

Central Bucks School District
School Board Brief
May 15, 2025

At the May 15, 2025 School Board Meeting, the Central Bucks Board of School Directors:

Announced that the Board met with labor counsel in Executive Session on April 29, 2025, May 1, 2025 and May 12, 2025 regarding matters of personnel related to the ongoing investigation at Jamison Elementary.

Heard Superintendent's Report: President Gibson and Mr. Jaffe recognized and congratulated CB South 12th-grade student Faye Bader, this month's Portrait of a Graduate lock screen contest winner.

Next, students from each of our high schools shared updates:

Landon Schea, junior at CB West, spoke about students named Academic All-Americans by the National High School Coaches Association, Delaware Valley Science Fair winners, Harlequin Club's Philadelphia's Independence Award and Bucks County Playhouse Festival nominations, Bucks County High School Poet of the Year, BCCC Short Fiction Contest, FCS students participating in the annual Feed My Starving Child drive, the senior prom and the annual Senior Sunset.

Avery Donahue, senior at CB East, spoke about OEG Club's modified "workout of the day" and push-up contest fundraisers that funded care packages for deployed military personnel, Memorial Day ceremonies at Wesley Enhanced Living, the VFW parade, and the track teams advancing to districts.

Amritha Sakamuri, junior at CB South, spoke about DECA Chapters, the Titan Thespian's Philadelphia Independence Award nomination, a toy drive and field day for students at Sheppard Elementary School, the Penn State science competition, a military recognition ceremony, and the junior and senior proms.

Dr. Malone congratulated students Damon Baierschmidt, Blair Blake, Audrey Gaona, Dylan Hargrove, Sarah Maclean, Anna Nicotra, Brian File, Abhinav Medi, and Ivan Urquia for being selected to the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association All-State Music Ensembles. Additionally, Blair Blake received first prize in the National Association of Music Education All-Eastern Composition Showcase, and Brian File was selected for the All-Eastern Festival.

Dr. Malone congratulated CB South teacher Frank Woodring and students Rita Moskowitz and Brooke Rosica of the CB South Operation Eternal Gratitude Club for applying for and being awarded a \$30,000.00 grant to help the club expand its work of providing care packages to active-duty military personnel overseas.

Dr. Malone and teacher Mark Hayden recognized and congratulated STEM Research students who took First Place in the Delaware Valley Science Fair: Aaditya Kambli, Prisha Parmar, Nilesh Pothirajan, Anna Ries, Snayhin Sharma, Soumil Sharma, Brianna Sisca, Anya Vijay, Sudhir Yelamarthy, and Dharunish Yugeswardeenoo. Mr. Hayden also recognized students who are competing in the Regeneron ISEF in Columbus Ohio right now: Prisha Parmer and Soumil Sharma.

Dr. Malone spoke about some of the items listed on tonight's agenda, including a funding contribution for a CBSD Education Foundation's EmpathED event, the 432.4 million dollar proposed 2025-2026 budget, an authorization to appeal the latest verdict in the equal pay lawsuit, and the 1,541 seniors who will graduate on June 11th.

Heard Public Comment about agenda items:

1. Evelyn Sanchez, CB student, spoke about students involved in the Harlequin Club at CB West and the need for space to store costumes, changing areas, and having restrooms located near the auditorium.
2. Dawn Marinello spoke about the equal pay lawsuit victory in Federal Court, an inaccurate email to the community sent by the CBSD board, and asked board members to vote "no" to the appeal authorization on the agenda.

3. Rebecca Cartee-Haring spoke about the equal pay lawsuit's jury finding that CBSD violated the EPA law twice, CB sending Dr. Zaleski to sit in at the trial, five years' of Discovery, and that the Board should compromise with the teachers who asked for a salary review.

4. Ed Mackouse spoke about the bullying policy, CB being an outstanding school district, automatic salary step increases for teachers, hiring being based on supply and demand, the definition of bullying, male National Merit Scholarship winners, and Title IX.

5. Art Larson spoke about taxes and about "Woke", tax increases in recent years, school districts getting into financial jeopardy, and said that the Board has a responsibility to not be propagandized and to stop raising taxes.

Approved the minutes of the April 24, 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 \$2,842,102.63.

RingCentral/CSG Agreement in the amount of \$729,921.00

R. Gundlach Stipulation

Stone Manor Corporate Centre Stipulation

General Supplies Bid Purchases in the amount of \$491,023.03.

Team Sports Supplies Bid Purchases in the amount of \$103,034.08.

Transportation Fleet Repairs and Maintenance Bid Awards.

Transportation Oil, Grease, and Fluids Bid Awards.

5-Year Maille Auditor Agreement

Blejwas Associates Refrigeration Unit Condenser Replacements in the amount of \$77,482.84.

Staff conferences and workshops in the amount of \$5,020.00.

CBSDEF EmpowerED Conferences in the amount of \$10,000.00.

Proposed 2025-2026 Final Budget in the amount of \$432,431,226.00.

Approved Other Board Action Items:

Ratification of placement of Dr. Steven Yanni on paid administrative leave effective 4/24/25.

Appointment of Dr. Charles Malone as Substitute Superintendent effective 4/24/25.

Approval of Substitute Superintendent Employment Contract for Dr. Charels Malone.

Resolution naming Dr. Helen Sclama Zaleski as Administrator of Special Assignment effective May 15, 2025 - June 30, 2025.

Independent Consultant Agreement with Dr. Beverly Cragg for special education services.

BCIU Agreement for office assistance for Human Resources and Business Offices.

Appeal authorization for Equal Pay lawsuit.

Amended 2026-2027 district calendar.

Election of Barbara Markowitz as Board Treasurer effective May 10, 2025 - June 30, 2025.

