

***Cohasset Public Schools***  
*143 Pond Street*  
*Cohasset, MA 02025*  
*Empower Students to Improve Communities*

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**Wednesday, April 10, 2024**

**6:00 PM**

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

Streamed Live on Cohasset 143TV  
Zoom (*chat enabled*)  
Cohasset Live Streaming Facebook  
(*watch / listen only*)

**In Attendance:**

Ted Carr, Secretary  
Lance Dial, Chairperson  
Paul Kearney  
Craig MacLellan, Vice Chairperson  
Jennifer Lesky

**Also, In Attendance:**

Grace Shaughnessy, Superintendent Student Advisory Council Liaison  
Erica Parrell and students, Deer Hill School BASE Program  
Kathy Cerruti, CMS Media Specialist & Members of the (PSO)  
Parent School Organization  
Jason Earls, School Facilities Director  
Susan Owen, Director of Finance & Operations  
Dr. Leslie Scollins, Assistant Superintendent  
Dr. Patrick Sullivan, Superintendent

**All School Committee Meetings Are Recorded.**

**AGENDA**

**Call to Order**

Chairman Dial calls to order and welcomes one and all to the regular meeting of the Cohasset School Committee for Wednesday, April 10, 2024 at 6:00 PM. Today, the School Committee meeting is being held in person in the Learning Commons at the Cohasset Middle and High School. The Chair asks members of the school committee who are present to indicate so with a **Roll Call**: **Mr. Kearney-Present; Mr. Carr-Present; Ms. Lesky-Present; Mr. MacLellan-Present; Mr. Dial-Present.**

**Opening Remarks**

The Cohasset School Committee just concluded a Public Hearing on the Fiscal Year 2025 School Budget limited with no comments from the public to which the School Committee will take that as a vote of confidence from the district and community.

**Public Comment**

None

**Invited Guests**

• **Superintendent Student Advisory Council (SSAC) Liaison Report (Grace Shaughnessy)**

Grace would like to first report on school sports where she says everyone is excited to start Spring Sports. Today, the Boy's Lacrosse team had a win against Hull. The Girl's Lacrosse team also had a win against Needham last Saturday and this past Monday the Girl's Lacrosse team won against Hull.

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**Invited Guests**

**• Superintendent Student Advisory Council (SSAC) Liaison Report (Grace Shaughnessy)**

The Girl's Tennis Varsity and JV have won a lot of matches from the start. Unfortunately, Girl's track had a loss yesterday, but hopefully will win soon. The Girl's Golf team versed Scituate which was very exciting. Grace says everyone has been super excited, it just tells them that Summer is coming soon. Grace also mentions the Solar Eclipse on Monday affected sports practices too. There was a rule put in place by the MIAA for no sport practices with a window from 2:00 PM – 4:30 PM. All students went on the field with solar eclipse eyeglasses which was a pretty exciting experience especially as a school where they were all together for this one-time experience.

Today, some students went off on the Europe trip and those students were very excited for it. The Panama Trip Service Project has been a big motivation, a lot of students and some of Graces friends are going on that trip, which is also exciting. Obviously, Spring break is next week, it's been quite exciting in school this whole week. Students have been cramming for AP tests and trying to finish everything before the April break which has been tough. This week in school has been a little crazy, but Grace says they'll all get through it!

Mr. Kearney says Grace did a great job. It's not easy to talk in front of people here, but it's a great way for the school committee to hear from a good student perspective, thank you.

Mr. Carr appreciates Grace for being here, everybody was smiling, nice job.

Ms. Lesky says Grace did a really authentic report because we could see the smile on her own face as she was talking about some of the Spring events playing sports, thank you.

Vice Chair MacLellan thanks Grace for her report and service on Dr. Sullivan's Superintendent Student Advisory Council and hopes Grace has enjoyed the experience so far. Grace is a Junior and a rising Senior with a busy year next year. Mr. MacLellan always likes to ask Representatives if there's things they've noticed around school or heard from their peers on what they don't like about the school or any sort of problems on anything they'd like to bring to the school committee's attention, this would be the chance.

Grace says she only has a positive to talk about on the school lunches, they've gotten so much better significantly. Students used to complain about the lunches, so far Grace hasn't heard any complaints.

Vice Chair MacLellan says that's great to hear, because there was some effort put into the school lunch programs, it's nice to hear positive feedback, thank you.

Chairman Dial would like to thank Grace as well. These reports are great for the school committee to get a real perspective as to what's going on. They're always happy to hear about all the good things, but also the things they may need to work on. Thank you very much for coming and appreciate Grace's report, nice job.

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**Invited Guests**

**• Spotlight on Learning: Deer Hill School's BASE (Before and After School Enrichment) Program  
(Ms. Erica Parrell and students)**

Principal Sullivan of Deer Hill would like to give credit to Mr. Sears who reached out last year with his AP Physics class from high school. She was asked by Mr. Sears if his class could write letters of encouragement to students at Deer Hill School. Last year those students came to visit the letter writers. This year, it's grown with AP Chemistry that Mr. Sears is teaching along with AP Spanish, so this was divided in half with the Deer Hill School. May 4<sup>th</sup> has always been a community service day and some students dress up in Star Wars costumes so that "May 4<sup>th</sup> be with you" day. The community service focuses this year for the whole school will be writing letters to students in these two classes, divided in half, and those students will actually come to Deer Hill to meet the letter writers. This will be an opportunity to make a connection with those students. Students really think about what is integrated into the curriculum in letter writing, using writing skills, and figurative language. Ms. Parrell and Principal Sullivan are very excited to have the AP students visit Deer Hill School in May.

