

Regular Meeting Minutes  
for the Cohasset School Committee  
Wednesday, May 21, 2025  
6:00 PM

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

All Cohasset School Committee Meetings Are Recorded.

**In Attendance:**

Corey Evans  
Jennifer Lesky  
Craig MacLellan, Chair  
Susan Owen, Director of Finance & Operations  
Dr. Leslie Scollins, Assistant Superintendent  
Mrs. Sarah Shannon, Superintendent

**AGENDA**

**Call to Order**

Mr. Craig MacLellan called to order the regular meeting for Wednesday, May 21, 2025 for the Cohasset School Committee at 6:00 PM. Members who are present are asked by the Chair to please indicate so in roll call.

**Roll Call**

**Mr. Dial–Absent; Mr. Evans–Present; Mrs. Hanna–Absent; Mrs. Lesky–Present; Mr. MacLellan–Present.**

*Audience and invited guests who are able and willing are asked by the Chair to please rise to the recitation for the Nations Pledge of Allegiance, following Call to Order, and Roll Call at all Cohasset School Committee meetings.*

**Opening Remarks**

With every town election comes the need to reorganize the school committee. Mr. MacLellan would like to formally welcome a new school committee member, Mr. Corey Evans, who has served the Town and community in Cohasset in a number of different capacities including but not limited to as a Select Board member, as a Capital Budget Committee member, and as a member and currently Chair of the Steering Committee of the Safe Harbor organization in town. He is also a Cohasset Public School parent. The school committee is lucky to have him and the Chair thanks Mr. Evans for his continued dedication to the education of the Cohasset children and his willingness to volunteer his time and serve on this school committee.

**School Committee Reorganization**

The Chair asks members who are present for a motion to suspend this item on the agenda for the next school committee meeting when they have a full panel of five school committee members.

**A motion was formally made by Mrs. Lesky to suspend the school committee reorganization for the next school committee meeting, seconded by Mr. Evans.**

**All – Aye**

**Public Comment**

Folks can participate virtually to make public comments or share any sort of concerns or questions by utilizing the Q&A feature via Zoom. If there are concerns about something already on the agenda to please wait until that point arrives at the meeting so that members of the school committee can address them. The Chair will be monitoring questions and answers intermittently throughout the meeting. The school committee is always here to take community input into consideration even if the comment is made late or a bit out of sequence. They'll always be air on the side for participation and input from the community.

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**Invited Guests**

• **School Improvement Plan (SIP) – Cohasset High School (Mr. Brian Scott)**

**Exhibit D-2**

The Cohasset High School Improvement Plan for next year is on hold pending some work around the strategic plan so it will align very closely that will drill down to the School Improvement goals to Principal Scott goals and teacher goals as it relates to what the initiatives are that take precedence between now and September. The Cohasset High School Improvement Plan in the past two (2) years has really been dictated a little bit by NEASC, the accrediting firm known as the New England Association of Schools and Colleges. A lot involved aligning the curriculum and having that written in consistent format and then coming up with some benchmark assessments that are common and common assessments across similar courses so that ideally, it's not teacher dependent on the experience the student has.

Principal Scott shows some proud highlights of the school year. In September, Cohasset High School was voted as the 2024 National Department of Education Exemplary High Performing Blue Ribbon School. Cohasset High School was very fortunate to be the recipient of the Blue Ribbon School and was invited to Washington, D.C. for a nice reception for this award. It's an award that can only be received every five (5) years. Aligning with that, the state of Massachusetts DESE named Cohasset High School as recognition and CHS just found out that the state also nominated CHS to the National Green Ribbon School Recommendation. Cohasset High School was also recognized as the College Board AP Honor Roll and received Platinum Distinction. The number of students who took AP tests and the results of those tests scored 8 or above which is considered mastery. The Cohasset Boys' Soccer team won their 1<sup>st</sup> State Champion Title for 2024. Seniors were accepted to over 151 colleges and those students who applied to colleges got into a four (4) year college and 99% of those students will be attending a four (4) year college or university. Principal Scott says he's very proud of their efforts and results and wishes them all a wonderful four years with lots of opportunities.

