

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

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE COHASSET SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Wednesday, June 4, 2025
6:00 PM**

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

Committee Members in Attendance: Craig MacLellan (Chair)
Lance Dial (Vice Chair)
Corey Evans
Jennifer Lesky
Tori Hanna (arrived 6:12 PM)

Also in Attendance: Susan Owen, Director of Finance & Operations
Michael Stapleton, Director of Student Services
Dr. Leslie Scollins, Assistant Superintendent
Sarah Shannon, Superintendent

Call to Order

Chairman Craig MacLellan called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM. Roll call confirmed the presence of Mr. Dial, Mr. Evans, Mrs. Lesky, and Mr. MacLellan, consisting of a quorum of Committee members. Mrs. Hanna joined at 6:12 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Public Comment

No public comment was offered.

Recognition of the Superintendent Student Advisory Council and Wellness Committee

Superintendent Shannon recognized the SSAC for their ongoing contributions to student engagement and strategic planning. Dr. Scollins recognized the Wellness Committee, commending the student voices that have shaped school initiatives. William Elwell was congratulated for his service and upcoming studies at Northeastern University. The Committee expressed appreciation for the efforts of both groups.

French Exchange Program

Mr. Keith Grasmann presented the revised proposal for the 2026 French Exchange. The trip has been shortened to one week in December 2026, with confirmed background checks. French students will visit Cohasset in February 2026.

After discussion and a motion duly made by Mr. Evans and seconded by Mr. Dial, it was:

**RESOLVED, to approve the 2026 French Exchange Program as presented to the Committee;
Vote: Aye -- All**

Cell Phone Task Force Discussion

Principal Brian Scott presented the work of the Cell Phone Task Force, created after the community read of The Anxious Generation. Parents and community members expressed support for limiting student phone access. Committee members discussed communication alternatives and challenges with habit change. The Committee discussed the matter at length.

No action was taken; the Committee noted a vote would be requested at the Committee meeting to be held June 18, 2025.

School Handbook Updates

Principals presented revisions to the Joseph Osgood, Deer Hill, Cohasset Middle, and Cohasset High School handbooks. Updates included mission and vision statements, attendance procedures, locker policies, and legal compliance. The Committee discussed unexcused absences and state law requirements.

After discussion and a motion duly made by Mr. Dial and seconded by Mr. Evans, it was:

RESOLVED, to approve the Joseph Osgood School Handbook as presented to the Committee;
Vote: Aye -- All

After a motion duly made by Ms. Lesky and seconded by Ms. Hanna, it was:

RESOLVED, to approve the Deer Hill School Handbook as presented to the Committee;
Vote: Aye -- All

After a motion duly made by Mr. Dial and seconded by Mr. Evans, it was:

RESOLVED, to approve the Cohasset Middle School Handbook as presented to the Committee;
Vote: Aye – All

After a motion duly made by Ms. Lesky and seconded by Ms. Hanna, it was:

RESOLVED, to approve the Cohasset High School Handbook as presented to the Committee;
Vote: Aye – All

Joseph Osgood School Improvement Plan (“SIP”)

Principal Amy Gaudette presented the SIP, highlighting increased family engagement, curriculum nights, and community partnerships. She noted the recreation program’s success and plans to expand preschool integration. The Committee commended her efforts.

Athletics Review

Consultant Mark Ottavianelli presented his review of the athletics program, commending high participation rates and program breadth. Recommendations included developing a mission statement and improving communication. The Committee discussed the report, focusing on establishing trust, communication, and concussion safety. Principal Scott noted that findings will inform an Athletic Improvement Plan.

School Committee Reorganization

The Committee discussed new appointments for governance roles for the upcoming year.

After discussion and a motion duly made by Mr. MacLellan and seconded by Ms. Hanna, it was:

**RESOLVED, to appoint Ms. Jennifer Lesky as Chair of the Committee for the 2025-2026 session;
Vote: Aye -- All**

After a motion duly made by Mr. Dial and seconded by Mr. Evans, it was:

**RESOLVED, to appoint Mr. Craig MacLellan as Vice Chair of the Committee for the 2025-2026 session;
Vote: Aye -- All**

After a motion duly made by Mr. MacLellan and seconded by Mr. Evans, it was:

**RESOLVED, to appoint Mr. Lance Dial as Secretary of the Committee for the 2025-2026 session;
Vote: Aye -- All**

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Shannon reported on upcoming open houses (Deer Hill – Sept 9; Joseph Osgood – Sept 11). She summarized end-of-year events including egg drop experiments, Snapper Sneaker Day, arts nights, and field trips. She highlighted athletic achievements, with post-season representation across all sports, including state championships in track and field. She recognized the success of prom and thanked parents and staff for ensuring safe pre- and post-prom events. She congratulated the Class of 2025 ahead of graduation on June 7.

Student Services Update

Director Michael Stapleton introduced new team chairs Melissa Loney and Meghan Greaney, along with SEPAC President Ms. Davis. He summarized May's evaluation meetings, noting it was the busiest month of the year and that compliance was achieved. The Committee discussed MTSS initiatives across PreK–12. Mr. Stapleton commended staff for their dedication.

Budget, Resources, And Governance

Superintendent Shannon presented the Library Collection Refurbishment Project, including the weeding of old and/or outdated books as presented in the Committee materials. In addition, the Parent Student Organization has generously offered a donation of \$10,000 to acquire new books.

After discussion and a motion duly made by Mr. Dial and seconded by Mr. Evans, it was:

**RESOLVED, to approve the disposal of library books listed on Exhibit G-1 of the Committee materials;
Vote: Aye – All**

After a motion duly made by Ms. Lesky and seconded by Mr. Evans, it was:

**RESOLVED, to accept the \$10,000 gift from the Parent School Organization as described to the Committee;
Vote: Aye -- All**

The Committee expressed its appreciation to the PSO for its continued support of the schools.

School Committee Governance

The Committee tabled liaison and subcommittee assignments. Members were reminded to submit Superintendent evaluations.

The Committee was then directed to the draft minutes included in materials.

After discussion and a motion duly made by Mr. Dial and seconded by Ms. Lesky, it was:

**RESOLVED, to approve the January 24, 2024 minutes (Exhibit I-3);
Vote: 3–0, 2 abstentions**

After a motion duly made by Mr. Dial and seconded by Ms. Lesky, it was:

**RESOLVED, to approve the February 7, 2024 minutes (Exhibit I-4);
Vote: 3–0, 2 abstentions**

After a motion duly made by Ms. Lesky and seconded by Mr. Dial, it was:

**RESOLVED, to approve the April 10, 2024 Public Hearing minutes (Exhibit I-5);
Vote: 3–0, 2 abstentions**

After a motion duly made by Mr. Dial and seconded by Ms. Lesky, it was:

**RESOLVED, to approve the April 10, 2024 meeting minutes (Exhibit I-6);
Vote: 3–0, 2 abstentions**

The Committee briefly discussed a potential executive session meeting that was noted on the Agenda.

After discussion and a motion duly made by Mr. Evans and seconded by Ms. Lesky, it was:

**RESOLVED, to postpone Executive Session on bargaining/litigation strategy to June 18, 2025;
Vote: Aye – All**

Adjournment

After a motion duly made by Ms. Lesky and seconded by Mr. Evans, it was:

**RESOLVED, to adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Cohasset School Committee;
Vote: Aye -- All**

The meeting adjourned at 9:04 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lance C. Dial