

COHOES CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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

**Business Meeting
September 9, 2026
6:00 PM**

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

MINUTES

I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

The Meeting was called to order by the President, Mr. Jackson at 6:03 pm.

Roll Call

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

Also Present: Peggy O'Shea, Superintendent
Laura Tarlo, Assistant Superintendent

II. EX OFFICIO STUDENT REPORT

III. DISTRICT REPORTS

Superintendent O'Shea provided an opening of school and staffing update. She shared that it was a successful opening day and expressed gratitude to our admin, teachers and staff who facilitated a smooth start. She also reported that ELL students at Van Schaick and Abram Lansing transitioned very well to their home school.

Buildings and grounds are in good overall condition. There is an issue with the elevator at Van Schack. Mr. Darcy, Director of Facilities, detailed maintenance issues requiring 3 service calls. Ongoing coordination with CS Arch continues; with an expected Facilities Committee meeting in October.

Initial network connectivity issues with 9th-grade Chromebooks were resolved by IT today. FRP laptops have arrived on site but are pending distribution to students. Missing charger units for 6th-grade Chromebooks at CMS are being addressed.

A slight enrollment decline noted at the middle school, including one smaller cohort. Harmony Hill figures reflect lower counts following ELL students returning to their resident districts which was expected.

Superintendent O'Shea also shared that the Teachers of Tomorrow Grant for Math, Science, Bilingual Education and ENL was officially approved by NYSED (\$25,000 for the current year, renewable for 3 additional years). This will allow for tuition reimbursement for teachers working on certification in these areas.

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 August 26, 2026 Business Meeting.
- B. BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education establishes the following prices for meals for the 2026-2027 school year.

Food Service Pricing:

Breakfast Prices

Adult price (sales tax to be added): \$3.62

Lunch Prices

Adult price (sales tax to be added): \$5.40

- C. BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education awards the Elevator Maintenance/Repair Bid dated August 26, 2026 as follows:

TK Elevator in the amount of \$15,600 for maintenance, and an established hourly rate for repairs

- D. BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education approves an Agreement with the [Boys and Girls Club of the Capital Region \(CBO\)](#) located at 21 Delaware Avenue, Albany, New York dated September 2, 2026 for Pre-Kindergarten Program services for the period of September 2, 2026 through June 30, 2027 in accordance with the terms and conditions herein.
- E. BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education approves the individual student contract dated August 31, 2026 between the Cohoes City School District and Hillcrest Educational Centers, Inc. (Day School), located at 788 South Street, Pittsfield, MA 01201 for educational services in the 2026-2027 school year at a rate of \$83,123.51 per student in accordance with the terms and conditions herein.
- F. BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education approves the agreement between the Cohoes City School District and Advanced Therapy located at 10B Madison Avenue Ext., Albany, NY for the provision of related services to students as needed at the contracted rates from July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027 in accordance with the terms and conditions herein.
- G. BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education approves the contract dated August 26, 2026 between the Cohoes City School District and the Capital Area School Development Association (CASDA), located at University at Albany 1400 Washington Avenue, Catskill B27, Albany, New York 12222 to support the continued development and effectiveness of the Special Programs Department, at a cost of \$14,000 for the term of August 27, 2026- June 30, 2027 in accordance with the terms and conditions herein. (grant funded)
- H. BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education approves the agreement between the Cohoes City School District and Riverside Insights, One Pierce Place, Suite 900W Itasca, IL 60143 for Social Emotional Learning software licenses for the period of August 15, 2026 through August 14, 2027 for \$8,977.50 in accordance with the terms and conditions herein. (grant funded)

- 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 the district and building teams with multi-tiered systems of support for the 2026-2027 school year, dated September 7, 2026 at a total cost of \$55,912.50 with the terms and conditions herein. (grant funded)
- J. BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education approves a contract between the Cohoes City School District and Sarah Cioffi for professional development to support Cohoes High School ENL Content area teachers for the 2026-2027 school year, at a total cost of \$8,000 with the terms and conditions herein. (grant funded)

VIII. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT – PERSONNEL

INSTRUCTIONAL

- A. BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education accepts the resignation of Busra Sivaslioglu from her position as English as a Second Language Teacher (DW).

Effective: September 25, 2026

- B. BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education amend item VIII (JJ) of the June 17, 2026 Agenda to read as follows:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education appoints ~~the following individual as a Long-Term Substitute School Psychologist.~~ Melissa Canastra to a four - year probationary term in the tenure area of School Psychologist, effective September 1, 2026, and expiring on August 31, 2030. Ms. Canastra holds Provisional Certification in the area of School Psychologist.

