

COHOES CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

**Board of Education
Cohoes, New York
Library, Cohoes Middle School**

**Business Meeting
August 5, 2026
6:00 PM**

(The Board of Education may entertain a motion to enter into an executive session subject to Board approval.)

MINUTES

MOTION: To enter into executive session at 5:30 PM to discuss a student matter and to discuss the building level emergency response plans (BLERPS).

Moved by: Mrs. Gendron
All voted: “Aye”

Second by: Mr. Jarosz
Motion Carried 6-0

I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

The Meeting was called to order by the President, Mr. Jackson at 6:05 pm.

Roll Call

Present: Mrs. Burwell
Mrs. Gendron
Mrs. Paradis
Mr. Jarosz
Mr. Dorsey
Mr. Jackson
Absent: Mrs. Snyder

Also Present: Peggy O’Shea, Superintendent
Laura Tarlo, Assistant Superintendent
Stacy Mackey, School Business Official

II. EX OFFICIO STUDENT REPORT

III. DISTRICT REPORTS

Superintendent O’Shea and the Board of Education reviewed the District’s Mission, Vision, Beliefs, and Commitments.

Proposed meeting dates for the upcoming school year were also reviewed as well as proposed meeting presentations. The move to a Tuesday meeting in April was noted as necessary to accommodate the BOCES Budget deadline and a regional holiday on Wednesday. A discussion will be held regarding the presentations at the next meeting for Board input.

Dr. Tarlo discussed the NYSED regulation regarding personal finance education. Beginning in the 2026-2027 school year, middle school students must receive instruction by the end of grade 8 and high school students by the end of grade 12. The District plans to embed these requirements into existing coursework. Elementary implementation must occur for students by the end of grade 4 beginning in the 2027-2028 school year.

Dr. Tarlo also presented SchoolLinks, a college and career readiness platform which will replace Naviance this school year. The platform provides updated college and career information as well as interactive financial literacy

resources. It allows counselors to track student progress and pull state-mandated reporting data. Existing student data is currently being migrated.

Staffing Updates:

- **Assistant Principal Search:** Posting closes Aug 14; first-round interviews Aug 21; second-round performance tasks Aug 26/Sept 1; recommendation targeted for the first September meeting. Gabe White, CHS Dean, has additional summer days to assist. Additional support will be provided as needed, based on the outcome of interviews.
- **Director of MTSS:** A second recruitment round is underway, with interviews scheduled for Tuesday..
- **Other Vacancies:** Screening continues for a Special Education teacher and High School Nurse.

Dr. Tarlo also provided an overview of the Edgenuity software programs currently utilized at the high school.

IV. BOARD OF EDUCATION DISCUSSION OF AGENDA ITEMS

V. COMMUNITY DISCUSSION OF AGENDA ITEMS

VI. OLD BUSINESS

VII. REPORT FROM MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

- A. BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education adopts the [minutes](#) of the July 8, 2026 ReOrganizational Meeting.
- B. BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education adopts the [minutes](#) of the July 8 2026 Business Meeting.
- C. BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education authorizes the following Committees for the 2026-27-school year:
 1. Audit: Mr.Jarosz, Mrs. Paradis and Mrs. Snyder
(Formerly: Mrs. Giller, Mrs. Paradis and Mrs. Snyder)
 2. Budget: Mr Jackson and Mrs. Snyder
(Formerly: Mr. Jackson and Mrs. Snyder)
 3. District Safety: Mrs. Paradis, Mrs. Gendron and Mrs. Burwell
(Formerly: Mrs. Gendron, Mrs. Giller and Mrs. Burwell)
 4. Diversity, Equity and Inclusion: Mrs. Snyder, Mr. Jarosz and Mr. Dorsey
(Formerly: Mrs. Snyder and Mr. Jarosz)
 5. Facilities: Mr. Jackson, Mrs. Gendron and Mrs. Paradis
(Formerly: Mr. Jackson, Mrs. Gendron and Mrs. Paradis)
 6. Policy: Mrs. Paradis, Mr. Jarosz and Mrs. Burwell
(Formerly: Mr. Jarosz, Mrs. Giller and Mrs. Paradis)