Dr. Sullivan notes, the reciprocity of this program for these students is they'll one day be AP students at their stage of this tradition, it's a nice back and forth. Kudos to Principal Sullivan, Principal Scott, and the whole team on doing that great work.

The Before and After School Enrichment Program is completely staff generated and driven by Ms. Erica Parrell known as a fearless leader, and coordinator who definitely brings her organizational skills and enthusiasm to the program with this being her first year doing this. The Before and After Enrichment (BASE) Program is a 45-minute class for 6-weeks and \$60 per course for students throughout the year for Fall, Winter and Spring that is staffed by Deer Hill educators, ESP teachers, and any staff member can volunteer to teach a class. It's really just based on their passions and interests. Every session is different, and they've had everything from hat knitting that is then donated to Rosie's Place to cartooning and lots of steam type activities. This session they'll have students from AP Spanish play chess, and some Zumba and lots of options for the students.

Ms. Parrell has some special guests joining her tonight who demonstrate their activities with participation from school committee members. From the STEAM team, Molly Lanahan and Eve Reinig will design something that floats. The Taylor Swift Pop Star or Poet team, Jacqueline Maraira, and Libby Monahan will use metaphors and imagery with Taylor Swift's "I know places." The 24 Club, Vivian Koch, Evan Earls, and Katelyn Sunday who will use assigned numbers given to write a number sentence that equals 24.

**• Cohasset Middle and High School Library Collection Refurbishment Project  
(Ms. Kathy Cerruti with PSO Parent School Organization Participation)**

**➤ Consideration of Disposal of Designated Weeded Library Books in The Learning Commons\*\***

Ms. Cerruti shares some exciting headlines that came out recently that really showed the importance of a vibrant, useful, up to date print collection. The first headline that came out in January, 2024 was a groundbreaking study that shows kids learn better on paper, not screens. This study was done by the United States Department of Education and found that deeper reading among children 10-12 years old that paper trumps screens.

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**Invited Guests**

- **Cohasset Middle and High School Library Collection Refurbishment Project  
(Ms. Kathy Cerruti with PSO Parent School Organization Participation)**

➤ **Consideration of Disposal of Designated Weeded Library Books in The Learning Commons\*\***

Ms. Cerruti worked with a consultant from Follett, another librarian with years of experience from Follett who had done many analyses and consultation with schools, and she analyzed CMHS library collection. The American Library Association has a guidance on the recommended number of books per student, Massachusetts does not. The ALA recommends 15-20 books per student in the school library for secondary school students. The ALA and Massachusetts do not have a universal recommendation on the collection age of books, other states do. The CMHS library collection age is 33 years old, specifically the non-fiction collection being 35 years old. This year, CMHS library weeded 2300 books that were published in 1973.

Ms. Cerruti thanks the school committee for the many wonderful things they did last year, and one of the things was the school committee budgeted for a library assistant for CMHS. A lot of this work was done by *Motsie* who has been instrumental with her fabulous work and also a wonderful artist.

The books that CMHS library likes to refurbish in their library are expensive hard cover, quality books. Ms. Cerruti will be purchasing 50% of what they'll need. The PSO has offered to fund \$50K over the next 5 years to support this. The district can help fund the project as well like they've done in past years. This project is to rehome 2300 books and purchase new books published within the past 3 years and replace only what's necessary to meet school's needs. Ms. Cerruti will be able to utilize Follett's free Curation Services that is aligned with the Massachusetts Curriculum Framework. Thanks to Muncie they have a spreadsheet of numbers from a general wish list from teachers, a title-wave wish list for teachers.

Chairman Dial thanks Ms. Cerruti for her presentation on this, it shows a true labor of love she has and the best interest for the district and the students at heart. This clearly needed to be done, and he'd like to see some books put aside not just for their substance, but rather for their existence.

Mr. Carr is curious about the number of books the CMHS library has per student.

Ms. Cerruti says CMHS library supports 13 books per student.

Ms. Lesky thanks the PSO for this very generous gift to the school, this is amazing. The whole part of this is judging a book by the looks of its cover like a serious student understanding what their resources are. When this project is done where will that put them on the number of books per student.

Ms. Cerruti states that Massachusetts library print collections are no longer a reliable measure of access and she's not worried about that number for students.

Vice Chair MacLellan thanks Ms. Cerruti for all her work and actually loves the expansion of the research programming here in the library at CMHS.

**Motion to approve the disposal of designated weeded library books in the Learning Commons at the Cohasset Middle High School was made by Vice Chair MacLellan, seconded by Mr. Kearney.**

**Aye – All**

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**School Updates**

**• School News (Dr. Patrick Sullivan)**

Dr. Patrick Sullivan would like to start off to formally congratulate future Superintendent Shannon. There were wonderful candidates and Cohasset chose a great person and he's fully confident she's going to move the district the way it needs to be moved. Dr. Sullivan says he's absolutely committed to helping her with the transition.

