



CAZENOVIA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Education Meeting
Monday, December 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
Board Members Present:	JoAnne Race, Meghan Kelly, Travis Barr, Judith Hight, Ron Luteran, Jennifer Parmalee, Jan Woodworth
Board Members Absent:	None
Administrators Present:	Christopher DiFulvio, Thomas Finnerty, Kevin Linck

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by JoAnne Race, Board President, at 6:33 pm. She asked all to stand for the pledge of allegiance after a moment of silence was observed.

2. Presentation

A presentation on Technology Integration was given by Jennifer Raux, Director of Instructional Technology, where she reported 2,500+ devices and 500+ web-based services are currently being managed. Hardware devices need replacement every 4-5 years; interactive boards need replacement every 7-10 years. This year NYS joined the Northeast Consortium to share Data Privacy Agreements (DPA).

3. Public Comments

JoAnne Race opened up the meeting to public comments.

Juli Pace, 1296 Oweghena Road, Cazenovia: voiced concerns about the use of cellphones in schools, inquired about timeframe for a policy change.

4. Written Communications

The district received written communication about a new PILOT Agreement with Albany Street Holding LLC.

5. Information and Reports

A. Board Committees

Board of Education Committees

- Finance & Audit: did not meet.
- Policy: did not meet.

District Committees with Board Representatives

- Communications: met on December 3 with the district's new PR expert from Capital Region BOCES, Amanda Roberts, where the committee discussed areas for improvement, as well as conducting a survey to learn what platforms the community uses and/or needs.
- Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI): met on December 4, worked with Yanira Stoker from BOCES on a student activity to give the committee insight on others' perspectives.
- Facilities: met on December 2; preliminary discussions about proposed bus garage; Kevin

Donaghue of Campus Construction presented (based on 2026 estimated pricing estimates) \$20-25M for an EV-ready facility (a similar building 5 years ago was about \$5M); Ron Luteran estimates about \$4.2-5.2M will be the local share (not counting capital reserve). Altering Johnson Bros. lumber mill can only be financed over 15 years and may not have enough space at the existing site; we would be able to build new which allows for 30 years financing. The district's existing bus garage needs to last at least 2-3 more years, or we could consider sharing a facility with Morrisville-Eaton. May need to put money into our existing structure to shore it up, a process which takes a year to get plans approved w/ NYS; hire a commercial real estate agent via RFP; the committee felt the asking cost was high for the lumber mill.

- High School Action Team (HAT): did not meet.
 - NYSSBA Legislative Liaison (Jan Woodworth): Jan reported there is an online conference with in-person lobbying opportunity coming up February; will send an email with information.
- B. Board President: JoAnne Race pointed out the great deal of collaboration between the school and the community; congratulated Mr. Kurt Wheeler who was named NYS Track Coach of the Year, and is being considered for the National Coach of the Year (COTY) award.
- C. Superintendent of Schools: Chris DiFulvio reported having recently received a draft calendar for 2025-26 from BOCES, a calendar for our district is being worked on and will be brought to the board for approval soon. He thanked the students and staff for the hard work during concert season. Chris reported that NY Governor Hochul did sign the classroom temperature bill, which will require a plan to address when classroom temperatures exceed 82 degrees, and 88 degrees. NYSCOSS foundation aid meeting (summary document handed out to the board) talked about foundation aid budget increasing by 3.9%, nearly half are save harmless, those likely to stay flat (no reduction); Rockefeller study (summary document handed out to the board); enhanced predictability, 3-year average, e.g. Chris also reported on efforts as the district moves into budget season, focusing on scheduling (using existing resources to full potential); recommended the administration team meet with the board.
- D. Assistant Superintendent for Business Administration: Tom Finnerty reported the initial estimated budget increase over last year is \$1.9M; the tax cap is looking good (tax base growth factor and levy growth factors are very good; 2.4% and 2% likely, respectively). State aid is likely flat; health insurance is set to increase 6%; ERS will increase \$101K, TRS will decrease slightly. Special education costs have recently increased by approximately \$500K. The board proceeded to have a lengthy discussion on who determines placements; requirements by law; aim for least restrictive environment; some needs become greater than we can accommodate in a cost-effective manner, and there are many reasons why a student might go from successful to unsuccessful in the same environment.
- E. Assistant Superintendent of Instruction, Equity and Personnel: Kevin Linck reported updates on the district's strategic plan, which includes mental health, vertical alignment, culture, special education, and student opportunities pillars.
- F. Director of Special Education: Micael Speirs submitted a written report in advance.
- G. Elementary School Principal: Cristina Knapp submitted a written report in advance.
- H. Middle School Principal: Amy Getman-Herringshaw submitted a written report in advance.
- I. High School Principal: Molly Hagan submitted a written report in advance.