Mr. MacLellan would like Principal Scott to pause a little bit to have what he just said sink in. That list of accomplishments was tremendous! We have an incredible school district here in Cohasset. If anyone has seen Cohasset High School students, especially the upper classmen, the manner in which they present themselves is very impressive and at a very high level. This time of year, is one of Mr. MacLellan's favorite times of year because it causes him to reflect on the achievements of the entire district. The graduating class reflects the passion, dedication and the incredible academic product they deliver to these kids from Pre-K through their senior year and it's because of the dedicated and incredible staff and the committed teachers they have in Cohasset. They have a significant amount of intellectual horsepower in the district. All the building leaders and the administration are also excellent and dedicated. Principal Scott is an excellent building principal and that is certainly a large contributing factor to the list of achievements he just rattled off as he just casually did. It's a huge deal and everyone needs to know the level of education their kids are receiving in this school district.

The #1 goal is to develop formal processes for collaboration and Professional Development that break into several parts. The next part was to develop benchmark assessments. The other core courses are where this really started and then branched out to the electives, which theoretically is a common assessment. Their focus was really on chemistry, biology, U.S. Histories, courses that are shared. Expand deeper and project-based learning opportunities to all students K-12. Increase Tier 1 intervention strategies. Evaluate and create consistent grading/homework policies and practices and create plans for appropriate uses for AI, and define what district, school, and student success means for the Cohasset Public Schools. Identify and understand the stress students and staff experience and build a plan to support them in finding balance and wellness. Transform their educational environment into a space where every student feels seen, valued, and connected. Engage students in authentic dialogue that celebrates their stories. Create a community expert/resource database to support project-based learning opportunities local field trips, and integrated curriculum.

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**• Cohasset High School Cell Phone Task Force Update (Mr. Brian Scott)**

**Exhibit D-3**

From a community read on the “Anxious Generation” that talks about technology and the impact it has on students. It also talks about parenting styles and the need for students with instructed play in the broadest aspect of that. Cohasset High School came up with a committee of parents, teachers, students, school committee, administrators of 20 members. They’ve met nine times between Octobers through April and then ran a pilot period in April where students called this committee the cell phone task force and saw anecdotal improvement. The findings kind of mimic a survey that came out from different European schools that had no cellphone policies for 5-6 years. Students having cellphones don’t change a student’s behavior, it just transfers that behavior to after school. Students also shared there’s a real fear of not knowing, (e.g. not knowing if they’ll be getting rides or not, not knowing what’s going on in their social world.) The Cell Phone Task Force and Student Council both recommend restricting the use of cellphones in schools. The challenge was whether or not they should allow it at all and how much. Both groups ultimately decided that cellphones should be off limits while in class and off-limits during lunch. The practical reality is that this is going to be a working process, and there needs to be a little bit of a cultural shift so both models can work. Principal Scott would refer to the Cell Phone Task Force to choose whichever one is most effective to implement.

Mr. Corey Evans says there’s a new book that came out in January, 2025 called the “Disengaged Teen” that took off with the “Anxious Generation.” It pinpoints a data set that gives clear direction that is true, but the broader data shows the damage these devices are doing are a broader thing. The conclusion with less connectivity, less devices is a better way to go. If setting expectations, there’s a better way of expectations to be very clear and very easy to understand.

Mrs. Lesky sat on the Student Council and being able to hear from students and faculty was really helpful to her in terms of understanding this issue. High school students see this as a gray area as being really unfair and impacts their morale. Mrs. Lesky also sees this as teachable moments on how to deal with the discomfort of not knowing, how to deal with personal discomfort in general. We’re all in an age where comfort and the need to know could be met in a second instead of sitting with the discomfort of not knowing. She’s in support of a complete ban on cellphones in schools.

Mr. MacLellan thanks Principal Scott for leading that charge, a worthwhile and important endeavor. Mr. MacLellan attended many early morning meetings that were interesting, a lot of discourse from the faculty with students there, all good meetings! This will ultimately become a policy consideration that will fall on the school committee. The school committee wants to make sure that everyone has the opportunity to share their perspectives. It’s something that will be considered impactful to high school families and the school committee is not making any decisions on that tonight. At some point they’ll have more robust discussions, a full deliberation on this policy change before the new school year, take a vote and present an implementation to this policy. The point is to not have the kids dependent upon these devices and return a bit of a higher resilience on social sites that were the most striking and the most concerning.

