

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

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE COHASSET SCHOOL COMMITTEE
April 1, 2026
6:00PM**

METCO Headquarters
11 Roxbury Street
Boston, MA 02119

Attendance

Committee Members in Attendance	Jennifer Lesky, Chair Craig MacLellan, Vice Chair Lance C. Dial, Secretary Corey Evans, School Committee Member Jacob Squatrito, Interim School Committee Member
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Others in Attendance	Dr. Sarah Shannon, Superintendent Dr. Leslie Scollins, Assistant Superintendent Susan Owen, Director of Finance & Operations Alisha Gittens-Carle, METCO Director
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Call to Order

Chair Jennifer Lesky called the regular meeting of the Cohasset School Committee to order at 6:06PM.

**Roll Call: Mr. Dial-Present; Mr. Evans-Present; Mr. MacLellan-Present; Mr. Squatrito-Present;
Ms. Lesky-Present.**

Opening Remarks

Chair Lesky opened the meeting by expressing appreciation for the opportunity to hold the School Committee meeting at METCO headquarters in Roxbury, Massachusetts. She also reminded attendees that public participation remained available through Zoom, while broader community members could view proceedings via Facebook Live.

Public Comment

None

Invited Guests

Ms. Alisha Gittens-Carle welcomed the Cohasset School Committee to METCO headquarters and highlighted the deeply intergenerational nature of Cohasset's METCO community, emphasizing strong family continuity and lasting educational impact. Presentations from current student Daniel "Trey" Bradshaw and alumna Mercedes Barnes Jackson illustrated the program's success in fostering academic growth, creative opportunity, leadership development, and enduring personal connections across generations. Trey shared his positive middle school experience, particularly his passion for art and public speaking, while Mercedes reflected on her own highly positive Cohasset experience and her decision to enroll her own daughter in the same program.

Mr. MacLellan praised the extraordinary commitment of METCO families, particularly the significant logistical and personal sacrifices involved in sustaining active participation across communities. He emphasized the special significance of seeing former METCO students return as parents of current participants, reflecting the enduring value and trust generated by the program.

Chair Lesky focused on the powerful sense of connection, belonging, and long-term network-building demonstrated by the METCO community. She highlighted the importance of leveraging these intergenerational relationships to further strengthen educational, professional, and social opportunities for future students while reinforcing METCO's role as a "home away from home."

The Committee also received notice of the upcoming Mosaic event on April 9, 2026, which will celebrate diversity and community throughout Cohasset.

Superintendent Report

Report

Dr. Shannon provided a broad Superintendent update focused on district achievements, operational priorities, and long-term strategic planning. She highlighted ongoing METCO engagement, upcoming community events such as the METCO Gala, successful student enrichment initiatives including the Credit for Life financial literacy program and district-wide music performances, and expressed appreciation for the educators, families, and partners supporting these efforts.

A major focus of Dr. Shannon's report was the significant positive development regarding the Osgood School roof project, which came in dramatically under original cost estimates. This reduced project cost substantially strengthened the district's School Capital Stabilization Fund position and created a viable pathway for moving forward with the Cohasset Middle/High School feasibility study through the MSBA core project process. Dr. Shannon outlined the detailed timeline, compliance milestones, community committee formation, and Town Meeting funding steps required over the coming year to maintain momentum on long-term facilities planning.

Dr. Shannon also addressed immediate operational challenges, including school bus driver shortages caused by retirements and staffing changes, while discussing creative potential solutions such as regional substitute driver collaboration. She further updated the Committee on the Assistant Superintendent search, noting that finalist interviews and community engagement had concluded and that a formal hiring recommendation was expected later in April.

Revised Last Day of School

Dr. Shannon also noted that the Committee would be required to approve a new last day of school, due to additional days necessary to make up for snow days. After brief discussion,

A motion was made by Mr. MacLellan, seconded by Mr. Dial, to approve the revised 2025–2026 District Calendar, establishing Thursday, June 25, 2026, as the new last day of school as a half day due to prior snow closures.