Melissa Canastra

Position.....~~Long-Term Substitute~~ 1.0 FTE School Psychologist (HH)
Certification.....School Psychologist
Tenure Area.....School Psychologist
Effective Date.....September 1, 2026 ~~through June 30, 2027~~
Tenure DateAugust 31, 2030
SalaryStep 1 of the current CTA contract

- C. BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education amend item VIII (O) of the July 8, 2026 Agenda to read as follows:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education appoints ~~the following individual as a Long-Term Substitute Teacher.~~ Brianna Delgado to a four - year probationary term in the tenure area of School Psychologist, effective September 1, 2026, and expiring on August 31, 2030. Ms. Delgado holds Provisional Certification in the area of School Psychologist.

Brianna Delgado

Position.....~~Long-Term Substitute~~ 1.0 FTE School Psychologist (VS)
Certification.....School Psychologist
Tenure Area.....School Psychologist
Effective Date.....September 1, 2026 ~~through June 30, 2027~~
Tenure DateAugust 31, 2030

SalaryStep 1 of the current CTA contract

- D. BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education amend item VIII (K) of the August 5, 2026 Agenda to read as follows:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education appoints ~~the following individual as a Long-Term Substitute Art Teacher:~~ Eric Gerard to a four - year probationary term in the tenure area of Art, effective September 1, 2026, and expiring on August 31, 2030. Mr. Gerard holds Initial Certification in the area Visual Arts.

Eric Gerard

Position.....~~Long-Term Substitute~~ 1.0 FTE Art Teacher (AL/HH)
Certification.....Visual Arts
Tenure Area.....Art
Effective Date..... September 1, 2026 ~~through June 30, 2027~~
Tenure Date.....August 31, 2030
Salary.....Step 1 of the current CTA contract

- E. BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education amend item VIII (J) of the August 5, 2026 Agenda to read as follows:

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 to a four - year probationary term in the tenure area of English as a Second Language, effective September 1, 2026, and expiring on August 31, 2030. Ms. Midla holds Initial Certification in the area of English to Speaker of Other Languages.

Macy Midla

Position.....~~Long-Term Substitute~~ 1.0 FTE English Speakers of Other Languages Teacher (DW)
Certification.....English to Speaker of Other Languages
Tenure Area.....English as a Second Language
Effective Date..... September 1, 2026 ~~through June 30, 2027~~
Tenure Date.....August 31, 2030
Salary.....Step 1 of the current CTA contract

- F. BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education appoints the following individuals as proctors and/or scorers for the August 2026 Regents exams:

Jacqueline Adams	Kaitlyn Kidder
James Fredricks	Daniel Shepard
Ashley Hoffman	Alicia Tommasino

- G. BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education approves the employment agreement of Joseph M. Lopez as Interim Assistant Principal at Cohoes High School for the period of time from September 8, 2026 through October 23, 2026 in accordance with the terms and conditions set forth herein.

- H. BE IT RESOLVED THAT that the Board of Education accepts the recommendation that Tatianna Rivera Truesell be compensated retroactively for her services as jv cheerleading coach for the 2025-2026 school year.

NON- INSTRUCTIONAL

- I. BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education accepts the resignation of Peter Mahoney from his position as Network Administrator (DW).

Effective: October 9, 2026

- J. BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education appoints the following individual as Part Time Safety Officers for the 2026 Summer programs:

Drew Rentz

- K. BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education appoints the following individuals as Part Time School Safety Officers for the 2026-2027 school year:

Gerard Buchanan Terrance Burns, Sr. Anthony D'Angelico John DeMio	Shawn Higgins Michael Nadeau Jason Oliver Drew Rentz
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- L. BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education appoints Scott McKown to the position of Part-Time School Safety Officer, subject to the rules of the Cohoes Civil Service Commission, such appointment is a temporary appointment.

Scott McKown

Position..... Part-Time School Safety Officer
Effective Date.....September 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027
Salary.....\$26.50 per hour

- M. BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education appoints Cherie Marcucci to the position of Part-Time Teacher Aide subject to the rules of the Cohoes Civil Service Commission, such appointment is a temporary appointment.

