



**CAZENOVIA**  
CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

# Budget Work Session #2

(originally planned for March 3rd)

March 16, 2026



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# Agenda

- District Values & Goals
- Financial Overview (Revenue, State Aid, Fund Balance)
- Tax Cap Calculation
- Major Cost Drivers & Staffing
- Preliminary Budget Gap & Recommendations
- Questions & Discussion



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## What do we Value?



### Academic Rigor

#### "Academic Powerhouse"

AP/College Credits, 95% Graduation Rate, robust CTE (Work-Based Learning etc), Wit & Wisdom & Eureka programs in early elementary levels.



### Foundational Support

#### "The 'hub' of the Community"

Responsible class sizes, K-12 vertical alignment, strong academic programs throughout, Early intervention & MTSS.

#### Our Goal:

Continuous Improvement, but do not lose these things that make us who we are.



### Student Agency

#### "Small School with Big School Opportunities"

Developing own educational pathways, diverse electives/clubs Academic Decathlon, LEGO League), recognized music and arts programs, IGD, Sports opportunities.



### Environment

#### "Discovering Tomorrow Together"

Safe, inclusive, and relationship-focused culture.





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## Enrollment Trends

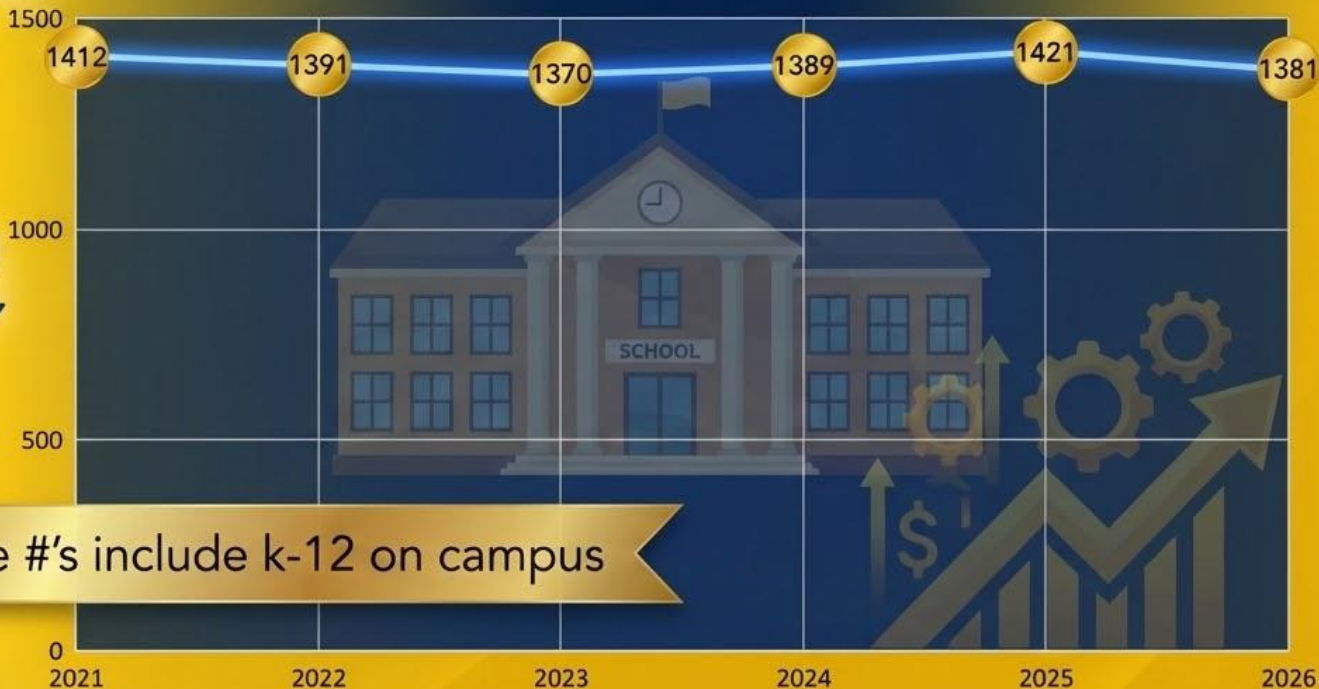
Our Enrollment numbers have remained fairly consistent over the last 6 years.

We are still considered **Save Harmless** due to declining enrollment.

We are seen as wealthy - 2nd highest CWR in the region - 1.17.