7. Technology: Mr. Jarosz and Mr. Dorsey
(Formerly: *Mrs. Giller and Mr. Jarosz*)
 8. Wellness: Mrs. Gendron and Mrs. Burwell
(Formerly: *Mrs. Gendron and Mrs. Burwell*)
 9. Transportation: Mrs Paradis and Mrs. Gendron
- D. BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education approves the 2026-2027 Tax Warrant in the amount of \$18,468,672.00
 - E. BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education accepts the Universal Pre-Kindergarten and State Funded Pre-Kindergarten Plan for the 2026-2027 school year.
 - F. BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education approves the agreement dated July 21, 2026 with the Cohoes City School District and HMB Consultants, LLC, located at 3 Douglas Lane, Voorheesville, NY 12186 for food service consultations for the 2026-2027 school year in accordance with the terms and conditions herein.
 - G. BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education approves a service agreement dated July 1, 2026 by and between the Cohoes City School District and B-Lann Equipment Company Inc, 2288 5th Avenue, Troy, NY to perform inspection, testing and/or maintenance of fire suppression systems at Cohoes High School and Harmony Hill School. The service period is from 07/01/2026 to 06/30/2027 in accordance with the terms and conditions herein.
 - H. BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education approves the 31 Day Emergency Student Transportation Contract to Durham School Services to transport ESY Summer Students; Wildwood Schools Only effective July 13, 2026 to August 21, 2026 and authorizes the State Education Department documentation.
 - I. BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education approves a contract between the Cohoes City School District and Jennifer Bashant for professional development to support building and district teams with multi-tiered systems of support, dated July 14, 2026 at a total cost of \$9,450 with the terms and conditions herein. (grant funded)
 - J. BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education approves the agreement dated July 21, 2026 by and between the Cohoes City School District and Building Blocks Learning Center, LLC located at 19 Robinson Road, Clinton, New York 13323 to assist families in accessing community support and resources.
 - K. BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education approves the contract dated July 1, 2026 between the Cohoes City School District and Parsons Child and Family Center (Satellite Services), located at 60 Academy Road, Albany, NY for special education services during the 2026-2027 school year (rates are subject to finalization by NYSED) in accordance with the terms and conditions herein.
 - L. BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education approves the contract dated July 1, 2026 between the Cohoes City School District and the School at Northeast, located at 1821 Hamburg Street, Schenectady, NY 12304 for special education services during the 2026-2027 school year (rates are subject to finalization by NYSED) in accordance with the terms and conditions herein.

M. BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education approves the agreement between the Cohoes City School District and Conway Entertainment for DJ Services at the Cohoes High School Prom on May 22, 2027 in accordance with the terms and conditions herein.

N. BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education hereby upholds the disciplinary measures imposed on the student discussed in executive session. The appeal is therefore denied.

VIII. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT – PERSONNEL

INSTRUCTIONAL

A. BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education accepts the resignation of Kevin Grudecki from his position as Teaching Assistant (CHS).

Effective: August 29, 2026

B. BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education accepts the resignation of Kerry Bottenfield from her position as English Speakers of other Languages Teacher (CHS).

Effective: August 31, 2026

C. BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education appoints the following individuals as 2026 Extended School Year Substitutes per the CTA contract:

Teachers

Michael Eisenstein*

Teacher Assistants

Michael Eisenstein*

***indicates CTA and must be called first.**

D. BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education amend item VIII (F) of the June 3, 2026 Agenda to read as follows:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education appoints Paige Kenneally to a four - year probationary term in the tenure area of English, effective September 1, 2026, and expiring on September 2, 2030. Ms. Kenneally holds Initial Certification in the area of English Language Arts 7-12.

Paige Kenneally

Position.....1.0 FTE English Teacher (CHS)
Certification.....English Language Arts 7-12
Tenure Area.....English
Effective DateSeptember 1, 2026
Tenure Date.....August 31, 2030
Salary Step + **3** of the current CTA contract

E. BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education appoints the following teachers as per the CTA contract to the 2026 Secondary School Regents Review Classes effective August 10 - August 13, 2026:

Algebra II - Daniel Shepard
Geometry-Daniel Shepard
US History - Michael Eisenstein
Biology - Joshua Clark

