



CAZENOVIA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Education Meeting
Monday, February 3, 2025 at 6:15 pm

31 Emory Ave | Cazenovia, NY 13035
Board of Education Conference Room, Cazenovia Middle School
Open to the Public

Type of Meeting: Special (Budget Work Session #1)

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 6:15 pm. She asked all to stand for the pledge of allegiance after a moment of silence was observed.

2. Executive Session

Motion made by Jan Woodworth, seconded by Jennifer Parmalee to move into Executive Session.

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

The Board moved into Executive Session at 6:15 pm.

Motion made by Ron Luteran, seconded by Jan Woodworth to return to Public Session.

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

The Board returned to Public Session at 6:35 pm.

3. Discussion Items

1. Chris DiFulvio: the target average elementary class size is 23 students. The 2023 strategic plan was used to reflect what the community deemed as priorities for the school district in tonight's presentation.
2. Tom Finnerty: the governor is proposing a 4.8% increase in total school aid this year, among other items. Expenditures always outpace revenue. Looked back 5, 10 and 15 years for average data and created a long-term forecast.
3. JoAnne Race: add to slide 57: what will fund balance look like over the next 5 years as we spend it, plus the % average of what to put back each year.
4. March 25: school budget community dialogue night; need to reschedule Burton Street open house. Any discussion of merger should not be entwined with this budget presentation.
5. Ron Luteran: Tom's wealth ratio presentation at the January regular board meeting was impactful.
6. Judith Hight: we never hear criticism of the library budget, which is on the ballot.
7. The board collectively advised to forego the survey this year.
8. Meghan Kelly: has been reiterating sentiment from Albany at her business, essentially "don't come to Albany and ask for more money until your community contributes more" and seen positive response from that.

9. JoAnne: 29% of our population is over the age of 65, not invested as much as those with children in the school. Will the tax cap change again?
10. Tom: the tax cap is pretty much settled now; aid ratios increased by 0.7% because the wealth ratio decreased slightly. Presented the option to use debt service to lower the tax cap.
11. Chris: asked the board if anyone wants to cut programming, the board collectively said no.
12. Ron: thinks we have a shot at getting a super majority needed to go above the tax cap.
13. Travis Barr: important to see where we are and where we're going; not in fiscal distress but could be soon, and Tom's five year long-term projections show a plan to avoid that.
14. Jan Woodworth: appreciated that the strategic plan, vision and mission statements were used to guide the budget and tonight's presentation.
15. Tom/Chris: might need to have another spending freeze this year, will confer with the District Treasurer.
16. Travis: asked for talking points when approached by members of the community; Chris will provide these for all board members and the admin team.

The next regular meeting will be held on Monday, February 10, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.

The next special meeting (budget work session #2) will be held on Monday, March 10, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.

17. 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 8:06 pm.

Emily Ayres, District Clerk