COHOES CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Education **Business Meeting**
Cohoes, New York **November 4, 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. Gendron
Mrs. Paradis
Mr. Jarosz
Mr. Jackson
Absent: Mrs. Snyder

Also Present: Peggy O'Shea, Superintendent
Stacey Mackey, Business Official
Grace Jarosz, Ex Officio Student Member

II. EX OFFICIO STUDENT REPORT

Grace reported that attendance at the CHS haunted house was even higher than last year. The event was great fun and the students really enjoyed their time preparing for it together. Additionally, a Student Advisory Board meeting with Principal. Georgen has been scheduled to discuss a proposed Senior/Freshman mentorship program aimed at fostering connections and offering guidance to freshmen.

III. DISTRICT REPORTS

Mrs. Laughlin from Harmony Hill, along with two (2) fifth grade students, presented a proposal for a new STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) Club at Harmony Hill Elementary. The board loves the idea and a proposal to move forward with establishing the club was addressed.

Elementary Building Level Team (BLT) Plans:

Van Schaick Grade School: Presented first by Mrs. DeChairo and the BLT. Highlights include:

- Established grade-level goals for Math and ELA.
- Reintroduced a monthly newsletter to keep parents informed.
- Hosted building-wide open doors over the summer.

Participating building-wide in a nationwide Kindness Challenge.

Harmony Hill: Presented by Principal Mark Perry and the BLT. Highlights include:

- Implementing Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) with an emphasis on district-wide alignment and collaboration.
- Added Math Academic Intervention Services (AIS), which has proven very successful.
- Discussed attendance strategies to address chronic absenteeism.
- Evolving Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) toward classroom- and special class-focused awards (e.g., Golden Crayon, Golden Sneaker) rather than individual rewards.

Increased family engagement at school events and organized staff appreciation activities to support a positive

school climate.

Abram Lansing: Presented by Principal Raychel Marcil and the BLT. Highlights include:

- Expanded the MTSS program district-wide following a successful pilot last year; recognized Julie Carroll as a valuable staff resource.
- Updated the school-wide PBIS program to positive student feedback.
- Continued commitment to reducing chronic absenteeism, supported by attendance rewards.
- Welcomed ENL students back to their home building along with their families.
- Partnered with Russell Sage College for a weekly "Power Lunch" reading program for students.

Upcoming field trips: Grades 3–5 to Proctor's to see *The Wiz*, Grades 1–2 working with a dance company, and Grades K–2 attending *Arthur* at the Cohoes Music Hall.

Follow-up & Updates

- A new location for the dumpster has been identified at the middle school.
- A meeting is scheduled for tomorrow with a potential Interim Director of Facilities.

Exploring outside agencies for speech therapy services due to ongoing challenges; still trying to find science teachers.

Stacy Mackey, School Business Official reported on the NYSERDA RFP: Received 5 responses. Interviews will begin next week.

IV. BOARD OF EDUCATION DISCUSSION OF AGENDA ITEMS

Congratulations to Abram Lansing teacher, Stacey Hanley on receiving tenure; reminder we will honor all tenure recipients and retirees at a reception in June.

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 October 21, 2026 Business Meeting.

B. BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education amend item VII (H) of the August 5, 2026 agenda to read as follows:

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~~ **August 12, 2026** and authorizes the State Education Department documentation.

C. 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 August 13, 2026 through August 31, 2026 and authorizes the State Education Department documentation.

D. BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education approves the agreement between the Cohoes City School District and Turner Construction Company , located at 1 Computer Drive South Albany, New York 12205 for Construction Management services for the 2025 Capital Improvement Project in accordance with the terms and conditions herein.

E. BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education approves the contract dated July 29, 2026 by and between the Cohoes City School District and Crossroads Center for Children, 395 Becker Drive, Schenectady, New York for special education services from September 9, 2026 through June 25, 2027 at a rate of $52,178.00 (rates are subject to finalization by NYSED) and in accordance with the terms and conditions herein.

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:

Bruno, Anna
Corrigan, Patrick
Gallant, Patricia
Pigliavento, Colleen
Prevratil, Frank
Valenti, Sheri
Van Royen, Joanna

Effective: November 5, 2026

B. BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education accepts the resignation of Mary Durkin from her position as a Speech Teacher (AL).