6. Consent Agenda - Routine Matters

- A. Minutes for November 18, 2024 Regular Meeting
- B. Financial Reports for October 2024
- C. CSE Report for December 2024
- D. Field Trip Request - FIRST Lego League Club, February 2025
- E. Field Trip Request - International Club, April 2025

Motion made by Jan Woodworth, seconded by Travis Barr to approve the Consent Agenda.

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

7. New Business

- A. Resolution to Approve Substitute Rates

Motion made by Jennifer Parmalee, seconded by Jan Woodworth to approve Agenda Item 7A.

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

B. Resolution to Approve Grant In Aid

Ron Luteran asked what happens next year; Chris DiFulvio responded that the district would have to evaluate enrollment needs.

Motion made by Jennifer Parmalee, seconded by Meghan Kelly to approve Agenda Item 7B.

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

C. Second Read and Resolution to Approve Revised Policy 6550 - Leaves of Absence

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

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

D. Second Read and Resolution to Approve Revised Policy 6560 - Determination of Employment Status: Employee or Independent Contractor

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

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

8. Personnel Report

Motion made by Jennifer Parmalee, seconded by Ron Luteran to approve the Personnel Report.

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

9. Discussion Items

- A. Reorganization Discussion: The district is currently working on a grant for \$40K (\$20K for Cazenovia, \$20K for M-E); this is a tight timeline and we would get more points toward winning the grant if we have a plan (the plan is the deliverable of the study, but we score higher if we include one in the grant). M-E has proposed consolidating district office services, and has already had a few town hall meetings. M-E Superintendent (Greg Molloy) and Chris DiFulvio have participated in a municipalities meeting to discuss sharing services (e.g. a 6-week swim program at Sherburne-Earlville). Greg and Chris are interested in visiting different communities within both districts to answer questions and discuss the process (hoping to find out what information the community wants/needs to help make an informed decision). The grant deadline is sometime in January and we are working with a grant writer from BOCES. The actual study will take about a year; and the grant awards come out near the end of the school year.
- B. Bus Garage and Zero-Emissions Buses: Matthews Bus Service put together a presentation (located on BoardDocs under Assistant Superintendent Report (Tom Finnerty). Tom is working with a rep from Leonard Bus about EPA and NYSBIP grants for electric buses, but we likely don't qualify for \$140K from EPA, and would qualify for NYSBIP (\$170K). If we happen to qualify for both we could stack \$100K from NYSBIP on the EPA for a total of \$240K, but the district would have to pay the balance.
- C. Regionalization: Individual districts now have the option of voting to opt out of the regionalization (shared services) program via resolution at any time, or any piece of it as it comes along.

10. Advance Planning

- A. Future Agenda Items: None.
B. Future Meeting Dates: Please see the district website for future meetings.

11. Executive Session

The board forewent the executive session and proceeded to adjournment.

12. Adjournment

Motion made by Ron Luteran, seconded by Jan Woodworth to adjourn the meeting.

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

JoAnne Race adjourned the meeting at 8:15 pm.

Thomas Finnerty, District Clerk Pro Tem