MINUTES

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

1. CALL TO ORDER …… President, Dale Hein
President Dale Hein called the meeting to order at 7:12 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		Christina Lutz-Doemling	X
Jason Bashaw, Secretary	X	Lindsey Wallace	X
Christy Cooper, Treasurer		Paul Reilly	
Lauren Cieslak	X	Eric Dauberman	X
Eric DeLabar	X	Melissa Inselmann	X
Shawn McGinley		David Todd	X
Jamie Nattress	X	Robert Kucharczuk	X
Jeremy Smale	X	Thomas Moll	X
Student Representatives		Daniel Kotran	X
Dante Hatcher-Wilson		Patrick McNulty	X
Nikoloz Kemashvili			

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

4. NOTICE OF EXECUTIVE SESSIONS
A. An executive session for legal and personnel reasons held prior to the meeting at 6:00 PM.
An executive session was held until 7:11 P.M.

5. PRESENTATIONS/AUDIENCE INPUT ON AGENDA
A. CMS Roughie of the Month –Mr. Patrick McNulty, Principal

January				
Grade 5	***Grade 6***	***Grade 7***	***Grade 8***	***Related Arts-Gr-8***
Lucia Gonzalez	*Ruftana Birhane*	*Tayra Tejeda Decena*	*Nora Baker*	*Zoey Weidaw*

February				
Grade 5	***Grade 6***	***Grade 7***	***Grade 8***	***Related Arts-Gr-5***
Gavin Savercool	*Giuseppe Mazzola*	*Yeiser Sanchez Puello*	*Victoria Rodriguez-Ramos*	*Kenna Surita*

B. Recognition of Matt Korp, LCCC Trustee - Dr. Christina Lutz-Doemling
*The board recognized **Matthew Korp** for his **26 years** of dedicated service as an LCCC Trustee for the Catasauqua Area School District. In appreciation of his commitment and contribution, a motion was made by Dale Hein and seconded by Eric DeLabar to grant Matthew Korp a **Lifetime Rough Rider Pass**, which provides him with free access to all home game sporting events. The motion was **approved unanimously**.*

6. ADMINISTRATION/BOARD DISCUSSION & REPORTS

A. Academics and Education - Melissa Inselmann

- *Our upcoming Act 80 Inservice day is March 20th. Teachers in grades 3–6 will participate in OpenSciEd training to support implementation of the STEELS-aligned science curriculum. Additional sessions will include a pilot training for teachers on SchoolAI, Block Strategies and Differentiated Instruction for secondary teachers at CHS, Emergency Preparedness Drill training for the High School, and Positive Behavior Supports training for Catasauqua Middle School staff.*
- *Later this month, staff will also participate in PSSA and Keystone assessment trainings in preparation for the upcoming testing windows, with PSSAs scheduled for April and Keystones in May. In addition, the district and school buildings will begin the PVAAS Roster Verification process in April, which will conclude in May.*
- *Looking ahead, we have begun planning the 2026–2027 professional development calendar and district assessment calendar, and Dan Kotran and I are currently coordinating summer professional development opportunities for staff.*
- *Additionally, the CASD Chapter 339 Plan is on tonight's board agenda for approval. This plan serves as the district's K–12 Guidance Plan, which is submitted to PDE every three years. The plan outlines updated Academic, Career, and Personal/Social goal areas for each school building and ensures alignment with state requirements for a comprehensive school counseling and career readiness program.*

B. Finance - Lindsey Wallace

- *Reminder - Special Budget Meeting is next Wednesday, March 18th at 7 PM*
- *We received the Final 2024-2025 Audit Financial Statements, which are on tonight's agenda for approval. Summary is as follows:*
  - *Total Revenues = $42,107,326*
  - *Total Expenditures = $42,029,358*
  - *Contribution to Fund Balance = $77,968*
  - *Fund Balance = $5,972,560*
  - *There were no Audit Findings*

C. Building & Grounds - Eric Dauberman

- *Quotes have been received to remove problem trees at DAO and Thomas Field. That work will be done as scheduling allows in the coming weeks.*
- *District staff is working on accepting quotes to repair a broken underground drain pipe at CMS, serving the Utility building and Transportation office.*

- *Grounds crews are working hard to get fields ready for spring sports.*
- *A special thanks to district Buildings, Grounds, and Custodial crews, for their tireless efforts in clearing snow and ice this winter. Much of this work happens after hours, on weekends, and in addition to an already full workload, so thank you for all you did to keep schools open and students and staff safe this year.*

