



## CAZENOVIA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Education Meeting  
Tuesday, May 5, 2026 at 6:00 pm

Middle/High School Library, Morrisville-Eaton School District  
Open to the Public and Livestreamed on Microsoft Teams

Type of Meeting: Special with Morrisville-Eaton Board of Education

Board Members Present: Leigh Baldwin, Jeffrey Dewan, Judith Hight, Ron Luteran, Emily Wiemers, Jan Woodworth

Board Members Absent: Travis Barr, Sebastian Gebers (Ex Officio, Student Member)

Administrators Present: Kevin Linck, Jennifer Raux, Amy Getman-Herringshaw, Joseph Gugino

Present from Morrisville-Eaton: Morrisville-Eaton Board of Education; Superintendent Gregory Molloy

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### 1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Judith Hight, Board President, at 6:01 pm. She asked all to stand for the pledge of allegiance.

### 2. Designation of District Clerk Pro Tem

*Motion made by Jan Woodworth, seconded by Emily Wiemers, to designate Jennifer Raux District Clerk Pro Tem.*

*Vote: 6 ayes; 0 nays*

*Motion passed.*

### 3. Presentation

Kevin Linck introduced Bob Breidenstein and Brian Schmitt from Schmitt Leadership Group, LLC. Bob reviewed the merger study process so far, about one month into it, having had engaging conversations with stakeholders from both districts, including students, faculty, staff, administrators and employees who are also parents. The first Thought Exchange platform is open until March 20th; allows residents to share comments anonymously, ~125 people have already participated. There will be the first of four town halls tomorrow evening. Bob reiterated that his job is to collect and present data, but the voters will ultimately make the decision on whether to merge or not. Questions were asked and answered; discussion ensued.

### 4. Public Comments

Bill Bullen, Cazenovia – Mr Bullen noted that marketing to the community is very important and should be taken seriously. He shared that if no one within the district is able to handle this effectively, he would support hiring an outside firm to help communicate the information clearly. He also suggested that going door-to-door could be a helpful way to have conversations with community members and make sure accurate information is being shared. In addition, Mr. Bullen commented that if the Board's initial vote to move forward requires signed petitions, the effort should not stop once the minimum number is reached, but should continue in order to gather as many signatures as possible.

Ainslie Ellis, Cazenovia – Ms. Ellis shared that in her view, many community members understand the “why” behind the merger, but remain uncomfortable because they want a clearer picture of what it will actually look like. Mrs. Dooley responded that there are no concrete answers at this time, as many details remain undecided. She explained that if the merger is approved, a new Board of Education would be formed and would be responsible for

making those decisions. While she acknowledged that it is understandable for the community to want a clearer 5–10 year outlook, yet that it is not possible to fully define that at this stage. However, she added that the current boards could consider adopting non-binding resolutions to outline the values and priorities they believe are important moving forward.

Genesis, Cazenovia CSD Student – Genesis shared that he believes combining the codes of conduct from both districts should be taken seriously to ensure they are fully aligned. He also expressed concern about determining which BOCES the merged district would be affiliated with. Mrs. Dooley noted that there has been discussion about each Board visiting the other district’s BOCES programs to better understand what each offers before any decisions are made.

Sara Mitchell, Cazenovia – Ms. Mitchell asked how many people were currently viewing the livestream, noting that the initial town hall meeting she attended a few years ago was well attended, and expressing disappointment that community attendance appears to have decreased significantly. The Board reported that at that time there were 34 viewers. She also observed that there were not many parents in attendance and suggested that the timing of meetings and limited availability may be contributing factors. Ms. Mitchell also raised a question regarding how the district can be sure the projected aid amounts are accurate. Mr. Breidenstein confirmed that once the report is submitted to and approved by the state, the Commissioner has the authority to grant and confirm the final aid amount. He explained that this represents a binding commitment that cannot be rescinded. Mrs. Dooley reminded community members to reach out directly to the consultants or Superintendents with any questions they may have. Mr. Molloy stated that both he and Mr. Linck are available and welcome phone calls or emails from community members.

## **5. Adjournment**

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

*Vote: 6 ayes; 0 nays*

*Motion passed.*

Judith Hight adjourned the meeting at 8:14 pm.

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Jennifer Raux, District Clerk Pro Tem