

**Cheltenham School District
Hybrid Special Legislative Meeting of the
Board of School Directors
June 17, 2025**

CALL TO ORDER In accordance with Sections 402 and 404 of the Pennsylvania School Code, the Board of School Directors of Cheltenham School District met on Tuesday, June 17, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. to hold a hybrid special legislative board meeting. The meeting was called to order by President Henry. Attendance was as follows:

CHELTENHAM SCHOOL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Present: Mr. Charles Burdell-Williams, Mr. Zachary Epps, Ms. Pamela Henry, Ms. Jennifer Lowman, Ms. Leah Mulhearn, Ms. Robyn Murphy, Mr. Daniel Schultz, Dr. Ross Whiting. Absent: Ms. Mia Blitstein

CHELTENHAM SCHOOL DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION

Mr. Chris Barone, Director of Information Technology; Mrs. ShaVon Savage, Assistant Superintendent; Mr. Joshua Sweigard, Director of Business Services; Mr. Jonathan White, Safety and Security Manager; and Dr. Brian Scriven, Superintendent.

SOLICITOR

Mr. Edward Diasio, Esq.

BOARD SECRETARY

Mr. Joshua Sweigard for Ms. Debra Harding

**PLEDGE OF
ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Board member, Mr. Epps.

**SOLICITOR'S
REPORT**

Mrs. Savage reported that the board met in executive session on June 12, 2025 to consult with counsel regarding multiple pending matters concerning tax assessment litigation.

**PUBLIC
COMMENTS ON
AGENDA ITEMS
ONLY**

There were no public comments on agenda items only.

**APPROVAL OF
AGENDA ITEMS**

Upon motion by Mr. Schultz, seconded by Ms. Murphy, the following items were unanimously approved:

Adoption of Budget and Tax Levy

RESOLVED: a. The Financial Affairs Committee recommends Board approval of the final budget for the Cheltenham School District for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, and authorization of the appropriation and expenditure of the funds as itemized in said Budget during the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, in the amount of \$140,231,358. The necessary revenue for the same shall be provided by the following taxes for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, adopted concurrently herewith:

1. A Real Estate Transfer Tax of one percent (1%) to be shared equally between the Township of Cheltenham and the Cheltenham School District where each receives one-half ($\frac{1}{2}$) of the Real Estate Transfer Tax.
2. A Mercantile License Tax on (i) wholesale vendors or dealers in goods, wares at the rate of one (1) mill on each dollar of gross volume of business and (ii) retail vendors or dealers in goods, wares, and merchandise at the rate of one and one-half ($1\frac{1}{2}$) mills on each dollar of the gross volume of retail business transacted within the School District during the license year to be shared equally between the Township of Cheltenham and the Cheltenham School District where each receives one-half ($\frac{1}{2}$) of the Mercantile License Tax;
3. A tax on net profits earned on businesses, professions, and other activities conducted by residents of the School District of Cheltenham Township and on salaries, wages, commissions, and other compensation earned by residents of the Cheltenham School District is imposed by the School District at the flat rate of one percent (1%) to be shared equally between the Township of Cheltenham and the Cheltenham School District where each receives one-half ($\frac{1}{2}$) of the Earned Income Tax.
4. A Local Services Tax (LST) in the amount of Five Dollars (\$5.00), by virtue of the fact that the Commissioners of the Township of Cheltenham

have enacted a LST in the amount of \$52.00 similar to the Resolution imposing a like tax by the Cheltenham School District.

5. A school tax on real estate at a rate of 54.77 mills, or at the rate of \$5.477 on each \$100.00 of assessed valuation of taxable property shall be levied upon all the property upon which the County of Montgomery taxes are levied and assessed.

Approval of Homestead/Farmstead Exclusion

RESOLVED: WHEREAS, the County Assessor has certified to the School District that there are 7,827 eligible homestead properties in the School District and no eligible farmstead properties in the School District for the 2025-2026 fiscal year and.

WHEREAS, the Pennsylvania Department of Education has certified that the School District's Property Tax Reduction Allocation for the 2025-2026 fiscal year is \$5,070,983.

