

COHOES CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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

**Business Meeting
September 23, 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 6:01 pm.

Roll Call

Present: Mrs. Burwell
Mr. Jarosz
Mr. Dorsey

Absent: Mr. Jackson
Mrs. Snyder
Mrs. Gendron
Mrs. Paradis

Also Present: Peggy O'Shea, Superintendent
Laura Tarlo, Assistant Superintendent
Stacey Mackey, Business Official

II. EX OFFICIO STUDENT REPORT

III. DISTRICT REPORTS

Dr. Tarlo presented the Smart Device Policy Law report, which is now available on the district website's technology page as mandated by state requirements. Key findings from the data include; the freshman classes recorded the highest number of infractions, with a higher prevalence among male students. No racial disparities were identified. The primary focus moving forward is strategic planning to effectively support students. .

Superintendent O'Shea shared the new signage outlining Parent & Community Expectations that will be displayed at each building. Signage will also be at Alumni Field and Mr. Huneau emphasized spectator expectations at athletic events, collaborating with the communications team to ensure broad outreach across the community.

Ms. O'Shea also shared cost estimates regarding the lease of community center space for an alternative learning program. She also shared that committee schedules and calendar dates are currently being finalized and will be shared in the near future.

Stacy Mackey, School Business Official, provided an overview of school taxes to address community inquiries regarding tax bills. The presentation clarified the distinction between the tax levy (voted on by the Board and approved by voters during the spring budget vote) and the tax rate. To enhance communication in future cycles, the district is exploring visual aids, such as graphs, for upcoming tax summaries.

Superintendent O'Shea reviewed evening agenda items and provided staffing updates across the district:

- Contract approval for Compass Staffing Solutions to cover speech services during the search for a permanent Speech Teacher.

- Ongoing recruitment efforts for ENL Teachers, Special Education Teachers at the high school, and Teaching Assistant vacancies.

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 September 9, 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:

8/6/26, 8/12/26, 8/18/26, 8/19/26, 8/25/26, 8/26/26, 8/27/26, 8/31/26,
9/1/26, 9/2/26, 9/3/26, 9/5/26, 9/8/26, 9/13/26

- C. BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education approves the individual student contract dated September 8, 2026 between the Cohoes City School District and Vanderheyden, located at P.O. Box 219 Wynantskill, New York 12198 for educational services in the 2026-2027 school year at a rate of \$62,523 per student (rates are subject to finalization by NYSED) in accordance with the terms and conditions herein.
- D. BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education approves the agreement between the Cohoes City School District and Compass Staffing Solutions, LLC located at 4263 County Road 18, Canandaigua, New York 14424, effective September 8, 2026 to provide educational and therapeutic services in accordance with the terms and conditions herein.
- E. BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education awards the Additional Transportation, School and Summer ESY (2027) BID dated September 10, 2026 for the Cohoes City School District, to Durham School Services located at 1 Industry Drive Waterford, NY 12188 for:

Daily Rate: \$560.29 round trip

- F. BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education approves an agreement between the Cohoes City School District and SB Entertainment for DJ Services at the Cohoes High School Homecoming dance on September 26, 2026 in accordance with the terms and conditions herein.
- G. **WHEREAS**, the Cohoes City School District offers an annual “Ski Club” each year to eligible students; and
WHEREAS, the District has determined that, for the 2026-2027 school year, Brown Coach (“Brown”) represents the best value to the District for the transportation of District Ski Club members to and from the ski location; and
WHEREAS, Brown has provided to the District Purchase Orders/Charter Coach Confirmations setting forth the pertinent terms and agreements between the parties relating to the transportation of Ski Club Participants for the 2026-2027 school year; and

WHEREAS, more specifically, Brown has provided Purchase Orders/Charter Coach Confirmations for the following dates: January 1, 2027 through March 1, 2027; and

WHEREAS, the District desires to approve the Purchase Orders/Charter Coach Confirmations for the aforementioned dates.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the Cohoes City School District hereby approves the Purchase Orders/Charter Coach Confirmations issued by Brown Transportation to the District relating to the transportation of the District's Ski Club on those dates set forth above and authorizes the payments associated therewith.

VIII. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT – PERSONNEL

INSTRUCTIONAL

- A. BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education appoints the following individuals to the Substitute Teacher and Tutor list:

Thomas Etzkorn

Effective: September 24, 2026

- B. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Cohoes City School District, based upon a review of the employment history of Christian Gunn, Music Teacher, which reveals that Mr. Gunn was not appointed to tenure in the Music tenure area after serving the requisite probationary period in that tenure area, hereby corrects his employment status to grant him tenure by estoppel in the Music tenure area, retroactive to March 31, 2025.

- C. BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education amend item VIII (U) of the August 26, 2026 Agenda to read as follows **INTRAMURALS (CMS) ONLY**:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education appoints the following individuals as advisors to the clubs and activities listed for the 2026-2027 school year, contingent upon acceptable program enrollment:

Clubs and Activities	Name	FTE
INTRAMURALS (CMS)	TBD Aaron Boudreau	1.0

- D. 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:

Busra Sivaslioglu – 0.2 FTE as per CTA contract – ENL (DW)

Effective: September 10, 2026 through September 25, 2026

- E. BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education appoints John Ketchoyian to the position of Head Athletic Chaperone for the 2026-2027 school year in the amount of \$2,000 (grant-funded)
- F. BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education accepts the resignation of Keith Fischer from his position as Special Education Teacher Leader (CHS).

