

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

**MINUTES OF THE
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COHASSET SCHOOL COMMITTEE
March 25, 2026
6:00PM**

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

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

Others in Attendance Dr. Sarah Shannon, Superintendent
Dr. Leslie Scollins, Assistant Superintendent
Susan Owen, Director of Finance & Operations

Call to Order

Chair Jennifer Lesky called the special meeting of the Cohasset School Committee to order at 6:03PM.

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

Opening Remarks

Chair Lesky opened the Special Meeting of the Cohasset School Committee, stating that the primary purpose of the meeting was to conduct final review and vote on the FY27 school budget.

Budget Presentation

Dr. Shannon presented the final recommended FY27 budget for Cohasset Public Schools, announcing a modest late-stage increase in available funding that raised the district's total budget to approximately \$26 million, representing a 4.83% increase over FY26. While this additional funding slightly reduced the remaining level-service deficit to just under \$1 million, Dr. Shannon emphasized that significant reductions remain necessary, including targeted staffing cuts, reduced resources, and reliance on retirements and operational efficiencies. She outlined the specific remaining reductions while stressing that the district continues exploring opportunities to restore positions and programming if additional resources become available.

Mr. Evans praised Dr. Shannon and district staff for the extraordinary creativity, planning, and operational discipline that allowed the district to bridge such a substantial budget gap while preserving as much educational quality as possible. He specifically focused on the importance of clearly communicating to the broader community that many of these budgetary solutions are temporary, highly strategic, and not reflective of a sustainable long-term funding model. Mr. Evans stressed that future budget cycles cannot rely on repeated one-

time efficiencies and that the district must clearly contextualize the severe consequences of projected future revenue limitations.

Mr. Dial thanked Dr. Shannon, Town leadership, district staff, and educators for their extensive collaborative efforts throughout an exceptionally difficult budget cycle. He emphasized that while the district successfully mitigated immediate harm, current solutions have exhausted available short-term levers and are not sustainable going forward. Mr. Dial strongly underscored the necessity of pursuing a future operational override as the primary path toward long-term fiscal stability for the schools.

Mr. Squatrito and Mr. MacLellan noted that they had received messages to the effect that the virtual access to the Zoom was not working.

Following discovery that incorrect Zoom access information had been publicly distributed for the Special Meeting, Mr. MacLellan raised concerns regarding the adequacy of public notice and accessibility for such a significant FY27 budget vote. He emphasized that given the importance of the budget and heightened public interest, proceeding under flawed meeting access conditions would be inappropriate.

Mr. Evans agreed, stating that he would be more comfortable rescheduling the vote to ensure full legal compliance and proper public participation through a correctly noticed meeting.

After brief discussion,

A motion was made by Mr. MacLellan, seconded by Mr. Evans, to adjourn the March 25, 2026 Special Meeting for the FY27 Budget without taking action at 6:22 PM, with the meeting to be reconvened at a later properly scheduled date.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Lance C. Dial
May 17, 2026