**• School Improvement Plan (SIP) – Cohasset Middle School (Mr. John Mills)**

**Exhibit D-5**

The School Improvement Plan for next year’s School Improvement Plan will be aligned with the strategic plan that will be presented a little later. Principal Mills shows some of the highlights from the year. They opened the CMS garden this year, a great metaphor for what happens throughout the year to produce some great things and some memorable moments. Academically, the students continue to find success in ELA, MCAS and 85% CMS students are already at grade level. The school year started in great shape, with a lot of success, students continued to improve and will be doing last, I-Ready assessments on June 2<sup>nd</sup>.

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**Exhibit D-5**

Focus fulfilling State Civics requirements throughout the year with great success with several students in the state competition for presenting their best projects. The more intense challenges tended to be lighter than they had been the prior year. The kids are doing well with connections in the community and their after-school programs. Field trips were taken throughout the year both in town and places like Patriots Hall of Fame, Treetop Adventures with great community buildings going on within the grades. The School Council continues to grow and had a great year of fundraising in the Fall for hurricane relief and just put on a successful dance. The after-school enrichment programs continue to grow and very similar to “DECA,” acronym for Distributive Education Clubs of America that is all about developing young entrepreneurs, they’ve launched “TERPS with up to 20 kids for this culturing event, a capstone for the student’s experience. Students held a marketplace for the district during the Mosaic Event that was really well received, and all the kids did a great job. Students had conversations about having established this tradition and they’d like to keep doing this. Both courses offered after school and the number of students involved went up. Notably the cross-country team crossed a lot of finish lines, 55 to 57 Cohasset Middle School runners crossed the finish line.

The School Improvement Plan Goal #1 for Cohasset Middle School is around academic growth. They made some nice achievements through the strengthening of the MTSS process and established benchmarks in all classes that will allow in future instruction by being able to identify whether or not students acquired targeted skills in each of their classes. They’ve established a data dialogue to look back at i-Ready and MCAS in the Fall or ELA Math through the year. Tier 2 and Tier 3 interventions continue to grow specifically with more push-in services as opposed to identifying students being pulled out and missing a class. They’ve pushed in more interventionists, reading specialists to help target students, but invariably to help the whole class. Those students benefit and get support from the interventionists the highest CMS ever had this year but were able to make those changes. As Cohasset Middle School looks ahead to intervention models, they’ll continue to grow their PD with the knowledge from the teachers around Tier 1 which connects to other things that really sustain the support for all learners.

The School Improvement Plan Goal #2 is around wellness and positive school culture. Happy with the growth of Restorative Justice, grades 6 & 7. It’s not so much of it in a disciplinary way but really around culture building and the use of circles during interventions. They’ve grown the number of facilitators so they’re going to run two grades at once with the growth seen in that establishment of that program. Lots of community building events talked about both in school as well as field trips. The Inclusivity Club continues to develop and takes a lot of leadership around the building. All the School Counselors support the lunch, bunch groups, executive functioning groups. Continue to use things like PEAR, VOCAL to see where they are and it helps them identify programming at the beginning of the year and then gives them an opportunity to assess the development by the end of the year. Next year, CMS looks forward to expanding the use of Circles for all grades in 8<sup>th</sup> grade so that all kids will have those opportunities to experience. This gives students a chance to develop voice and connection.

The #3 School Improvement Goal for CMS is around working with the community and parents. They’ve made some nice growth, added PSO Parent Reps to have a parent rep for each grade which has been great for planning. They’ve invited parents to come in and work with them in the after-school enrichment programs. With collaboration from the PSO the Wellness Committee hosted a speaker at the beginning of April, Dr. I. Elizabeth Englander from (BSU) Bridgewater State University who really focuses on providing resources and strategies for parents to help their students develop responsible technology use. A bookend to the “Anxious Generation” evening last September.