Chairman Dial would like to note to the folks who may be listening, Superintendent Shannon is here in the audience tonight where she's already demonstrating her commitment to the district. The school committee is very excited about her accepting the appointed position and the school committee looks forward to working with her in the very near future.

Cohasset High School had their Annual Arts Show on "Recycled Parts" and was wonderful for the whole community where the community made art out of everything, and anything, and they certainly did. There's a wonderful full display at the high school. *Motsie* who spoke about refurbishing books in the CMHS library created two wonderful pieces of art, one was snowflakes made from bookmarks which was pretty amazing, the other was a life-sized knight made from different textures and various tape items that was really incredible. Excellent work done by all students, the faculty staff, and community members who showed their creative artwork made from recycled parts, a very authentic project for everyone. The Solar Eclipse was on Monday and was spectacular, and everything went safely. There were lots of educational experiences happening at every grade level and at every building. Teachers talked about the solar eclipse with students, the significance of it, how it was created, everyone really engaged and enjoyed watching it.

On April 11, 2024 from 6-8 PM, the Cohasset Middle High School will be hosting their 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Mosaic Event in their gymnasium. Last year was the highlight of this event, a lot of fun, and it'll be great this year.

A big shout out to Angelina Grimes and Charlie Lankow who were both congratulated last evening as the South Shore League All Stars Scholar Athletes followed by a wonderful banquet. Dr. Sullivan couldn't have two better people acknowledged, Dr. Sullivan's final updates and slide presentation.

**Teaching and Learning**

**• Academic Initiatives / Updates (Dr. Leslie Scollins)**

Students finished their first wave of MCAS for ELA in all the schools. Students will be looking at Math in May and Science will be at the end of May or June depending on what elementary or secondary grade levels will be taking MCAS. The newest one is on Civics, a test asked by DESE for grade 8 students has been getting a lot of extra plays this year. The State thought they could put this in other places and determined they couldn't, so they put it in. It's two days of testing in every context area and then they added Civics on top of that. It's a heavy load to pull for the 8<sup>th</sup> graders. Dr. Scollins and Principal Mills are looking at iReady testing to see how they'll do that amongst students, they'll talk more on that, but they're kind of at the end of the rainbow for testing.

Ms. Nielson their newest high school teacher who teaches ½ Math and ½ Computer Science classes invited Dr. Scollins to watch students create games out of coding that was really fun. This curriculum has grown exponentially where 8 students registered for the class on the first day and those numbers have jumped up significantly for the next school year with 30 students.

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**Teaching and Learning**

**• Academic Initiatives / Updates (Dr. Leslie Scollins)**

Dr. Scollins thanks the school committee so much for advocating for this because it's really working. The work they're doing at elementary and then at the middle school with the growth of Lindsey Kay and those courses, also working with Adam Sasso has been just unbelievable.

The Student Opportunity Act (SOA) was approved by DESE, which was really nice. Last year DESE asked the district to do some revisions but did not ask them this year. Dr. Scollins will be contracting with Susan Looney who is a Math Consultant who is working with the Middle School Math teachers in particular looking at how to accelerate it with their new resource of Illustrious Math which has been really nice work that started last week, and she'll be working with teachers again on Friday. The consultant working with the teachers has worked with DESE for years and was a middle school and math teacher who worked in other towns with a cluster of Math. She also knows Bridges really well, it's just a really good fit.

Finally, Investigating History, which they've looked at for grade 5-7 students, a DESE open course programming which all the teachers enjoyed, in particular the 5<sup>th</sup> grade teachers. Dr. Scollins spoke with Plymouth who is also implementing Investigating History and they also have Reader's Workshop. One of the things that they want to do is coordinate their literature and work in Investigating History with their Reading curriculum because they're so interconnected and that's what DESE wants them to do. Investigating History is very much in line with the ELA standards and the context, and they're trying to find that blend to make it happen. Dr. Scollins will be looking at other public schools around the district and she'll call Scituate to see if they want to do the same.

Vice Chair MacLellan heard Dr. Scollins say students were concerned about the amount of testing, specifically for grade 8 students. He also understands the MCAS is mandated by the State, but he's just wondering if Dr. Scollins can explain a little bit why MCAS has 2 days of the same subject of testing. Mr. MacLellan hopes that Dr. Scollins has some insight into why DESE administers MCAS that way. Mr. MacLellan would like to have more discussions down the road whether or not they can get a more collaborative approach from district to district to present to DESE they understand they have their data, they monitored this and they don't feel it's an issue, but the educators, the district leaders, the school committee they all think DESE is wrong.

Dr. Scollins says DESE claimed they need to have the 2 sessions in order to be able to assess whether the students actually know what they want to know, plus at the same time they also have questions in there being graded on their pilot test questions that's built in there too. Sometimes they have tests that there's questions they don't get answers to because it's either really too high or too low, they're not really sure, so they test it out, it's part of the process. In a perfect world, Dr. Scollins says she'd like to see it a little different.