D. Policy - David Knerr

- Policy 233 – Suspension & Expulsion – Second Reading (clean) (redline)
  - *Second Read Policy 233 - no changes since last month*

E. Athletics - Thomas Moll

- *The boys basketball team lost to Audenried Charter HS in the PIAA First Round on Saturday at West Philadelphia High School. The team finished the season with a record of 21-8.*
- *The girls basketball team qualified for both the league and district playoffs. The team finished with a record of 18-7. Senior Hailey Jenkins finished her career as the third all-time leading scorer in school history.*
- *We had three girls who medaled at Districts and all three advanced to regionals - Ashlie Montano Giron (4th), Esmeralda Serrano (3rd) and Anaiz Espinal (3rd)*
- *Maliya Walp finished fourth in the 100 backstroke at the District XI Swimming Championships.*
- *Congratulations to seniors Gavin Hacker and Evan Reed on finishing sixth at the District XI Boys Wrestling Championships.*
- *Spring sports practices officially began on Monday, March 2nd.*
- *We have close to 100 students that have signed up for track and field.*
- *We most likely will have three levels of baseball - varsity, junior varsity and junior high.*
- *Still trying to get additional numbers for both varsity and junior high softball.*
- *Congratulations to senior Braeden Smith, who was recognized as our football scholar athlete at a banquet on Sunday, March 1st.*

F. Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit #21 - Jason Bashaw

- *No February Meeting.*
- *Next meeting March 16th.*

G. Borough of Catasauqua - Dale Hein

- *Attended last meeting - Borough has hired a new solicitor, William Platt II*
- *Iron Works is pushed back to start in 2027*
- *Will be building a wall along front street 2026*

H. Borough of North Catasauqua - Christy Cooper

- *Community Events*
- *Chamber of Commerce - Catty in Bloom after the Egg Hunt - 3/28/2026*
- *5/2/2026 - Catty Eats Fest*
- *Community Night 5/29/2026*

I. Hanover Township - Lindsey Wallace

- *An industrial building at 795 Roble Road near the ABE Airport sold for $22 million in January. We should see about $110,000 in transfer taxes coming through for the sale.*
- *There are two additional warehouses set to start construction in 2026:*
- *Patriot American Parkway Warehouse (Lot 3)*
- *1112 American Parkway, near Airport*

- *Construction Start: Mid 2026*
- *Projected Completion: 2027*
- *Approx. 210,000 Square Feet*
- *Estimated Market Value = $30 Million +*
- *Estimated Real Estate Taxes = Approximately $365,000*
- *Should see an interim tax in 2027 and received full RE Tax in 2028*

J. PSBA Liaison Update - Lauren Cieslak
- *School Director Training Options in person and virtual*
- *PSBA Advocacy Day is coming up*

K. Lehigh Career & Technical Institute Update - Jillian Emert - *No report tonight*

L. Student Representatives-Dante Hatcher-Wilson and Nikoloz Kemashvili - *No report tonight*

7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PRIOR MEETING(S)

A. School Board Meeting Held on February 10, 2026

8. APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 2026

9. APPROVAL OF BUDGET TRANSFERS FEBRUARY 2026 **ACCOUNT CODES**

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

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

12. FINANCIAL

A. Accept Independent Auditor's Report of 2024-2025 General Fund Budget
Approval is requested to accept the independent auditor's report of the 2024-2025 General Fund Budget of the Catasauqua Area School District as prepared by Campbell, Rappold & Yurasits LLP.

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

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

13. PERSONNEL

A. Removal Of The Following Substitute Employee(s) For The 2025-2026 School Year:

Name	Position	Reason	Effective
Jeffery Burger	Non CDL Substitute	Did Not Complete Paperwork	3/2/2026
Andrew Cengeri	Non CDL Substitute	Did Not Complete Paperwork	3/2/2026

B. 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
Bielka Almonte-Uceta*	Non-CDL Substitute
Loreni Sanchez	Custodian Substitute and Cafeteria Driver Substitute
Grace Baroun **	Short Term Substitute Catasauqua High School from 3/2/26 to approximately 5/15/26
Sarah Tyler*	Non CDL substitute
Adam Sikora*	Non CDL substitute

*pending receipt of all required onboarding documentation and forms
**Under Act 91, as a Teacher Preparation Program Completer, and pending receipt of all required onboarding documentation and forms.

