



CAZENOVIA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Education Meeting
Monday, January 12, 2026 at 6:30 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: Regular

Board Members Present: Leigh Baldwin, Travis Barr (arrived at 6:34pm), Jeffrey Dewan, Judith Hight, Ron Luteran, Emily Wiemers, Jan Woodworth, Sebastian Gebers (Ex Officio, Student Member)

Administrators Present: Kevin Linck, Timothy Ryan, Joseph Gugino

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Judith Hight, Board President, at 6:30 pm. She asked all to stand for the pledge of allegiance after a moment of silence was observed.

2. Vacant Seat on the Board of Education

- A. Resolution to Approve the Appointment of an Individual to the Vacant Seat on the Board of Education

Judith Hight invited Leigh Baldwin to fill the vacancy on the BOE; Leigh accepted.

Motion made by Jan Woodworth, seconded by Ron Luteran to approve the appointment of Leigh Baldwin to the Board of Education.

- *Vote: 5 (in favor) 0 (opposed) Motion passed.*

- B. Oath of Office to Appointed Board Member: District Clerk, Emily Ayres, administered the oath of office to Leigh Baldwin.

3. Presentation

- A. Therapy Dog Program: Maggie Dougherty (Murphy, at Emory Ave on Fridays) and Victoria Gilliland (Oakley, at Burton Street on Wednesdays) spoke about the Therapy Dog Program at CCSD that started in October 2025, and the positive impact that it's had on the students.
- B. Professional Development Presentation: Kevin Linck gave a presentation on assessment data as well as surveys after professional development days over the last three years, how they pertain to the five pillars of the strategic plan; the focus of this has been vertical alignment of curriculum, preparing us for Portrait of a Graduate. Excellence and success is different for each student.

4. Public Comments

1. Bill Bullen commented on the importance of Board governance training, DEI training, and professional development.
2. Colleen Fox commented on her written communication to the Board, the recent appointment of Board members, and called for the Board to review the Open Meeting Law and FOIL.

5. Written Communications

1. Judith Hight reported that all written communications to the Board have been reviewed by the entire Board and, with exception to any received in the past few days, have been responded to

6. Information and Reports

A. Board of Education Committees

- Finance & Audit: Jan Woodworth reported that this committee did not meet since the last BOE meeting; no report.
- Policy: Judith Hight reported that this committee met tonight at 5:30 pm and reviewed six policies. The next meeting will be on February 9, 2026 at 5:30 pm.

District Committees with Board Representatives

- Communications: Travis Barr reported that this committee did not meet since the last BOE meeting; no report.
- Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI): Travis Barr reported that this committee did not meet since the last BOE meeting; no report.
- Facilities: Ron Luteran reported that this committee did not meet since the last BOE meeting; no report.
- High School Action Team (HAT): Jeffrey Dewan reported that this committee did not meet since the last BOE meeting; no report.

- B. Board President: Judith Hight gave a report on the status of the merger feasibility study, the Cazenovia and Morrisville-Eaton Boards of Education met on January 6 for presentations from the two finalists; the consultant selected was Schmitt Leadership Group, the total cost for which is \$48,600. Each school district received a \$20,000 grant, leaving the balance of \$8,600 aidable through BOCES. Judith also reported that henceforth, the topics from the previous month's Public Comments will be addressed at the following BOE meeting under Discussion Items.
- C. Superintendent of Schools: Kevin Linck reported that the district is working on the 2026-27 school calendar; the lead remediation efforts at Burton Street and Emory Ave (at BS all equipment that didn't require extensive demolition was replaced over the holiday break, we await the results of the water samples in 3-4 weeks; MS/HS associated valves were replaced, waiting on fixtures and faucets); the false alarm lockdown on January 8th (deeply disappointed that it happened; commended everyone involved for their responses; and is grateful the procedures in place for such event are working as designed. The work which triggered the alarm will not occur during school hours going forward.); and a staff medical emergency on January 9th (shelter in place at Emory Ave, commended the students who were in the classroom and their heroic efforts). For students and staff who are dealing with the after effects of either or both events, he encouraged reaching out to a trusted adult, counselors, psychologists, or social workers. ParentSquare messages went out about resources for parents to get support for their children. The district has begun working with Rick Timbs on a five-year projection on the budget (tax cap, foundation aid, and hold harmless are hurting our district); Cazenovia is the second wealthiest district in the region, behind Skaneateles. Emily Wiemers asked if Rick Timbs could attend the budget work sessions.
- D. Interim Assistant Superintendent of Instruction, Equity and Personnel: Timothy Ryan reported finishing up personnel issues inherited by Mr. Linck; budget, personnel, and instruction come together at this time of year in order to make recommendations for the next academic year. Portrait of a Graduate, vertical alignment (social studies and science at Burton Street) follow up has been fantastic. Starting collective bargaining discussions.
- E. Interim School Business Official: Joseph Gugino reported monthly tracking YTD expenditures on the \$39.6M budget, from July 1 to Dec 31, came out \$400,000 less than expected. The budget process is right on schedule, aid runs come out on the third or fourth Thursday in January, expecting to see them on January 22. Started 2026-27 budget planning, meeting with administrators this week, talking daily about the tax cap.
- F. Director of Special Education: Amy Bailey 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 from the December 15, 2025 Regular Board Meeting
- B. Minutes from the January 5, 2026 Special Board Meeting

