MINUTES
CATASAUQUA AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
Tuesday, February 10, 2026
7:00 PM – District Administration Office

1. CALL TO ORDER ..... President, Dale Hein
President Dale Hein called the meeting to order at 7:07 P.M.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG
The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

3. ROLL CALL

Board Members		Non-Board Members	
Dale Hein, President	X	Dave Knerr	X
Jillian Emert, Vice President	X	Christina Lutz-Doemling	X
Jason Bashaw, Secretary	X	Lindsey Wallace	X
Christy Cooper, Treasurer	X	Paul Reilly	X
Lauren Cieslak	X	Eric Dauberman	X
Eric DeLabar	X	Melissa Inselmann	X
Shawn McGinley	X	David Todd	
Jamie Nattress	X	Robert Kucharczuk	X
Jeremy Smale	X	Thomas Moll	X
Student Representatives		Daniel Kotran	
Dante Hatcher-Wilson		Patrick McNulty	X
Nikoloz Kemashvili			

X=Present
Visitors: See list inserted in permanent minute book

4. NOTICE OF EXECUTIVE SESSIONS
A. Executive Session for Legal and Personnel Reasons at 6:00 P.M.
An executive session was held until 7:04 P.M.

5. PRESENTATIONS/AUDIENCE INPUT ON AGENDA
A. Sheckler Elementary Students of the Month – Dr. Robert Kucharczuk, Building Principal

Second Grade		
Chip Mulicky	***Ian Hillenbrand***	***Mila Gacitua***
Sydney Deering	***Declan Biechy***	***Charlee Mieles***
Fourth Grade		
Charles Cortes	***Zoe Onody***	

B. Sheckler Elementary School Addition Update - Michelle Mozingo, Senior Designer, Alloy5
Presented an update on the different sketches and layout designs using Sketch #1.

**At this point, Mr. Hein opened the floor for any audience input, there was none.*

Board Modification/Action:
*Board President Dale Hein made a motion to move Board Approval Item **15-E, Approval of Sheckler Addition Classroom Layout Option 1**, up on the agenda to be acted upon under Item 5B. A Roll Call Vote followed for **Layout Option #1**.*

Voting for Classroom Layout Option 1:
ROLL CALL VOTE

MOTION BY: Emert SECONDED BY: McGinley
AYE: Cooper, Smale, Cieslak, Nattress, Emert, DeLabar, McGinley, Bashaw, Hein
NAY: 0
Nine Ayes, Zero Nays, Motion carried

*As a result of this action, **Item 15-E** was approved under Item **5B** and was not taken up later on the agenda.*

6. ADMINISTRATION/BOARD DISCUSSION & REPORTS

A. Academics and Education - Melissa Inselmann

- *At our Academics and Education Committee Meeting on February 4th, building principals presented mid-year benchmark data and program updates, highlighting increased growth scores from the beginning of the year assessments. Both the elementary and middle schools included student data reports with the student report cards that were sent home. At Catasauqua High School, Mr. Todd shared building updates that included professional development for differentiation of instructional strategies for block teaching, implementation of an A/B schedule next year, career pathways and upcoming graduation planning. The 2026–2027 CHS Career Planning Guide was presented and is on the board agenda for your approval tonight. The career planning guide reflects a redesigned, more user-friendly format, career pathway-aligned course offerings, modernized course names, adjusted credits for graduation to support increased student choice and career pathway alignment.*
- *Other items reviewed included an updated second-semester CASD communication plan devised to streamline messaging, reduce redundancy, and improve consistency across buildings. The Chapter 339 Guidance Plan was shared. Highlights to the plan include strengthening alignment across academics, career readiness, and social-emotional learning, with emphasis on data-informed transitions, employability skills, MTSS, SEL, and expanded Naviance use. Board approval of the plan is scheduled for the March School Board Meeting.*