C. Resignation

Name: Richard Quier Jr.
Status: Custodial B
Assignment: Catasauqua Middle School
Reason: Personal
Effective: March 13, 2026
Initial Start Date: April 2, 2024

D. Approval to Rescind Employment Offer

1. Name: Nicole Guide
   Status: Non Certified Instructional Aide
   Assignment: Sheckler Elementary School
   Reason: Did not complete Employment Paperwork

E. Days Without Pay

1. Name: Melissa Vazquez
   Reason: Sick
   Effective: 2/19/2026 Full Day

2. Name: Linda Pluchinsky
   Reason: Vacation
   Effective: 3/2/2026 Half Day
   3/4/2026 Full Day
   3/5/2026 Full Day
   3/6/2026 Full Day

3. Name: Erica Hudson
   Reason: Sick
   Effective: 2/19/2026 Full Day

4. Name: Breann Vanlieu
   Reason: Personal
   Effective: 2/9/2026 Half Day
   Sick
   3/4/2026 Full Day

5. Name: Courtney Schwartz
   Reason: Sick
   Effective: 2/11/2026 Full Day
   2/12/2026 Full Day
   2/27/2026 Half Day

6. Name: Allysha Weaver
   Reason: Personal
   Effective: 2/6/2026 Half Day
   2/17/2026 Half Day

7. Name: Nichole Grym
   Reason: Personal
   Effective: 2/27/2026 Full Day

F. <u>Change in Employment Status</u>

1. Name: Jody Novitsky
   Previous Status: Sheckler Daily Building Substitute
   Current Status: Substitute Teacher
   Assignment: Districtwide
   Rate of Pay: $135.00 per day (Based on days worked)
   Benefits: N/A
   Effective: February 17, 2026

G. Nomination for Appointment:

1. Name: John Auletta*
   Status: Custodial B
   Assignment: Districtwide
   Rate of Pay: As Per Teamsters Agreement
   Benefits: As Per Teamsters Agreement
   Effective: March 11, 2026

Items 13A, 13B,13C, 13D, 13E, 13F, and 13G-1, were combined by Board request

ROLL CALL VOTE

MOTION BY: DeLabar SECONDED BY: Smale
AYE: Smale, Nattress, Bashaw, Cieslak, DeLabar, Hein
NAY: 0
Six Ayes, Zero Nays, Motion carried

2. Name: Megan Flores*
   Status: Non Certified Instructional Aide
   Assignment: Sheckler Elementary School
   Rate of Pay: $148.00 per day
   Benefits: As Per the Collective Bargaining Agreement
   Effective: TBD

ROLL CALL VOTE

MOTION BY: DeLabar SECONDED BY: Bashaw
AYE: DeLabar, Bashaw, Cieslak, Nattress, Hein
NAY: 0
Abstention by Smale-Works with Megan Flores
Five Ayes, Zero Nays, Motion carried

3. Name: Madison Eisenhart*
   Status: Head Girls Soccer Coach
   Assignment: Catasauqua Athletic Department
   Rate of Pay: TBD
   Benefits: N/A
   Effective: July 1, 2026

*pending receipt of all required onboarding documentation and forms

ROLL CALL VOTE

MOTION BY: Smale SECONDED BY: Cieslak
AYE: Cieslak, Bashaw, Nattress, Smale, DeLabar, Hein
NAY: 0
Six Ayes, Zero Nays, Motion carried

H. Approval of FMLA

Approval for FMLA for employee #2496 from approximately May 22, 2026 to approximately October 16, 2026.

I. Approval of Unpaid Leave of Absence

Approval for employee #2451 effective March 13, 2026, to End of the School Year.

J. Half Year Salary Increment Changes:

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

Katherine Haberern	Step	Degree	Credits	Salary
New	6	BS	24	$77,021.00
Old	6	BS	18	$76,267.00
Difference				$754.00
Half Increment				$377.00

K. Approval Of Student Teacher(s)/Interns/Job Shadows

Approval is requested for the following student teacher(s)/interns/job shadows as listed

College – Moravian University	Effective: March 16, 2026 to May 1, 2026
Name: Marcos Santiago	Music – Robert Arnold

College – Commonwealth University	Effective: March 16, 2026 to March 17, 2026
Name: Jakob Rosenberg*	Kindergarten – Megan Murphy

*pending receipt of all required onboarding documentation and forms

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

#	Name	Position	Stipend
1	Cole Schiffer*	Assistant Baseball Coach	Volunteer
2	Mallory Mulicka*	Assistant Softball Coach	$3,201
3	Brett Sonntag	Assistant Track and Field Coach	$3,201
4	Madison Eisenhart*	Head Girls Soccer Coach	Volunteer
5	William Milisits *	Assistant Softball Coach	Volunteer