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Dial – Aye; Mr. Evans – Aye; Mr. Squatrito – Aye; Mr. MacLellan – Aye; Ms. Lesky – Aye.

South Shore Educational Collaborative (SSEC) Board Member (Dr. Sarah Shannon)

Dr. Shannon discussed the designation of the district's representative to the SSEC Board for the following year, noting that Cohasset Public Schools remains an active member of the Collaborative and that she currently serves on its Board in support of regional educational programming and partnerships.

A motion was made by Mr. MacLellan, seconded by Mr. Dial, to approve Dr. Sarah Shannon as the School Committee's local representative and Board member to the South Shore Educational Collaborative.

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Dial – Aye; Mr. Evans – Aye; Mr. Squatrito – Aye; Mr. MacLellan – Aye; Ms. Lesky – Aye.

Teaching and Learning

Dr. Scollins provided an update on ongoing academic initiatives across the district, including recent and upcoming MCAS testing, expanded regional grant partnerships with Hull and Scituate focused on genocide education and mathematics, and continued experiential learning opportunities for students. She highlighted programs such as the North and South River Watershed Association's fifth-grade environmental education partnership, RAD self-defense training for graduating seniors, and innovative robotics demonstrations, emphasizing the district's commitment to hands-on, community-connected educational experiences.

Mr. MacLellan praised the RAD program as an important example of community-driven programming, noting that it originated directly from parent advocacy and has since become a valuable resource for preparing graduating students for personal safety and independence. He emphasized that the program reflects the district's responsiveness to community concerns and its ability to translate family input into meaningful long-term student supports.

Chair Lesky similarly praised the district's emphasis on experiential and community-based learning, highlighting both the RAD program and environmental education initiatives as powerful examples of students connecting classroom learning with practical life skills, civic resources, and their broader community environment.

Budget, Resources and Governance

Gifts

The Committee discussed the receipt of two gifts for the schools. First, the Cohasset Education Foundation had offered a gift to support continued enrichment programming within the district. This donation represents the second year of a three-year funding commitment for the Music Therapy Program at the Joseph Osgood School Preschool, further strengthening specialized early childhood educational supports. Second, the Parent School Organization also offered two gifts to support middle school student enrichment and community-building activities. These donations will directly support the 8th grade dance and a 7th grade student trip.

After discussion,

A motion was made by Mr. MacLellan, seconded by Mr. Dial, to approve and accept a \$7,700 donation from the Cohasset Education Foundation to support the second phase of funding for the Preschool Music Therapy Program at the Joseph Osgood School.

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Dial – Aye; Mr. Evans – Aye; Mr. Squatrito – Aye; Mr. MacLellan – Aye; Ms. Lesky – Aye.

A motion was made by Mr. Evans, seconded by Ms. Lesky, to approve and accept donations from the Parent School Organization of \$300 to support the 8th grade dance and \$715 to support a 7th grade trip.

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Dial – Aye; Mr. Evans – Aye; Mr. Squatrito – Aye; Mr. MacLellan – Aye; Ms. Lesky – Aye.

Executive Session and Adjournment

Chair Lesky noted that there was a reason for the Committee to move into executive session in order to discuss collective bargaining matters.

A motion was made by Mr. Dial, seconded by Mr. MacLellan, to enter Executive Session pursuant to Purpose #3 to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation, with the Committee not to reconvene in public session thereafter.

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Dial – Aye; Mr. Evans – Aye; Mr. Squatrito – Aye; Mr. MacLellan – Aye; Ms. Lesky – Aye.

The regular meeting of the Cohasset School Committee adjourned at 7:09 PM.

Documents/Materials Used

- Approval of Revised 2025–2026 District Calendar (Last Day of School)
- South Shore Educational Collaborative (SSEC) Board Member (Dr. Sarah Shannon)
- Gift from Cohasset Education Foundation (CEF)
- Two Gifts from Parent School Organization (PSO)

Respectfully submitted,
Lance C. Dial
May 17, 2026