In accordance with the Special Session Act 1 of 2006, known as the Taxpayer Relief Act, the Board of School Directors hereby establishes the following homestead exclusion and farmstead exclusion, for the 2025-2026 fiscal year;

All eligible homesteads shall receive a homestead exclusion of \$11,829.00 of the assessed value of the homestead, which, based upon the millage rate established for the 2025-2026 fiscal year, corresponds to a tax reduction of \$647.87.

All eligible farmsteads shall receive a farmstead exclusion of \$11,829.00 of the assessed value of the farmstead, which, based upon the millage rate established for the 2025-2026 fiscal year, corresponds to a tax reduction of \$647.87.

The Tax Collector shall itemize the exclusion on each eligible homestead and eligible farmstead owner's annual property tax bill, showing (a) the assessed value, (b) the tax liability on the assessed value, (c) the amount of the homestead and/or farmstead exclusion in assessed value, (d) the actual tax liability after the homestead and/or farmstead exclusion and (e) the actual tax savings associated with the homestead and/or farmstead exclusion.

The Tax Collector shall also have the following notice included with the tax bills of all owners of eligible homestead and farmstead properties:

NOTICE OF PROPERTY TAX RELIEF

Your enclosed tax bill includes a tax reduction for your homestead and/or farmstead property. As an eligible homestead and/or farmstead property owner, you have received tax relief through a homestead and/or farmstead exclusion which has been provided under the Pennsylvania Taxpayer Relief Act, a law passed by the Pennsylvania General Assembly designed to reduce your

property taxes. These provisions shall apply to the annual property tax bills issued in July 2025 and not to any interim real estate tax bill.

Approval of Real Estate Tax Installment Payments Resolution

RESOLVED: The administration recommends the following resolution be adopted approving the Real Estate Tax Installment Payments to meet Special Session Act 1 of 2006 and the 2025-2026 budget requirements of the School District.

WHEREAS Act 1 requires school districts to offer installment payments for real estate property taxes and;

WHEREAS the Board of School Directors intends to comply with this regulation;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of School Directors of the School District of Cheltenham Township establishes installment payments as follows:

Installment payments will be available to all properties to comply with Act 25. Installment payments will be made in three equal payments due on or before the last banking day of September, October, and November of the applicable tax year.

Discounts are not permitted.

Failure to make the first installment payment by the established due date will disqualify the taxpayer from the installment payment program for the applicable year.

If complete payments are not received by December 31, 2025, the entire penalty indicated on the bill will be assessed.

A taxpayer who is delinquent by more than ten days on two installment payments shall be ineligible for the installment payment option in the following fiscal year.

Approval of Real Estate Tax Discount and Penalty Periods

RESOLVED: The administration recommends the following for the 2025-2026 Fiscal Year:

If paid in full by Wednesday, September 3, 2025, the 2025-26 tax referenced above will be entitled to a discount of 2%; September 4 through November 3, the 2025-26 tax referenced above will be payable at the face amount and any taxes paid after November 3, 2025, will be subject to a penalty of 10% through December 31, 2025. All such 2025-2026 taxes that remain unpaid as of December 31, 2025, shall be subject to a penalty of 10% considered delinquent and treated as such for all purposes.

**APPROVAL OF
AGENDA ITEMS
(CONSENT)**

Upon motion by Ms. Mulhearn, seconded by Ms. Blitstein, the following items were unanimously approved:

Approval of Volunteers

RESOLVED: The administration recommends the approval of the following volunteer pursuant to Policy 916:

- Charlotte Cleghorn

Approval of Conferences

RESOLVED: The administration recommends approval of the attendance and payment of expenses for **Katherine Martin**, Long Term Substitute Teacher, Myers Elementary School, to virtually attend Wilson Advanced Strategies Workshop on 8/26-28, 2025 at the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit (MCIU) in Norristown, Pennsylvania sponsored by the MCIU. This training has an estimated cost of \$730.00 to be paid from the general fund. (Revised to correct Ms. Martin's assignment and school.)