Cherie Marcucci

Position.....Part-Time Teacher Aide (HH)
Effective Date.....September 8, 2026 through June 30, 2027
Salary.....\$16.50 per hour

- N. BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education appoints Bridget Howansky to the position of Part-Time Teacher Aide subject to the rules of the Cohoes Civil Service Commission, such appointment is a temporary appointment.

Bridget Howansky

Position.....Part-Time Teacher Aide (AL)
Effective Date.....September 8, 2026 through June 30, 2027
Salary.....\$16.50 per hour

- O. BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education appoints Jazlynn Kohler to the position of full time Teacher Aide, subject to the rules of the Cohoes Civil Service Commission, such appointment is a probationary appointment.

Jazlynn Kohler

Position.....1.0 FTE Teacher Aide (CMS)
Effective Date.....September 8, 2026
Probation period.....March 7, 2027
Salary.....entry level per current CSEA contract

- P. BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education appoints Megan Angus to the position of full time Special Education Teacher Aide, subject to the rules of the Cohoes Civil Service Commission, such appointment is a probationary appointment.

Megan Angus

Position.....1.0 FTE Special Education Teacher Aide (HH)
Effective Date.....September 8, 2026
Probation period.....March 7, 2027
Salary.....entry level per current CSEA contract

- Q. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby appoints Blaine Shafer to the **probationary** position of Senior Account Clerk Typist, subject to the rules of the Cohoes Civil Service Commission; such appointment is a probationary appointment, jurisdictional classification in NYHELPS.

Blaine Shafer

Position.....1.0 FTE Senior Account Clerk Typist
Effective Date.....September 21, 2026
Probation period.....March 20, 2027
Salary.....per CSEA contract

VII. REPORT FROM MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

- K. 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 teachers in a behavior development classroom for the 2026-2027 school year, dated September 7, 2026 at a total cost of \$3500 with the terms and conditions herein. (grant funded)

VIII. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT – PERSONNEL

- R. BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education amend item VIII (P) of the August 26, 2026 Agenda to read as follows:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education appoints the following individual as a Long-Term

Substitute ~~Teaching Assistant~~ **Special Education Teacher**:

Sofia Marra

Position...Long-Term Substitute ~~Teaching Assistant~~ **Special Education Teacher** (HH)

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

Salary.....**As per Step 1 of** the current CTA contract;

.....~~Teacher Assistant Salary Schedule with BA/BS~~

- S. BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education amend item VIII (KK) of the August 26, 2026 Agenda to read as follows:

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

Kathleen Childs

Position.....Long-Term Substitute Special Education Teacher (CMS)

Effective Date..... September ~~1~~, **23**, 2026 through June 30, 2027

Salary.....Step 5 of the current CTA contract

- T. BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education approves a salary increase due to additional teaching assignments for the following individuals for the 2026-2027 school year:

Erin Abbott – 0.025 FTE as per CTA contract – Art (VS)

Elira Mavraj - 0.05 FTE as per CTA contract - Music (HH/AL)

Effective: September 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027

DESIGNATION OF CONSENT AGENDA:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education adopts the following resolutions of the September 9, 2026 Agenda & Addenda:

VII (A-K) , VIII (A-T), X (A) and XI (A)

Moved by: Mrs. Gendron

All voted: “Aye”

Second by: Mr. Jarosz

Motion Carried 6-0

IX. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT - BUSINESS/FINANCE

X. FINANCIAL REPORTS (Recommended by the Superintendent)

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

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

XI. INFORMATION AND CONSIDERATION

- A. BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education accepts the donations from Albany County:

\$9000 - Cohoes Middle School, Speak Sobriety; assembly on substance abuse & mental health awareness

XII. COMMENTS FROM BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS

Welcome back, everyone! Mrs. Gendron reported a fantastic turnout for our first home football game on Friday evening. A warm official welcome to our Ex Officio Student Board Members; Superintendent O'Shea said she looks forward to meeting with them at the high school in the coming week or so.

XIII. QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS FROM AUDIENCE

XIV. BOARD POLICY REVIEW

XV. DATES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

September 23, 2026- Cohoes Middle School Library at 6 PM

October 7, 2026- Cohoes Middle School Library at 6 PM

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: To enter into executive session at 6:18 PM to discuss matters leading to the appointment of a particular person and to discuss the Superintendent's Goals.

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

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

Roll Call

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

MOTION: To adjourn at 6:38 PM

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

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

DISTRICT CLERK

(The September 9, 2026 Business meeting of the Cohoes City School District Board of Education can be viewed in its entirety on our website)