CAZENOVIA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Education Meeting
Wednesday, August 13, 2025 at 7:00 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:	Special
Board Members Present:	Travis Barr, Jeffrey Dewan, Judith Hight, Ron Luteran, JoAnne Race, Jan Woodworth
Administrators Present:	Christopher DiFulvio, Thomas Finnerty, Kevin Linck

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1. **Call to Order**

   The meeting was called to order by Judith Hight, Board President, at 7:00 pm. She asked all to stand for the pledge of allegiance after a moment of silence was observed.

2. **Public Comments**

   Judith Hight asked for any public comments. Tristan Conway, 47 Sullivan Street, Cazenovia, spoke about Intergroup Dialogue Club with regard to his personal experience and the inherent value of this club.

3. **Presentation**

   Chris DiFulvio presented the administration team's recommendations on where to apply the temporary reinstatements and bullet aid ($170,000 = $100K bullet aid + $70K from voluntary staff reductions). Travis Barr spoke about the Communications Committee meeting earlier in the afternoon, commenting on the volume anticipated in the high school office, needing more clerical support after one full-time position was cut in June, due to the new bell-to-bell ban on smart devices. Temporary restorations included academic offerings, fine arts, athletics, extracurricular clubs, student support services like counseling in the MS through a part-time social worker from Madison County. Chris also reviewed the cuts that were unable to be restored.

4. **Discussion**

   JoAnne Race asked about community concern regarding the HS English teacher position reduction from 1.0 FTE to 0.6 FTE; Chris DiFulvio explained that this is unfortunately due to the budget failing to pass in May, but despite the change the district is still meeting the scheduling requirements of the English department. Ron Luteran and Judith Hight complimented the efforts of the Administrative team to gather input with multiple stakeholder groups through meetings and surveys, stressed the importance of communicating with the community that not everything is able to be restored (permanently or in full), and the district was lucky to get bullet aid from Assemblyman Stirpe combined with employees who took voluntary reductions and community groups who raised money for athletics and extracurricular offerings. Chris spoke about cuts to the budget over the last two years, approximately $1.2M, and continuous efforts made to avoid using fund balance whenever possible. Cazenovia's cost per pupil is one of the lowest school districts in the region. Restored positions will be on tonight's and September 15th's personnel reports.

5. **Public Comments**

   Judith Hight asked for any public comments. Hannah Gooley, 59 Lincklaen Street, Cazenovia, asked about next year and not having students go through an emotional rollercoaster of cuts and restorations. Chris DiFulvio gave a brief overview of the budget process in NYS, explaining how the state funding fluctuates annually, which affects what is asked for from the tax payers. The school district puts together a budget that

will best support its students (currently one of the lowest expenditures per student in the region), but can't guarantee support from the community. Tom Finnerty explained with the NYS tax cap, the budget is an estimate that matches revenue to expenses; and that going out at (instead of over) the tax cap in May 2025 would have automatically necessitated cutting $800K from the budget.

6. Personnel Report

Motion made by Ron Luteran, seconded by JoAnne Race to approve the Personnel Report.

- *Vote: 6 (in favor) 0 (opposed) Motion passed.*

7. Executive Session

Motion made by Jan Woodworth, seconded by Ron Luteran to move into Executive Session to discuss matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal, or removal of a particular person or corporation to a vacant seat on the Board of Education.

- *Vote: 6 (in favor) 0 (opposed) Motion passed.*

The Board moved into Executive Session at 7:40 pm.

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

- *Vote: 6 (in favor) 0 (opposed) Motion passed.*

The Board returned to Public Session at 8:12 pm.

8. Adjournment

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

- *Vote: 6 (in favor) 0 (opposed) Motion passed.*

Judith Hight adjourned the meeting at 8:12 pm.

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Emily Ayres, District Clerk