COHOES CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Education **Business Meeting**
Cohoes, New York **October 21, 2026**
Library, Cohoes Middle School **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 6:01 pm.

Roll Call

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

Absent: Mr. Jarosz

Also Present: Peggy O'Shea, Superintendent
Laura Tarlo, Assistant Superintendent
Stacey Mackey, Business Official
Grace Jarosz, Ex Officio Student Member
Hibah Junaid, Ex Officio Student Member

II. EX OFFICIO STUDENT REPORT

Hibah Junaid and Grace Jarosz recently attended a NYSSBA training session with other ex officio student board members from across the capital district and subsequently met over lunch with Superintendent O'Shea and Dr. Tarlo. They were eager to share the insights gained from the training and provide updates regarding District activities.

During their update, they highlighted the success of Homecoming week and expressed gratitude to the staff for their dedication. The dance and athletic events saw strong attendance. Upcoming opportunities for student involvement include "Real Kids Wear Pink" this Friday and an upcoming Halloween haunted house.

Additionally, they presented a proposal for a Student Advisory Committee designed to enhance communication between students, administration and the Board of Education. Key details of the proposal include:

- Broad representation spanning multiple grade levels, including both younger and older students.
- Inclusion of students from athletics, the arts, community events, and those not currently involved in extracurricular groups.
- Focus areas covering school policies and protocols and general school matters.
- Structured operations, including regular meeting schedules and clear operational guidelines.

Mr. Jackson thanked the students for their presentation and expressed enthusiasm for continuing discussions regarding the structure and implementation of the proposed Student Advisory Committee.

III. DISTRICT REPORTS

Van Schaick Grade School (VSGS) presented as part of Board Appreciation Week to express gratitude to the board members for their hard work and dedication to the district. Mrs. De Chairo spoke on behalf of VSGS to thank the board for their time, followed by a short appreciation video featuring staff and students.

Middle School Building Leadership Team (BLT) Update

Ms. Bradt and members of the Middle School BLT introduced themselves and outlined their roles in the district. They highlighted several key updates, including expanding the DESSA benchmark to all students, transitioning to SchoolLinks, and implementing HERO(Here Everyday Ready and On Time) parties to encourage student attendance. Additionally, they discussed building on past PBIS and "Tigers on Track" initiatives, conducting a teacher survey to identify staff strengths for professional learning, adapting future-ready skills into a "Portrait of an 8th Grade Graduate," and directly involving students in teacher team meetings to boost engagement.

The board thanked the leadership team for their efforts and continued dedication.

Dr. Tarlo detailed the schedule for the upcoming Superintendent's Conference Day on Election Day. The day will open with employee recognition, followed by staff training in CPR?AED, Stop the Bleed, Choking First Aid and Allergic Reaction Response in collaboration with the Cohoes Fire Department. Elementary grade-level teams will gather for joint intervention training, ENL teachers will hold dedicated team time, office and clerical staff will receive Lexekeet training, and staff will complete mandatory online training via Vector at the end of the day.

Superintendent O'Shea provided a brief staffing update; interviews for the MTSS teacher stipend positions were concluded today and will be submitted for approval on the upcoming board meeting agenda.

Stacy Mackey, School Business Official, provided several operational and financial updates. Regarding the Smart Schools Bond Act, an assurance form was requested for an outstanding $219k claim, which is currently progressing. For financial planning and audits, CTA negotiations are approaching, ST3 and financial audits will wrap up by month-end, and a long-term financial plan will be presented at the December meeting.

In terms of facilities and grounds,an employee survey was shared with custodians, cleaners and maintenance workers which will be reviewed in the near future. As part of the NYSERDA grant process, RFPs for consultant services will be advertised October 23 with vendor emails going out, followed by interviews scheduled between November 2–13, 2026.

Additionally, regarding site works and facilities, access road paving is postponed until spring due to weather, and storage sheds will remain off-site temporarily as construction finishes. The auditorium is ready to be turned over ahead of the November 3rd conference day discussed by Dr. Tarlo,. The next Facilities Committee meeting is scheduled for December 9th, 2026 with a Facilities Presentation at the December 16 meeting.

IV. BOARD OF EDUCATION DISCUSSION OF AGENDA ITEMS

V. COMMUNITY DISCUSSION OF AGENDA ITEMS

VI. OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Jackson thanked District Clerk, Ashley Simmons, for sharing information regarding the future purchase of

board meeting software, the board will review and discuss again at the next meeting.

VII. REPORT FROM MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

A. BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education adopts the minutes of the October 7, 2026 Business Meeting.

B. BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education accepts the minutes for the Committee on Special Education and the Committee on Pre-School Special Education for the following dates:

9/4/26, 9/5/26, 9/9/26, 9/11/26, 9/14/26, 9/15/26, 9/17/26, 9/18/26, 9/20/26, 9/22/26, 9/23/26, 9/25/26, 9/28/26, 9/29/26, 9/30/26, 10/1/26, 10/5/26, 10/8/26, 10/9/26

C. BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education amend item VI (M) of the August 26, 2026 Agenda to read as follows:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education approves the contract for Positivity Project Annual Partnership, PO Box 87644, Fayetteville, NC 28304 for use at Cohoes Middle School and Cohoes High School for the period of July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027 for ~~$3,995.00~~ **$7,990.00** in accordance with the terms and conditions herein. (grant funded)

VIII. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT – PERSONNEL

INSTRUCTIONAL

A. 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:

John Flanigan– 0.1 FTE as per CTA contract – Special Education (CHS)
Effective: September 25, 2026 through December 31, 2026

Thomas Supeau– 0.2 FTE as per CTA contract – ENL (CHS)
Effective: October 9, 2026 through December 31, 2026

B. BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education amend item VII (Q) of the April 15, 2026 Agenda to read as follows:

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

Emily Durkee
Position……...Long-Term Substitute Special Education Teacher (CHS)
Tenure Area……Special Education
Effective Date……May 4, 2026 through ~~**December 31, 2026**~~ **June 30, 2027**
Salary ……..……..Step 1 of the current CTA contract

C. BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education amend item VII (L) of the June 30, 2025 Agenda to read as follows:

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

Michael Eisenstein
Position……..…..……Long-Term Special Education Teacher (CHS)
Tenure Area……..……Special Education
Effective Date…….September 1, 2025 through ~~**December 31, 2026**~~ **June 30, 2027**
Salary ……..……..…..Step 4 of the current CTA contract

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

Aaron Madej
Position……..…..……Long-Term Special Education Teacher (CHS)
Tenure Area……..……Special Education
Effective Date……..…….October 26, 2026 through June 30, 2027
Salary ……..……..…..Step 1 of the current CTA contract

E. BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education appoints Jaimee Wagner to a four - year probationary term in the tenure area of Elementary, effective November 2, 2026, and expiring on November 1, 2030. Ms. Wagner holds Professional Certification in the areas of Childhood Education (Grades 1-6) and Early Childhood Education (Birth -Grade 2).

Jaimee Wagner
Position.....1.0 FTE Elementary (AL)
Certification.....Childhood Education (Grades 1-6)
Tenure Area.....Elementary
Effective Date .....November 2, 2026
Tenure Date.....November 1, 2030
Salary ..... Step 10 of the current CTA contract

NON- INSTRUCTIONAL

F. BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education accepts the resignation of Katelynn Howes from her position as a Part Time Teacher Aide (HH).

Effective: October 9, 2026

G. BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education accepts the resignation of William Darcy from his position as a Director of Facilities III (DW).

Effective: October 30, 2026

H. BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education hereby appoints the following individual to the Cleaner Substitute list, subject to the rules of the Cohoes Civil Service Commission, such appointments are temporary appointments.

Carol Gaudette
Effective: September 21, 2026
Candice Siracuse
Effective: October 14, 2026

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

Tamara Messier
Position.....Substitute Part-Time Teacher Aide (DW)
Effective Date.....October 19, 2026 through June 30, 2027
Salary.....$16.50 per hour

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- September 2026
- Budget Transfers – August 2026
- Budget Status Report – August 2026
- Revenue Status Report – August 2026
- Bank Reconciliation Report – August 2026
- Internal Claims Audit Report – September 2026

XI. INFORMATION AND CONSIDERATION

DESIGNATION OF CONSENT AGENDA:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education adopts the following resolutions of the October 21, 2026 Agenda & Addenda:

VII (A-C) , VIII (A-I) and X (A)

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

Second by: Mrs. Paradis
Motion Carried 6-0

XII. COMMENTS FROM BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS

XIII. QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS FROM AUDIENCE

Dumpster placement from the middle school - A community member wanted to make sure the members of The Board all received the letter of concern that was submitted, Superintendent O'Shea has been speaking with the architects and will be in touch with a solution.

XIV. BOARD POLICY REVIEW

Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for October 28, 2026.

XV. DATES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

November 4, 2026 - Cohoes Middle School Library at 6 PM
November 18, 2026- Cohoes Middle School Library at 6 PM

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: To enter into executive session at 6:41 PM to discuss tenure recommendations.

Moved by: Mrs. Gendron
Second by: Mr. Dorsey
All voted: "Aye"
Motion Carried: 6-0

Roll Call

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

MOTION: To adjourn at 7:00 PM

Moved by: Mrs. Gendron
Second by: Mrs. Paradis
All voted: "Aye"
Motion Carried: 6-0

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DISTRICT CLERK

(The October 21, 2026 Business meeting of the Cohoes City School District Board of Education can be viewed in its entirety on our website)