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• **School Improvement Plan (SIP) – Cohasset Middle School (Mr. John Mills)**

**Exhibit D-5**

Principal Mills says they didn't receive a lot of parent feedback this year from their surveys, he says maybe that means everyone is happy! He would like to see more parents reach out and give the school feedback. Continuing to build in what they're still working on with the District's Strategic Plan and looking ahead to 2025-2026 SIP built in collaboration with the CMS School Council and faculty. It will reflect the District's Strategic Plan (2025-2030), and be finalized and voted on in Fall, 2025. The Cohasset Public Schools Strategic Plan will provide objectives and direction to CMS SIP as departmental goals, teacher goals and more goals to go!

Mrs. Lesky says having two middle schoolers, she thinks middle school is great! It's really an interesting time in children's development and it's confusing and exciting, all at once! At the same time kids that are really standoffish want to lean onto you or want to hear their teacher read aloud, all within the same day! All the staff are absolutely fantastic at the middle school and happy middle schoolers for the most part is such a wonderful thing. Mrs. Lesky would like to hear more about the parent participation piece. Parent participation at the elementary school level is super sensitive. Being a parent of an elementary school child, she says it feels like she's there every other day to help out and participate. When the parent of a child gets to middle school, they're a little burnt out. She wonders if there's a way they can bridge this to make it a little less abrupt. It's still nice to be in your student's school from time to time. Whether that be parents for the yearbook, or some other roles or some ways to get parents to continue to engage in their child's education. Mrs. Lesky would like to give Principal Mills a lot of credit for the AI presentation last Monday evening. It was all sixth-grade parents there and he really did a nice job pushing that out in his newsletter.

Mr. MacLellan says SIP goal #2 stood out to him it spoke about Cohasset Public Schools culture. Principal Mills and his team have done an amazing job of that at the middle school in past years as well. It's definitely a continuous goal it's not something new. It's definitely a positive middle school culture something that really jump started with Principal Mills coming in as the Cohasset Middle School Principal. He always gives credit to his capable and passionate staff. Mr. MacLellan can't agree more with what Mrs. Lesky said about wanting more engagement with their children's education when they go off to middle school.

**Superintendent Report**

• **Superintendent Updates**

Superintendent Sarah Shannon would like to thank the Town and all of those who attended last week's Town meeting for their support of both the capital budget requests and operational budget. Both were passed at the meeting and will be in effect as of July 1<sup>st</sup>. This past Monday, with the generosity from the CEF the district hosted *Greg Kullowick* who has done a lot of work with regard to technology. He'll come back in the Fall to work with students at the high school level. He spoke a lot about AI and its growing role in children's lives both in school and out of school and the lives of adults, as educators and as parents. His approach is very balanced, cautious, optimistic, and realistic. He does a really good job of scaring you first then bringing in some of the rational and relational parts of AI. He doesn't have all the answers but he's the person DESE hired to help districts create policies and practices around AI. He shared with the administration he'll be creating resources for districts to do this work which is really timely because the next segment on tonight's agenda is the 2025-2030 Cohasset Public Schools Strategic Plan.

The past couple of weeks there's been a lot of showcases of what students did and what they've produced. There was a Deer Hill performance of *Aladdin* which was super fun. All the kids were funny and talented. Superintendent Mrs. Shannon would like to give a big kudos to all the folks who helped participate backstage as well.

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**Superintendent Report**

• **Superintendent Updates**

Mrs. Shannon would like to celebrate with all the Osgood students over the course of the school year and for the Osgood Arts Night. Last night they celebrated all the visual and performing arts students who showcased at Cohasset High School, an amazing night and a great way to kick off Senior's events. All high school seniors were recognized who've participated in both the visual and performing arts. Tomorrow night at 6:00 PM in the auditorium, Safe Harbor is sponsoring Kevin Rosario as a guest speaker for the district and families. in the auditorium. Kevin is an experienced wellness advocate and founder of Addiction Counseling and Educational Services. He'll share valuable insights on how to talk effectively with teens about making positive decisions, building self-esteem, developing refusal skills and fostering healthy communication. It's designed for parents' caregivers and community members who are committed to fostering the wellbeing of youth on the South Shore and beyond. As they're talking about teachable moments and helping students develop tools and not have to sit alone in discomfort. A lot of students turn to some of these unhealthy ways of managing those moments. Mrs. Shannon would encourage families to especially younger families who are entering into these phases of life; to come and learn some of these strategies so they could have these conversations with their kids, so it becomes more proactive than being active, very grateful for Safe Harbor to bring Kevin to the district.

