

**BELFAST CENTRAL SCHOOL
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES**

April 21, 2026

School Board Members Present: Josie Preston, President, Randa Harrington, Vice President, Becky Backer, Jonathan Barney, Russell Calanni, Ashley Moore, Marc Smithers, Emerson Weaver, Ex-Officio Student BOE Member

Absent: none

District Personnel: Wendy Butler Ed. D, Superintendent, Rick Bull, 5-12 Principal, Chelsey Aylor, PK-4 Principal, Gina Larrabee, District Clerk

Guests: Mary Paulsen

At 5:29 p.m. the meeting was called to order by Josie Preston, President.

Financial

Keegan Harrington, Business Manager, presented Budget Status and Revenue Status Reports, February Warrants and Claims Audit Reports, and February's Treasurer's Reports. Mr. Harrington presented a budget summary including the 26-27 property tax report card, budget notice, and the tentative tax exemption report. He clarified updated budget sections and noted line changes to the proposed budget.

Leadership Reports

Principal Rick Bull provided 3rd quarter data including honor roll and discipline reports. He presented recommended updates to the 2026-27 Student Code of Conduct manual. Mrs. Aylor and Mr. Bull spoke about updates to the attendance section of the Code of Conduct. Mr. Bull told about the Middle/High school musical, Footloose expressing pride in the hard work students put in to give such a wonderful performance.

Principal Chelsey Aylor shared information about Financial Literacy being introduced into student curriculum. She is looking at current instruction to see what classes already teach components of this new requirement and where it can be added. Mrs. Aylor, Mr. Bull, and Dr. Butler agree this new requirement can be met without adding additional staff.

Mrs. Aylor explained the Champion Project to the Board. This grant program, funded in part by the Ralph Wilson, Jr. Foundation, pays for a four-day intramural program for elementary students as well as providing each participant with t-shirt and a piece of equipment from the sport they participated in.

Dr. Wendy Butler spoke with the Board about a future Capital Improvement Project Plan and how important financial planning is. This future proposal will primarily address heating and cooling issues in the building. Dr. Butler also gave an update from Final Site, a 'software as a service' company who assists with our website and social media. Final Site is making it easier to share an announcement with the Belfast School community and broadcast with ease and consistency across platforms.

Consent Agenda

Motion by Randa Harrington, seconded by Becky Backer, adopted the following Consent Agenda Items as recommended by the superintendent:

- Approved the minutes from the March 10, 2026, meeting.
- Approved the Treasurer's reports dated February 2026.
- Approved the CSE/ CPSE/ 504 committee recommendations as presented.
- Approved the trip and overnight stay for the Vex Robotics World Tournament in St. Louis April 20-25, 2026.
- Approved the date for the 26-27 Belfast Central School budget hearing to be held in the BCS Conference Room on May 12, 2026, at 5:30 p.m.
- Approved the 2026-27 BCS property tax report card.

- Approved the 26-27 Code of Conduct/ Student Handbook for Belfast Central School.
- Approved a calendar change to the 25-26 school year to close school on May 22, 2026, as an unused snow day.
- Approved an MOA with the Belfast Teachers' Association, approving additional compensation for a club advisor if/when a BCS team qualifies for participation beyond a NYS tournament.
- Approved an MOA with the Allegany County Board of Elections to utilize voting machines and equipment necessary to conduct voting operations.

Carried 7-0

Board Actions

**CA BOCES
Administrative Budget**

Motion by Betsy Backer, seconded by Jonathan Barney, adopted the 2026-2027 Cattaraugus-Allegany-Erie-Wyoming BOCES Administrative Budget, as recommended by the superintendent, as recommended by the superintendent.

Carried 7-0

2026-27 BCS Budget

Motion by Randa Harrington, seconded by Marc Smithers, approved the proposed 2026-2027 Belfast Central School budget of \$12,760,000 to be presented at the budget hearing as identified by NYS and/or SED reflecting a 3.1% increase in the tax levy, which is within Belfast's tax cap limit, as recommended by the superintendent.

Carried 7-0

**CA BOCES Board
Seats**

Motion by Becky Backer, seconded by Ashley Moore, nominated candidates for board seats representing identified areas on the Cattaraugus-Allegany-Erie-Wyoming Board of Cooperative Education Services, as recommended by the superintendent.

