



CAZENOVIA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Education Meeting & Public Hearing
Monday, September 16, 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
Board Members Absent:	Jan Woodworth
Administrators Present:	Christopher DiFulvio, Thomas Finnerty, Kevin Linck

1. Call to Order

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

2. Presentation

Kevin Linck presented initial assessment results to the board comparing our data with schools nearby, or similar size and demographics. He spoke about year-over-year 3-8 ELA and math data; AP course offerings; college and career readiness; and rates of graduation with diplomas of advanced designation compared to NYS as a whole. Jennifer Parmalee asked if Kevin could see what the impact on these results has or will be with fewer instructional coaches this year.

3. Public Comments

JoAnne Race opened up the meeting to public comments.

Annie Parry, 5445 Irish Ridge Road, Chittenango: voiced concerns about the use of cellphones in schools.
Emily Swarthout, 2636 State Rte 13, New Woodstock: voiced concerns about racism in schools.
Elena Bassett, 2087 Wright Road, Cazenovia: voiced concerns about racism in schools.

4. Written Communications

JoAnne Race reported the board of education received an email regarding a student concern; student tuition; cars parked along Forman Street; as well as recognition of a career coach in our district.

Chris DiFulvio reported he received written communication regarding the procedures for picking up students after school at Burton Street. He thanked Burton Street Principal, Cristina Knapp, and the NYS Troopers for recently completing a traffic pattern study. Chris acknowledged there is room for improvement, and that many districts are experiencing more parents than in the past who are picking up their children after school. He said a capital project would not realistically happen until at least 2032 to expand the parking lot, but the facilities team is looking into laying down a crusher run to expand the lot in the interim.

5. Information and Reports

A. Board Committees

Board of Education Committees

- Finance & Audit: the committee met on August 27, and in Jan Woodworth's absence tonight,

Tom Finnerty recapped the meeting, which included appropriating \$1.25M back into reserves; discussion of needing to establish a new capital reserve fund for the future transportation center. Tom will share the attachments from that meeting with the full board.

- Policy: the committee met on August 16 where they discussed the cell phone policy, code of conduct, and continued the review cycle into the 6000s. Tonight is a public hearing for the revised Code of Conduct for which there are no changes beyond the name of the DASA Coordinator at Burton Street. At the next meeting JoAnne Race will hand over the role of chair to Judith Hight.

District Committees with Board Representatives

- Communications: did not meet.
- Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI): did not meet.
- Facilities: did not meet.
- High School Action Team (HAT): did not meet.

- B. Board President: JoAnne Race reported she is looking forward to each school's open house; and that the board of education had a great retreat.
- C. Superintendent of Schools: Chris DiFulvio congratulated the 2024 winners of Staff Person of the Year, Amy Haube, and Teacher of the Year, Christy-Lee Brenneck. He reported that our communications/PR expert from BOCES started working on-site today, and will continue to do so two days a week. Over the past few weeks employees have been trained on the new student data management system; Ferrara Fiorenza presented to all staff about political free speech for students and employees. Chris will be attending NYSIT's Disconnected conference in Albany on Friday, per the invitation from Juli Pace at last month's meeting. He reported not having success with asking NYS to pay for the required merger study. School board appreciation week is in October, the Burton Street team has invited the board to attend an event on Tuesday, October 15 in the morning or afternoon, please RSVP with the district clerk. High School Open House is on Thursday, prior to which at 5:30 pm students will have a community dialogue on use of cell phones in the Aux Gym.
- D. Assistant Superintendent for Business Administration: Tom Finnerty reported a busy but smooth start to the school year in the business office. A shared facility study is underway with Collier group, expecting to present at the November board meeting. Checking feasibility of sharing an electric charging station with surrounding municipalities. OACM meetings: TetraTech is trying to make a determination if it's best to build on an existing site or at the recently closed lumber mill in Cazenovia. Tom was recently approached by the Asst. Fire Chief Dan Kuper, who asked if the school district would be interested in participating in a school tax exemption for emergency services volunteers who live in the district, which would be redistributed among the rest of the tax base. Ron Luteran and JoAnne Race asked Tom to acquire additional information for a future discussion.
- E. Assistant Superintendent of Instruction, Equity and Personnel: Kevin Linck previously presented.
- F. Director of Special Education: Micael Speirs submitted a written update.
- G. Elementary School Principal: Cristina Knapp submitted a written update.
- H. Middle School Principal: Amy Getman-Herringshaw submitted a written update.
- I. High School Principal: Molly Hagan submitted a written update.

6. Consent Agenda - Routine Matters

- A. Minutes for August 12, 2024 Regular Meeting
- B. CSE Report for September 2024
- C. Budget Transfer Requests
- D. Field Trip Request

Motion made by Jennifer Parmalee, seconded by Ron Luteran to approve the Consent Agenda.