This Friday night on the Town Common as long as the weather is good, the prom will be happening which is always a fun Town event. A reminder that there is no school on Monday, May 26<sup>th</sup> Memorial Day. Friday, May 30<sup>th</sup> is Seniors last day of classes.

• **The 2025 - 2030 Cohasset Public Schools Strategic Plan\*\***

**Exhibit E-1**

Edward Savage High School Science Teacher; Gabriella Madden Grade 10 Student; Brian Scott High School Principal, John Mills Middle School Principall; Alexandra L. Sullivan Deer Hill School Principal; Amy Gaudette Joseph Osgood School Principal; and Consultant from TLA are invited to the table.

The Cohasset Public Schools Strategic Plan for 2025-2030 is formally the work from the last five months, but informally from the last year. Superintendent Sarah Shannon is incredibly proud of this new strategic plan and the people who helped bring it to fruition. Since early March this group of individuals have come together six times for three hours at a time to review and analyze data, revise the district's mission, vision, and core values, identify priorities and write the district's strategic initiatives. What was most exciting to Mrs. Shannon about this group was that it truly represented all of their stakeholders, administrators, teachers, parents, and students. Superintendent Sarah Shannon would like to thank each of them by their name because of the amount of time, energy and commitment to this process that they gave was quite a lot!

Thank you to Leslie Scollins Assistant Superintendent, Rock Roberts Director of Data, Curriculum & Evaluation, Susan Owen Director of Finance & Operations, Michael Stapleton Director of Student Services, Brian Scott High School Principal, John Mills Middle School Principal, Alexandra L. Sullivan Deer Hill School Principal, Amy Gaudette Joseph Osgood School Principal, Aleisa Gittens-Carle METCO Director, Robert Erlandsen Middle School Science Teacher, Karin Johnston Grade 5 Teacher, Edward Savage High School Science Teacher, Jennifer Lesky School Committee Member, Craig MacLellan School Committee Chair, Malone Yemini Grade 9 Student Kaitlyn Kenealy Grade 9 Student, Gabriella Madden Grade 10 Student, Kaitlyn Kenealy Grade 9 Student, Padraig Foley Grade 11 Student, Dylan Jewell Grade 10 Student, Charlotte Tabaczynski Grade 8 Student, Stephanie Williams Grade 9 Student, Dominique Vecchiolla Grade 9 Student, Keira Lynch Grade 9 Student, Madden Wosneski Grade 11 Student, Garisbel McDonough Parent-2nd Grader, Jessica Brooks Parent - 2nd Grader, Danielle Topalain Parent - 1st & 3rd Grader, Allison Corbett Parent - 12th & 8th Graders. Most especially to the students.

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**Superintendent Report**

• **The 2025 - 2030 Cohasset Public Schools Strategic Plan\*\***

**Exhibit E-1**

Superintendent Sarah Shannon says she's done this work in other districts and students are always the best part of this process. They're why they're here today! They come with such great ideas and such a new perspective and it's a refreshing perspective. It's never easy to be a teenager in a room of adults and actually speak their mind. They had students from 8<sup>th</sup> grade all the way up who every day they dug in, and they shared their ideas. They weren't afraid to speak, and they really brought their current life to this plan. Mrs. Shannon is really grateful and thanks all of them. Malone Yemini, Gabby Madden, Katie Kenealy, Patty Foley, Dylan Jewel, Stephanie Williams, Charlotte Tabaczynski, Dominique Vecchiolla, Keira Lynch and Madden Wosneski. Also, thank you to Gary Maestas and Ed Lee, other members of his team, for the work they did with TLA. They facilitated and kept them on track and helped them target and they rained in some of their conversations. They were exactly what they needed to move this process forward.

Mr. MacLellan would like to remind everyone that the 2025 -2030 Cohasset Public Schools Strategic Plan is a living document and a roadmap that will be constantly revisited but does need to formally be approved tonight with the goals which may be a revision from the current one that will reflect the current strategic plan.

