

Cohasset Public Schools

143 Pond Street

Cohasset, MA 02025

Empower Students to Improve Communities

MINUTES OF THE COHASSET SCHOOL COMMITTEE PUBLIC HEARING ON SCHOOL CHOICE

May 6, 2026

5:45 PM

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
Mr. Michael Stapleton, Director of Student Services

Call to Order

Chair Jennifer Lesky called Cohasset School Committee Public Hearing on School Choice to order at 5:49 PM.

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

Opening Remarks

Dr. Shannon opened the Public Hearing on School Choice by providing a detailed overview of how Massachusetts School Choice functions and why she does not recommend Cohasset Public Schools opt into the program for FY2027. She explained that contrary to some public assumptions, School Choice students generate only approximately \$5,000 per student in state reimbursement rather than the district's full per-pupil expenditure of roughly \$22,000, creating a substantial funding gap. Dr. Shannon further emphasized that given the district's current staffing alignment, limited classroom capacity, and recent budget constraints, participating in School Choice would create disproportionate financial and operational risks with minimal realistic fiscal upside.

Committee Comment and Discussion

Committee members explored both theoretical financial efficiencies and practical risks. Mr. Evans questioned whether limited enrollment openings in certain grades could create modest positive revenue without materially increasing district costs, while also expressing concerns about broader enrollment balance and long-term class composition. Mr. Squatrito acknowledged the potential appeal of incremental revenue opportunities but strongly emphasized that the unpredictability of enrollment lottery outcomes, special education obligations, and possible outflow of Cohasset students create unacceptable risks at a time when the district cannot absorb additional volatility.

Public Comment

None.

Adjournment

The Committee noted that no action was required at this time, and that the Committee would vote on school choice in the regular meeting that was to follow.

A motion was made by Mr. Dial, seconded by Mr. Squatrito to adjourn the Public Hearing on School Choice.

Roll Call Vote: Lance Dial–Aye; Corey Evans–Aye; Jake Squatrito–Aye; Craig MacLellan–Aye; Jen Lesky–Aye.

Respectfully submitted,
Lance C. Dial
May 17, 2026