Strategic Plan Pillar: Teaching & Learning

RESOLVED: The administration recommends approval and ratification of the attendance and payment of expenses for **Kristen Ricci**, Biology Teacher, Cheltenham High School, to attend the Walton Advanced Placement Biology Summer Institute on June 17-20, 2025 online. This training has an estimated cost of \$800.00 to be paid from the general fund.

Strategic Plan Pillar: Teaching & Learning

RESOLVED: The administration recommends approval of the attendance and payment of expenses for **Charlene Collins**, Director of Curriculum & Instruction for Humanities, to attend the 2025 Grant Compliance Summit held by the PA Association of Federal Programs Coordinators in Harrisburg, PA on July 31 and August 1, 2025. The training and trip have an estimated cost of \$935.18 to be paid from the general fund.

Strategic Plan Pillar: Teaching & Learning

RESOLVED: The administration recommends approval of the attendance and payment of expenses for **Kaitlyn Ferraro**, Elementary Data & Curriculum Specialist, and **Kevin Murphy**, Teacher on Assignment, to attend the Open SciEd Elementary Curriculum Launch online on August 5-7, 2025. The session has an estimated cost of \$1550.00 to be paid from the general fund.

Strategic Plan Pillar: Teaching & Learning

RESOLVED: The administration recommends approval of the attendance and payment of expenses for **Keisha Connelly**, Secretary, to attend Microsoft Excel: Beyond the Basics online on June 24, 2025. The training has an estimated cost of \$149.00 to be paid from the general fund.

Strategic Plan Pillar: Teaching & Learning

RESOLVED: The administration recommends approval of the attendance for **Dr. Elsie Russell**, Climate & Culture Administrator, Cheltenham and Glenside

Elementary School, to attend the 2025 MCIU MTSS Event, MTSS in Focus on June 23-24, 2025 online. This training has an estimated cost of \$0.00 to be paid from the general fund.

Strategic Plan Pillar: Teaching & Learning

Approval of Contracts

K-6 Online Adaptive Intervention Program

RESOLVED: The administration recommends approval of the renewal of **IXL**. IXL is a computer adaptive online program that provides students with the opportunity to practice standards aligned skills in both ELA and mathematics. The renewal of IXL is a 3-year contract for all students in grades K-6 in ELA and Math. The estimated total is \$119,700.00 to be funded from the general fund account.

Strategic Plan Pillar: Teaching and Learning

6-12 Math

RESOLVED: The administration recommends approval of the adoption of McGraw Hill's **Reveal Math with ALEKS** for grades 6-Algebra 2. Reveal offers standards aligned math content as a primary curricular resource for our secondary teachers and students. This product was evaluated by both the HQIM Curriculum Committee and the secondary math teachers and was consistently identified as the program that would best support the students of Cheltenham School District. While Reveal is the core math program, ALEKS is a supplemental digital adaptive resource that can be utilized as a diagnostic tool that offers a personalized learning experience aligned to the needs of the student. The estimated total for three years is \$295,202.60 to be funded from the general fund account.

Strategic Plan Pillar: Teaching and Learning

K-2 Science

RESOLVED: The administration recommends approval of the adoption of **Mystery Science**. Mystery Science is an online video platform with lesson and hands-on kits aligned to the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) of which STEELS is based on. The digital access will be available for grades K-5, while the hands-on labs are for grades K-5. The district has been using the video component since the need for a digital option during Covid. The estimated total for one year is \$22,700.00 to be funded from the general fund account.

Strategic Plan Pillar: Teaching and Learning

3-5 Science

RESOLVED: The administration recommends approval of the adoption of **OpenSciEd from ECA, including ECA's Science Kit Management and Refurbishment Services**. OpenSciEd is a science program aligned to the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) of which STEELS is based on. OpenSciEd from ECA provides hands-on experiences with access to digital content and tools. ECA provides kit management, which was elevated in the

HQIM adoption process as being a major concern and barrier for teachers. The estimated total for one year is \$50,322.00 to be funded from the general fund account.