Dr. Sullivan would like to add the perception of the test being too long is not shared by DESE. They did express sensitivity about the addition of a Civics test to 8<sup>th</sup> grade students, but they didn't think it could fit any place else because of the curriculum or the curriculum flow. Dr. Sullivan doesn't think there's an agreement on DESE's part that they're over testing their students. In fact, he thinks DESE feels that it is pretty much in tune if they have a certain amount of hours in learning at the elementary level, they track very closely how long students are testing and they do not feel that it is too long. DESE is also cautioning them not to teach to the test so to speak, that is sort against doing any type of practice test.

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**Teaching and Learning**

**• Academic Initiatives / Updates (Dr. Leslie Scollins)**

Dr. Sullivan says DESE feels like the best test prep is a good lesson. Dr. Sullivan doesn't disagree, but he also thinks students who get used to taking the test are because they're given a certain amount of practice.

Vice Chair MacLellan asks Dr. Scollins when she's working with the other school districts if she could ask them their thoughts on that topic because if they find that there's more and more districts to the degree of it may be worth it to dig a little deeper in that area. Mr. MacLellan feels they're really getting assessment heavy because of the way it's evolving, and they just want to be careful.

Chairman Dial would like to build onto what Vice Chair MacLellan just stated and perhaps for the next teaching and learning updates the school committee could get a summary of all the testing that students are taking by grade level would be great.

Dr. Sullivan says they've been working on that with Curriculum Mapping and the second part of that is really looking at their benchmarks, but they can present a summary of all the testing students take to the school committee.

Mr. Dial says there was a great presentation at the Osgood School this week about curriculums. One of the pieces of feedback that he received came out bleakly, but it's worth passing on, is that it would be more useful earlier in the year because they've already done it. Especially for 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students when they're transitioning to Deer Hill School.

**Budget, Resources and Governance**

**• Budget and Finance (Mrs. Susan Owen)**

**➤ FY25 Budget \*\***

Chairman Dial would like the school committee to refer to the presentation that was made at the public hearing earlier this evening on the FY25 school budget and to note nothing has changed from the public hearing.

**Motion to approve the FY25 School Budget as presented at the public hearing on April 10, 2024 and taken as read at the April 10, 2024 School Committee meeting made by Vice Chair MacLellan, seconded by Mr. Carr.**

**Aye – All**

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**Budget, Resources and Governance**

**• Budget and Finance (Mrs. Susan Owen)**

**➤ FY25 Capital Budget \*\***

	FY25 Capital List	Sum of 2025	
C	Bus Lease (8 Diesel Buses)	\$ 150,000	Q
C	Electric Bus Lease	\$ 25,000	Q
C	Replacement of Aging Chromebooks (540-3 yr. lease)	\$ 52,000	Q
C	Replace all Projectors with Interactive Presentation Equipment (46-CHS)	\$ 225,483	Q
C	Replacement Furniture –Students/Staff (Deer Hill)	\$ 35,000	Q
C	Add Chromebooks (100 - Deer Hill Elementary)	\$ 35,000	Q
C	(2) New Athletic 15 Passenger Vans (48 Month Lease)	\$ 31,946	
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 554,429</b>	

**C = CAPITAL**

**Q = QUOTE**

These several items listed above are regular Capital items from the school's request and this list was presented to the School Capital Committee.

Mr. Kearney suggests another column should be added to the Capital list for items that are still needed for the district but didn't make it on the list, this way folks will know why these things weren't fixed or replaced.

**A motion was made by Vice Chair MacLellan to approve the Fiscal Year 2025 Capital Budget as presented and discussed at the school committee meeting on April 10, 2024 for presentation to the Town, seconded by Mr. Carr.**

**Aye – All**

**FY25 Capital List**

S	Fire Alarms CMHS (CMHS) Engineering Study	\$ 175,000	Q
S	Safety of Buildings-lighting, health & infrastructure considerations, and signage	\$ 250,000	
	Middle School/High School		
S	Finish Retiling all Classrooms at Deer Hill	\$ 300,000	
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 725,000</b>	

**S = STABILIZATION FUND**

**Q = QUOTE**

Chairman Dial states the Town has generously approved a Stabilization Fund for the FY25 Capital expenses for the schools. The three (3) items listed above were intended as a tool for the school committee to manage their increasing Capital needs associated primarily with large and aging facilities such as the building, they're in tonight. The Stabilization Fund is funded to the fund of the \$1.5 million dollars each year and through the magical Municipal Finance Operation they now have \$1.5 million dollars in the bank. Another \$1.5 million dollars will be added next year and every year going forward. The Stabilization Fund is also built in to increase with proposition 2 ½ so the \$1.5 million dollars can be adjusted upwards to a 2 ½ percent increase every year. This is the tool that the school committee has. It can be adjusted downwards in the view of the Select Board, which is not the plan according to a point of discussion the Chair had with Capital.



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**Budget, Resources and Governance**

**• Budget and Finance (Mrs. Susan Owen)**

**➤ FY25 Capital Budget \*\***

**FY25 Capital List**

<b>S</b>	Fire Alarms CMHS (CMHS) Engineering Study	\$ 175,000	<b>Q</b>
<b>S</b>	Safety of Buildings-lighting, health & infrastructure considerations, and signage	\$ 250,000	
Middle School/High School			
<b>S</b>	Finish Retiling all Classrooms at Deer Hill	\$ <u>300,000</u>	
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$ 725,000</b>	

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The remaining balance of the \$1.5 million dollars would stay in the Stabilization Fund rolling into next year where they can add to it and possibly fund some of the bigger items that they have such as paving on school grounds at the schools and school roofs. In their 10-year plan there's a lot of big items and those big items need attention.

