

Central Bucks School District
School Board Brief
March 20, 2025

At the March 20, 2025 School Board Meeting, the Central Bucks Board of School Directors:

Announced that the Board met in Executive Session with counsel on February 23, 2025, February 26, 2025, March 1, 2025, and March 18, 2025 regarding personnel matters related to the allegations of abuse at Jamison Elementary School. Solicitor Diasio announced that the Board met in Executive Session on March 20, 2025, prior to this evening's meeting, regarding collective bargaining for Transportation, the Act 93 group, and to hear the annual school safety and emergency preparedness report.

Heard Superintendent's Report:

Recognitions: Dr. Yanni recognized and congratulated Barclay Elementary 5th-grade student David Martinez-Cortes, this month's Portrait of a Graduate lock screen contest winner for the attribute "Thoughtful Collaborators".

Dr. Yanni recognized and congratulated Holicong 9th grader Chase Williams, who recently became the first CBSD Freshman to win the PIAA 3A State Championship in wrestling. Chase is also the first state wrestling champion from CB East since senior Marc Sodano in 1982.

Dr. Yanni recognized and congratulated three middle school students who were named winners in the Phillips' Mill Community Association's third-annual "Play with Words" Student Playwriting Challenge: Tohickon 8th-grade student Corinne Brintnall, Unami 9th-grade student Josilyn Hill, and Tamanend 9th-grade student Charley Mahar.

Dr. Yanni recognized and congratulated Tamanend administration and teachers Kerri Brumbaugh and Adam Paulus for earning the Technology and Engineering Education Middle School Program of Excellence Award from the International Technology and Engineering Educators Association and the Technology and Engineering Education Association of Pennsylvania.

Next, students from each of our high schools shared updates: Max Jin, CB South, spoke about National Merit Scholarship finalists, Writing Center tutors presenting at Brigham Young University, a \$30,000.00 PA House of Representatives Grant earned by the OEG Club, DECA Club competition that advanced to the International competition, HOSA Club state conference, Community Career Fair on April 4th, Internship program Luncheon on April 24th, Student Council fundraising for a basketball tournament, and the theater club's production of "Sweeney Todd".

Gavin Gross, CB West, spoke about West United Club's presentation about "Words that Hurt" to Kutz 5th-graders, No Place for Hate status, student achievements in Digital Art, Boys and Girls Wrestling State Championships, and National Merit Scholarship finalists.

Amanda Garvey, CB East, spoke about fundraising activities by Patriot Players to sponsor a Make-A-Wish child each year, the annual Children's Workshop, and this year's production of "Anastasia".

Remarks: Dr. Yanni announced that the district will engage Mr. Steve Skrocki, formerly the chief financial officer of the North Penn School District, to serve as an interim CFO upon Tara Houser's transition from the district. Mr. Skrocki will provide interim services until the district identifies a full-time CFO.

Dr. Yanni announced that the Board approved the multi-prime construction contracts for the CB East realignment renovation project. The contracts were awarded to Twining Construction, Integrity Mechanical, GM Cooper Mechanical, and BSI Electrical Contractors. The cost of the project is approximately \$9.9 million.

Dr. Yanni announced that Emergency Operation Plans and MOUs with local law enforcement are on tonight's agenda. These emergency operations plans are updated periodically and shared with first responders. The MOUs between CBSD and the seven municipal police departments that have law-enforcement jurisdiction over our schools are mandated by Pennsylvania statute and are required to outline services and cooperation between the school district and local law-enforcement.

Dr. Yanni announced that several textbook approvals and First Readings of Policies appear on tonight's agenda.

Dr. Yanni spoke about there being recent news stories regarding the U.S. Department of Education and fears about cuts in federal funding to school districts. The district has not been informed of any reductions in federal funding for next year. When the district learns of final allocations, that information will be shared during meetings of the Finance and Operations Committee as well as during Board meetings.

Dr. Yanni announced that parents and guardians are invited to a screening of "Screenagers: Elementary School Age Edition" at 7:00 p.m. on March 25th in the Lenape Middle School auditorium. This digital wellness event is open to all adults in Central Bucks with no pre-registration required. Mrs. Foley thanked the parents who have led this effort.