Strategic Plan Pillar: Teaching and Learning

6-8 Science

RESOLVED: The administration recommends approval of the adoption of **Activate Learning's OpenSciEd**. OpenSciEd is a science program aligned to the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) of which STEELS is based on. OpenSciEd from Activate Learning provides hands-on experiences with access to digital content and tools. This product was evaluated by both the HQIM Curriculum Committee and the middle school science teachers and was consistently identified as the program that would best support the students of Cheltenham School District. The estimated total for one year is \$117,346.40 to be funded from the general fund account.

Strategic Plan Pillar: Teaching and Learning

9-12 Science

RESOLVED: The administration recommends approval of the adoption of Savvas' **Miller and Levine Biology, Experience Chemistry and Experience Physics**. The Savvas science products are aligned to the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) of which STEELS is based on. The Savvas program includes physical teacher and student books and access to digital content and practice through the Realize platform. The Savvas product line was evaluated by both the HQIM Curriculum Committee and the high school science teachers and was consistently identified as the program that would best support the students of Cheltenham School District. The estimated total for six years is \$129,301.26 to be funded from the general fund account.

Strategic Plan Pillar: Teaching and Learning

RESOLVED: The administration recommends approval of the adoption of **TouchMath** as an intervention for math at the elementary school level for the autistic support classrooms. The estimated total is \$36,654.00 for the full Prekindergarten to second grade continuum of materials necessary, to be funded from the general fund account.

Strategic Plan Pillar: Teaching and Learning

RESOLVED: The administration recommends approval of a services, school facilities license and building use agreement with **Right at School, LLC**. Right at School provides enrichment programs, including before and after school care and summer care, for families in the district utilizing district facilities.

Strategic Plan Pillar: Climate and Culture for Student Success

Approval of Stipends

RESOLVED: The administration recommends the approval of professional personnel per the attachment for leadership positions for the 2024-2025 school year, at the rates listed.

Strategic Plan Pillar: Teaching and Learning

Approval of Agreements for Extended School Year

RESOLVED: The administration recommends the Board approve Extended School Year (ESY) Approved Private School Agreement. This agreement governs the contractual terms and conditions for placement of students when a non-traditional placement is required in order to provide the student with an appropriate program:

Student # 412149 : 413000

Student # 412585 : 413933

Approval of Agreements for an Educational Service Agreement

RESOLVED: The administration recommends the Board approve the Educational Service Agreement between the District and the parent/guardians of the student identified below by confidential student number in the form as presented to the board:

Student # 408130

Approval of the Cheltenham Association of School Supervisors and Administrators (CASSA) Act 93 Agreement

RESOLVED: The administration recommends approval of the one-year Agreement with the Cheltenham Association of School Supervisors and Administrators (CASSA), effective July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026, as set forth in the Agreement presented to the Board.

Approval of 2025-26 Lunch Prices

RESOLVED: The administration recommends the approval of the school lunch prices for the 2025-26 school year, which reflects no increase from 2024-25.

	2024-25	2025-26
Elementary Schools	\$2.95	\$2.95
Middle School	\$3.25	\$3.25
High School	\$3.25	\$3.25
Adult Lunch	\$4.50	\$4.50

Approval of 2025-26 Breakfast Prices

RESOLVED: The administration recommends the approval of the school breakfast prices for the 2025-26 school year.

	2024-25	2025-26
Elementary Schools	Free	Free
Middle School	Free	Free
High School	Free	Free

Approval of Ready to Learn Block Grant Tax Equity Resolution

RESOLVED: The administration recommends approval of the resolution declaring the intent of the District to accept and use the 2025-2026 Ready-to-Learn Block Grant Tax Equity Supplement for (A) mitigating or preventing an increase in real estate taxes levied by the District, (B) supplementing the District's homestead exclusion, (C) establishing or maintaining a tax rebate program, (D) mitigating the loss of revenue from assessment appeals, or (E) reducing debt; all as outlined in the approved resolution.

**MEETING
ADJOURNED**

Upon motion by Ms. Blitstein, seconded by Mr. Burdell-Williams, the meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

_____, Board Secretary

_____, Board President