- C. Minutes from the January 6, 2026 Special Board Meeting
- D. Financial Reports for November 2025
- E. CSE Report for January 2026
- F. Overnight Field Trip Request NYSSMA All-State Festival January 2026
- G. Overnight Field Trip Request FFA February 2026

Motion made by Jan Woodworth, seconded by Ron Luteran to approve the Consent Agenda – Routine Matters.

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

8. New Business

- A. Resolution to Approve the Substitute Rate Chart

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

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

9. Personnel Report

- A. Resolution to Approve the January 12, 2026 Personnel Report

Motion made by Ron Luteran, seconded by Emily Wiemers to approve the Personnel Report.

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

10. Discussion Items

- A. Water Quality Remediation Update: Kevin Linck addressed this in his Superintendent report earlier in the evening.
- B. Merger Study Status: Judith Hight addressed this in her Board President report earlier in the evening.
- C. New Board Member Tour: Kevin Linck commented that a tour of the campuses and transportation center for any Board members interested, especially the newest ones, will be arranged by the District Clerk in the next few weeks.
- D. School Board Retreat and Governance Training: Kevin Linck reported that he reached out to OCM BOCES Superintendent, Matt Cook, about facilitating a Board retreat, governance training and DEI training; the cofacilitator will be an attorney. This will be scheduled for sometime in the next few weeks. Ron Luteran commented on the extensive training that new Board members are required to do by NYS education law, and reiterated that the role of the Board is governance.
- E. DEI Training: Kevin Linck reported that this will be included in the upcoming Board retreat.
- F. Open Meetings Law: Kevin Linck reported that this will be included in the upcoming Board retreat, additionally will have an attorney come to a future Board meeting to review this and answer questions in public session. In recent conversations, the attorneys confirmed that executive sessions can be listed on an agenda and the Board or a portion thereof can meet with the attorney. Discussion ensued about the use of AI, different types of law
- G. Request from Individuals/Special Interest/Community Groups to Meet with the Board: Judith Hight reported that if the whole Board meets with an individual/group it would be a violation of the open meeting law. Travis Barr commented that a group smaller than a quorum of Board members could meet, or the individual/group could meet with another appropriate person, such as the superintendent or committee chair, to help the community feel heard. Emily Wiemers stated that the BOE email addresses are on the district website; Judith stated that one or a few Board members cannot speak on behalf of the Board.
- H. Budget Votes in 2024 and 2025: Judith Hight commented that there has been a lot of talk about these, it was really difficult when they didn't pass. Bullet aid from Al Stirpe came in over the summer after the budget revote, as did the tennis court grants. Ron Luteran said a lot of cuts still had to happen. No money was hidden, private citizens fundraised to save programs. Kevin Linck reported that \$832K total in cuts happened after the budget failed in May 2025, and over \$400K after the budget failed in May 2024. Judith reiterated that the Board and district can't influence voters by communicating the consequences (cuts) in advance if the budget fails to pass, and thanked those who advocated on behalf of the district leading up to the budget revote in June 2025. A list of new efforts in 2024 and 2025 to communicate better and more broadly to voters was read by Jan

Woodworth.

- I. Budget Vote in 2026 (Planning, Timeline, Communication): Judith Hight reported that the first Budget Work Session will be held on Monday, February 2 at 6:30 pm and is open to the public.
- J. School Board Election Ballot: Judith Hight reported that a community member proposed changing the format of the ballot for the school Board election in May in order to have candidates run for specific seats instead of "at large". The District Clerk reviewed policy 1210 and how the results of the election on May 19, 2026 would work out.
- K. What Did We Do For Kids? Approved overnight field trips requests from FFA and All State; appointed a former Board member to fill the current vacancy; and approved substitute pay increases.

11. Advance Planning

- A. Future Agenda Items:
 - Sebastian Gebers asked to hear more about the rules and regulations of a Board of Education.
 - Travis Barr asked if the claims of bullying from the November 17th BOE meeting's public comments were going to be addressed. Jeff Dewan said the HAT committee addressed this at their meeting in December. Emily Wiemers said the chain of command (principal, then superintendent) would be the correct course of action. Jan Woodworth said the BOE's role on this topic would pertain to a policy about bullying, which already exists.
- B. Future Meeting Dates: All future meetings are listed on the district website. The first Budget Work Session will be on February 2 at 6:30 pm; the Policy Committee will meet on February 9 at 5:30 pm.

12. Adjournment

Motion made by Ron Luteran, seconded by Emily Wiemers to adjourn the meeting.

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

Judith Hight adjourned the meeting at 8:13 pm.

Emily Ayres, District Clerk