- *Career Readiness updates were provided including the Career Ready PA Mega Challenge - which we found out today Catasauqua was awarded, CMS's designation as a Career Exploration Pilot School through a PA Innovation Grant initiated by Dr. Lutz-Doemling, and implementation of the new Personal Finance graduation requirement for the 2026-2027 School Year.*
- *Preparations are underway to update the district's 2026–2027 Assessment Plan, emphasizing clarity of purpose, reduced redundancy, and data-informed instructional decision-making. Curriculum and Professional updates were reviewed, districtwide MTSS Data was shared, the SPEL early learning grant, instructional technology and AI initiatives, device renewal, and ongoing federal and state grant supports were also shared.*

B. Finance - Lindsey Wallace

- *Christina and Lindsey will be meeting with Brad Remig from PFM next week to discuss the District's financials and keep him up to speed with our Capital Projects Plan. We have reassessed our Capital Projects Plan and reprioritized some projects, which allowed us to push back the borrowing timeline. As you all know the Capital Projects Plan is constantly changing and evolving based on immediate needs, reassessments, and budget. So as things change, we will continue to keep you all posted.*
- *Also, a reminder we will be having our Special Budget Meeting Wednesday, March 18th at 7:00 PM.*

C. Building & Grounds - Eric Dauberman

- *Since the last board meeting, much of the department's efforts have gone into snow cleanup, and the Maintenance and Custodial crews have done exemplary work in making the district's properties safe for students and staff. The administration would like to thank them for all of their hard work.*
- *The district met with Alloy5 to refine design elements, including teacher prep spaces, sight lines, and the transition between existing and new structures. Discussion is ongoing regarding flooring (carpet vs. VCT). A coordination meeting with Catasauqua Borough is scheduled for February 20th.*
- *Following an evaluation of multiple proposals and interviews, the committee is recommending Pelorus as the district's construction manager. Once approved, they will begin formal coordination with Alloy5.*
- *The committee reviewed the YMCA's continued management of programs and is planning a site tour. District leadership will engage with YMCA management to further discuss long-term facility plans.*
- *The district is focusing its grant application on the High School, specifically targeting masonry repairs and window sealing. This grant requires a 25% financial commitment from the district.*
- *CMS Updates: Addressed heating system issues by adjusting the oil tank draw pipe. Individual thermostats are being installed in classrooms where the online control system has failed.*
- *CHS Updates: The committee is investigating the installation of gates at the high school entrance to manage safety concerns during snow events. Additionally, the main gym court is scheduled for refinishing this summer.*

D. Policy - David Knerr

Policy 233 – Suspension & Expulsion - First Reading **(**clean) (redline)

- *Provided a brief update on Policy 233.*

E. Athletics - Thomas Moll

- *The Athletic Department and some clubs at CHS are currently working on guidelines, checklists, etc. for advisors, coaches, chaperones, etc. to use when on overnight trips.*
- *Tom is meeting with Donald Tucker from DS Media on Wednesday. DS Media is the company responsible for the digital scoreboard advertising for both Alumni Field and the CHS Gymnasium.*
- *The scorer's table in the CHS Gymnasium is the original scorers table from when CHS opened in 2006. It will need to be replaced within the next 1-2 years. We are currently in the process of getting quotations for a new table.*
- *We discussed coaching salaries for the 2026-27 school year. 2026-27 would be year #2 of a four-year salary adjustment that we discussed last year. After some discussion, the board said the coaching salaries would be discussed during the budget process.*
- *A discussion took place regarding our use of facilities policy and the rental fees that we are currently charging. Tom will get information from other schools and present his findings at the next Athletic Committee meeting in April.*
- *A discussion took place regarding the Turkey Day bonfire. Concerns have been raised about the location of the bonfire and fire department staffing issues. There was some discussion about moving the bonfire to CHS. Some suggested keeping it in Catasauqua. We will reach out to the Catasauqua fire chief to see where he suggests the bonfire can occur. Mr. Todd suggested that we make a distinction to determine if this is a tradition for the kids or the community. If it is a community event, then we should consider holding it off of school property.*
- *We had a discussion about nutritional supplements being provided to our student-athletes. Some issues were raised regarding the safety of supplements, and possible alternatives. Tom will check with other schools to see what other schools are doing and will report back to the board.*
- *Our girls and boys basketball teams are playing in the league semifinals this week. The boys play NDGP tonight and the girls play NDGP tomorrow night. Both games are at Whitehall*
- *Both teams have also qualified for the District XI playoffs which begin the end of next weekend.*
- *District XI Girls Wrestling championships are this weekend at Freedom HS.*
- *District XI Boys Wrestling championships are next weekend at both Freedom HS and Liberty HS.*
- *District XI Girls Swimming championships are next weekend at Parkland HS. Maliya Walp has once again qualified.*
- *We are prepping for the beginning of spring sports now - the first official day is Monday, March 2nd.*
- *Spring sports physicals are scheduled for Monday, February 23rd.*

F. Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit #21 - Jason Bashaw
- Jason sends Christina the IU updates
- *CASD contribution is increasing - approving under 12B*
- *Jason taking AI streamlining CLIU Course on Thursday*

G. Borough of Catasauqua - Dale Hein
- *Nothing that has any significance to the District*
- *Bashaw noted:*
  - *Crossing Guard Howertown and Walnut - Sidewalk is closed for the past few months*
  - *Concern was expressed for the children because it is weakly managed and plastic barriers aren't great. Request the District mention something to the Borough to maintain the property better*
  - *Crossing Guard is across the street and the barriers are pushed to the side and appears to be open when nothing has been completed and was closed for months*
  - *Building is condemned*
  - *If not walking on the sidewalk walking in the street and cars fly down the road*

H. Borough of North Catasauqua - Christy Cooper
- *Questions about crossing guards*
- *Who is responsible for shoveling sidewalks at bus stops*
- *Carnival date has been set for June 10 to June 13th 6:00 to 10:00 pm.*

I. Hanover Township - Lindsey Wallace
- *I completed some research on the Economic Status for Catasauqua Area School District and found some interesting data that I feel is relevant to share.*
- *The Mega Warehouse boom that we've experienced the past 10-15 years or so has definitely slowed due to higher interest rates (which we have seen and felt the lack of interim taxes coming through)... Despite the slow, Hanover Township actually remains one of the better warehouse markets across the entire nation with a low vacancy rate of 8.1%.*
- *What I found even more interesting is that there is a growing trend toward smaller, specialized industrial units between 10,000 and 50,000 square feet, to support local service providers and contractors that are moving away from the mega warehouses.*
- *There are so many smaller commercial buildings and commercial space in Hanover Township that we sort of saw being vacated for the bigger warehouses, so it will be interesting to see if we notice an uptick in these smaller commercial space purchases again.*

J. PSBA Liaison Update - Lauren Cieslak
- 4 Scholarship opportunities
  - Seniors in Education - PA State School
  - Public Safety - Criminology and Law enforcement
  - Political Science
    - Student rep on School Board
  - Performing Arts?
- PSBA Webinar - Student privacy law - tailored for Attorneys, Supers, Admin

K. Lehigh Career & Technical Institute Update - Jillian Emert
- *Application process has begun and working through some budget items*

L. Student Representatives - Dante Hatcher-Wilson and Nikoloz Kemashvili

7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PRIOR MEETING(S)
A. School Board Meeting Held on January 13, 2026

8. APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT FOR JANUARY 2026

9. APPROVAL OF BUDGET TRANSFERS FOR JANUARY 2026

10. APPROVAL FOR PAYMENT OF ALL A/P BILLS FEBRUARY 2026

11. APPROVAL TO RATIFY ALL EXPENSES OTHER THAN A/P - JANUARY 2026

12. FINANCIAL

A. Approval of Lehigh Carbon Community College Proposed 2026-2027 Budget
Approval is requested of the Lehigh Carbon Community College Proposed 2026-2027 Budget. The combined total of the 2026-2027 Operating Debt Service and Capital Budgets is $63,604,133, an increase of $1,034,462 or 1.7% from the prior year. The Catasauqua Area School District Sponsor Share is $170,739, an increase of $8,518 or 5.3% from the prior year.