Mr. Evans says he looks forward to getting into this and chewing on a lot of it! This is his new mission and there's big stuff all at the same time, it's also put together with importance and all of it by itself. At the umbrella level they have a lot to do. As this goes, he hopes they'll learn, and they'll get questions and answers. Mr. Evans knows Gabby from Safe Harbor and would like to thank her for being such a great student voice. He'd like to echo what was said earlier that it's really easy for adults to sit in meetings behind desks and make decisions. Whether blind or deaf to what's going on in our lives, the school committee is here to guide students and they're here to support, but it's really important that herself, her fellow students and everyone in the student population feel they can bring up their experience because they really have no idea what their lives are like. They can only guess. Thank you for all the great work.

Mrs. Lesky would like to thank everyone who participated, but for her personally this was one of the best experiences she'd had being a member of the Cohasset community. To be in a room with people who are so incredibly thoughtful, bright, caring, curious and creative. It was like an energizing experience for anyone who's listening or as parents who sort of dig into this should know how much just love for the district and care for the district went into this particular project. It was really incredible, and she absolutely enjoyed every single minute, particularly the student involvement. The last little thing she'd like to say is she really appreciates how this plan puts people first. It resonates not just with students coming first but also the people that are working and caring for the students. Having been an educator herself, it is one of the most joyful, satisfying and meaningful careers on this earth. It can also be extraordinarily stressful. To make sure both the adults in the community and the students in the community are cared for equally is so important and this strategic plan does that in such a wonderful way.

Mr. MacLellan says as Superintendent Sarah Shannon noted this strategic plan builds upon an already strong strategic plan that has already been noted from the outset of this meeting, and the outset of Principal Scott's initial presentation that already took the district an amazing direction, but it serves as a roadmap. It provides the north star which to him is placing the students first. That consideration is always at the forefront of all their minds and that's why they move in the right direction and that students have improved communities is such an excellent vision and they saw it in action at tonight's meeting. It's one example of the many students that have presented here.

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**Superintendent Report**

• **The 2025 - 2030 Cohasset Public Schools Strategic Plan\*\***

**Exhibit E-1**

Gabby Madden is here, and she'll benefit most of the praise but as Mr. MacLellan said earlier this district produces impressive students and listening to Gabby present is not average for a 15–16-year-old person to be able to do and Gabby did a great job, and she should be really proud of herself. The Strategic Planning Committee or anyone who has gone to any of these meetings will see something like that happen just like students that present consistently here at an adult level, it's extremely articulate and don't even notice it because they're just used to that. They have to remember that they're going to be lucky enough to have Gabby here and see her develop for another two years before she graduates. There's a lot of thought that goes into these strategic plans for a good reason and the result has been incredible so far. Mr. MacLellan looks forward to seeing where this brings them into tandem with an incredibly talented teaching staff and leadership team here at Cohasset Public Schools. Thank you to everyone that was involved, especially the students and Gabby, who again did a great job this evening.

**A motion was made Mrs. Lesky to formally approve the proposed 2025-2030 Strategic Plan for the Cohasset Public Schools as presented this evening, seconded by Mr. Evans.**

**All - Aye**

**Teaching and Learning Report**

• **Academic Initiatives / Updates**

Dr. Leslie Scollins would like to talk about how they're addressing some of the questions that actually came up when they were presenting the SOA in early May of this year, the Student Opportunity Act. A couple of questions some parents had when they were here in the audience today. They thought about different ways that they could communicate. The past years were the spotlight on excellence where teachers came in. On May 8<sup>th</sup> they were able to present the Student Opportunity Act to SEPAC, who asked them to come along and take a walk with Mrs. Shannon and Dr. Scollins and look at the literacy programs at the elementary level. On May 20<sup>th</sup> they had two parents from SEPAC who visited Deer Hill and the Osgood Schools to get a snippet of what is happening. They mostly saw components of the reader's workshop and other foundations of skills that happen in the schools. Both Dr. Scollins and Mrs. Shannon had great conversations with the parents about their walk around the classrooms and when it was over they talked more about the questions they were given to open that dialogue. Even with this being a busy time of the year, they had several staff members who came in to meet with these parents. Dr. Scollins would like to thank Liz Dillinger, Kaitlyn Downs, Jen McPhillips, Michelle Fetcbe, Erica Peril and Karin Johnston.