### Enrollment



These #'s include k-12 on campus



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# Burton Street

Year	UPK	Kindergarten	Grade One	Grade Two	Grade Three	Grade Four	Total
2026-2027	72	90?	82	91	94	94	523
2025-2026*	70 (Max)	80 (20)	95 (19)	93 (23)\$\$	98 (20)	80 (20)	516
2024-2025	54	95 (19)	93 (19)	98 (20)	80 (20)	68 (23)	488
2023-2024	34	93 (19)	99 (20)	83 (21)	62 (21)	102 (20)	473
2022-2023	x	97 (19)	86 (22)	63 (21)	102 (20)	99 (20)	447
2021-2022	x	83 (21)	65 (16)	96 (19)	97 (19)	107 (21)	448
2020-2021	x	64 (13)	96 (14)	89 (15)	99 (14)	108 (18)	456
2019-2020	x	101 (20)	94 (23)	100 (20)	104 (21)	106 (21)	505
2018-2019	x	90 (18)	97 (19)	99 (20)	102 (20)	90 (22)	478



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# Middle School

Year	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7	Total
2026-2027	82	74	102	258
2025-2026*	68	104	100	272
2024-2025	104 (21)	100 (20)	110 (22)	314
2023-2024	97 (20)	108 (22)	120 (24)	325
2022-2023	107 (21)	116 (23)	105 (21)	328
2021-2022	115 (23)	106 (21)	90 (18)	311
2020-2021	105 (21)	88 (22)	115 (23)	308
2019-2020	91 (23)	109 (22)	104 (21)	304
2018-2019	107 (21)	111 (22)	100 (20)	318



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# High School

Year	Grade 8	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12	Total
<b>2026-2027</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>524</b>
2025-2026*	110	120	117	88	125	560
2024-2025	120	117	88	125	111	561
2023-2024	111	86	122	113	108	540
2022-2023	87	122	121	108	98	536
2021-2022	120	113	111	107	125	576
2020-2021	107	102	108	120	116	553
2019-2020	102	112	126	114	104	558
2018-2019	114	125	117	104	154	614



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## Additions/Cuts

Year	Burton Street	Middle School	High School	District	=/-
25-26	Library Aide	.4 Library Aide .5 Art Teacher	Assistant Principal World Language Teacher Library Aide Counselor .4 ELA Teacher .5 Band Teacher	Math Coach PR/Communications JV Sports	- \$832,000
24-25	Kindergarten Teacher Reading Teacher	Special Ed Teacher - mid year		ELA Coach Copy Center	-\$400,000
23-24	Mental Health Clinic			Mental Health Coord Math Coach	
22-23		STEM/CTE		ELA Coach	



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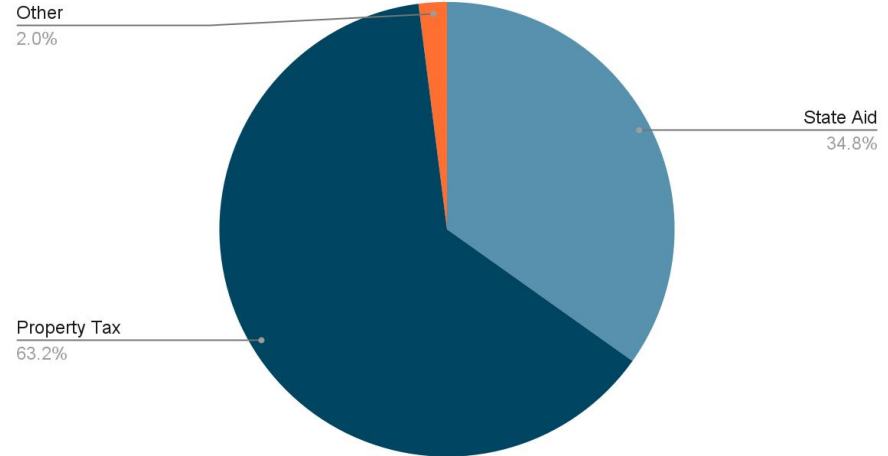
## Revenue: Where Does Our Money Come From?

Revenue Sources	
State Aid	\$13,205,280
Property Tax	\$24,779,416
Other	\$1,100,899
Total	\$39,343,936

This represents where we get our revenue - the 3 sources are:

1. Local - 63%
2. State Aid - 35%
3. Federal - 2%

Revenue Sources





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## The Revenue Landscape: State Aid for Cazenovia

* This is NOT all forms of aid - but represents the largest and the total is all	2025-2026 Estimated Aid	2026-2027 Estimated Aid	Change
Foundation Aid	\$7,709,723	\$7,786,820	+\$77,097 (1%)
BOCES Aid	\$1,081,814	\$1,243,933	+162,119
Transportation Aid	\$1,678,259	\$1,719,455	+41,196
Building Aid	\$2,312,027	\$2,065,766	-246,261
UPK Aid	\$501,301	\$540,000	+38,699
Other	\$318,411	\$312,209	-\$6,202
Total	\$13,601,535	\$13,668,183	+66,948

Building Aid is the biggest contributor to a decrease in what could be a our state aid. Our state aid percentage for building aid decreased from 71.7% to 67.3% which is due to our Wealth Ratio.