*pending receipt of all required onboarding documentation and forms

Items 13H, 13I, 13J, 13K, and 13L, were combined by Board request

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

14. CURRICULUM

15. BOARD APPROVALS

A. Approval of St. Luke's DOT Regulated Testing Agreement (Private Pool) to comply with DOT regulations

B. Approval of St. Luke's Non-Regulated (Non-DOT) Random Drug and Alcohol Testing Program Agreement to comply with District Non DOT policy and procedures

C. Approval Of St. Luke's Occupational Medicine Agreement to Provide fee for Service Occupational Provider Services When Applicable

D. Approval of Matthew T. Korp's Intention Not to Seek Reappointment as Trustee of Lehigh Carbon Community College, at the Conclusion of His Current Six-Year Term July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2026

E. Approval of Special Education Services Agreement for the 2026-2027 School Year Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit #21
The Superintendent requests approval of this agreement, providing services for district students with special needs.

F. Approval of Policy – Second Reading
Approval is requested for the Second reading of the following policy:

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

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

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

G. District Calendar 2026-2027
Superintendent requests approval of the proposed 2026-2027 district school calendar.

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

H. Approval Of The Pelorus Group Contract In Form Presented To The Board For Owner's Project Management Services For The Sheckler Elementary School Project, Including Project Management, Coordination, And Oversight Through Design, Bidding, Construction, And Project Closeout.

I. Approval to go out to bid for the Sheckler Elementary Addition Project

J. Approval to Attend an Overnight Student Field Trip
Approval is requested for an overnight student field trip.

K. Approval of the Catasauqua Area School District K12 Guidance Plan 2026-2029
Administration requests approval of the Pennsylvania Department of Education mandated K12 Guidance Plan. Per Title 22 Chapter 339.31-32 Career and Technical Education Standards, a K-12 Guidance Plan (K12GP) is required for all Career and Technology Centers (CTC) and all Local Education Entities (LEA) that offer PDE-approved career and technical education (CTE) programs or send students to a school that offers PDE-approved CTE programs including CTCs.

L. Approval is requested to enter into an Agreement for Part Time Certified Occupational Therapist Assistant (COTA) with Amy Pidgeon.

M. Approval of Apple Master Lease Agreement
Administration recommends approval of a four (4) year Lease Agreement with Apple Financial Services for the following Apple Products. The iPads are for Districtwide Distribution to Students for Educational Use.

1800 iPads (#MD6L4LL/A)

N. Approval to Dispose Up to 1795 iPads and 140 MacBooks and to Receive Reimbursement At Fair Market Value From Awarded, Most Competitive Priced Vendor Upon Administration's Review and Approval.

O. <u>Approval of Additional Revised Van/Bus Stops</u>

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 Operation Office, and will be made available at all times. Additionally, changes are stored within the transportation software management system.

Items 15H, 15I, 15J, 15K, 15L, 15M, 15N, and 15O were combined by Board request

ROLL CALL VOTE

MOTION BY: <u>DeLabar</u> *SECONDED BY: <u>Cieslak</u>*
AYE: Bashaw, Cieslak, Nattress, DeLabar, Smale, Hein
NAY: 0
Six Ayes, Zero Nays, Motion carried

16. RECOGNITION OF GUESTS & VISITORS

Kristin Brobst: Provided updates to the Board on the various music related programs. suggesting a review of the district's volunteer policy to make it easier for CHS students to volunteer.

Dr. Robert Kucharczuk

- *Thank you to all of our teachers and staff members and Home and School volunteers who supported Literacy Night at Sheckler. It was a huge success and a great turn out from our Sheckler School Community!*
- *Great week of Read Across America events including having our CHS students join us for a Seussical the Musical presentation for our 2nd grade students and Guest Readers across all grade levels*
- *Looking forward to our Sheckler Science Fair event on Thursday 3/19 from 5:30-7:00.*

Patrick McNulty

- *Thank you to all the volunteers who helped to make the Valentine's dance a success. We had 185 students that enjoyed the evening.*
- *We held our MP-2,PBIS flex day reward days the past two weeks. Each student that qualified got to pick from a range of activities and enjoyed a snack while doing so.*
- *We had four middle school students represent us at the PEMA regional choir concert at Saucon Valley yesterday. Mallory Deering, Nora Baker,Ciara Gass, Alex Bernini. Thank you to Mrs. Derr for your leadership.*
- *The choir performed at the Phantoms game on February 28.*