Chairman Dial notes the line item, second line on the list above for the safety of buildings received no support from the Capital Committee. The concerns were the vagueness of the request but very little opportunity for oversight. It was unclear whether these items were Capital items or whether they were operating budget items. Many of the descriptions Capital suggested there will be more operating expense items on the Capital items, so they were very hesitant to the information provided that indicated it would be an appropriate use of the School Stabilization Fund. The Chair would like to also add the school committee didn't know this was going to happen where this was also presented to the Select Board where it received zero support from any of the Select Board members for being put on a warrant for the proposed purpose. Given that reaction from that pathway forward, the Chair's recommendation would be to proceed with a Stabilization request for just the fire alarms engineering study and the retiling at Deer Hill.

The Chair would also like to note the ideas behind the line item for the safety of buildings did receive support from the Capital Budget Committee specifically including the line item about signage. The recommendation and advice are to come back during either the Special Town meeting the school committee has in the Fall or through other periods if there are safety concerns that the school can identify with specificity other areas where they can access emergency Capital Funds or periodic disbursements of Town Funds to address that. The Capital Budget Committee and the Select Board were on the same page that these things need to be done, but the school committee is not at all through with the view that this should be done through a large allocation and disbursement from the Stabilization Fund.

The school has a specific enumerated request to have signage and Capital and the Select Board wanted to know if these are electronic signs, how many signs are needed, and where would these signs be located, are they most effective and the school committee wants them to go about this, but Capital thinks it going to cost \$250,000 just for signage. If that \$250,000 was \$30,000 for signage or \$40,000, whatever that quote would be they could take that to Capital in their cycle to take figures out on how to get this funded or do this in the Fall at a Special Town meeting if so, they need to.

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**Budget, Resources and Governance**

**• Budget and Finance (Mrs. Susan Owen)**

**➤ FY25 Capital Budget \*\***

**FY25 Capital List**

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<b>S</b>	Safety of Buildings-lighting, health & infrastructure considerations, and signage	\$ 250,000	
	Middle School/High School		
<b>S</b>	Finish Retiling all Classrooms at Deer Hill	\$ 300,000	
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 725,000</b>	

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The Chair says there are lots of ways about how to finance these things, but they don't have time for the purposes on requests from the Stabilization Fund.

Mr. Kearney would like to note this to the record that the Town just denies, and delays and this line item doesn't need that. What they should do is hire a facilities director and have someone in there that knows what they're doing and tells them exactly what it is. Mr. Kearney has been on this school committee for 6 years, and it's just been denied and delayed. He hasn't seen anything really done as far as facilities, other than what they did here in CMHS. The sidewalks are broken, there's no direction as far as the crosswalks go that are not even painted. This is appalling to Mr. Kearney, and he understands being in this Town where he is grateful, and it's probably one of the lowest property taxes besides Braintree in the South Shore. When it comes to safety items and if anything happens, the Town is responsible because they said no to lighting and safety items. Mr. Kearney isn't going to vote on anything if safety items aren't included.

The Chair says the Capital Committee has expressed to him no one opposes investments in school safety or even the specific signage. The issue was they do not have, and the school committee has not presented to the Town a plan of what signs they want to acquire, what safety items need to be fixed, what the dollar amount is and the investments they want to make, and they cannot approve \$250,000 to spend on safety. In fact, it's the Town bylaws where they need to put down everything on issues with safety other than such a vague description safety of buildings on the line item on the FY25 Capital list.

Vice Chair MacLellan is totally disinterested in what the position of the Capital Budget Committee is on to what the school committee's requests are, that resonates in no way with him. The Select Board said this, and it definitely had an impact on how Mr. MacLellan thinks because if without their vote, none of this goes on a warrant, it goes nowhere. If they're against it, then there's something to reconsider.

Mr. Kearney says if the school committee votes for the safety of buildings and the Town comes back and says no to it, that's on them. If they don't want to put that on a warrant, that's fine. Mr. Kearney is begging the school committee not to take that line item off.

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**Budget, Resources and Governance**

• **Budget and Finance (Mrs. Susan Owen)**

➤ **FY25 Capital Budget \*\***

**FY25 Capital List**

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<b>S</b>	Safety of Buildings-lighting, health & infrastructure considerations, and signage	\$ 250,000	
	Middle School/High School		
<b>S</b>	Finish Retiling all Classrooms at Deer Hill	\$ 300,000	
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 725,000</b>	

**S = STABILIZATION FUND**

**Q = QUOTE**

Mr. Carr says he hasn't been on the Select Board for years, but they used to be able to go through the budget regardless of where the request came from in order to balance the budget, he's not sure if that's true today or not. He would love to check on that and if the answer is we get nothing because we have that line item on the list, he'll have a different opinion. Starting tomorrow the school committee should have an exercise on a Special Town meeting in the Fall on that line item that should go on the agenda and the school committee should come up with an articulated plan on how much this stuff costs, even if they're not sure of the numbers, or what the priorities are. Have a Special Town meeting with whatever format they'll need with the Select Board when they come up to other agenda items and create a maintenance line item in the budget going forward.