Election of Barbara Markowitz as Board Treasurer effective July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026.

Election of Stephanie Radcliffe as Board Secretary effective July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2029.

Approved Operations Department Items:

CBS stadium turf remediation in the amount of \$36,337.75.
CBE and CBW realignment furniture in the amount of \$162,998.60.
CBS orchestra pit modifications in the amount of \$45,955.00.
Offix Systems Administration Center furniture in the amount of \$175,000.00.
Holicong underground oil storage tank removal and closure in the amount of \$42,750.00.
CBE and Holicong water supply system engineering services proposal in the amount of \$221,150.00.
CBE, CBS, and CBW realignment projects construction management services in the amount of \$1,202,600.00.
CBE, CBS, CBW, and Mill Creek realignment special inspection services in the amount of \$76,000.00.
Doylestown Borough waiver of land development and easement agreements for CBW additions.

Approved Special Education Department Item:

Settlement Addendum.
Settlement Agreement in the amount of \$144,457.00.
IEP Waiver Agreement.
IEP Waiver Agreement.

Approved Student Services Items:

K/S Consultants contract in the amount of \$50,000.00.
2024-2025 School Year and 2025 ESY Devereux Agreement in the amount of \$20,000.00.
2025-2026 School Year ND Alliance Mentoring Program in the amount of \$1,500.00.
2025-2026 School Year PowerSchool Naviance Agreement in the amount of \$30,428.38.

Approved Education Items:

Textbook Adoption: AP French in the amount of \$14,816.24.
Textbook Adoptions: 6th Grade Advanced Math, Accelerated Math 7, Academic Math 6, and Academic Math 8 in the amount of \$247,047.72.
Textbook Adoptions: Algebra 1, Algebra 1A, and Algebra 1B in the amount of \$281,151.50.
MTSS Mathematics Resources: Pilot cost is \$1,858.81; 6-year cost (if implemented) would be \$186,048.00.
Renaissance Star grades K-6 Reading and Math academic screening tool in the amount of \$225,300.00.

Approved Policy Items:

Second Read: School Board Policies 004, 006.1, 121, and 249.

Approved Student Items:

2025 Senior Classes for Graduation
2025-2026 foreign exchange student at CBE.
2025-2026 foreign exchange student at CBS.
2025-2026 middle school tuition student.
CBE Choir in June 2025.
CBW Football in July 2025.
CBE Patriot Players in October 2025.

Approved Human Resources Department Items:

Resignations and Terminations.
Leaves of Absence: Affirmation.
Leaves of Absence: Approval
Appointments.
Assignment, Classification, and Status Changes.
Activities EDRs

Sabbaticals.

Heard Public Comment:

1. Michelle Crunkleton spoke about teenagers and sleep deprivation, statistics about the effects that sleep deprivation has on students, and said that later school start times should be part of the Comprehensive Plan.
2. Alyssa Marie spoke about her experience working in the autistic classroom at Jamison Elementary School. Alyssa Marie said that there was a consistent pattern of neglect, abuse, and mistreatment. Alyssa Marie spoke about accountability, standing up for children who cannot speak for themselves, and about her decision to speak out on November 14th.
3. Michael Henry asked why people are remaining silent and spoke about his child being subjected to abuse and neglect in the Jamison Elementary classroom, Dr. Yanni having deceived him, and that he wouldn't have known what happened if not for the whistleblower. Michael Henry asked how the Board can ensure that this never happens again and about having cameras in classrooms and said that anyone who enables abuse to happen should be gone from the district.
4. Maureen Sanchez spoke about having helped to raise money for organizations. Maureen Sanchez spoke about the Harlequin Club needing space in their school building. Maureen Sanchez spoke about CB West being the smallest high school and not having space to lose.
5. Ed Makouse spoke about having once been in the New York teachers union and that teachers' priorities should be their students, not money. Edward Mackouse spoke about the Board's priority being to hire the best teachers.
6. Mariann Davies spoke about the devastating reports regarding Jamison Elementary School that detailed the nature and severity of abuse, Dr. Garvin's retirement, and Board members who have remained silent.
7. Christina Bucci spoke about Advanced Placement courses, student mental health, and AP Capstone program and diplomas.
8. Donna O'Donnell spoke about her child being overlooked and neglected in the Jamison Elementary School classroom, not having been contacted by the Board, district, or school principal, covering-up for neglect, and the need to stand up for all children.
9. Vonna DeArmond spoke about the microphone volume, thanked the whistleblower for coming forward, asked why Dr. Garvin wasn't placed on leave along with the others who were placed on leave, spoke in support of Dr. Malone serving as substitute superintendent, and spoke about the equal pay lawsuit. Vonna DeArmond spoke about Rebecca Cartee-Haring and some Board members having said in the past that biological males who identify as women are women, and asked if those Board members and Rebecca Cartee-Haring would consider males who identify as women applicable to the EPA lawsuit.

Heard Board Comment:

Mr. Pepper said that there will be no criminal prosecution of the people who hurt our children by Jen Schorn or by Dave Sunday. Mr. Pepper spoke about our children having the same Constitutional rights, under the law, that we all have. Mr. Pepper spoke of disabled non-verbal children with autism not having equal protection under the law in this Commonwealth and County. Mr. Pepper spoke of there having been 2,933 illegal restraints used on his child from early September through December 20. Mr. Pepper asked United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania David Metcalf and asked United States Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Right Division head Harmeet Dhillon to open investigations into the violation of these children's Constitutional rights.

Mrs. Smith spoke about her suggestion to add an additional teacher to the Jamison Elementary classroom to ensure the safety of the students, which was acted upon. Mrs. Smith spoke about the nature of government work, and that decisions and action can take time. Mrs. Smith thanked people for their patience.