Area 1- 3-year Term
(Andover, Wellsville, Whitesville) Ronald "Keith" Loines
5 Meadowbrook Court
Wellsville, NY 14895

Area 4- 3-year Term
(Allegany-Limestone, Portville) Candace Clemons
3423 Fortune Drive
Olean, NY 14760

Area 9- 3-year Term
(Cattaraugus-Little Valley,
Randolph Academy, Randolph) Danielle O'Connor
2706 NY-394
Ashville, NY 14806

Carried 7-0

**2026-27 Private School
Transportation**

Motion by Becky Backer, seconded by Ashley Moore, approved requested transportation for the identified private school for the 2026-27 school year, as recommended by the superintendent.

School	Number of Students	Family
Houghton Academy	1	Derek & Kasey Ives

**DASNY Pooled Bond
Financing**

Motion by Becky Backer, seconded by Jonathan Barney, authorized Belfast Central School's participation in the DASNY Pooled Bond Financing, as recommended by the superintendent.

A RESOLUTION, DATED APRIL 21, 2026, SPECIFICALLY AUTHORIZING THE BELFAST CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT, ALLEGANY COUNTY, NEW YORK (THE "DISTRICT"), TO PARTICIPATE IN A PROGRAM THAT IS CURRENTLY BEING STRUCTURED AND IMPLEMENTED BY THE DORMITORY

AUTHORITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK (THE “AUTHORITY”) PURSUANT TO WHICH THE DISTRICT WILL BE ABLE TO SECURE PERMANENT FINANCING ARRANGEMENTS FOR A CERTAIN CAPITAL PROJECT OF THE DISTRICT, AND FURTHER SPECIFICALLY AUTHORIZING THE DISTRICT (ACTING THROUGH THE PRESIDENT OF ITS BOARD OF EDUCATION) TO ENTER INTO, DELIVER AND PERFORM (A) A FINANCING AGREEMENT (INCORPORATING A PROPOSED FINANCIAL PLAN) WITH THE AUTHORITY AND (B) ALL OTHER REASONABLY NECESSARY AND RELATED DOCUMENTS REQUIRED TO BE EXECUTED AND DELIVERED BY THE DISTRICT IN CONNECTION WITH SUCH PROGRAM.

WHEREAS, the Belfast Central School District, Allegany County, New York (the “District”) heretofore issued its \$5,232,995 Bond Anticipation Note, 2025 (the “Prior Note”) the proceeds of which were used to finance a capital improvements project consisting of the partial reconstruction and renovation of, and the construction of improvements and upgrades to various District buildings and facilities and the sites thereof (the “Project”); and

WHEREAS, the Prior Note remains outstanding pending the entry by the District into arrangements for the permanent financing of the Project that was temporarily financed by the issuance of the Prior Note; and

WHEREAS, the Prior Note was issued by the District pursuant to a bond resolution that was adopted by the Board of Education of the District (the “Board”) on December 13, 2022 (the “Bond Resolution”); and

WHEREAS, the Bond Resolution provides that, subject to certain provisions of statutory law, the powers and duties of the Board relative to prescribing the terms, form and contents and details as to the sale and issuance of the bonds authorized by the Bond Resolution are delegated to the President of the Board, as the chief fiscal officer of the District (the “President”) or, under certain circumstances, to the Vice President of the Board; and

WHEREAS, the Bond Resolution remains in full force and effect and has not been amended, modified or revoked; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 383 of the Laws of 2001 (the “Act”) significantly altered the method and timing whereby building aid from the State of New York (the “State”) is to be paid to the District; and

WHEREAS, the Act contemplates and permits the participation of individual school districts in a program for pooled financing of their outstanding indebtedness and other authorized but unissued indebtedness through the issuance of bonds by such school districts directly to the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York (the “Authority”), in connection with the contemporaneous issuance of bonds by the Authority to the public; and

WHEREAS, school districts electing to participate in such program are able to obtain, pursuant to the Act, the assurance of the State Education Department that they will receive building aid for all or substantially all of the aid-eligible portion of the debt service payments to be made on the bonds that they issue to the Authority; and

WHEREAS, the Authority duly adopted, on February 7, 2018 its Amended and Restated Master School Districts Financing Program Revenue Bond Resolution (the “Master Resolution”), and on one or more dates subsequent thereto duly adopted its Supplemental Resolutions (each such Supplemental Resolution being referred to herein as the “Supplemental Resolution”) authorizing multiple Series of its School Districts Revenue Bond Financing Program Revenue Bonds (the “Authority Bonds”); and