On June 4<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 PM Dr. Scollins and Superintendent Sarah Shannon will be hosting a Literacy Dialogue Program. An invitation in a Google form will be sent out to all families to respond RSVP with any questions families may have by Dr. Scollins. Any parent at the elementary level can come and have conversations on how they facilitate their literacy programs and what it looks like. There's a lot of information out there for parents to look at, read and listen to.

Friday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> is a half day for Professional Development that will be about transitions and placements for next year. *Ed Savage* and *Mr. Adam's* are going to participate this Summer at Northeastern University and the National Science Foundation from a grant they received called AI & ED. They'd been working with Dr. Jennifer Love for quite some time, and they finally got this grant, and they were very lucky to send two high school teachers from the district. They'll be participating with other teachers from other towns that agreed to be part of this grant at Northeastern University. The hope is to get additional teachers as they move forward at this level and the collaboration of teachers from around the state will be amazing.

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**Budget, Resources and Governance**

● **Monthly Update (Mrs. Susan Owen)**

**Exhibit G-1**

➤ **FY25 April Finance Report**

The approved school budget for FY25 is \$23,909,407, with an additional one-time allocation of \$342,399 to address a shortfall in special education funding. This brings the total available budget for FY25 to \$24,251,806. As of April 30, 2025, total expenditure stands at \$18,198,857, with encumbrances, including supplies, materials, and remaining payroll obligations, totaling \$6,757,935. This results in an estimated shortfall of **(\$704,986)**, an improvement of \$248,934 compared to last month's shortfall of **(\$953,920)**. The reduction is primarily due to salary savings from employee leaves of absence, resignation, and the closure of some open purchase orders. All accounts are being closely monitored, and the budget is currently frozen.

No overrides will be permitted, and deficits will only be allowed with explicit approval from the Superintendent. The Special Education (SPED) tuition budget was set at \$926,416 and is currently allocated on purchase orders. There is a tuition shortfall of **(\$172,161)**, a reduction from last month's shortfall of **(\$206,655)**. The SPED transportation shortfall has remained unchanged at **(\$112,059)** over the past month. The following budget line items show shortfalls:

|                              | <u>April</u> | <u>March</u> |
|------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| SPED Tuitions                | \$172,161    | \$206,655    |
| Utilities                    | \$213,267    | \$199,073    |
| SPED Transportation          | \$112,059    | \$112,059    |
| Custodial supplies/materials | \$ 60,229    | \$ 51,908    |
| Regular Transportation       | \$ 16,016    | \$ 10,468    |

| <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   | \$3,284,227     | \$40,481            | \$1,234,680    | 72.92 %       | 52.10      |
| Deer Hill     | \$4,335,012   | \$3,060,320     | \$12,112            | \$1,262,581    | 70.87 %       | 46.40      |
| Middle        | \$4,218,395   | \$2,902,819     | \$ 1,924            | \$1,313,653    | 68.85 %       | 46.00      |
| High School   | \$7,241,994   | \$5,506,152     | \$51,174            | \$1,684,669    | 76.73 %       | 66.80      |

Circuit Breaker funding received in FY24 was \$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. In FY25, the district is set to receive \$1,097,956 in Circuit Breaker funding, distributed in four installments. The first three payments, totaling \$274,489 each, have already been received, amounting to \$823,467, awaiting final payment sometimes in the last week of June, the first week of July. The Circuit Breaker program is a state initiative designed to assist school districts by reimbursing a portion of the expenses incurred in providing "free appropriate public education" (FAPE) to students with special needs. This reimbursement helps offset the costs associated with special education services, including tuition and transportation for out-of-district placements. 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.