Ms. Lesky suggests, if possible, having two resolutions on them depending upon the information from the Select Board about how in fact they'll treat it as a lump of three items on the list, or whether or not it will be edited to others. At risk now is if all three items go forward, they could get nothing. They would have the entire slate lost versus putting something forward, something maybe cut out, but they wouldn't lose the entire slate.

Jason Earls, Director of School Facilities states that the School Facilities has not been involved with the selection of these items or any expenditure out of this fund. Mr. Earls agrees a little bit with Mr. Kearney about people going on record for denying or approving. Mr. Earls' suggestion would be three separate warrant articles. Warrant No. 1 Fire alarm engineering study \$175,000 out of the Stabilization Fund. Warrant No. 2 Safety Building \$250,000 out of the Stabilization Fund. Warrant No. 3 Retiling classrooms \$300,000 and then everyone goes on record saying they voted for this one, or they didn't vote for this one, they voted for this one!

**A resolution was made by Vice Chair MacLellan to request \$175,000 for a fire alarm engineering study at the Cohasset Middle School and High School from the School Stabilization Fund, seconded by Ms. Lesky. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Kearney-Aye; Mr. Carr-Aye; Ms. Lesky-Aye; Mr. MacLellan-Aye; Mr. Dial-Aye.**

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**Budget, Resources and Governance**

• **Budget and Finance (Mrs. Susan Owen)**

➤ FY25 Capital Budget \*\*

**FY25 Capital List**

S	Fire Alarms CMHS (CMHS) Engineering Study	\$ 175,000	Q
S	Safety of Buildings-lighting, health & infrastructure considerations, and signage	\$ 250,000	
Middle School/High School			
S	Finish Retiling all Classrooms at Deer Hill	\$ 300,000	
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$ 725,000</b>	

S = STABILIZATION FUND

Q = QUOTE

A resolution was made by Mr. Carr to request the withdrawal from the School Stabilization Fund of \$250,000 for Safety of Buildings, lighting, health and infrastructure considerations, and signage for the Cohasset Middle School and High School, seconded by Mr. Kearney. **Roll Call Vote:** Mr. Kearney-Aye; Mr. Carr-Aye; Ms. Lesky-Aye; Mr. MacLellan-Nay; Mr. Dial-Nay.

Motion to approve a request for \$300,000 from the School Stabilization Fund to finish retiling all classrooms at Deer Hill School was made by Mr. Carr, seconded by Vice Chair MacLellan. **Roll Call Vote:** Mr. Kearney-Aye; Mr. Carr-Aye; Ms. Lesky-Aye; Mr. MacLellan-Aye; Mr. Dial-Aye.

**Budget, Resources and Governance**

• **School Stabilization Fund Discussion (Mr. Lance Dial)**

Chairman Dial would like to turn the Chairmanship over to Vice Chair MacLellan, so he'll serve as Chair for this portion of the agenda item on the School Stabilization Fund to which Chairman Dial made this spreadsheet that he'll use as a discussion point for the school committee. The School Stabilization Fund is an indicative 10-year plan, it's based on the 10-year plan that has been included in their budgeting framework they've used for the past several meetings. This includes items from the AI3 report and shows anticipated expenses in the time frame. It goes by Fiscal Year 2024 through Fiscal Year 2035. For the school committee it assumes a contribution of \$1.5 million dollars from the School Stabilization Fund every year starting with a balance of \$1.5 million dollars. Mr. Dial picked these projects unilaterally, it does not reflect anything that has been given any input other than what is on this list. This is why Chairman Dial invited Mr. Earls here tonight because this is where the school committee can use some heightened coordination with the School Facilities Committee in helping develop something like this going forward.

FY2025 shows a balance of \$1.5 million dollars that can fund approximately \$17.5 million dollars of projects over the next 10 years that includes replacing of the fire alarm at the Cohasset Middle and High School, retiling of classrooms at the Deer Hill School, roofs at the Joseph Osgood School, repaving at the Deer Hill and Osgood School, roof at the Deer Hill School, repaving at the Cohasset Middle High School, and a roof at the Cohasset Middle High School. These projects are all based on cost estimates that have been provided prior that will probably be low versus what they need, but they can accomplish these projects with staggered spending.

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**Budget, Resources and Governance**

**• School Stabilization Fund Discussion (Mr. Lance Dial)**

Staggering these projects will get these things accomplished and then the school committee can use this as an illustration of the type of planning that they'll need to do for the School Stabilization Fund to ensure they'll be able to accomplish all the things they need to do. Chairman Dial would like to note this does not include a ton of projects they know that need to be done. For example, air conditioning at the Joseph Osgood School or the Deer Hill School, boiler replacements at both the Joseph Osgood and the Deer Hill School, a new generator at the Joseph Osgood School, air handler project at Cohasset Middle High School that will cost another \$1.5 million dollars. Looking at the AI3 report there were a number of things that Chairman Dial left off that go well into the 7, even 8 digits including replacements of windows in light over time. Looking at this annuity they'll be able to finance a lot of different projects. As Chairman Dial mentioned and advocated for the Town, this money is already spent, and with the appropriate plan as Vice Chair MacLellan described as a planning tool, they'll be able to accomplish the things they need without the kids being rained on.