- F. BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education approves Jill Havens for summer work as the Dean of Students at her daily rate, not to exceed five (5) days for the 2026-2027 school year.
- G. BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education approves Jeff Huneau for summer work as the Dean Students at his daily rate, not to exceed five (5) days for the 2026-2027 school year.
- H. BE IT RESOLVED THAT that Jeffrey Huneau shall be assigned, as a Teacher of Special Assignment (“TOSA”), to the part-time (.2 FTE) Dean of Students for the 2026-2027 school year, and shall additionally be assigned as a part-time (.8 FTE) Athletic Director for the Cohoes City School District for the 2026-2027 school year. While in this assignment as a TOSA, Mr. Huneau shall remain in the Elementary tenure area and all time spent as a full-time employee, in the positions of Dean of Students and Athletic Director, shall be credited as time in the Elementary tenure area.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the part-time (.8 FTE) Athletic Director stipend position shall be a twelve (12) month position and Mr. Huneau shall be paid a stipend of \$12,000 for the 2026-2027 school year.

- I. BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education appoints the following individuals to the Building Leadership Teams listed below for the 2026-2027 school year:

Abram Lansing Elementary School

Katie Christopher
Valerie Lang
Sue Keough
Bridget Quinlan
Holly Scensny
Carol Blide (CSEA)
Raychel Marcil

Cohoes Middle School

Andee Bartholomew
Melissa Benoit
Elaine Flatow
Lindsay Fontaine
Lorie Monast-Rizzo
Stacey Nolan (CSEA)
Deanna Kelly
Heather Bradt

Harmony Hill School

Morgan Blizinski
Kira Hovey
Samantha Heritage
Sharon Laughlin
Kelsey Cicerone
Stacy Bold (CSEA)
Mark Perry

Cohoes High School

Ashley Hoffman
Amanda Gebur
Jennie Barton
Andrew Hines
Sara Austin (CSEA)
Kristy Groegen
Darnell Douglas

Van Schaick Grade School

Bonnie Bellville
Carrie Bennett
Melissa Lowden
Amber DellaRocco
Amanda Dorr
Pam Krupski (CSEA)
Jacqueline DeChiaro

- J. BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education appoints the following individual as a Long-Term Substitute English Speakers of Other Languages Teacher:

Macy Midla

Position.....Long-Term Substitute English Speakers of Other Languages Teacher (DW)

Effective Date..... September 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027

Salary.....Step 1 of the current CTA contract

- K. BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education appoints the following individual as a Long-Term Substitute Art Teacher:

Eric Gerard

Position.....Long-Term Substitute Art Teacher (AL/HH)

Effective Date..... September 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027

Salary.....Step 1 of the current CTA contract

- L. BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education appoints Alexandra Bobarakis to a four - year probationary term in the tenure area of Elementary, effective September 1, 2026, and expiring on September 2, 2030. Ms. Bobarakis holds Initial Certification in the areas of Childhood Education (Grades 1-6) and Students With Disability (Grades 1-6).

Alexandra Bobarakis

Position.....1.0 FTE Elementary (ALS)

Certification.....Childhood Education (Grades 1-6)

Tenure Area.....Elementary

Effective DateSeptember 1, 2026

Tenure Date.....August 31, 2030

Salary Step 3 of the current CTA contract

- M. BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education appoints Kristen Vadnais to a four - year probationary term in the tenure area of English as a Second Language, effective September 1, 2026, and expiring on September 2, 2030. Ms. Vadnais holds Professional Certification in the area of English To Speakers Of Other Languages.

Kristen Vadnais

Position.....1.0 FTE English as a Second Language (DW)

Certification.....English To Speakers Of Other Languages

Tenure Area.....English as a Second Language

Effective DateSeptember 1, 2026

Tenure Date.....August 31, 2030

Salary Step 10 of the current CTA contract

NON- INSTRUCTIONAL

- N. BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education accepts the resignation of Roxsana Larrick from her position as Special Education Teacher Aide (HH).

Effective: July 27, 2026

- O. BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education approves the following as 2026 Secondary Summer School Teacher Aides Substitutes:

Secondary Summer School
Sherry Thornton
Sarah Austin

- P. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby appoints Jason Cribbs to the **probationary** position of Assistant Director of Facilities subject to the rules of the Cohoes Civil Service Commission; in accordance with Civil Service Rules such appointment is a probationary appointment, jurisdictional classification in NYHELPS.