B. Approval of Carbon-Lehigh Intermediate Unit 2026-2027 Proposed Budget
Approval is requested of the Carbon-Lehigh Intermediate Unit #21 Proposed 2026-2027 Operational Budget. The total of the 2026-2027 General Operating Budget is $1,786,006, an increase of $60,396 or 3.5% from the prior year. The total of all Lehigh and Carbon County District Contributions of the Operating Budget is $819,040, a $0.00 or 0% change from the prior year. The Catasauqua Area School District Share is $27,521, an increase of $2,239 or 8.86% from the prior year.

Items 7A, 7B, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12A, and 12B were combined by Board request

ROLL CALL VOTE

MOTION BY: McGinley SECONDED BY: DeLabar
AYE: Smale, Nattress, Bashaw, Cooper, Cieslak, Emert, DeLabar, McGinley, Hein
NAY: 0
Nine Ayes, Zero Nays, Motion carried

13. PERSONNEL

A. Substitutes:

The following applicant(s) have requested to be added to the Substitute Employment List for the 2025-2026 School Year as follows:

Name	Assignment
Nixalys Castellano*	Non-CDL Substitute
David Walker*	Non-CDL Substitute
Andrew Cengeri*	Non CDL Substitute
Jeffrey Burger*	Non CDL Substitute
Craig Millard*	Guest Teacher
Sofia Barbour*	Guest Teacher
Abigail Stoudt*	Guest Teacher

*pending receipt of all required onboarding documentation and forms

B. Nomination for Appointment

1. Name: Nicole Guide*
   Status: Non Certified Instructional Aide
   Assignment: Sheckler Elementary School
   Rate of Pay: $148.00 per day
   Benefits: As per the Collective Bargaining Agreement
   Effective: Upon Completion of Employment paperwork

At this time, it was noted that the following language was inadvertently omitted from the Board action:
Pending receipt of all required onboarding documentation and forms.

C. Approval for Days Without Pay

1. Name: Melissa Vazquez
   Reason: Sick
   Effective: 1/13/2026 Full Day, 1/14/2026 Full Day, 1/15/2026 Full Day, 1/16/2026 Half Day

2. Name: Cecelia Ramirez
   Reason: Sick
   Effective: 1/15/2026 Half Day
   1/16/2026 Full Day

3. Name: Todd Troxell
   Reason: Personal
   Effective: 3/13/2026 Full Day

D. Intent to Retire

Approval is requested to accept the Intent to Retire, effective the end of the 2025-2026 school year:

Name	Assignment	Years of CASD Service
Kimberly Ceccatti	Guidance Counselor	20
Donna Tercha	School Nurse	23

E. Resignation

1. Name: Cecilia Ramirez
   Status: Non Certified Instructional Aide
   Assignment: Sheckler Elementary School
   Reason: Personal
   Effective: February 12, 2026
   Start Date: August 13, 2024

F. Approval to Rescind Employment Offer

A. Name: Michael Stauffer
Status: Non CDL Substitute
Assignment: Transportation
Reason: Other Employment

G. Approval of FMLA

Approval for FMLA for employee #479 from January 16, 2026 to January 23, 2026

H. Approval of FMLA

Approval of FMLA for employee #613 from January 29, 2026 to April 22, 2026

I. Approval of FMLA

Approval of FMLA for employee #2572 from January 21, 2026 to April 14, 2026

J. Approval of FMLA

Approval of FMLA for employee #541 from February 23, 2026 to May 17, 2026

K. Half Year Salary Increment Changes:

Approval is requested to adjust the compensation indicated below as per the Collective Bargaining Unit Agreement:

Angelo Lucci	Step	Degree	Credits	Salary
New	5	M	0	$77,472.00
Old	5	BS	33	$74,630.00
Difference				$2,842.00
Half Increment				$1,421.00

L. Appointment of Extra-Curricular Positions for the 2025-2026 School Year:

#	Name	Position	Stipend
1	Michael Sanders	Assistant Drama Director	Volunteer
2	Rodney Berger*	Assistant Baseball Coach	Volunteer
3	Vincent SantaMaria	CMS Bookfair Coordinator	$155.00
4	James Luchansky	CMS School Store Advisor - Shared	$468.00
5	James Luchansky	CMS Student Forum Advisor - Shared	$468.00

*pending receipt of all required onboarding documentation and forms

Items 13A, 13B,13C, 13D, 13E, 13F, 13G, 13H, 13I, 13J, 13K and 13L were combined by Board request

ROLL CALL VOTE

MOTION BY: Emert SECONDED BY: Cieslak
AYE: McGinley, Smale, Emert, DeLabar, Bashaw, Cooper, Cieslak, Nattress, Hein
NAY: 0
Nine Ayes, Zero Nays, Motion carried

14. CURRICULUM

A. Catasauqua High School Career Planning Guide
Approval is requested for the Catasauqua High School Career Planning Guide for the 2026-2027 school year.

