



CAZENOVIA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Public Hearing & Board of Education Meeting
Monday, May 12, 2025 at 6:30 pm
31 Emory Ave | Cazenovia, NY 13035

Public Hearing: Auditorium, Cazenovia High School
Open to the Public

Regular Meeting: Board of Education Conference Room, Cazenovia Middle School
Open to the Public, Streamed Live on Google Meet

Type of Meeting:	Public Hearing & Regular Meeting
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. Public Hearing

The public hearing for the annual budget vote on May 20, 2025 was held at 6:30 pm in the High School Auditorium, after which, the Board of Education, Administration, and meeting attendees convened in the Board of Education conference room to begin the Regular monthly meeting of the Board of Education.

2. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by JoAnne Race, Board President, at 7:41 pm. She asked all to stand for the pledge of allegiance after a moment of silence was observed.

3. Presentation

30 Week Check: Kevin Linck gave a presentation about benchmarking that the district has been doing (AIMSweb for math and ELA data) with a focus on attendance using BIMAS data. Regarding chronic absenteeism, the data shows that punitive measures make the problem worse. Kevin showed data from pre- and post-pandemic (subdivided: all students vs. economically disadvantaged vs. special education) and sees an improving trend since 2020 (after which the highest rates of chronic absenteeism were experienced). Kevin outlined the significance of chronic absenteeism, including lower academic achievement, reduced graduation rates, weaker engagement and motivation, gaps in social-emotional development, and widened equity gaps. Regarding BIMAS, this data identifies areas of strength/weakness in regards to concerns about behavior and support that need to be implemented.

4. Public Comments

JoAnne Race opened up the meeting to public comments; hearing none, moved on.

5. Written Communications

Chris DiFulvio reported that the district received a few written communications from the community with regards to questions on the proposed budget.

6. Information and Reports

A. Board Committees

Board of Education Committees

- Finance & Audit: did not meet since the last BOE meeting.
- Policy: the policy committee met tonight at 5:30 pm; Judith Hight reported that there are 14 policies for approval on tonight's agenda under New Business (anticipated waiving the second reading and adopting these revised policies). At the policy meeting, the committee reviewed two policies that are expected to be on the June BOE meeting agenda for approval with regards to two new state laws, (1) a student member of the Board of Education, and (2) maximum temperature in schools.

District Committees with Board Representatives

- Communications: did not meet since the last BOE meeting.
- Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI): did not meet since the last BOE meeting.
- Facilities: did not meet since the last BOE meeting; Ron Luteran reported that he had some communication about including Travis Barr in future meetings to bring him up to speed on the issues and plan for the transportation center. Meghan Kelly clarified that she would like a presentation for the full Board so everyone is in the loop.
- High School Action Team (HAT): did not meet since the last BOE meeting.

B. Board President: JoAnne Race thanked everyone who's worked on the budget preparation, encouraged voters to show up to vote next Tuesday.

C. Superintendent of Schools: Chris DiFulvio passed out copies of the newest budget newsletter, which needed last minute edits after the NYS budget was passed after their deadline. Chris congratulated the Fine Arts department on their most recent outstanding recognition. He reported that the RFP for Hazel's Path came in higher than last year, Eric Benedict is working with the two bidders to find out how much work can be completed within budget from the grant, Chris hopes to bring this to the Board for approval in the near future to commence construction. Regarding the transportation center, this project may not end up being tax-neutral but it is necessary; timelines for construction are moving quickly and decisions will need to be made soon about how to proceed.

Ron Luteran thanked Chris and Tom Finnerty for their work on the budget, suggested a news story on the website to inform tax-payers about the decreased tax levy based on the budget passed by NYS.

D. Assistant Superintendent for Business Administration: Tom Finnerty reported that he recently received a bus-incentive program grant for an electric bus, if we chose to purchase one, for \$225,000 which leaves approximately \$300,000 in costs left to the district. He has applied for additional grants, but has not received any of these (yet). Tom said this grant is viable for 18 months, with the possibility of a 6-month extension.

E. Assistant Superintendent of Instruction, Equity and Personnel: Kevin Linck reported on the recent work of the EAC Grant Committee, which is reflected on tonight's Personnel Report. He reviewed the process of selecting those who are awarded grants and the benefits of this work.

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.

7. Consent Agenda - Routine Matters

- A. Minutes for April 21, 2025 Regular Meeting & Public Hearing
- B. CSE Report for May 2025
- C. Financial Reports for April 2025

Motion made by Meghan Kelly, seconded by Jan Woodworth to approve the Consent Agenda.

