

School Board members present:

Christopher Boniakowski
Peter Joy Engel
Jennifer McVeigh
Phil Saucier, *Chair*
Lee Schroeder
Caitlin Sweet
Cynthia Voltz, *Vice Chair*
Tori Stevens, *Student Representative*
Madison Kirwan, *Student Representative*

Superintendent Christopher Record, Ph.D.

A Cape Elizabeth Community Public Forum on a three school phased project preceded the regular business meeting. Board Chair Phil Saucier and Dr. Record opened the Forum, prior to Lisa Sawin from Harriman Architects' presentation. *[16:37 mins in]* Public comments and questions followed. *[30:53 mins in]* The Public Forum with remote participation concluded at approximately *1:18:44 mins in*.

MINUTES

Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance

1. **ADJUSTMENTS TO AGENDA** *–[1:26:40 mins in]* Agenda items 5a and 5b were moved up in the agenda.
2. **APPROVAL OF SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES** *[1:37:12 mins in]*

a. Regular Business, Tuesday, January 14, 2025

Motion: Ms. Sweet Second: Ms. Voltz Vote: Approved 7-0

3. **COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC ON AGENDA ITEMS** (per [BEDH](#))— *[1:37:36 mins in the recording]*

- Elisa Matheson (270 Fowler Rd) - spoke in support of this evening's agenda item 9a, resolution in support of fostering community of respect, inclusivity and support for everyone in our schools.
- Cassie Nedwell (276 Spurwink Ave) - three children in school, she and spouse are alumni. She said her family has experienced racism this year in Cape Elizabeth Schools.
- Michele Gorsky (36 Cliff Ave) - spoke in agreement with previous comments; standing firm in making everyone feel included and any instance of racism gets addressed head-on.

4. **COMMENTS FROM STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES** – [1:42:39 mins in] Tori Stevens and Madison Kirwan spoke briefly on items of interest from the students' perspective.

5. **PRESENTATIONS** -

- a) **CEHS SAVE Promise Club** - [1:27:14 mins in] Laila & Jocelyn Nelson spoke briefly about their upcoming fundraising effort on behalf of the nonprofit Sandy Hook Promise and their school violence prevention programs. The CEHS SAVE Promise Club will be holding a Benefit Gala, with tickets and live auction items, on Friday, February 28, with the goal of raising \$20,000. Visit Instagram @CEHS.SAVE for more information. *A group photo was taken.*
- b) [2025 Music for All Advocacy in Action Award](#): CE Middle School Bands, directed by **Caitlin Ramsey** and **Missy Shabo** - [1:30:31 mins in] CEMS teachers Caitlin Ramsey and Missy Shabo were recognized nationally with this award for their 'Markings & Mini lessons' initiative. They were one of only 23 groups recognized. *A group photo was taken.*

On May 7-8 (2025) CEMS's band program students will be working with well-known Texas composer JaRod Hall. This residency culminates in the **May 8th World Premiere performance of Tock at 7:30 pm at CEHS**. Ms. Shabo and Ms. Ramsey thanked CEEF and the Cape Music Boosters for their financial support of this opportunity.

- c) [Update from Lisa Sawin from Harriman](#) on a three school phased design project to address the educational, structural, mechanical, safety & security, and site plan needs - [1:44:53 mins in] Ms. Sawin's presentation occurred during the Public Forum. This time was offered for any board member's followup questions and discussion following the February 5 Workshop.

Potential language options discussed were in the realm of either "...contingent on

raising a certain amount...” or “...whatever comes in for fundraising monies will offset the tranches [taxpayer burden]..”

A School Board Special Meeting to consider this project will tentatively be scheduled for after break, in the last week in February (2025), in the Council Chambers.

6. **ADMINISTRATIVE & STAFF REPORTS:** *See agenda materials for summary reports.*
7. **BUSINESS MANAGER’S REPORT** - *See supporting document included within agenda packet [2:02:58 mins in]*

The percentage of the year to date is 58%. The total general fund expenditures amounted to 56%. Last year at this time, it was 53%. The 7-year average spent is 54.43%.

Nutrition program January 2025 update: 16,434 lunches and 6,057 breakfast meals served. Revenue generated from the state claim will be \$88,636.

8. **SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT** *[2:04:17 in]*
 - a. **School building project update** - *Discussed at length during Ms. Sawin’s presentation previously.*
 - b. **Enrollment Numbers** - Current student enrollment is holding steady.
 - c. **Other** - June 17 is the last school day, based on the one storm day used up to this point.

9. NEW BUSINESS

- a. **Consideration to approve a Resolution of Our Continuing Commitment to Fostering a Community of Respect, Inclusivity, and Support for Everyone in our Schools.** - *[2:06:45 in]* Ms. Engel read the resolution in its entirety. Ms. Sweet announced she will be abstaining due to a conflict of interest but not to any objections to the Resolution. Mr. Saucier said he was recently reminded of a similar 2017 board resolution and now it will be important to “put it to action.”