15. BOARD APPROVALS

A. Authorization to Bid for Fuel Oil for the 2026-2027 School Year
Approval is requested to authorize bidding for fuel oil via Keystone Purchasing Network, Intermediate Unit #16, effective for the 2026-2027 school year.

B. Approval of Summer School at Allentown City School District, Northampton Area School District, and Whitehall-Coplay School District
Approval is requested to ask for permission from Allentown City School District, Northampton Area School District, and Whitehall-Coplay School District allowing students from the Catasauqua Middle School (grades 5, 6, 7, and 8) and the Catasauqua High School (grades 9, 10, 11, and 12) to attend summer school for the summer of 2026 in the Allentown City School District, Northampton Area School District, Whitehall-Coplay School District, at a tuition rate designated by their school board, and that tuition payment is the responsibility of the parent/guardian.

C. Approval to Attend Conferences, Seminars, etc.

D. Approval of Construction Manager/Firm The Pelorus Group for the Sheckler Addition

Items 14A, 15A,15B, 15C, and 15D were combined by Board request

ROLL CALL VOTE

MOTION BY: McGinley SECONDED BY: Emert
AYE: Cieslak, McGinley, Emert, Bashaw, Nattress, Cooper, Smale, DeLabar, Hein
NAY: 0
Nine Ayes, Zero Nays, Motion carried

E. Approval of Sheckler Addition Classroom Layout Option 1

**Note-Item 15-E: Approval of of Sheckler Addition Classroom Layout Option 1. By Board action, this item was moved up on the agenda and acted upon under Item 5B and therefore was not taken up at this time.*

F. Request for Board Approval of a Donner DDP-400 Digital Piano with 88 Key Progressive Weighted Keyboard, Premium Upright Piano Keyboard for Professional, Bundle with Headphone, Bluetooth, Record,138 Tones,100 Rhythms, LCD, Brown (Donation Estimate: $840) for the Catasauqua High School Music Program

G. Request for Board Approval of the Booster Club Donation for High School Weight Room Items - Nameplate Decals and Custom Embroidered Head Wraps (Estimated Donation Value: $3,295)

H. Approval of Grant of Right of Way to PPL Electric Utilities Corporation
Administration recommends Approval of this Right-of-Way agreement permitting PPL Electric Utilities Corporation to construct, reconstruct, operate, and maintain electrical and communication facilities, including (1) anchor guy and associated overhead facilities, on District property at 2500 West Bullshead Road, as depicted on the attached Right-of-Way plan.

I. Approval to Attend an Overnight Student Activity Trip
Approval is requested for an overnight student activity trip for the FBLA State Academic Competition and Leadership Conference.

J. Approval of Appendix II – Authorized Official Resolution for Public School Facility Improvement Grant Program

K. Approval of Agreement Regarding Student #14729

L. Approval of Policy – First Reading
Approval is requested for the First Reading of the following policy:

Section: **PUPIL**
Policy #: **233**
Title: **Suspension & Expulsion**

M. Additional Potential Overnight Student Activity Trip for the 2025-26 School Year
Approval is requested for an additional potential overnight student athletic trip

Items 15F, 15G, 15H, 15I, 15J, 15K, 15L, and 15M were combined by Board request

ROLL CALL VOTE

MOTION BY: Bashaw *SECONDED BY: Cieslak*
AYE: Nattress, Emert, Cooper, McGinley, Smale, Bashaw, DeLabar, Cieslak, Hein
NAY: 0
Nine Ayes, Zero Nays, Motion carried