WHEREAS, the Authority has deemed it necessary and in keeping with its purposes to issue, under the Master Resolution (and the Supplemental Resolution), the Authority Bonds therein authorized for the purpose of lending to certain school districts as defined in the Act funds sufficient to (A) finance or refinance the costs of certain capital projects undertaken by such school districts, and (B) pay the costs of issuance of the bonds to be issued by the Authority; and

WHEREAS, the District has requested the Authority to finance or refinance the Project, and the Authority has agreed, on the basis of certain representations and warranties to be made by the District, to make a loan or loans to the District to currently refund and retire the Prior Note; and

WHEREAS, the District desires to receive a loan or loans from the Authority upon substantially the terms and conditions set forth in the Financing Agreement between the Authority and the District, a substantially final form of which has been presented to the Board and by this reference is incorporated herein (the “Financing Agreement”), and has authorized the execution and delivery of bonds of the District payable to the Authority (the “School District Bonds” or the “Bonds”) to evidence its obligation to repay such loan or loans; and

WHEREAS, the Authority has authorized the issuance of the Authority Bonds pursuant to the Master Resolution (and the Supplemental Resolution), a portion of the proceeds of which are to be applied for purposes of making a loan or loans to the District for the permanent financing of the Project; and

WHEREAS, the Authority Bonds are to be special obligations of the Authority payable solely from the revenues or other receipts, funds or moneys to be derived by the Authority under or pursuant to the Financing Agreement and from other revenues pledged and available therefor under the Master Resolution (and the Supplemental Resolution); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Financing Agreement the District will deliver its School District Bonds to the Authority and pledge to the Authority, to secure the payments to be made by the District under the Financing Agreement, a sufficient portion of any and all public funds to be apportioned or otherwise made available by the State of New York to the District;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board (by the favorable vote of not less than two-thirds of all the members of the Board) as follows:

SECTION 1. For the purpose of currently refunding and retiring the Prior Note relating to the Project and generating moneys that will be sufficient to pay (A) the principal amount of the Prior Note, (B) the costs and expenses incidental to the issuance of the School District Bonds herein authorized and the Authority Bonds which they support, including, but not limited to, the District’s proportionate share of the fees and costs of the Authority incurred in connection with the issuance of the Authority Bonds (including, without limitation, the compensation payable to the underwriter of the Authority Bonds), (C) the fees and costs of the municipal advisory and bond counsel firms retained by the District in connection with the issuance of the School District Bonds, and (D) all other fees and costs of issuance associated with the issuance of the Authority Bonds and the School District Bonds, there are hereby specifically authorized to be issued by the District the School District Bonds, as contemplated by the Financing Agreement, in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$5,140,000, with the precise final amount to be determined by the President of the Board (acting on the advice of the District’s municipal advisory firm) and included in the Financing Agreement. The Bonds shall be dated on or about June 16, 2026, shall be of the denomination of \$5,000 or any integral multiple thereof not exceeding the principal amount of each respective maturity (unless a bond of odd denomination is required), and shall mature and shall bear interest on such dates as are set forth in a Notice of Terms that is to be delivered by the Authority to the District, a form of which is attached as Exhibit I to the Financing Agreement (the “Notice of Terms”).

SECTION 2. The School District Bonds shall be executed in the name of the District by the manual or facsimile signature of the President of the Board, and the District’s seal shall be imprinted thereon and attested by the District Clerk. The School District Bonds shall contain the recital of validity clause provided for in Section 52.00 of the Local Finance Law and shall otherwise be in such form and contain such recitals as the President of the Board shall determine.