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

7. New Business

- A. Resolution to Approve *Edited* Modifications of Certain Provisions of the Existing Employment Agreement with Christopher DiFulvio, Superintendent of Schools

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

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

- B. Resolution to Adopt new Vision Statement and Mission Statement

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

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

- C. Resolution to Approve NCERT Agreement

JoAnne Race said the contract is very sophisticated, and asked Chris DiFulvio to explain what the district will get from this plus the doctorate program he is working on. Chris said this is an evolution of the previous superintendent mentoring program, nomination process is by other superintendents, and an opportunity to collaborate with the best superintendents in the country and continue his networking efforts which have brought in over \$300K for the district. This is a membership for the district, not himself personally. Ron Luteran asked about the cost, Tom Finnerty said the funds from the other mentoring program would be applied to this, and the costs to attend the events is included in the fee, and said Chris has been frugal over the years on this budget item. Jennifer Parmalee stressed the importance of investing in well-rounded opportunities that the district can benefit from.

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

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

- D. Resolution to Approve Agreement with Morrisville-Eaton for Tuition-Paying AP Students

Chris DiFulvio summarized this agreement is a pilot program for a student this year who can't fit a specific AP course in their schedule at Morrisville-Eaton. He would like Cazenovia to be proactive about receiving AP tuition-based students as a way to generate revenue and keep a broad selection of course offerings for our students.

Motion made by Jennier Parmalee, seconded by Meghan Kelly to approve Agenda Item 7D.

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

- E. Resolution to Authorize the Superintendent to Pursue a Merger Study with the Morrisville-Eaton School District

Chris DiFulvio clarified this resolution is a formality, which is also on Morrisville-Eaton's board meeting agenda tomorrow night. Both districts are still looking for funding (the grant cycle is in the spring), and could not move forward without board authorization of funding.

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

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

- F. First Read and Approval of Revised Policies # 3421 and # 7551

Motion made by Ron Luteran, seconded by Meghan Kelly to waive the second reading and approve Agenda Item 7F.

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

- G. Public Hearing for the Updated Code of Conduct

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

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

8. Personnel Report

Chris DiFulvio gave context about recent resignations, stating that in general we're seeing people get hired, then leave either before starting or working for a day, to make more money at another school district. Other unique situations include employees relinquishing extra responsibilities and losing the pay associated with it, but no one else willing to take on that work. We're experiencing a working environment that's different than in past years. CUE negotiations will be happening this year.

Motion made by Ron Luteran, seconded by Meghan Kelly to approve the Personnel Report.

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

9. Discussion Items

- A. Second Read: Revised Policy # 7241 | Student Directory Information

Motion made by Jennifer Parmalee, seconded by Ron Luteran to adopt the revised Policy # 7241.

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

- B. Second Read: Revised Policy # 6121 | Sexual Harassment in the Workplace

Motion made by Jennifer Parmalee, seconded by Meghan Kelly to adopt the revised Policy # 6121.

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

- C. Second Read: New Policy # 6460 | Outstanding Career Recognition

Motion made by Judith Hight, seconded by Travis Barr to adopt the new Policy # 6460.

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

- D. Reorganization Discussion: nothing to discuss tonight.

- E. Bus Garage and Zero-Emissions Buses: Tom Finnerty already mentioned this in his update. Ron Luteran said the district will need to establish a new capital project and decide when this vote will happen. Tom Finnerty suggested adding it to the ballot at the budget vote and election in May; the board agreed.

- F. District Contracts: Judith Hight asked why this topic is on the agenda; JoAnne Race said she thought it was a good idea to create a list of what should be brought to the board, after the Capital Region BOCES PR service was hired last winter, as opposed to hiring an individual or other communications service. Tom Finnerty explained the current process, his role, the role of the internal and external auditors, our current policies and general municipal law, aid the district receives on BOCES services, and BOCES by law operating on a zero-based budget with no profit. Chris DiFulvio asked board members if they felt there was something he failed to do with regards to hiring this service through BOCES, and offered to have OCM BOCES Superintendent Matt Cook present to the board about how cross-contracts work. The district ended its cross-contract with CiTi BOCES and switched to Capital Region BOCES. We also currently have Erie 1 BOCES doing policy work, cross-contracts are not unique when a service is not offered within your BOCES. Chris suggested the board review all cross-contract services that aren't related to student services when creating the 2025-26 budget, but ultimately using a BOCES service, even if outside our BOCES through a cross-contract, will be less expensive than hiring an additional employee with benefits, due to state aid we receive.

10. Advance Planning

- A. Future Agenda Items: none added at this time.
B. Future Meeting Dates: The policy committee will meet on Friday, September 27 at 7:30 am. The next regular meeting of the board of education will be held on Tuesday, October 15 at 6:30 pm.

11. Executive Session

Motion made by Travis Barr, seconded by Ron Luteran to move into Executive Session.

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

The Board moved into Executive Session at 8:59 pm.

Motion made by Travis Barr, seconded by Jennifer Parmalee to return to Public Session.

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

The Board returned to Public Session at 9:39 pm.

12. Adjournment

Motion made by Ron Luteran, seconded by Meghan Kelly to adjourn the meeting.

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

JoAnne Race adjourned the meeting at 9:39 pm.

Emily Ayres, District Clerk