N. Approval of Additional Revised Van/Bus Stops
Approval is requested of the revised Van/Bus Stops for the School Year, effective immediately. Indicated stops are subject to change due to additional student enrollments/withdrawals, alternate educational placements, new students/changes that occur at an address that is classified by the state as a hazardous road, or change/addition to a student IEP. All revisions will be maintained by the Transportation Operations Office, and will be made available at all times. Additionally, changes are stored within the transportation software management system. - **None at this time**

16. RECOGNITION OF GUESTS & VISITORS

Robert Zakos introduced the new Mayor of Catasauqua Borough, ***Anthony Alcalde.***

Paul Reilly:
- *Apple Lease finalization and Management options*
- *Apple buyback (sell off) old devices*

Dr. Robert Kucharczuk:
- *Thank you to our Home and School Association members and Barb Resto for hosting the upcoming Canvas and Cocoa Event tomorrow 2/11*
- *Looking forward to our Sheckler Literacy Night event (Literacy Luau) on March 5th from 5:30-7:30. Thank you to Jen Thierer and our Literacy Night team for all their preparations*

Patrick McNulty:
- *Congratulations to Avery Geiger, Zoey Kalman, Layla Povenski, Adriana VanNote, for representing CMS at the Invention Convention State Competition.*
- *Congratulations to the winter sports teams on a successful season, thank you coaches and players.*
- *Thank you to the custodial staff and maintenance staff for keeping our campus safe for students and staff this winter season.*

Melissa Inselmann:

- *Thank you to David Todd, Kim Flueso, Allison Dolak, and Stephanie Covelle for revisions to the CHS Career Planning Guide.*

Eric Dauberman:

- *Thank you to the custodians, grounds and facilities staff for working hard to get the last snow storm cleaned up.*
- *We will internally post the school nurse and school counselor position tomorrow, followed by an external posting a few days later. We hope to have a name for the board, for each position for consideration at the April meeting.*

David Todd: (Dauberman shared in Todd's absence)

- *CHS had 2 students who placed at the SkillsUSA Competition on February 4th. Arabella Gulich placed 2nd in Cake Decorating and Rylee Meisner-Boshell placed 3rd in Basic Health Care Skills.*
- *Tonight 3 CHS students will be inducted into the National Technical Honor Society at LCTI. They are Maliya Walp in Cosmetology, Steven Santiago in Health and Medical Sciences, and Arabella Gulich in Commercial Baking.*
- *Thank you to all the staff at CHS and Admin who helped move the Career Planning Guide forward in order to provide an additional resource for our students to make their high school career more impactful.*

Jeremy Smale:

- *Gave a shout out to the Crossing Guards for their service on the job.*

Lauren Cieslak:

- *Spoke about our seniors and their dedication put forth in their education, and shared the sediments of being proud.*

Jillian Emert:

- *Thanked the Grounds Crew for keeping everything clean*
- *Good Luck to Kim Ceccatti and Donna Tercha*

Jason Bashaw:

- *Expressed his appreciation with being able to sit with the kiddos*
- *Discussed J4 and the Boards support of the program.*

Shawn McGinley:

- *Wished retirees good luck!*
- *Congratulated our Basketball Team and signing the petition to make it an even playing field. The petition is gaining traction.*

Eric DeLabar:

- *Expressed how impressed he was with the Career Planning Guide presented for Board approval during this evenings Board Meeting.*
- *Very nice scoreboard.*
- *Did a shout out to the transportation drivers.*

Dale Hein: Announced the All Stars names

Dr. Christina Lutz-Doemling:

- *Thanked Donna Tercha and Kimberly Ceccatti for their leadership*
- *Thanked everyone for their support in the Construction Manager process.*

Lindsey Wallace:

- *Congratulations to Kimberly Ceccatti and Donna Tercha*

17. NEXT MEETING DATES

A.	Tuesday, March 10, 2026	7:00 P.M.	School Board Meeting
B.	Wednesday, March 18, 2026	7:00 P.M.	Special School Board Meeting

18. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY: McGinley *SECONDED BY: Emert*

Motion carried

Time Adjourned: 8:35 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Jason Bashaw
Secretary