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## Tax Cap & Tax Cap History

	17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21	21-22	22-23	23-24	24-25	25-26
Tax Cap	5.03%	-1.09	6.97%	3.10%	1.18%	2.33%	2.48%	4.02%	3.14%
Actual	4.80%	2.0%	4.75%	3.10%	1.18%	2.33%	6.99%	4.02%	3.14%
Levy +/- Cap	\$825,854 -\$39,438	\$360,503 \$557,821	\$873,319 -\$404,039	\$597,976	\$234,747	\$468,358	\$1,437,472 \$927,100	\$885,247	\$718,519

Any time we go over or under the tax cap - it is done in perpetuity.

The Projected cap for this year is *(this is now finalized):*

4.99% = \$1,178,111

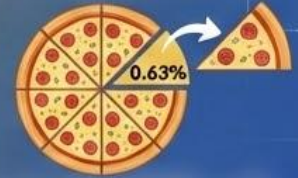


Cazenovia Tax Cap - 4.99% this year



Tax Base Growth - 1.0000 would mean that there is no growth. Anything above that indicates new construction, new additions or improvements.

Cazenovia Tax Base Growth for 2026-2027 budget year = 1.0063



With Growth (1.0063): Because Cazenovia has a factor of 1.0063, it means 0.63% of the tax base is brand new—new homes, new additions, or new commercial buildings. These new properties are now contributing to the “pizza.”

Scenario	Total Tax Levy Increase	Tax Base Growth Factor	Estimated Net Impact on Existing Homeowners
No Community Growth	4.99%	1.0000	4.99%
Cazenovia Growth	4.99%	1.0063	4.36%



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## Major Cost Drivers (Expenses)

These are preliminary numbers and projections, but include the biggest expenses and what we believe will be some changes.

		2025-2026 Projected Expense	2026-2027 Budgeted Expense	Projected Change
	Salaries	\$17,157,374	\$17,879,528	<b>\$722,154</b> ↑
	Employee Benefits	\$12,038,811	\$12,716,475	<b>\$677,644</b> ↑
	Heating & Utilities	\$414,777	\$472,564	<b>+\$57,787</b> ↑
	Transportation	\$1,554,435	\$1,548,595	<b>-\$5,480</b> ↓
	BOCES	\$2,884,057	\$3,053,277	<b>\$169,170</b> ↑



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## Examples of Benefits

Employer Contribution	2025-2026	2026-2027
TRS	9.59%	8.24%
ERS	19.3%	21.1%
Total:	\$1,991,000	\$2,114,910

Because of the nature of the number of staff, as well as the amount earned, these 2 numbers end up being very close to a “wash”.

	2025-2026	2026-2027
Health Insurance	6% Increase \$8,410,796	9% Increase \$9,124,453





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## Impact to Fund Balance

The information below shows what has happened to our fund balance each year. We have been appropriating approximately \$1.6 million the last few years of fund balance - this shows how much has actually been used (or put back in).

 Red indicates that ultimately that amount of fund balance was actually used.

 Black indicates that money was put back into fund balance (ie, none of the allocated money was used).

Ultimately for the stability of the organization, you want to see black numbers...

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
End Total Fund Balance	\$8,674,771	\$10,206,549	\$11,739,560	\$10,956,533	\$9,632,334	\$10,020,613
End Total Fund Balance Difference	\$1,713,598	\$1,531,778	\$1,533,011	<b>(\$783,027)</b>	<b>(\$1,324,199)</b>	\$388,279



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## Preliminary "Gap"

Current Expected Revenue	\$39,343,932
Current Expected Expenses	\$40,744,410
Current "Gap"	\$1,430,474