Resolution of Our Continuing Commitment to Fostering a Community of
Respect, Inclusivity, and Support for Everyone in our Schools

The Cape Elizabeth School Department is deeply committed to ensuring the physical, emotional, and psychological safety and well-being of both our staff and students. Every student in Cape Elizabeth has the right to a free, high-quality public education in an environment where they feel valued and supported.

Our district has a longstanding policy of protecting students' privacy, and we do not release personally identifiable student information. Our staff members receive regular training to understand and uphold the rights of our students, particularly in the event that law enforcement becomes involved on campus.

Additionally, Cape Elizabeth is proud to uphold a strong, well-established policy of creating a safe, inclusive learning environment. We are dedicated to ensuring that all students, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, race, or religion, can learn free from discrimination, harassment, or bullying.

No matter the national political landscape, our core values and mission as a district are clear: the safety and well-being of all students and staff remain our highest priority. We are committed to fostering a community of respect, inclusivity, and support for everyone in our schools.

Motion: Mr. Boniakowski Second: Ms. Engel Vote: Approved 6-0 (Sweet abstained)

- b. **Consideration to approve the 2025-2026 School Year Calendar** - *[2:12:19 in]*
Superintendent Record gave a brief overview of next year's district calendar components. Due to town use of CEHS facilities for election day, Nov 4 is a virtual day for grades 9-12.

Motion: Ms. McVeigh Second: Ms. Sweet Vote: Approved 7-0

- c. **Consideration to approve the CEHS Model United Nations Trip to Dartmouth College (Hanover, NH) April 4-6, 2025.** - *[2:18:34 in]*

Motion: Ms. Sweet Second: Ms. McVeigh Vote: Approved 7-0

- d. **Consideration to approve the CEHS Program of Studies for the 2025-2026 Academic Year** *[2:21:00 in]* Principal Springer provided a brief overview of the redlined 2025-26 Program of Studies presented to the Board.

Motion: Ms. McVeigh Second: Ms. Sweet Vote: Approved 7-0

- e. Consideration to approve Policy **GCSB – Social Media Use for School Employees**
[2:31:24 in]

Motion: Ms. Sweet Second: Ms. Engel Vote: Approved 7-0

- f. Consideration to approve Policy **BEDD - Rules of Order** *[2:32:15 in]*

Motion: Ms. Sweet Second: Mr. Boniakowski Vote: Approved 7-0

- g. **First Reading Policies** – *[2:32:44 mins in]* Ms. Sweet provided a brief overview of the policies being reviewed. Additional details are provided within the February policy committee meeting [minutes](#) included within the agenda materials.

- i. Policy **BEDF - Voting Methods and Quorums**
- ii. Policy **EEA - Student Transportation Services**
- iii. Policy **JICIA - Weapons, Violence and School Safety**

10. SCHOOL BOARD AGENDA REQUESTS –

- Phil Saucier proposed a dedicated communication task force for the building project.
- Lee Schroeder proposed an update/overview about district diversity, equity and inclusion related supports at a future workshop meeting.

11. COMMITTEE REPORTS: – *[2:38:09 mins in]*

- a. Calendar - n/a
- b. Dropout Prevention – Ms. McVeigh has been unable to attend due to work-scheduling conflicts. She will liaise with Nate Carpenter for future updates for the Board.
- c. Diversity, Equity and Inclusion - Ms. Engel said March 4th is the next meeting.
- d. Wellness - Ms. Engel said March 6th is the next meeting.
- e. PATHS – No meeting since the last Board meeting. Next PATHS/WRVC meeting will be on March 13.

- f. Technology Steering – No meeting since the last Board meeting.
- g. Buildings & Grounds – March 6th is the next meeting.

12. ANNOUNCEMENT OF UPCOMING MEETINGS [2:39:36 mins in]

- a. Negotiations Cmte [Admin Asst/ET I] Executive Session - Feb 12, 3:45 pm Jordan Rm Town Hall
- b. ~~PATHS – February 13, 8:30 am at WRVC --cancelled due to weather~~
- c. Negotiations Cmte [Bus/Maint/Food Svc/Custodians] Executive Session - Feb 24, 3:00 pm CEMS Library
- d. School Board Special Meeting re: Phased Three School Project - Feb ___ in Council Chambers
- e. School Budget Workshop – February 25, 6:30 pm CEHS Library
- f. Policy Committee – March 3, 9 am Council Chambers Town Hall
- g. Negotiations Cmte [Admin Asst/ET I] Executive Session - Mar 3, 3:45pm Jordan Rm Town Hall
- h. District Diversity, Equity and Inclusion - March 4, 3:15 pm MS Library
- i. Budget Workshop – March 4, 6:30 pm CEHS Library
- j. Buildings & Grounds - March 6, 10:30 am Jordan Room Town Hall
- k. District Wellness Cmte - March 6, 3:30 pm MS Library

13. CONSIDERATION TO ADJOURN - [2:41:14 mins in]

Motion: Ms. Sweet Second: Mr. Boniakowski Vote: Approved 7-0