the 11.20.24 Cohasset School Committee Meeting

Cohasset Middle School Quebec Trip 2025**	(Ms. Kathleen Sanges)	[Exhibit C-1]
Cohasset High School Europe Trip 2026**	(Mr. Jim Willis)	[Exhibit C-2]
Teaching and Learning – 2024 Fall Data Report Presentation...	(Rock Roberts, Dr. Leslie Scollins, Michael Stapleton)	
Budget and Finance Monthly Update	(Mrs. Susan Owen)	[Exhibit F-1]
FY26 Budget Calendar	(Mrs. Susan Owen)	[Exhibit F-2]
Update on Electric Bus	(Mrs. Susan Owen)	[Exhibit F-3]
Update on Open Architects	(Mrs. Sarah Shannon and Mrs. Susan Owen)	

*Kindly Submitted
From Kathy Bock
November 29, 2024*