Effective: October 16, 2026

- G. BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education approves the leave of absence request of Keith Fischer from his position as Special Education Teacher (CHS).

Effective: October 16, 2026 through June 30, 2027

- H. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby accepts the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools to appoint Keith Fischer to a one (1) year term appointment as a Long Term Substitute Assistant Principal (CHS), commencing October 19, 2026 to June 30, 2027 at a salary of \$101,100 (pro-rated).

NON- INSTRUCTIONAL

- I. BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education accepts the resignation of Linnel Birth from his position as Cleaner (CMS).

Effective: October 9, 2026

- J. BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education appoints Mark Charette as the Head Maintenance Project Coordinator for the 2026-2027 school year per CSEA contract.

- K. BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education appoints Dina Dupuis as the Medicaid Billing Clerk for the 2026-2027 school year per CSEA contract.

- L. BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education appoints the following individuals as Cleaner Leaders for the 2026-2027 school year per CSEA contract.

Kenneth Daigneault - Cleaner Leader (Cohoes High School)
Michelle Farmer - Cleaner Leader (Cohoes Middle School)
Tracie MacPherson - Cleaner Leader (Harmony Hill School)
Tamara Messier - Cleaner Leader (Abram Lansing Elementary School)
Lori Paro - Cleaner Leader (Van Schaick Grade School)

- M. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby appoints Michael Peterson to the **probationary** position of Custodian, subject to the rules of the Cohoes Civil Service Commission; such appointment is a probationary appointment, jurisdictional classification in NYHELPS.

Michael Peterson

Position.....1.0 FTE Custodian (VS)
Effective Date.....September 8, 2026
Probation Period..... March 9, 2027
Salary..... per CSEA contract

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

Mira Brehm

Position.....1.0 FTE Teacher Aide (CHS)
Effective Date.....September 14, 2026

Probation period.....March 13, 2027
Salary.....entry level per current CSEA contract

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

Alexis England
Position.....1.0 FTE Teacher Aide (HH)
Effective Date.....September 14, 2026
Probation period.....March 13, 2027
Salary.....entry level per current CSEA contract

- P. BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education appoints Crystal Perry 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.

Crystal Perry
Position.....1.0 FTE Special Education Teacher Aide (AL)
Effective Date.....September 21, 2026
Probation period.....March 20, 2027
Salary.....entry level per current CSEA contract

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

Sharon Santoro
Position.....Part-Time Teacher Aide (AL)
Effective Date.....September 14, 2026 through June 30, 2027
Salary.....\$16.50 per hour

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

Danielle Lord
Position.....Part-Time Teacher Aide (HH)
Effective Date.....September 18, 2026 through June 30, 2027
Salary.....\$16.50 per hour

VII. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT – PERSONNEL
INSTRUCTIONAL

- S. BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education accepts the resignation of Alexandra Bobarakis from her position as an Elementary Teacher (AL).

Effective: October 22, 2026

- T. BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education appoints the following individuals to the coaching positions listed below for the 2026-2027 school year, as per the CTA contract. Position is contingent upon acceptable program enrollment:

CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITY	NAME	FTE
Soccer - Unpaid Girls, Varsity	Dan Carpenter	0.0

- U. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby appoints Amanda Vacha to the position of Senior Typist (12 Month, School Schedule), subject to the rules of the Cohoes Civil Service Commission; such appointment is a probationary appointment, jurisdictional classification in NYHELPS.

Amanda Vacha

Position.....1.0 FTE 12 Month Senior Typist (School Schedule) (CHS)

Effective Date.....September 24, 2026

Probation period.....N/A

Salary..... per CSEA contract

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

XI. INFORMATION AND CONSIDERATION

- A. BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education approves the fully depreciated [Digento Paper Cutter](#) to be removed from the fixed asset inventory at Page Avenue.

Tag Number 2945

DESIGNATION OF CONSENT AGENDA:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education adopts the following resolutions of the September 23, 2026 Agenda & Addenda:

VII (A-G , VIII (A-U), X (A) and XI (A)

Moved by: Mr. Jarosz
All voted: “Aye”

Second by: Mr. Dorsey
Motion Carried 4-0

XII. COMMENTS FROM BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS

Official welcome and congratulations to Keith Fischer as the new Assistant Principal of Cohoes High School.

XIII. QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS FROM AUDIENCE

XIV. BOARD POLICY REVIEW

XV. DATES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

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

October 21, 2026- Cohoes Middle School Library at 6 PM

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: To enter into executive session at 6:29 PM to discuss matters leading to the appointment and employment of a particular person and to discuss a student matter.

Moved by: Mr. Jarosz
All voted: "Aye"

Second by: Mr. Dorsey
Motion Carried: 4-0

Roll Call

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

MOTION: To adjourn at 7:15 PM

Moved by: Mr. Jarosz
All voted: "Aye"

Second by: Mr. Dorsey
Motion Carried: 4-0

DISTRICT CLERK

(The September 23, 2026 Business meeting of the Cohoes City School District Board of Education can be viewed in its entirety on our website)