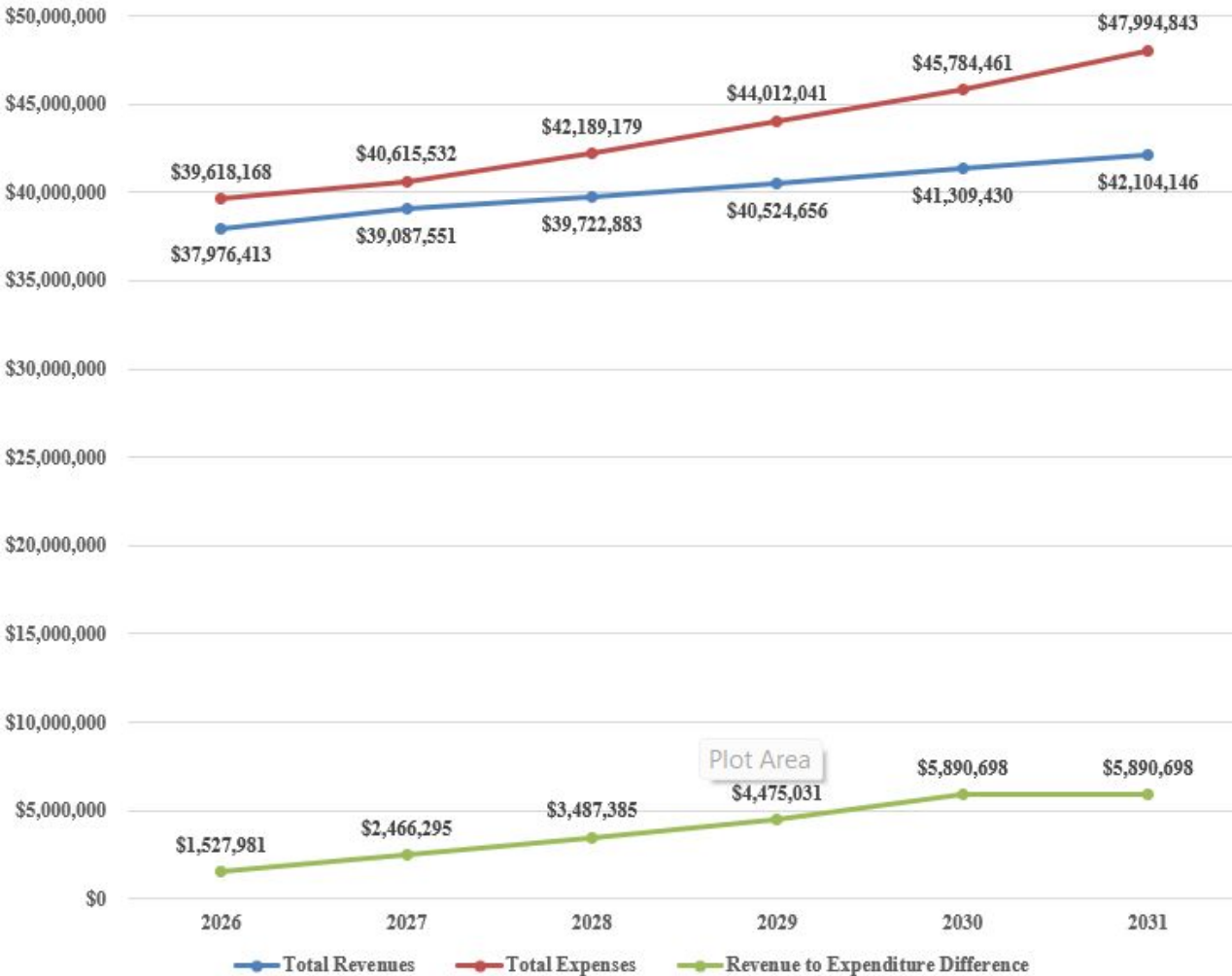
This is a VERY early projection...this will likely change

One Potential way to close the "gap"

(Unappropriated Fund Balance Reserve) \$830,474

(TRS/ERS Retirement Reserve) \$600,000

## Revenue to Expenditure Difference



# Where do we go from here?

Projections: Expenses will continue to increase outpacing our revenue.

Primary drivers:

- Health Insurance
- TRS/ERS
- Contracts
- "The cost of doing business" ie inflation, utilities (heat and fuel)



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What does this tell us?

The presentation is SCARY, however, there are some assumptions and unknowns that are “baked” in:

1. Political Nature - State aid is unpredictable
2. Tax Cap is unpredictable
3. The Merger Study is currently unpredictable
4. Will there be new home building and more businesses coming in to Caz?



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## Crisis?

As a district we are not in crisis...let's be careful not to make decisions as though we are.

1. Most schools are in the same circumstance - many are significantly worse off
2. There has been a concerted effort to reduce levels of fund balances and reserves for schools.
3. There has also been a push to regionalize and share resources. Merger conversations are becoming more common.



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## Budget Recommendations:



### Balanced Revenue:

We recommend a 2026-27 funding model that optimizes both tax levy and available reserves.



### Operational Leanness:

Budget margins have been tightened consecutively over the last several cycles.



### Evidence of Right-Sizing:

Staffing and programming have already been adjusted to reflect current enrollment and fiscal constraints. We will continue to implement that.



### Risk Mitigation:

The district has reached a “critical floor”; additional cuts pose a direct threat to the stability of student services. 1st things that would have to be cut would be non-mandated items, as well as increasing sizes of classes.



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## My Recommendations - Strategy

1. Stabilize
2. Utilize Fund balance and reserves in a fiscally responsible way.
3. Make decisions in a fiscally responsible position where we are looking at all student needs - some things can be done through attrition and "breakage", others will need to be done based upon student need - but develop a plan, in a non-crisis situation.
4. Address the financial situation with a clearer picture of the merger.



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Questions?

What questions do you have?