

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, August 13, 2025
6:00 PM**

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

Committee Members in Attendance: Jennifer Lesky (Chair)
Craig MacLellan (Vice Chair)
Lance Dial (Secretary)
Corey Evans
Tori Hanna

Also in Attendance: Sarah Shannon, Superintendent
Susan Owen, Director of Finance & Operations
Dr. Leslie Scollins, Assistant Superintendent
John Scopelleti, Principal, Cohasset Middle School

Call to Order

Chair Jennifer Lesky called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. Roll call was taken confirming all members present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Public Comment

No public comments were offered.

Invited Guests

Superintendent Shannon introduced new Middle School Principal John Scopelleti. Mr. Scopelleti spoke about his enthusiasm for engaging with families, his vision for fostering student growth, and his commitment to continuing Cohasset's tradition of academic excellence. The Committee discussed the importance of smooth leadership transitions and expressed confidence in Mr. Scopelleti's ability to lead. Members warmly welcomed him and offered their support as he begins his role.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Shannon provided a detailed update on district initiatives over the summer months. She began by commending High School staff for successfully maintaining accreditation from NEASC, noting the rigorous review process involved. The Committee discussed the value of accreditation in validating the school's academic program and ensuring accountability.

She also reported that major facility improvements were completed, including installation of new fire alarm systems, Wi-Fi upgrades, and expanded security camera and PA systems. The Committee discussed how these investments enhance safety and technology readiness across the district. Emergency flood damage at the central office was also repaired quickly to minimize disruption.

Shannon then turned to the district's projects with the Massachusetts School Building Authority. She explained that the Osgood School roof replacement is expected to yield \$1.9 million in state reimbursement, pending approval at the upcoming Special Town Meeting. She also confirmed that the MSBA will visit in September to evaluate the Middle/High School's statement of interest. The Committee discussed the importance of community engagement in both projects and strategies for preparing for the MSBA visit.

Ms. Shannon also noted that the MSBA reached out about the core project at the Cohasset Middle High School. Cohasset Public Schools have been invited to be a part of the Feasibility Study for the core process. The MSBA will be coming to specifically look at Cohasset High School that was the prioritized SOI, Statement of Interest.

Finally, Shannon highlighted progress on the district's strategic plan, noting that summer leadership retreats and staff book clubs helped establish alignment and vision for the coming school year.

Finance and Operations

Director of Finance and Operations Susan Owen presented the FY25 year-end financial report. She explained that a \$757,000 transfer from the Town closed a budget gap, and while accounts remain frozen, the district is now positioned on stronger footing heading into FY26. Ms. Owen also outlined certain unanticipated adjustments and the status of Circuit Breaker funding. The Committee discussed lessons learned from the FY25 shortfall and emphasized the importance of conservative forecasting. Owen also provided an update on transportation, noting logistical challenges relating to the end of the electric bus pilot program. The Committee also discussed bus parking at the Middle High School.

School Committee Governance

The Committee reviewed and approved new subcommittee and liaison assignments for the 2025–2026 school year. Members discussed opportunities for cross-collaboration between subcommittees and how to ensure broad participation.

The Committee discussed the following assignments (reflecting the addition of a new Collective Bargaining Subcommittee):

- **SCHOOL GOVERNANCE** - Policy & Standards - Collective Bargaining - Superintendent Eval
 - Jennifer Lesky
 - Craig MacLellan
- **BUDGET & RESOURCES** - Finance & Facilities - Security - Projects & Technology
 - Corey Evans
 - Lance Dial
- **COMMUNICATIONS**
 - Corey Evans
 - Craig MacLellan
- **FOOD SERVICE & NUTRITION**
 - Corey Evans
 - Tori Hanna
- **COLLECTIVE BARGAINING**
 - Lance Dial
 - Craig MacLellan

REPRESENTATIVE & LIAISON ASSIGNMENTS

School Councils

Osgood	Corey Evans
Deer Hill	Craig MacLellan & Tori Hanna
Cohasset Middle School	Lance Dial
Cohasset High School	Jennifer Lesky
Parent School Organization (PSO)	Craig MacLellan
Elder Affairs	Corey Evans
Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC)	Craig MacLellan
Legislative Liaison	Corey Evans
Cohasset Education Foundation (CEF)	Jennifer Lesky
Emergency Management	Lance Dial & Corey Evans
Post Employment Benefits (PEB)	Corey Evans
Alternative Energy Committee (AEC)	Jennifer Lesky
Long Range Planning (LRP)	Lance Dial
Diversity	Jennifer Lesky
Wellness	Tori Hanna
Selectboard	Corey Evans
Safe Harbor	Craig MacLellan

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

RESOLVED, to approve the 2025–2026 Subcommittee Assignments as discussed, including the establishment of a new Collective Bargaining Subcommittee and all other Representative and Liaison Assignments as discussed;

Vote: Mr. Dial – Aye; Mr. Evans – Aye; Mr. MacLellan – Aye; Mrs. Lesky – Aye.

The Committee then conducted first reads of updated technology and acceptable use policies, with members noting areas for future discussion before final adoption.

Approval of Minutes

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

RESOLVED, to approve the May 21, 2025 minutes;

Vote: Mr. Evans-Aye; Mr. MacLellan-Aye; Ms. Lesky-Aye; Mr. Dial -Abstain.

Executive Session

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

RESOLVED, to enter Executive Session to discuss collective bargaining and litigation matters and to adjourn from Executive Session without reconvening in general sessions;

Vote: Mr. Dial-Aye; Mr. Evans-Aye; Mr. MacLellan-Aye; Ms. Lesky-Aye.

The general session of the Committee meeting was ended at 7:27 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lance C. Dial