Vice Chair MacLellan states for the record his first official act is to return the Chairmanship back to Chairman Dial. Mr. MacLellan comments he appreciates the efforts done by Chairman Dial, it's illustrative for a planning tool for what the school committee needs to do, but this perspective is from one person. The School Facilities Committee should serve as a line of defense in collaboration with their subcommittee. Mr. MacLellan knows there's some duplication there, but there's a whole team of people that are dedicated to reviewing that report that was generated by AI3 trying to prioritize the goals and simultaneously working on a potential new feasibility study that they haven't been able to get any headway on because Town Hall controversy is taking up all the band with Town Hall and Town employees. The spreadsheet that Chairman Dial created would have been much more compelling to him if the School Facilities Committee developed something like this to get their perspective.

**• School Facilities Committee Goals and Objectives (Mr. Jason Earls)**

**➤ Long-Term Capital Planning**

Mr. Earls says there seems to be a lot of miscommunications with people, they're just going off and doing their own thing and not funding these things with the School Facilities Committee where they've voiced numerous times and they're getting very frustrated. Mr. Earls is glad the school committee put him on tonight's agenda to be adversarial, but the School Facilities would like to know what's their purpose other than to get the school committee money and now the School Facilities feels like they're getting kicked off the field. Mr. Earls would like the school committee to think of the School Facilities as their Facility Department for the schools. The school facilities will get whatever the school committee needs, and Mr. Earls says he'll hammer the ~~implicit language~~ out of Town Hall himself to get the school committee numbers and bids on things, because Mr. Earls says he can be very annoying when he wants to be. The School Facilities and the School Committee need to work together, and have to be on the same page, not saying the what the school committee puts forward that carries some sort of weight. Mr. Earls has been told in certain circles in town that if it comes out of the school facilities committee it holds a little more weight than coming from the school committee. In some views from people in Town they think we're just trying to get a new school. The temperature in this town needs to drop a little bit and if a group that is lesser known, and honestly people don't even know that the School Facilities exist as a committee. If the School Facilities can come to the front for the school committee and do all the background and they were included on the three-line items the school committee picked, they'd probably already have where the signage needs to go, where all the sidewalks need to be fixed.

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**Budget, Resources and Governance**

**• School Facilities Committee Goals and Objectives (Mr. Jason Earls)**

**➤ Long-Term Capital Planning**

The School Facilities has people who are willing to work and take these things on because it hasn't been done. Mr. Earls gets Mr. Kearney's frustration because he's frustrated as well being on the School Facilities Committee for three years and doesn't see anything accomplished. They did a survey and now they have \$1.5 million dollars and are now looking for someone else who wants to run the show. Mr. Earls wants the school facilities to work and be part of the longtime Capital planning with the school committee with this 10-year plan. He also doesn't necessarily agree with some of the items on the school committee's Capital budget list, he knows there's other things that could come off because if they do certain things like a roof at the Osgood School, solar panels can go on and the schools won't need to spend for a generator because solar will take any battery backpacks that can power the whole entire school. Mr. Earls has had these discussions with the Alternative Energy Committee already and he needs the school committee to just support the school facilities committee because they feel like they don't have any support.

Chairman Dial says this became clear to the school committee when they were looking through the Capital budget process, they'll need people who can help the school committee focus on things they need to. This is indicative they'll need some map to help them responsibly allocate these things. In the Chair's estimation, Mr. Earl's School Facilities Committee is in an ideal spot to help the school committee with that. Chairman Dial would like the School Facilities Committee to help map out how the school committee can meet these needs and to the Chair it obviously seems like they're on the same page.

Mr. Carr says they definitely have a problem when it comes to Governance, the school committee wants to work with the school facilities committee and says they should fix this now tonight, and just figure out how to do that. They don't have to look far in Cohasset to find somebody that's really good at something. Mr. Carr says he knows what Mr. Earls does for a living, he's really good at this stuff, they should just tap into this. The more they can engage with the school facilities committee and invite them to get to the bottom of this. The school committee was up against the wall on this subcommittee stuff, they were just trying to move it across the board, and they weren't looking to sidestep on the process because they couldn't.

The Chair says there's representation there, but one of the things they could do better is have more frequent updates from Mr. Earls and the school facilities committee. The Chair will commit to this for the remaining balance of his career here on the school committee.

Mr. Kearney says the frustration part to him is because the work he sees needs to be done and everybody just says no and did nothing. They have people that work for the Town who don't even show up for the walkthroughs of the schools. When the school committee presents the Town with a list and they say no, they don't know what we're talking about. Their schools need funding and they're not getting funded.

Vice Chair MacLellan says they need to revisit the charge of the School Facilities Committee. When he formed the school facilities committee several years ago, he based it on the bylaws that called for that committee to be constituted in contemplating a new school building. The charge focuses on new building projects and the proposed language needs to specifically incorporate repair, or maintenance in there.