Jason Cribbs
Position.....1.0 FTE Assistant Director of Facilities (**PROBATIONARY** appt.)
Effective Date.....August 6, 2026
Probation Period.....February 5, 2026
Salary.....\$60,000

VIII. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT – PERSONNEL

NON-INSTRUCTIONAL

- Q. BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education approves the Agreement By and Between the Cohoes City School District and the CSEA Local 1000, AFSCME, AFL-CIO, City of Cohoes SD Unity #6008-00, Albany County Local 801 dated August 5, 2026 relating to the Article XV, Seniority, Section 5.
- R. BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education approves the Agreement By and Between the Cohoes City School District and the CSEA Local 1000, AFSCME, AFL-CIO, City of Cohoes SD Unity #6008-00, Albany County Local 801 dated August 5, 2026 relating to the Senior Cleaner Title.
- S. BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education of the Cohoes City School District hereby appoints Diane Paul to the position of Senior Cleaner, subject to the rules of the Cohoes Civil Service Commission, such appointment is a probationary appointment.

Diane Paul
Position.....1.0 FTE Senior Cleaner (DW)
Effective Date.....July 1, 2026
Probation period.....December 31, 2026
Salary..... per current CSEA contract

- T. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby appoints Richard Dunklee to the **probationary** position of Computer Support Technician, subject to the rules of the Cohoes Civil Service Commission; such appointment is a probationary appointment, jurisdictional classification in NYHELPS.
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this appointment is made on an emergency conditional basis, and subject to both a statement from Mr. Dunklee regarding criminal conviction(s) or pending criminal charges and the receipt of criminal background clearance from the Commissioner of Education. His

continued employment is specifically contingent upon the District's receipt of notice, from the Commissioner of Education, that he is fully cleared for employment.

Richard Dunklee

Position..... 1.0 FTE Computer Support Technician
Effective Date.....August 10, 2026
Probation period.....February 9, 2027
Salary..... per CSEA contract

MOTION: Add VII: N to board member reports, which reads BE IT RESOLVED THAT the board of education hereby upholds the disciplinary measures imposed on the student discussed in executive session. The appeal is therefore denied.

Moved by: Mrs. Gendron
All voted: "Aye"

Second by: Mr. Jarosz
Motion Carried: 6-0

DESIGNATION OF CONSENT AGENDA:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education adopts the following resolutions of the August 5, 2026 Agenda & Addenda:

VII (A-N) , VIII (A-T), X (A) and XI (A-C)

Moved by: Mrs. Gendron

Second by: Mr. Jarosz

All voted: Mrs. Burwell- yes
Mrs. Gendron- yes
Mrs. Paradis- no
Mr. Jarosz- yes
Mr. Dorsey- yes
Mr. Jackson- yes

Motion Carried: 5-1

IX. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT - BUSINESS/FINANCE

X. FINANCIAL REPORTS (Recommended by the Superintendent)

A. I recommend that the following reports be accepted by the Board of Education:

- Warrants- [June 2026](#)
- Budget Transfers – [May 2026](#)
- Budget Status Report – [May 2026](#)
- Revenue Status Report – [May 2026](#)
- Bank Reconciliation Report – May 2026
- Internal Claims Audit Report –n/a

XI. INFORMATION AND CONSIDERATION

- A. BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education accepts the donations from Upstate Images.

\$370.30 - Abram Lansing; Social Worker Supplies

- B. BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education accepts the donations from Pioneer Bank.

\$1,000 - District wide; Special Education Classroom Supplies

- C. BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education accepts the donations from Stewarts.

\$500 - District wide; Special Education Classroom Supplies

XII. COMMENTS FROM BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS

Request for a NYSERDA update, CS Arch will be meeting with NYSERDA, will provide an update at the next meeting.

XIII. QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS FROM AUDIENCE

XIV. BOARD POLICY REVIEW

XV. DATES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

August 26, 2026- Cohoes Middle School Library at 6 PM

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: To adjourn at 6:46 PM

Moved by: Mrs. Gendron
All voted: "Aye"

Second by: Mr. Jarosz
Motion Carried: 6-0

DISTRICT CLERK

(The August 5, 2026 Business meeting of the Cohoes City School District Board of Education can be viewed in its entirety on our website)