



CAZENOVIA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Education Meeting & Public Hearing
Monday, August 12, 2024 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:	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. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by JoAnne Race, Board President, at 6:31 pm. She asked all to stand for the pledge of allegiance after a moment of silence was observed.

2. Presentation

None.

3. Public Comments

JoAnne Race opened up the meeting to public comments.

Juli Pace: 1296 Owahgena Road, Cazenovia – I have two sons currently enrolled in the district; a former educator and local business owner; husband is former law enforcement. Here tonight to represent many teachers and parents. Last Friday I met with Chris DiFulvio to discuss cell phones in schools. I propose to institute a more stringent ban on smartphones in school, and am looking for a consistent policy. I ask the board of education to join us in Albany at the Disconnected conference this September. Objectively, the current policy is insufficient. Thank you for considering this matter.

Kate Meigs: 5753 Rathbun Road, Cazenovia – I have two boys in this school and have followed the impact of technology on society for fifteen years. I have data and anecdotes. It's absolutely necessary to be proactive. In other districts with a more assertive policy [on smartphone usage] there is a noticeable impact on the students, and it's overall accepted. The difference is striking in [schools where] there are either non-effective or no policies to address this: they have fifth graders texting porn, second graders bullying, and teachers throwing up YouTube videos to "teach". We need to do our part to effectively manage technology [usage in schools]. We have a responsibility to be proactive in this situation.

4. Written Communications

JoAnne Race said the board of education received written communication regarding a petition/proposal to ban the use of smartphones in schools.

5. Information and Reports

A. Board Committees

Board of Education Committees

- Finance & Audit: did not meet.
- Policy: met on July 22nd, later on tonight's agenda there are four policies for a first read.

District Committees with Board Representatives

- Communications: Travis Barr said this committee met on August 2nd at which they discussed the smartphone petition, how to effectively communicate existing policies to the public, and the communication plan (a copy of which was distributed to all board members).
 - Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI): did not meet.
 - Facilities: Ron Luteran said he and Eric Benedict met and agreed to have a pre-facilities committee meeting at which they decided to go with the same committee members that Chris and Eric put together which includes staff, students, teachers, and community members. This committee still needs two new students, but that will wait until September. They talked about the district's current needs with the new heat/temperature law; 22 heat pumps in the high school need attention; the roof in the high school from 2005 is leaking; and technology needs. Nothing scary or major, except the need for a new transportation center; they will work to get the max cost allowance chart and debt falling off chart to get a better understanding of what the district is working with.
 - High School Action Team (HAT): did not meet.
- B. Board President: JoAnne Race reported that she spoke with John Mannion in July, a NYS senator running for congress, who mentioned how the foundation aid system has been broken for so long, and was inequitable in the past. He suggested the board invite Rick Tims to speak at a board meeting. Last Friday, she and Chris DiFulvio attended a meeting with Morrisville-Eaton and NYSED to gather more information regarding a merger/reorganization.
- C. Superintendent of Schools: Chris DiFulvio reported that he went to Laurens, NY last week to speak on foundation aid at one of the Rockefeller Institute's foundation aid formula hearings. Themes that emerged from the testimony include how rural and small city schools have been impacted adversely the most. Rick Tims was present and iterated that if your district has waterfront and a large population of retirees, combined with the current foundation aid formula, it will face issues with aid. Our district recently received \$300K from Senator Al Stirpe in bullet aid, which the district plans to use for Hazel's Path, resurfacing the tennis courts, and HVAC controls. The grade configuration study that was completed in 2016 will need to be done again only if the number of students and classes changes significantly (which it has not since that time). Transportation center update: met with Mike Johnson from Johnson Bros. Lumber last week regarding his property on Stone Quarry and Ballina roads. He proposed \$60 per square foot for the front two buildings which includes any land needed to make them work as a transportation center. Next steps include meeting with a construction team and architects, there are many additional costs involved to retrofit the space. The district continues to work on shared facilities options, but estimates having a response for Johnson Lumber within the next three months.
- D. Assistant Superintendent for Business Administration: Tom Finnerty reported that the auditors were here in early August. There have been no surprises with the use of the capital reserve. Fund balance will decrease this year, Tom will meet with the Finance & Audit Committee in the next few weeks. The facilities department has been working hard to get ready to welcome back students in a few weeks. Athletics turf fields work has been progressing nicely, we're at finishing stages of the track surfacing; community members are walking on this despite fencing and signage, so he is considering hiring overnight security to monitor the track while finishing touches are being laid. Tom asked the community to please stay off the track until it's finished.
- E. Assistant Superintendent of Instruction, Equity and Personnel: Kevin Linck reported a late and sizable surge of new student registrations at Burton Street, with Kindergarten's enrollment increasing recently by almost twenty students alone; Kevin commended Christi Gesner's work as central registrar. Summer school is finishing this week, which included Tier III students, summer school special education students, and BOCES for students who didn't pass a class or Regents exam. Kevin recognized the hard work of our transportation and special education departments for their work over the summer. The last Wednesday and Thursday in August are professional development days with a focus on technology; Kevin thanked Jenn Raux and the library media specialists for all their work.