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**Budget, Resources and Governance**

**• School Facilities Committee Goals and Objectives (Mr. Jason Earls)**

**➤ Long-Term Capital Planning**

The current charge of the School Facilities Committee will serve at the direction of the Cohasset School Committee and work with the Superintendent of schools, Town Manager and other Town personnel committee's and consultants to advance the goals of the Cohasset School Committee relative to the addition, renovation and, or construction of a new school facilities in the district. Vice Chair MacLellan proposes amending that clause to advance the goals of the Cohasset School Committee relative to the renovation and, or repair of existing school facilities as well as the construction of any additions or entirely new school buildings.

Ms. Lesky would like to comment on the idea around making sure that the charges being really specific. Ms. Lesky says having also sitting on the School Facilities Committee, they should really clarify what the role of the School Facilities Committee is and have Mr. Earls define to the school committee what they need to do to create a very clear channel where they can report back to on items that needs to be researched or acted upon if that is in fact the desire of the School Committee in line with the charge of the School Facilities Committee.

**Budget, Resources and Governance**

**➤ Routine Maintenance**

The School Committee doesn't have a school focused line-item budget on maintenance. The Chair says he has come to learn that's not entirely the case, there is a Town line item for school maintenance to the tune of \$270,000. There are resources there where the School Committee can help such as safety of buildings, lighting, infrastructure considerations, painting the stairs, pressure washing the sides of the buildings, replacing fences, doing all of these things where they've been having discussions about over the past few weeks. There is a Town line item, right now the School Committee doesn't know where that's being allocated or if it's being allocated. One of the things that seems to be the School Facilities Committee is uniquely positioned given their constitution being appointed by both the Town Facilities Committee and a Town Select Board Committee to help the School Committee oversee the coordination between the Town budgeting process and they're budget, as far as it turns on maintenance items and specifically the Town's earmarked maintenance item.

Mr. Earls says this sounds to him like this is a facilities fund. If School Facilities has to come out and fix something, they have a bucket where they can charge to.

Chairman Dials says there was some historical issue 15 years ago where the school budget blew up. This is why the School Committee needs to know how the school budget works and why they now have the Capital request list. This is a vestige to that, but the School Facilities has centralized maintenance through the Town, so the Town has the budget. Working through the Capital request process was to make sure those resources are being appropriately deployed for their schools to keep an eye on it and have input in it. This would be a place where the School Committee could really use some help. The School Facilities will help the School Committee ensure they get appropriate budgeting from heron now.

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**Budget, Resources and Governance**

➤ **Routine Maintenance**

The Chair thanks Mr. Earls for coming here to talk about how the School Facilities and the School Committee can help quite a bit with some changes in their school budget with the Stabilization Fund. They've identified a lot of the needs and look forward to working with Mr. Earls and the School Facilities Committee.

• **Food Service**

This part of the agenda on Food Service is just to remind folks the School Committee not only focuses on education, teaching and learning as well as maintaining buildings, but also supports a full-service restaurant for 1,500 children. The Skipper Lounge is now open at the high school for Seniors. Earlier, Grace Shaughnessy from the Superintendent Student Advisory Council hit on everything with Food Service, they've heard nothing but positive feedback.

• **Transportation**

Nothing to report other than how the school committee also oversees transporting 100 students safely back and forth every day to and from the schools.

**Community Relations / Communication**

• **Reports from School Committee Sub-Committees and Liaisons**

Ms. Lesky says the Sub-Committee had a brief gathering this afternoon to talk about making changes to policies, particularly those around the way to which security footage has audio, and it does not.

**School Committee Governance**

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

There are no topics not reasonably anticipated by the Chair.

• **Approval of Minutes**

There are no minutes to approve.

• **Future Agenda Items**

Consensus on potentially an agenda item on Elementary School Libraries and the status following the library presentation tonight. Dr. Scollins will incorporate in the Teaching and Learning some of the testing and time periods. Begin a discussion on how to fund routine maintenance. Invite the new chef of Food Service to a School Committee meeting. Push for the Feasibility Study so the School Committee can have the selection of the project that the design firm is going to do and get done so they'll have that in order to present to folks because that is why Vice Chair MacLellan was advocating for today where discussions have been very amorphous and hypothetical. If they had more definitive information from the Feasibility Study that would yield in terms of what the district might need, what might be practicable for the district, what community wide resources could yield to incorporate into any new building, where that building might be, and how much that building may cost, if a building is needed.



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**School Committee Governance**

- Executive Session<sup>1\*\*</sup>
  - **Strategy in Preparation for Negotiations with Nonunion Personnel**
  - **Litigation Strategy**

A motion was made by Mr. Carr, seconded by Vice Chair MacLellan to go into Executive Session<sup>1</sup> for two items, the first one Strategy in Preparation for Negotiations with Nonunion Personnel and the second on Litigation Strategy. The April 10, 2024 regular meeting of the Cohasset School Committee is hereby adjourned at 9:08 PM. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Kearney-Aye; Mr. Carr-Aye; Ms. Lesky-Aye; Mr. MacLellan-Aye; Mr. Dial-Aye.

Aye – All

<sup>1</sup> 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

\*\* Requires Committee Vote / Action

*Submitted on April 20, 2024*  
*By Kathleen Bock*