Effective: November 23, 2026

C. BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education **rescind** its action on item VIII (D) of the October 21, 2026 Meeting agenda:

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

D. BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education amend item VII (G) of the October 25, 2023 Agenda to read as follows:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education of the Cohoes City School District appoints Stacey Hanley to a four - year probationary term in the tenure area of Special Education, effective November 6, 2023 and expiring on ~~**November 5, 2027**~~ **November 23, 2026**. Ms. Hanley holds Professional Certifications in the areas of Students With Disabilities (Grades 1-6) and Childhood Education (Grades

1-6).

Stacey Hanley
Position..... 1.0 FTE Special Education Teacher (AL)
Certification..... Students With Disabilities (Grades 1-6)
Tenure Area..... Special Education
Effective Date..... November 6, 2023
Tenure Date ..... ~~**November 5, 2027**~~ **November 23, 2026**
Salary ..... Step 10 of the current CTA contract

E. BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education grant tenure to the following individual in the subject area listed:

Ms. Stacey Hanley (Abram Lansing Elementary School) – Special Education
Effective: November 23, 2026

F. BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education amend item VIII (G) of the October 7, 2026 Agenda to read as follows:

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:

Bonnie-Jo Bellville – 0.125 FTE as per CTA contract – ENL (VS)
Katrina Keith – 0.125 FTE as per CTA contract – ENL (VS)
Effective: September 28, 2026 through ~~**October 30, 2026**~~ **December 31, 2026**
Emily Durkee – 0.2 FTE as per CTA contract – Special Education (CHS)
Margaret Brownell – 0.2 FTE as per CTA contract – Special Education (CHS)
Denise Assalian – 0.2 FTE as per CTA contract – Special Education (CHS)
Effective: September 25, 2026 through December 31, 2026

G. BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education amend item VIII (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 ~~**June 30, 2027**~~ **September 14, 2026**
Salary ……..……..Step 1 of the current CTA contract

H. BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education appoints Emily Durkee to a four - year probationary term in the tenure area of Special Education, effective September 15, 2026, and expiring on September 14, 2030. Ms. Durkee holds Initial Certification in the areas of Students With Disabilities - Grades 7-12

Generalist and Social Studies 7-12.

Emily Durkee
Position.....1.0 FTE Special Education (CHS)
Certification.....Students With Disabilities - Grades 7-12 Generalist
Tenure Area.....Special Education
Effective Date .....September 15, 2026
Tenure Date..... …….....September 14, 2030
Salary ..... Step 2 of the current CTA contract

I. BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education appoint the following teacher as Teacher Leader to the subject area listed for the 2026-2027 school year:

Cohoes High School
John Ketchoyian– Special Education
Effective: October 26, 2026

J. BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education appoint the following individual to the 2026-2027 Future-Ready Pathways Extended Learning Program (grant funded):

Teachers
Denise Assalian - Substitute

K. BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education appoint the following individuals as MTSS Building Coordinators with a stipend of **$4,800** (pro rated) for the 2026- 2027 school year (grant funded) :

Christina Kellar - Van Schaick Grade School
Holly Scensny - Abram Lansing Elementary School
Kimberly Rooney - Harmony Hill School
Katherine Rumsey - Cohoes Middle School
Marilyn Barton - Cohoes High School

Effective: October 26, 2026

L. BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education appoint 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
Volleyball - Modified	Hannah Mazzeo	1.0

M. 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:

NON-

CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITY	NAME	FTE
Basketball - Boys Varsity	Jeffery Huneau	1.0
Basketball - Boys Unpaid Assistant	Michael Marcil	0
Basketball - Boys Unpaid Assistant	Brian Murley	0
Basketball - Boys JV	Nicholas Izzo	1.0
Basketball - Boys Modified	Joseph Landers	1.0
Basketball - Girls Varsity	Morgan Blizinski	1.0
Basketball - Girls Modified	Molly Stewart	1.0
Indoor Track - Boys Varsity	Kerry Winters	1.0
Indoor Track - Girls Varsity	Jennifer VanHorne	1.0
Indoor Track - Varsity Assistant	Michaela Troy	1.0
Bowling - Varsity	Pamela Bertrand	1.0
Bowling - Unpaid Assistant	William Lajeunesse	0
Bowling - Unified	Ashley Hoffmann	1.0
Cheerleading - Varsity (Winter)	Hanna Wilson	1.0
Chealeading - JV	Tatianna Rivera-Truesell	1.0