**FY26 Final Voted Capital List**

|                                                                                                  |                   |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Bus Lease (8 diesel buses)                                                                       | \$ 151,300        |
| Electric Bus Lease                                                                               | \$ 25,000         |
| Bus Lease (1 additional bus to replace the Blue Bird bus)                                        | \$ 22,224         |
| Replace all Projectors with Interactive Presentation Equipment ( <b>Osgood 13/Deer Hill 13</b> ) | \$ 117,628        |
| Security Equipment – <b>PA System (Osgood &amp; Deer Hill); (Deer Hill &amp; MSHS Cameras)</b>   | \$ 97,582         |
| Furniture-MS Counseling Offices, HS Babian Conference Room                                       | \$ 35,672         |
| Athletics (1 - 15 Passenger Activity Bus) 36-month lease                                         | \$ 22,034         |
| Extend Sidewalk to Pond Street (CMHS)                                                            | \$ 75,000         |
| <b>Grand Total</b>                                                                               | <b>\$ 546,440</b> |

Regular Meeting Minutes  
for the Cohasset School Committee  
Wednesday, May 21, 2025  
6:00 PM

**Budget, Resources and Governance**

• **Monthly Update (Mrs. Susan Owen)**

**Exhibit G - 1**

➤ **FY25 April Finance Report**

Next year adding an extra bus to the daily bus routes to reduce travel time and offer a less crowded ride. During the School Committee meeting on March 31, 2025, a vote was held to raise transportation fees from \$350 to \$450 in order to help cover the budget shortfall in the transportation department. Also, a vote was held to increase the athletic fee from \$250 to \$425. To further address the transportation challenges, the Athletic Department will be receiving one - 15-passenger activity bus to help transport athletes to and from games and practices. The conclusion is the leadership team and central office are actively exploring ways to reduce their current deficit by identifying potential savings opportunities. If there are specific questions, please feel free to contact Sue Owen before the meeting so she can be fully prepared to address any concerns one might have.

Mr. Evans would like to dig into the transportation shortfall but obviously not tonight, not now. He would like to set up a meeting with Mrs. Owen to fully understand.

Mr. MacLellan says there's a finance subcommittee on this committee. It makes sense given Mr. Evan's background to volunteer for that subcommittee because they'd benefit from his expertise in that role, that's where Mr. Evans can do deep dives.

**School Committee Governance**

• **School Committee Meeting Dates 2025-2026\*\***

**Exhibit I - 1**

Changes made to the 2025-2026 calendar for the Cohasset School Committee meeting dates are as follows: August 8, 2025 and August 20, 2025 were added to the calendar for School Committee meetings for 2025-2026. Changed October meeting dates to October 8, 2025 and October 22, 2025 to replace the yellow highlighted dates on the calendar. June 24, 2026 to replace June 17, 2026 highlighted in yellow on the calendar for School Committee meeting dates.

**A motion was made by Mr. Evans to approve the 2025-2026 calendar as presented in exhibit I -1 with revisions as noted by the Chair and Superintendent Sarah Shannon, seconded by Mrs. Lesky.**

**All – Aye**

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

There were no topics not reasonably anticipated by the Chair.

• **Approval of Minutes\*\***

There are no minutes to approve.

• **Executive Session<sup>1\*\*</sup>**

There is no basis to move into Executive Session stated by the Chair.

**Adjourn\*\***

**A motion was made by Mr. Evans to adjourn the regular meeting for Wednesday, May 21, 2025 for the Cohasset School Committee at 8:12 PM., seconded by Mrs. Lesky.**

**All – Aye**

Regular Meeting Minutes  
for the Cohasset School Committee  
Wednesday, May 21, 2025  
6:00 PM

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**

Documents used at the regular meeting for Wednesday, May 21, 2025 Cohasset School Committee:

|                                                                               |               |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| School Improvement Plan (SIP) – Cohasset High School (Mr. Brian Scott).....   | Exhibit D - 2 |
| Cohasset High School Cell Phone Task Force Update (Mr. Brian Scott).....      | Exhibit D - 3 |
| School Improvement Plan (SIP) – Cohasset Middle School (Mr. John Mills).....  | Exhibit D - 5 |
| Budget, Resources and Governance - Monthly Update (Mrs. Susan Owen).....      | Exhibit G - 1 |
| School Committee Governance - School Committee Meeting Dates 2025-2026**..... | Exhibit I - 1 |

Respectfully Submitted  
By Kathleen Bock  
May 26, 2025