



CAZENOVIA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Education Meeting
Tuesday, January 16, 2024 at 6:30 pm

31 Emory Ave | Cazenovia, NY 13035
Board of Education Conference Room, Cazenovia Middle School
Open to the Public and Streamed Live on GoogleMeet

Type of Meeting:	Regular & Public Hearing
Board Members Present:	JoAnne Race, Meghan Kelly, Judith Hight, Ron Luteran, David Mehlbaum, Jennifer Parmalee (arrived at 6:35 pm), Jan Woodworth
Board Members Absent:	None
Administrators Present:	Christopher DiFulvio, Thomas Finnerty, Kevin Linck, Molly Hagan, Cristina Knapp, Amy Getman-Herringshaw, Jennifer Raux

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by JoAnne Race, Board President, at 6:30 pm. She asked all to stand for the pledge of allegiance after a moment of silence was observed.

2. Presentation

None.

3. Public Comments

None.

4. Communications

Chris DiFulvio said he received a written communication from Cazenovia resident Mike Millson in which he requested the board cease consideration of a potential merger with Morrisville-Eaton. JoAnne Race said the board received a similar letter.

5. Information and Reports

A. Board Committees

- i. Facilities - did not meet since the last board meeting.
- ii. Finance - did not meet since the last board meeting.
- iii. Personnel - did not meet since the last board meeting.
- iv. Policy - did not meet since the last board meeting.
- v. SPA - did not meet since the last board meeting.

- B. Board President: JoAnne Race spoke about the budget season (now through the annual budget vote on May 21) and the upcoming meetings, including the February 5 budget work session. She also spoke about the legislative advocacy events, for which Jan Woodworth is our liaison, on February 2 and February 7.

- C. Superintendent of Schools: Chris DiFulvio also spoke about the upcoming budget season, noting that for the past four years the district has used fund balance to supplement its budgets. He reported that he, along with a few other local superintendents, met with Assemblyman Al Stirpe where each presented their district's legislative priorities (for Cazenovia it's the tax cap, student safety, and electric buses). Chris highlighted our new student club offerings, which is a focus in our strategic plan; and thanked our faculty and staff for their work implementing our new literacy curriculum which is based on the Science of

- Reading, noting that Cazenovia is ahead of most of the districts in the state on this.
- D. Assistant Superintendent for Business Administration: Tom Finnerty spoke about the budget process, he is working on numbers and presented a draft rollover budget through which he walked everyone. Preexisting costs and typical increases are known, but there remain many unknown numbers at this time. In lieu of a Finance Committee meeting, the entire Board would like to participate in discussions, therefore the Board will convene at the Budget Work Session, previously scheduled for Monday, February 5, 2024 at 6:30 pm.
 - E. Assistant Superintendent of Instruction, Equity and Personnel: Kevin Linck spoke about vertical alignment, continuum of services with regard to special education, work-based learning program, and social-emotional learning program. Kevin also noted the work Jenn Raux has been doing with regards to technology security, for which additional support needed in this area must be included in the budget planning process for the district's protection. He spoke about plans to offer additional seats in UPK by adding a third classroom at Burton Street next year.
 - F. Director of Special Education: Written report was submitted in advance.
 - G. Elementary School Principal: Written report was submitted in advance.
 - H. Middle School Principal: Written report was submitted in advance.
 - I. High School Principal: Written report was submitted in advance.

6. Consent Agenda - Routine Matters

- A. Minutes for December 18, 2023 Regular Meeting & Public Hearing
- B. Financial Reports for November 2023
- C. Committee on Special Education Report for January 2024

Motion made by David Mehlbaum, seconded by Meghan Kelly to approve the Consent Agenda.

➤ *Vote: 7 (in favor) 0 (opposed) Motion passed.*

7. New Business

- A. Approval of New Course Offerings at the High School

Motion made by Jan Woodworth, seconded by Judith High to approve Agenda Item 7A.

➤ *Vote: 7 (in favor) 0 (opposed) Motion passed.*

- B. Approval of Two (2) Overnight Field Trips for Cazenovia Aggies FFA

Motion made by Ron Luteran, seconded by Jan Woodworth to approve Agenda Item 7B.

➤ *Vote: 7 (in favor) 0 (opposed) Motion passed.*

- C. Approval of Overnight Field Trip for Varsity Ice Hockey Team

Motion made by Jan Woodworth, seconded by Meghan Kelly to approve Agenda Item 7C.

➤ *Vote: 7 (in favor) 0 (opposed) Motion passed.*

- D. Approval of Revised Policy #5230 - Acceptance of Gifts, Grants, and Bequests to the District

Motion made by Meghan Kelly, seconded by Jan Woodworth to approve Agenda Item 7D.