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

8. New Business

- A. Resolution to Establish Date for the Annual Organizational Meeting 2025-26

The Organizational Meeting will be held on Monday, July 7, 2025 at 6:30 pm.

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

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

- B. Resolution to Approve the Educational Advisory Committee (EAC) Recommended Summer Grants

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

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

- C. Resolution to Approve Revised Policy #5661 | Wellness

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

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

- D. Resolution to Approve Revised Policy #5683 | Evacuation, Lockdown, and Emergency Dismissal Drills

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

➤ *Vote: 6 (in favor) 0 (opposed) 1 (absent, Meghan Kelly) Motion passed.*

- E. Resolution to Approve Revised Policy #5731 | Idling School Buses on School Grounds

Motion made by Travis Barr, seconded by Ron Luteran to approve Agenda Item 7E.

Vote: 6 (in favor) 0 (opposed) 1 (absent, Meghan Kelly) Motion passed.

- F. Resolution to Approve Revised Policy #5740 | Qualifications of Bus Drivers

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

➤ *Vote: 6 (in favor) 0 (opposed) 1 (absent, Meghan Kelly) Motion passed.*

- G. Resolution to Approve Revised Policy #6130 | Evaluation of Personnel

Motion made by Travis Barr, seconded by Jan Woodworth to approve Agenda Item 7G.

➤ *Vote: 6 (in favor) 0 (opposed) 1 (absent, Meghan Kelly) Motion passed.*

- H. Resolution to Approve Revised Policy #6140 | Employee Medical Examinations

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

➤ *Vote: 6 (in favor) 0 (opposed) 1 (absent, Meghan Kelly) Motion passed.*

- I. Resolution to Approve Revised Policy #6160 | Professional Growth/Staff Development

Motion made by Travis Barr, seconded by Meghan Kelly to approve Agenda Item 7I.

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

J. Resolution to Approve Revised Policy #6190 | Workplace Violence Prevention Policy Statement

Motion made by Ron Luteran, seconded by Travis Barr to approve Agenda Item 7J.

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

K. Resolution to Approve Revised Policy #6213 | Registration and Professional Development

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

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

L. Resolution to Approve Revised Policy #6214 | Incidental Teaching

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

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

M. Resolution to Approve Revised Policy #6215 | Probation and Tenure

Motion made by Jan Woodworth, seconded by Travis Barr to approve Agenda Item 7M.

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

N. Resolution to Approve Revised Policy #6220 | Temporary Personnel

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

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

O. Resolution to Approve Revised Policy #7350 | Corporal Punishment/Emergency Interventions

JoAnne Race stated that she wants to review this policy again before the Board approves the revisions; stated that she notices community feedback tonight in the audience, and that no other districts have yet to implement this revised policy. She wants to roll out this policy after additional district training, and is unsure of when this fits into the district's professional development plan. She suggested voting it down and sending it back to the Policy Committee for further discussion.

Motion made by Travis Barr, seconded by Jan Woodworth to approve Agenda Item 7O.

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

P. Resolution to Approve Revised Policy #7554 | Equal Educational Opportunities

Motion made by Travis Barr, seconded by Meghan Kelly to approve Agenda Item 7P.

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

9. Executive Session

Motion made by Ron Luteran, seconded by Jan Woodworth to move into Executive Session.

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

The Board moved into Executive Session at 8:34 pm.

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

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

The Board returned to Public Session at 10:17 pm.

10. Personnel Report

Motion made by Travis Barr, seconded by Jan Woodworth to approve the Separation Agreement.

➤ *Vote: 5 (in favor) 2 (opposed, Meghan Kelly and JoAnne Race) Motion passed.*

Motion made by Jan Woodworth, seconded by Ron Luteran to approve the Personnel Report.

- *Vote: 5 (in favor) 2 (opposed, Meghan Kelly and JoAnne Race) Motion passed.*

Motion made by Jan Woodworth, seconded by Ron Luteran to approve the Supplemental Personnel Report.

- *Vote: 6 (in favor) 0 (opposed) 1 (abstained, JoAnne Race) Motion passed.*

JoAnne Race recommended tabling all subsequent items on the agenda until the next Regular Board of Education meeting on June 16, 2025; no objections were made.

11. 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 10:21 pm.

Emily Ayres, District Clerk