SECTION 3. A Financial Plan showing the estimated details of the proposed issuance of the Authority Bonds and the School District Bonds will be prepared by the underwriter retained by the Authority (the "Financial Plan"). The Financial Plan will show the estimated sources, amounts and uses of all funds required to accomplish such transaction. The Financial Plan will be prepared based upon the assumption that the School District Bonds will be issued in the aggregate principal amount of not more than \$5,140,000 and that the School District Bonds will be issued in such amount, will mature, will be of such terms, and will bear interest as set forth in the final Notice of Terms that is to be approved by the President of the Board in accordance with this resolution. The President of the Board is hereby authorized and directed to determine (or adjust) the amount of the Prior Note (or any replacement notes) to be refunded, the amount of the School District Bonds to be issued, the date of such School District Bonds and the date of issue, maturities and terms thereof, the provisions relating to any redemption of the School District Bonds prior to maturity, whether the School District Bonds will be insured by a policy or policies of municipal bond insurance or otherwise enhanced by a credit enhancement facility or facilities, the terms of the private sale of the School District Bonds to the Authority, including the form, terms and conditions of the Financing Agreement providing for the sale of the School District Bonds, and all powers in connection therewith are hereby delegated to the President of the Board; provided that the terms of the School District Bonds to be issued, including the rate or rates of interest borne thereby, shall comply with the requirements of any applicable law. The President of the Board shall file a copy of the certificate determining the final details of the School District Bonds and the final Financial Plan with the District Clerk not later than ten (10) days after the delivery of the Bonds, as herein provided.

SECTION 4. The President of the Board is hereby delegated all powers of the Board with respect to agreements for credit enhancement, derived from and pursuant to Section 168.00 of the Local Finance Law, for the School District Bonds including, but not limited to, the determination of the provider of such credit enhancement facility or facilities and the terms and contents of any agreement or agreements related thereto.

SECTION 5. The faith and credit of the District are hereby irrevocably pledged for the payment of the principal of and interest on the School District Bonds as the same respectively become due and payable. An annual appropriation shall be made in each year sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on the School District Bonds becoming due and payable in such year. There shall annually be levied on all the taxable real property of the District a tax sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on the School District Bonds as the same become due and payable.

SECTION 6. The Board hereby approves and directs the execution and delivery (by the President of the Board, acting on behalf of the District) of the Financing Agreement, the School District Bonds, the Letter of Representation, the Continuing Disclosure Agreement, the Arbitrage and Use of Proceeds Certificate (all as defined in the Financing Agreement) and any and all other agreements, certificates or other documents required or contemplated by the Financing Agreement (collectively, the "Agreements") in order to provide for the permanent financing of all or a portion of the Prior Note, as may be required by the Authority. The President of the Board is authorized and directed to execute such other documents, and take such other actions, as are necessary or appropriate to refinance all or a portion of the Prior Note (or any notes issued in contemplation or replacement thereof) through the Authority and to perform the District's obligations under the Agreements (if applicable). The President of the Board's execution and delivery of any such documents prior to the date hereof is hereby ratified, approved and adopted.

SECTION 7. The President of the Board is further authorized to take such actions and execute such documents as may be necessary to ensure (if applicable) the continued status of the interest on the School District Bonds as excludable from gross income for federal income tax purposes pursuant to Section 103 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code") and (if applicable) to designate the School District Bonds

authorized by this resolution as “qualified tax-exempt obligations” in accordance with Section 265 of the Code.

SECTION 8. In the absence or unavailability of the President of the Board, the Vice President of the Board is hereby specifically authorized to exercise the powers delegated to the President of the Board in this resolution.

SECTION 9. The District hereby determines that the issuance of the School District Bonds is a Type II action that will not have a significant effect on the environment and, therefore, no other determinations or procedures under the State Environmental Quality Review Act (“SEQRA”) are required.

SECTION 10. The President of the Board and, to the extent appropriate, the District Clerk, are hereby authorized and directed for and on behalf of the District to execute and deliver all certificates and other documents, perform all acts and do all things required or contemplated to be executed, performed or done by this resolution or any document or agreement approved or contemplated hereby, including, but not limited to, the Financing Agreement, the other Agreements, and all documents defined therein or required or contemplated thereby.

SECTION 11. All other matters pertaining to the terms and issuance of the School District Bonds shall be determined by the President of the Board and all powers in connection therewith are hereby delegated to the President of the Board.

SECTION 12. Except to the extent modified by this resolution, the Bond Resolution is hereby confirmed and ratified in all respects.