Dr. Yanni announced that the third Town Hall regarding Doyle Elementary School, Kutz Elementary School, and Linden Elementary School will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 27th at CB South. All community members are invited to attend.

Heard Public Comment about agenda items:

1. Edward Mackouse spoke about a shortage of special education teachers and aides, conflicts in schools, present and past rates of autism, that vaccines should be voluntary, and parents and teachers cooperating together.
2. Shannon Harris spoke about Policies 113.1 and 113.2, student discipline, and asked why the investigation will take three months, what progress has been made so far, and how much money has been spent so far. Ms. Harris asked that the findings be presented at the next board meetings and read aloud part of School Board Policy regarding corporal punishment, restraints, locked spaces, and water deprivation and then spoke about the treatment of Mr. Pepper's son in his school. Ms. Harris asked if teachers are given district policies upon their hire, and suggested adding wording to policies that indicate that parents should be communicated with.
3. Doreen Stratton said that her comment is about non-agenda topics; she will continue speaking during the second public comment section (see speaker #13 in section 14A, below).

Approved the minutes of the February 20, 2025 School Board Meeting.

Reviewed School Board Reports:

Education Committee.

Policy Committee.

Finance and Operations Committee.

Bucks County Intermediate Unit.
Middle Bucks Institute of Technology.

Approved Business Department Items:

Financial Reports.

Accounts Payable Check Disbursements in the amount of \$4,248,871.59.

Staff conferences and workshops in the amount of \$19,280.00.

Harrison Tax Settlement in the amount of \$5,962.00.

Rzepski Tax Settlement in the amount of \$3,556.21.

Calahan Tax Settlement in the amount of \$4,455.11.

Nikpour Tax Settlement in the amount of \$3,416.85.

Staff Conferences and Workshops in the amount of \$28,558.00.

SOO Group, Inc. contract for interim CFO in the amount of \$1,045.00 per day.

Independent Consultant contract for HR services in the amount of \$150.00 per hour.

Screenagers film license in the amount of \$700.00.

Parameters Resolution for \$49,500,000.00 Bond Insurance.

Approved Operations Department Items:

Purchase of two work vans in the amount of \$118,096.22.

Purchase of HVAC control parts for Mill Creek in the amount of \$89,634.00.

Summer flooring projects in the amount of \$171,196.50.

Roof replacement and façade repairs at Holicong and CB West in the amount of \$1,483,000.00.

Chair lift shaft modifications at Butler in the amount of \$55,000.00.

Summer paving projects in the amount of \$1,019,159.85.

Operations building generator installation in the amount of \$194,449.00.

CB East realignment renovation construction contracts in the amount of \$9,928,793.00.

Unami chiller repair in the amount of \$29,900.00.

Petition to Doylestown Borough to vacate McFarlane Lane right-of-way at CB West.

Updated District Emergency Operations Plan

Local Police Departments MOUs.

Approved Special Education Department Item:

Settlement Agreement in the amount of \$98,118.00.

Settlement Agreement in the amount of \$5,000.00.

IEP Waiver Agreement.

IEP Waiver Agreement.

IEP Waiver Agreement.

IEP Waiver Agreement.

Aspire Educational Services Agreement

Approved Education Items:

Accounting Pod Software in the amount of \$3,750.00.

Textbook Adoption: AP Psychology in the amount of \$110,972.14.

Textbook Adoption: AP United History in the amount of \$45,093.00.

Textbook Adoption: Social Studies Alive in the amount of \$881,324.85.

Adoption of Reading Horizons Version 9 in the amount of \$1,156,894.00.

Approved Policy Items:

First Read: School Board Policies 103.1, 113, 113.1 and 113.2.

Second Read: School Board Policies 208 and 626.

Approved Field Trips:

CBS HOSA Club in March 2025.

CBW HOSA Club in March 2025.

CBE Mock Trail Team in March 2025.

CBS FBLA Club in April 2025.

CBE Girls Track in April 2025.

CBS Technology Student Association in April 2025.

CBE, CBS, and CBW STEM/Biotech Classes in May 2025.

CBS Cheerleaders in August 2025.

Approved Human Resources Department Items:

Retirements, Resignations, and Terminations.

Leaves of Absence: Affirmation.

Leaves of Absence: Approval

Appointments.