➤ *Vote: 7 (in favor) 0 (opposed) Motion passed.*

- E. Approval of Revised Policy #5240 - School Tax Assessment and Collection/Property Tax Exemptions

Motion made by Ron Luteran, seconded by Jan Woodworth to approve Agenda Item 7E.

- *Vote: 7 (in favor) 0 (opposed) Motion passed.*

F. Approval of Revised Policy #5321 - District Credit Card

Motion made by Jan Woodworth, seconded by Meghan Kelly to approve Agenda Item 7F.

- *Vote: 7 (in favor) 0 (opposed) Motion passed.*

G. First Read and Approval of New Policy #6190 - Workplace Violence Prevention

Having waived the second reading, a motion was made by Meghan Kelly, seconded by Ron Luteran to approve Agenda Item 7G.

- *Vote: 7 (in favor) 0 (opposed) Motion passed.*

8. Personnel Report

After expressing gratitude for Claudia Johnson's thirty years of service to the District by Jan Woodworth, a motion was made by Jan Woodworth, seconded by Ron Luteran to approve the Personnel Report.

- *Vote: 7 (in favor) 0 (opposed) Motion passed.*

9. Discussion Items

- A. **Bus Garage and Electric Buses:** Chris DiFulvio presented a report to the Board on the continued deterioration of the transportation center facilities. Most recently, the concrete that supports our sole underground lift is failing, and this lift is required to maintain our fleet as well as perform bi-annual inspections by the Department of Transportation (DOT). The district was alerted that this lift will not pass its next inspection, estimated to occur in June 2024. With assistance from Campus Construction, the total estimate for immediately-required repairs presented to the district is approximately \$525,000. Ninety percent of a new lift, if purchased, would be salvageable when a new transportation center is constructed. Conversations about sharing a transportation center with neighboring school districts or municipalities are being pursued. Chris and Tom Finnerty recommend the Board of Education undergo the necessary steps in case an emergency capital project is necessary should it be discovered that sharing a facility is not feasible. A special meeting was scheduled for Thursday, January 18, 2024 at 7:30 am to vote on the resolution. It was specifically noted that any further action to initiate this capital project would still require additional approval from the Board of Education.
- B. **Field Naming:** JoAnne Race recapped where the Board left off on this subject. Currently there is no policy in place, but the topic recently came up during the turf field project, as noted by Jan Woodworth, and again with a request submitted to the Board in October 2023. Meghan Kelly suggested the Board establish a process for such requests. In the district's strategic plan, it was pointed out that recognition and celebration are listed in the Culture column. Jan suggested the district send a survey to community members to gauge their opinions. After additional time was spent discussing this topic, it was decided to continue at the February 12 regular meeting.
- C. **Board Retreat with Morrisville-Eaton and NYSED:** JoAnne Race commented that this is a sensitive and hot-button topic within our community. Jan Woodworth clarified that the next step is to decide if we want to participate in the feasibility study or not. Dave Mehlbaum said his interpretation is that Cazenovia is way behind Morrisville-Eaton in this process, and we must first decide if we are even interested in a merger, then see what are all of our options. Jan said she can't entertain the idea of merging without the information that comes from a feasibility study; Meghan Kelly agreed that a feasibility study would clear up misinformation, allowing community members the opportunity to make an informed decision. Chris DiFulvio will call John Sipple at Cornell to gather additional information for the Board's next discussion.

10. Advance Planning

- A. **Future Agenda Items:** Workplace Violence Prevention policy needs to be reviewed at the

January 18, 2024 Policy Committee meeting, and if any changes are proposed, then added to the agenda for approval at the February 12, 2024 Regular Meeting. Call a Special Meeting prior to the Policy Committee meeting on January 18, 2024 at 7:30 am to vote on the resolution for a bus lift capital improvement project (if it becomes necessary in the future).

- B. Future Meeting Dates: Policy Committee Meeting and Special Meeting on Thursday, January 18, 2024 at 7:30 am; Budget Work Session on Monday, February 5, 2024 at 6:30 pm; next Regular Board Meeting and Public Hearing on Monday, February 12, 2024 at 6:30 pm.

11. Executive Session

Motion made by Jan Woodworth, seconded by Meghan Kelly to move into Executive Session.

- *Vote: 7 (in favor) 0 (opposed) Motion passed.*

The Board moved into Executive Session at 9:25 pm.

Motion made by Meghan Kelly, seconded by Jan Woodworth to return to Public Session.

- *Vote: 7 (in favor) 0 (opposed) Motion passed.*

The Board returned to Public Session at 10:45 pm.

12. Adjournment

Motion made by Ron Luteran, seconded by Jennifer Parmalee to adjourn the meeting.

- *Vote: 7 (in favor) 0 (opposed) Motion passed.*

JoAnne Race adjourned the meeting at 10:45 pm.

Emily Ayres, District Clerk