

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

**MINUTES OF THE
SPECIAL JOINT MEETING OF
THE COHASSET SELECT BOARD AND
THE COHASSET SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

October 1, 2025
6:00 PM

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

Attendance

**Select Board Members in
Attendance**

Ellen Maher, Chair
Chris Plecs, Vice Chair (via videoconference)
Paul Grady, Member
David Farrag, Member.

**School Committee Members in
Attendance:**

Jennifer Lesky, Chair
Craig MacLellan, Vice Chair
Lance Dial, Secretary
Corey Evans, School Committee Member

Others in Attendance:

Sarah Shannon, Superintendent
Finalist Candidates:
Andrew (“Drew”) Knowlton;
Victoria Latanzi;
Jacob (“Jake”) Squatrito

Call to Order

Chair Lesky called the School Committee meeting to order at 6:02 PM and conducted a roll call.

Chair Maher called the Select Board meeting to order and confirmed a quorum.

Purpose of Meeting

Chair Lesky explained that the School Committee and Select Board were jointly convened to appoint an interim School Committee member to fill a vacated seat until the next regular Town election (late May or early June 2026).

Each candidate would provide an introduction, answer questions from both boards, and the bodies would then vote jointly to fill the vacancy.

Candidate Statements (Summaries)

Andrew (“Drew”) Knowlton

Mr. Knowlton, a parent of three Cohasset students, highlighted prior service on the Osgood School Council and professional experience as a partner at PwC in the deals practice, specializing in complex negotiations and financial analysis. He expressed interest in contributing his skills in diligence, budgeting, and consensus-building during a challenging fiscal period for the district. He emphasized the importance of objective communication, balanced decision-making, and community cohesion. Mr. Knowlton stated he would consider running for election depending on his effectiveness and the needs of the Committee.

Victoria Latanzi

Ms. Latanzi shared her deep family roots in Cohasset and her commitment to public education, noting that her grandparents lived and worked in the district and that she comes from a long line of educators. She is a parent of three, a Girl Scout leader, and a biotechnology project manager who also teaches ethics and clinical research at Boston University School of Medicine. She emphasized teacher support, student-centered learning, community engagement, and transparency in school governance. She expressed a strong desire to contribute long-term and stated she would consider running for election.

Jacob (“Jake”) Squatrito

Mr. Squatrito is a 2022 graduate of Cohasset High School and a senior at Northeastern University. He highlighted his recent student perspective, familiarity with district operations, and ability to provide insight into how decisions affect students directly. He stated he is able to commit to the meeting schedule and responsibilities and emphasized the importance of minimizing student impact during budget pressures. He noted he would not run for the full seat in May 2026, ensuring an open election for the permanent role.

Questions and Discussion

Members of both boards asked candidates about:

- Motivation for serving and personal connection to the district
- Budget priorities, fiscal judgment, and approaches to long-term structural challenges
- Student-centered decision-making
- Independence and objectivity, especially for candidates with children in the schools
- Communication philosophy and the need for clarity, transparency, and consistency
- Handling of criticism and community expectations
- Positions on potential future capital projects, including possible school construction
- Support for long-term budget implications of full-day kindergarten

Each candidate responded with substantive remarks reflecting their experiences, values, and communication styles. Board members expressed gratitude for the candidates’ willingness to serve and noted the challenge of choosing among three strong options.

Deliberation & Vote

School Committee members expressed appreciation for all candidates and highlighted the unique value of adding a recent student perspective during a period of potential building planning and budget restructuring. Three members of the School Committee, Mr. Evans, Mr. MacLellan and Ms. Lesky expressed support for Mr. Squatrito. Mr. Dial expressed support for Mr. Knowlton.

Select Board members similarly discussed the strengths of all candidates. Mr. Grady, Mr. Plecs and Mr. Farrag expressed support for Ms. Latanzi. Chair Maher noted she was impressed with Ms. Latanzi, but she recognized the strong support for Mr. Squatrito by the School Committee, so indicated she would respect the School Committee's strong preference.

After discussion,

For the School Committee, a motion was made by Mr. Dial to appoint Mr. Squatrito as an interim School Committee member until the next election, seconded by Mr. Evans.

Roll Call Vote: Dial – Aye; Evans – Aye; MacLellan – Aye; Lesky – Aye. The motion was unanimously passed by the School Committee.

For the Select Board, a motion was made by Mr. Grady to appoint Mr. Squatrito to the vacant School Committee position, seconded by Mr. Farrag

Roll Call Vote: Grady – Aye; Farrag – Aye; Plecs – Aye; Mahar – Aye. The motion was unanimously passed by the Select Board.

Adjournment

The School Committee unanimously voted to adjourn.

The Select Board unanimously voted to adjourn.

The joint meeting concluded at approximately 7:17 PM.