David Todd

- *Seussical the Musical is debuting this week, Friday and Saturday show times are at 2:00 pm and 7:00 pm, also Sunday is 2:00 pm.*

- *We are looking forward to having CMS join us for a Musical preview this Thursday.*
- *Thank you to Dr. Kucharczuk for allowing the cast to come down last week to share a few moments with the Sheckler students.*
- *We are approaching the end of the 3rd Marking Period and Seniors have officially caught Senioritis. This was an extraordinary class and we will miss them.*
- *Scheduling is beginning and visits at CMS will begin shortly.*

Dan Kotran
Paul Reilly

- *I'd like to thank the Board for approving our new iPad lease.*
- *We were able to secure a 0% interest rate for all district iPads which is a great savings for the district, along with 4 years of Apple Care*
- *The new devices will probably arrive sometime around the beginning of April. Paul and I will distribute them to each building shortly thereafter. Devices will be set up for students over the summer.*
- *You'll notice this lease did not include new MacBooks for our teachers. Shortly after we began the renewal process, Apple released a new education-focused model called the 'Neo' and discontinued the model we were originally considering.*
- *The Neo is significantly more cost-effective, coming in at approximately $500 per device compared to the $900 model we previously looked at. Paul has confirmed that despite the lower price point, the specs are more than capable of handling our teachers' needs.*
- *We currently have a demo unit being shipped to us so we can evaluate it firsthand before we bring a final recommendation to the Board. (hopefully next month)*
- *iPad buy back = $148, minimum buy back = $177,800.00*
- *MacBook buy back = $321, minimum buy back = $31,720.00*

Eric Dauberman

- *Thank you to the board for approving Madison Eisenhart as the new Girls Soccer Coach.*
- *The deadline to apply for the counselor and nurse positions is this Sunday, March 15th. We have 24 applicants for the counselor position and 20 applicants for the nurse position. We will hold interviews soon and we expect present names for both positions for consideration at the April board meeting.*

Melissa Inselmann

- *Thank you to our school board for approving the Chapter 339 Plan tonight. I would like to recognize the following individuals for putting the plan together: Shelley Keffer, Julie Casto, Kim Ceccatti, Amy Dymond-Jones, Stacey Carpenter, Stephanie Covelle, and Tara Roseman.*

Lindsey Wallace

- *Congratulations to the new hires.*

Dr. Christina Lutz-Doemling

- *I'd like to commend Dan Kotran and our administrative team on their collaborative efforts to prepare our public school facility improvement*

	grant application for submission. I would also like to thank our Catasauqua, North Catasauqua and Hanover Township local government officials and our legislators for their letters of support. As a reminder we are continuing our improvement efforts at Catasauqua High school and we are requesting $1,237,500 to be used for CHS Facade Rehabilitation. • *Commend our School Board and Administration, Faculty and Staff on our Top Workplace Recognition - Values - communication, collaboration and continuous improvement -Feb. 26th*
Jeremy Smale	• *Shared news of two Catasauqua alumni being featured in Morning Call's 2026 list of Most Influential People: Vanessa Boulette and Hannah Votta Coleman.*
Lauren Cieslak	• *Looking forward to seeing the CHS Drama Club performance Suessical.*
Jamie Nattress	• *Recognized the Sheckler teachers for a successful event Thursday night's Literacy Night.*
Eric DeLabar	• *Also commented on the tremendous success of Sheckler's Literacy Night.* • *Wished good luck to the Drama Club cast for this year's performance of Seussical.*
Jason Bashaw	• *Shout out to Shelley Keffer for the different events they attended together.* • *Spoke to the North Catasauqua Mayor about installing temporary speed bumps in the area around the park.*
Dale Hein	• *Winter sports are over* • *Push for moving ahead with the boundary and non-boundary resolution*

17. NEXT MEETING DATES

A. Wednesday, March 18, 2026	7:00 PM	Special School Board Meeting
B. Tuesday, April 14, 2026	7:00 PM	School Board Meeting
C. Tuesday, April 28, 2026	5:00 PM	B & G Committee Meeting
	6:00 PM	Athletic Committee Meeting
	7:00 PM	Academics Committee Meeting

18. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY: DeLabar *SECONDED BY: Nattress*

Motion carried

Time Adjourned: 8:35 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Jason Bashaw
Secretary