Assignment, Classification, and Status Changes.

New Positions.

Activities EDRs and Athletic Points.

Heard Public Comment:

A. Public Comment: 1. Steven Albert spoke about tunnel vision and anchoring bias, walking on wood chips barefoot, Temple Grandin's teachings about the autistic mind, fixating on a water fountain, and that pressure can be calming for a child's nervous system. Mr. Albert spoke about names being left off of Human Resources lists for months. Mr. Albert spoke about the hostile tone at board meetings and about the Board being here for the students and their teachers. Mr. Albert spoke about children being deserving of respect for their private lives.

2. Mariann Davies spoke about her shock at Mr. Albert's comments, yesterday's protests at schools about Department of Education cuts that aren't happening, misinformation, and about the actions and inactions by Mr. Pepper's colleagues.

3. Edward Mackouse spoke about vaccines and autism, teachers breaking up fights between students, restraining children without hurting them, the Department of Education, Robert F. Kennedy Jr., and visiting classrooms during open school weeks.

4. Shannon Harris spoke about Mrs. Zdanowicz's comment that the special education policies on the agenda do not have substantial changes. Ms. Harris said that things listed in the policy happened to Mr. Pepper's son.

5. Chris Vecchione spoke about collaboration, lawsuits, getting back on track for students, kids with disabilities who have no voice being let down, and asked for resignations.

6. Dave Elliot spoke about the cover-up of the abuse of a student with autism, getting back to common sense in the classroom, and about Mr. Haring's lawsuit against the district.

7. Daniel Grabianowski spoke about actions that occurred at Jamison and non-action afterwards. Mr. Grabianowski read aloud a police-supplied report about allegations at Jamison Elementary. Mr. Grabianowski asked if there has been a cover-up and asked why Mr. and Mrs. Pepper weren't informed.

8. Christy Callaghan spoke about the Pennsylvania Department of Education finding that unlawful restraints were used and read aloud a December email from Dr. Yanni to Mr. Pepper.

9. Debra Cannon read aloud an August Courier Times quote from Dr. Yanni about leadership. Ms. Cannon thanked Mrs. Gibson, Mrs. Reynolds, Mr. Kimicata, and Mrs. Foley for having courage. Ms. Cannon spoke about the abuse of Mr. Pepper's son. Ms. Cannon spoke about Mrs. Smith acting like she is above the law, protecting the people who covered up the abuse of children, and asked for Mrs. Smith's resignation.

10. Vonna DeArmond spoke about policy not superseding free speech. Ms. DeArmond spoke about Mrs. Smith's vote to support political policies and asked if policy changes will fix situations of abuse. Ms. DeArmond spoke about mandatory reporter training and asked if HR Director Freiling completed mandatory reporter training. Ms. DeArmond spoke about the need for apologies and change. Ms. DeArmond asked Mrs. Smith not to send unsolicited emails.

11. Lisa Sciscio spoke about Mrs. Smith being one of the people who are covering up for Dr. Yanni, Dr. Garvin, Mr. Freiling, and Ms. Trawinski. Ms. Sciscio spoke about a campaign mailer that included confidential information about Mr. Pepper's son.

12. Lisa Pepper spoke about her son's treatment in his school: being restrained for 20-40 minutes at a time multiple times per day, being forced to lie naked on a bathroom floor on a regular basis, being physically punished and emotionally abused on a regular basis, and being restricted from having water. Ms. Pepper spoke about finding out that her son bumped heads with an art room aide, who suffered a concussion, ten months after it happened. Ms. Pepper spoke about Dr. Yanni, Dr. Garvin, Mr. Freiling, and Ms. Trawinski concealing the abuse of her son. Ms. Pepper thanked Mrs. Gibson, Mrs. Reynolds, Mrs. Foley, and Mr. Kimicata for keeping politics out of this for the good of the children, and said that she will get justice for her son.

13. Doreen Stratton spoke about the condition of schools in Kenya and about Central Bucks public school taxes that pay for the education of future leaders of America. Ms. Stratton spoke about Secretary of Education Linda McMahon.

Following Public Comment, Mr. Haring said that he does not have a lawsuit against the district but didn't finish his comment because President Gibson called for a motion to adjourn.