6. Consent Agenda - Routine Matters

- A. Minutes for July 8, 2024 Organizational Meeting
- B. Financial Reports for June 2024 and July 2024
- C. Budget Transfer Request
- D. Overnight Field Trip Request Cazenovia Aggies FFA to Oswegatchie Summer Camp
- E. Revised Annual Appointments List
- F. Finalized Annual Designations List

NYSSBA Annual Meeting Delegate: Jennifer Parmalee; Alternative: Jan Woodworth

Motion made by Jennifer Parmalee, seconded by Meghan Kelly to approve the Consent Agenda.

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

7. New Business

- A. Resolution to Approve Sports Combination Requests for 2024-25

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

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

- B. Resolution to Approve District Safety Plan SAVE

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

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

- C. Resolution to Approve BLERPS

Motion made by Jennifer Parmalee, seconded by Judith Hight to approve Agenda Item 7C.

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

- D. Resolution to Approve Confirmation of Tax Rolls

Tom Finnerty explained the decrease in equalization rates, as such some towns will see a decrease in school taxes. Tax rate on true is 14.5%. The school budget is a year-round process, and the community needs to be involved as the district and board of education develops it for 2025-26.

Motion made by Ron Luteran, seconded by Meghan Kelly to approve Agenda Item 7D.

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

- E. Resolution to Approve Tax Warrant

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

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

- F. Resolution to Approve Standardization of Aerco brand boilers

Tom Finnerty explained that Burton Street needs to have two boilers replaced. The purpose of specifying a particular boiler in the RFP bid is to make it easier for our building maintenance staff to work on them. This is the brand at the Emory Ave campus.

Motion made by Meghan Kelly, seconded by Ron Luteran to approve Agenda Item 7F

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

- G. Resolution to Approve Capital Project Change Order (Cunningham Excavation)

Ron Luteran spoke about the idea of using pavers for the walkway up to the turf, after the facilities committee was approached by the Cazenovia Athletic Association last year with this idea. Cunningham will be completing this paver walkway with the approval of this change order.

- Motion made by Ron Luteran, seconded by Jennifer Parmalee to approve Agenda Item 7G.*
- *Vote: 7 (in favor) 0 (opposed) Motion passed.*

H. Resolution to Approve 3-Year Uniforms Contract (Vestis Uniforms and Workplace Supplies)

- Motion made by Meghan Kelly, seconded by Jan Woodworth to approve Agenda Item 7H.*
- *Vote: 7 (in favor) 0 (opposed) Motion passed.*

I. Resolution to Approve Modifications of Certain Provisions of the Existing Employment Agreement with Christopher DiFulvio, Superintendent of Schools

- Motion made by Ron Luteran, seconded by Jan Woodworth to approve Agenda Item 7I.*
- *Vote: 7 (in favor) 0 (opposed) Motion passed.*

8. Personnel Report

Jan Woodworth took a moment to recognize Marva Gott, who is retiring on tonight's personnel report as a bus driver with over forty years of service to the district, many of which with perfect attendance.

Motion made by Meghan Kelly, seconded by Jan Woodworth to approve the Personnel Report, and the Supplemental Personnel Report.

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

9. Discussion Items

- A. First Read: Revised Policy # 7241 | Student Directory Information
- B. First Read: Revised Policy # 6121 | Sexual Harassment in the Workplace
- C. First Read: Revised Policy # 7551 | Sexual Harassment of Students
- D. First Read: New Policy # 6460 | Outstanding Career Recognition

No comments, these four policies will be on the next board agenda for a second read.

- E. Reorganization Discussion: On August 9, Chris DiFulvio and JoAnne Race met with Morrisville-Eaton superintendent, M-E board of education vice president, Jeff Madison, and Alan Pole. Mr. Pole would be the one who would complete the feasibility study that is required before any straw polling or voting takes place. Per the notes JoAnne took at the meeting, Mr. Pole said he could start this fall but has been approached by other districts so we would need to commit to his services before another district does so. The study takes about one year to complete. It was recommended that the district invite Mr. Pole to present to the board of education and greater Cazenovia community about what the study entails, which would not include a recommendation, but rather strictly an analysis. Chris DiFulvio and Greg Malloy are working to meet with Senator Griffo to appeal for bullet aid to fund the study.
- F. Bus Garage and Zero-Emissions Buses: Chris DiFulvio said he's still hoping NYS delays the implementation of zero-emissions buses, but regardless, the transportation center still needs to be addressed.
- G. Rockefeller Institute Advocacy Letter: the District Clerk will submit the letter online on behalf of the district. JoAnne Race asked that the letter or a template be sent out to the community encouraging them to write their own letter (once now, and again closer to the deadline).

10. Advance Planning

- A. Future Agenda Items
- B. Future Meeting Dates
 - 1. Board of Education will have its retreat on September 9, 2024 from 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm.
 - 2. Policy committee will meet on August 16, 2024 at 7:30 am.
 - 3. Finance & Audit committee will meet on August 27, 2024 at 8:00 am.

11. Executive Session

Motion made by Meghan Kelly, seconded by Jan Woodworth to move into Executive Session.

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

The Board moved into Executive Session at 7:31 pm.

Motion made by Jan Woodworth, seconded by Judith Hight to return to Public Session.

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

The Board returned to Public Session at 8:32 pm.

12. 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 8:32 pm.

Emily Ayres, District Clerk