INSTRUCTIONAL

N. 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.

Anna Hicks
Effective: November 5, 2026

O. BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education accepts the resignation of Blake Edgington from his position as a Campus Safety Monitor (VS).

Effective: October 28, 2026

P. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby appoints Erica Coleman to the position of Senior Typist (10 Month), subject to the rules of the Cohoes Civil Service Commission; such appointment is a probationary appointment, jurisdictional classification in NYHELPS.

Erica Coleman
Position.....1.0 FTE 10 Month Senior Typist (CHS)
Effective Date.....October 26, 2026
Probation period.....April 25, 2027
Salary..... per CSEA contract

Q. BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education hereby appoints Bridget Howanksy 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.

Bridget Howansky
Position.....1.0 FTE Special Education Teacher Aide (AL)
Effective Date.....November 5, 2026
Probation period.....May 4, 2027
Salary.....entry level per current CSEA contract

ADDENDA

VI. REPORT FROM MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

F. BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education accepts the resignation of Mykel Dorsey from his position as trustee with the Cohoes City School District Board of Education.

Effective: November 3, 2026

VII. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT – PERSONNEL

INSTRUCTIONAL

R. BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education accepts the resignation of Helen Annely from her positions as Elementary Musical - Director and High School Play - Artistic Director.

Effective: November 2, 2026

S. 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
Football - Varsity Assistant	Desmond Biechman	1.0
Wrestling - Varsity Head	Desmond Biechman	1.0
Wrestling - Assistant	Gary Carbonneau	1.0

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

Isabella Romano
Position……...Long-Term Substitute English Teacher (CHS)
Tenure Area……..…….……English
Effective Date……November 17, 2026 through June 30, 2027
Salary…..…….……..Step 1 of the current CTA contract

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 – additional; year end- June 2026
- Budget Status Report – n/a
- Revenue Status Report – n/a
- Bank Reconciliation Report – n/a
- Internal Claims Audit Report – n/a

XI. INFORMATION AND CONSIDERATION

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education adopts the following resolutions of the November 4, 2026 Agenda & Addenda:

VII (A-F) , VIII (A-T) and X (A)

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

Second by: Mr. Jarosz
Motion Carried 5-0

XII. COMMENTS FROM BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS

XIII. QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS FROM AUDIENCE

XIV. BOARD POLICY REVIEW

First Reading: Policy Revisions and Consolidations
The following policies are presented for first reading as part of a consolidation and reorganization of Board Policy. Certain policies are proposed for abolishment, with their substantive provisions incorporated into revised or existing policies.

- Proposed Revisions
  5100 Student Attendance
  5151 Students in Temporary Housing

- Proposed Revisions to existing policies to incorporate content from abolished policies:
  1050 Annual District Election and Budget Vote

- Proposed abolishment of the following policy; whose content has been incorporated to the above:
  2120.1 Candidates and Campaigning

XV. DATES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

November 18, 2026- Cohoes Middle School Library at 6 PM
December 16, 2026- Cohoes Middle School Library at 6 PM

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: To enter into executive session at 7:30 PM to discuss matters leading to the employment and appointment of a particular person, tenure recommendations and legal matters.

Moved by: Mrs. Gendron
All voted: "Aye"
Second by: Mr. Jarosz
Motion Carried: 5-0

Roll Call

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

MOTION: To adjourn at 7:55 PM

Moved by: Mrs. Gendron
All voted: "Aye"
Second by: Mr. Jarosz
Motion Carried: 5-0

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DISTRICT CLERK

(The November 4, 2026 Business meeting of the Cohoes City School District Board of Education can be viewed in its entirety on our website)