



CAZENOVIA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Education Meeting
Monday, March 10, 2025 at 6:30 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 #2)

Board Members Present: JoAnne Race, Meghan Kelly, Judith Hight, Ron Luteran, Jennifer Parmalee, Jan Woodworth, Travis Barr (arriving at 6:41 pm)

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 6:30 pm. She asked all to stand for the pledge of allegiance after a moment of silence was observed.

2. Discussion Items

Christopher DiFulvio presented an updated slide deck for the March 25th community dialogue night. The feedback from the February 3rd budget work session was positive. The March 25th community dialogue night will focus on partnership and advocacy, and focus on community priorities for the school.

Tom Finnerty talked about the budget gap, the allowable tax levy limit, and the use of the debt service fund; Tom asked the board their opinion on consolidating the budget newsletter with the budget postcard to save on printing and mailing expenses this year, which the board approved doing.

Kevin Linck reviewed what additions and subtractions have been made over the last four years. Mentioned three additional retirement notices have been submitted since the February board meeting; the district plans to hire replacements for all three retirees.

With regard to the planned slide deck for the March 25th community dialogue night, the discussion included showing how the budget funds the strategic plan that was produced by stakeholders throughout the community in 2023, as well as the impact of extracurricular student activities on academic performance.

Slide 56: cost per student is effective data to show that even with the proposed increase, Cazenovia would be below the others on this chart; this is an important part of the story. The five-year plan shows a longer-term plan for taxes.

Slide 57: what does the proposed increase look like for the tax increase on an average home in Cazenovia? Jan Woodworth mentioned that last year, the community was asking what the school was going to do to “keep this from happening again”, and this shows a bigger picture to dig our way out. JoAnne Race commented on the arbitrariness of the tax cap and how it doesn’t reflect the reality of inflation when state aid doesn’t keep up.

Judith Hight commented about showing a strong, fiscally conservative budget that shows care for the future of quality education, and is non-reactive. Jan Woodworth commented about being careful to not

guarantee the future fiscal state of the school. Ron Luteran asked Tom Finnerty if we are committed to using debt service to assist with the budget, Tom said no.

Advertising efforts for the March 25th Town Hall include postcards, banners, ads in the Caz Republicans, posts of social media, ParentSquare messages, the digital calendars of the school and the Chamber of Commerce, and flyers at all school entrances and around town.

With regard to the budget newsletter and required budget postcard, the discussion included the newsletter layout and saving money on consolidating the newsletter and postcard into one mass mailing; foregoing a front-page letter from the board of education. Ron suggested showcasing what makes Cazenovia special (our story, successes, graduation rates, etc). Tom Finnerty explained that the newsletter would need room for a brief narrative about the \$100K project, which is planned for flooring updates, which are state aideable.

Instead of a front-page letter from the board, Amanda Roberts (PR) suggested sending a letter or opinion piece to the Caz Republican for publication; Judith Hight and JoAnne Race weren't in favor of this. Ron Luteran asked JoAnne for her opinion since it's traditionally written by the board president, to which she asked if there is a deadline for a decision. A conversation ensued about the best practices and where to post photos, quotes, additional budget data. It was agreed that a draft of the newsletter would be sent to the board on March 28th for review.

The next regular meeting will be held on Monday, March 17, 2025 at 6:30 pm.

The Town Hall School Budget Community Dialogue Night will be held on Tuesday, March 25, 2025 at 6:00 pm in the High School Buckley Gym.

3. Executive Session

Motion made by Ron Luteran, seconded by Jennifer Parmalee to move into Executive Session.

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

The Board moved into Executive Session at 8:02 pm.

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

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

The Board returned to Public Session at 8:29 pm.

4. Adjournment

Motion made by Ron Luteran, seconded by Travis Barr to adjourn the meeting.

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

JoAnne Race adjourned the meeting at 8:29 pm.

Emily Ayres, District Clerk