SECTION 13. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

Carried 7-0

PERSONNEL

Appointments Motion by Becky Backer, seconded by Jonathan Barney, approved the following personnel motions, as recommended by the Superintendent:

Appointed the following BCS staff members to the identified extracurricular positions for the 2026-27 school year:

Position	Staff Member(s)
• Senior Class Advisor	Jessica Weaver & Shelly Calanni (co-advisors)
• Junior Class Advisor	Michelle Calanni & Mary Guilford (co-advisors)
• Sophomore Class Advisor	Joleen Middaugh & Jessica Buchholz (co-advisors)
• Freshman Class Advisor	Jessica Weaver & Mary Guilford (co-advisors)
• HS Student Council Advisor	Tina Loucks & Mary Paulsen
• MS Student Council Advisor	Danielle Prosser
• National Honor Society Advisor	Teresa Heaney & Kayla Green (co-advisors)
• Yearbook Advisor	Mary Guilford
• Odyssey of the Mind (3) Coach	Jasmine Shephard, Isabella Corwine
• Supervisor of Athletics	Mary Paulsen; Angel Belcer (to transition mid-year)
• Awards Assembly Advisor	Jessica Romance & Isabella Corwine
• Musical Director (2)	Jessica Romance, Rebekah Brennan
• Musical Pit Director	Moriah Clendenin
• Elementary Musical Director (2)	Jessica Romance, Rebekah Brennan
• Band Advisor	Moriah Clendenin
• Choir advisor	Rebekah Brennan
• Lego League Coach (3)	Josh Hazelton, Deb Borden
• Scholastic Challenge Coach	Aran Heaney
• Scholastic Challenge Jr Coach	Aran Heaney

- Sr. Masterminds Coach Deb Borden
- Jr. Masterminds Coach Carolyn Burr
- Ski Club Advisor (2) Liz Hamer, Sandy Miller
- Archery Advisor (2) Bruce Harrington & Jordan Sands
- Golf Club Advisor Sandy Miller & Bruce Harrington
- Auditorium Lights and Sound (2) Josh Hazelton (sound), Rebekah Brennan (lights)
- Vex Club Josh Hazelton
- Game Club Carolyn Burr & Josh Hazelton
- eSports Jasmine Shephard
- Art Club Deb Wagoner
- Girls on the Run Fall Coach (2) Sandy Miller
- Girls on the Run Spring Coach (2) Sandy Miller
- 3rd and 4th Grade Basketball (2) Brianna Burgess
- 5th and 6th Grade Basketball (2) Brianna Burgess

Approved the following athletic positions for the 25-26 school year:

- Bron Norasethaporn- Assistant Varsity Golf Coach
- Jessica Buchholz- JV Softball Bookkeeper
- Dan Geyer- Modified Softball Bookkeeper
- Angel Belcer & Connie Schuld- Modified Baseball Pitch Count

Approved a leave for Sadie Hulin from June 15, 2026, through August 31, 2026.

Appointed Amy Brundage, who holds permanent NYS Certificates permitting her to teach Biology (7-12) and General Science (7-1) to the position of MS/HS Science Teacher in the science education tenure area for a probationary period of three years, to commence January 5, 2027, and to end January 5, 2030. Ms. Brundage's salary for the 26-27 school year will be at Step Y of the BTA negotiated contract plus graduate credit hours.

Appointed Tobias Webb to the position of MS/HS Business Teacher in the business education tenure area for a probationary period of four years, to commence August 31, 2026, and to end August 31, 2030. Eligibility for tenure at the end of the probationary period is dependent on Mr. Webb completing all requirements for NYS certification and receiving APPR ratings of Effective or Highly Effective in 3 of 4 preceding years and no ineffective composite or overall ratings in the final year. Mr. Webb's salary for the 26-27 school year will be at Step A of the BTA negotiated contract.

Approved the following election inspectors for the 25-26 school year:

- Crystal Malota
- Christine Petrie
- Stephen Fox
- Steven Bedwell
- Sheila Bedwell
- Ronnie Rios

Carried 7-0

Executive Session

Motion by Randa Harrington, seconded by Becky Backer, moved the Board into executive session at 6:13pm pm to discuss personnel or legal matters for purposes specified in the open meeting law. Wendy Butler (left at 6:30pm, re-entered at 6:45pm) was invited by the Board.

Carried 7-0

Motion by Becky Backer, seconded by Randa Harrington, moved the Board out of executive session at 7:05pm to discuss specific student and legal matters for purposes specified in the open meeting law. Carried 7-0

ADJOURNMENT Motion by Becky Backer, seconded by Marc Smithers, adjourned the meeting at 7:06pm. Carried 7-0

Respectfully Submitted,



District Clerk