**West Canada Valley Central School District**
**Board of Education**
**2026-2027 Budget Hearing 6:00 PM ~ Regular Meeting 6:30 PM**
**Monday, May 11, 2026**

**Members Present**
Alisa Brewer
Shannon Crocker
Shauna Harrington
Roger Kemler
Janine Lynch
Sara Northup-Lynch
Edwin Schatzel

**Ex-Officio Student Board Member**

Katherine Gorinshek

**Others Present**
Jeremy Siddon, Superintendent
Glenn Broadbent, MS/HS Principal
Kelley Crossett, Business Manager
Daphne Raymo, District Clerk
Christine Nofri, Elementary Principal
Shelby Butler, Director of Food Services
Felix Ray, Director of Transportation
Dennis Lynch, Director of Facilities
Todd Hobin, Athletic Coordinator

**THIS MEETING WAS LIVE-STREAMED THROUGH THE WEST CANADA VALLEY CSD WEBSITE**

## CALL TO ORDER

Board President, Shauna Harrington, called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM.

## PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present.

## PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING: 2026-27 PROPOSED SCHOOL BUDGET

The public hearing to present the proposed 2026-27 school budget to the community began at 6:00 pm. Superintendent Jeremy Siddon presented a slideshow that outlined the budget development process, expenses, revenues, and the proposed budget. The district is facing several upcoming challenges such as declining state aid and rising mandatory costs, including the BOCES capital project payments, as well as rising healthcare and retirement contributions. The proposed budget for the 2026-27 school year is $21,997,673 with a 15% tax levy increase. The budget aims to maintain current programming while managing fiscal constraints.

The presentation also included information on the tax rate, the tax levy, and how individual tax bills are calculated for each town. Options were presented to the community in the event the budget vote is defeated. These include the district presenting another budget for a revote, either as is, or in modified form. The second option is for the district to go straight to a contingency budget, which would mean cutting approximately $835,000 more across the district to be compliant. This means reductions in program opportunities, extracurricular and athletic opportunities, additional staff reductions, and larger class sizes. The district has been working with consultant *Dr. Rick Timbs* to develop a five-year fiscal plan to stabilize the district's long-term financial health.

The Bus Purchase Proposition was also presented; it outlines the 5-year bus replacement plan which will replace three (3) large buses and one (1) small bus with a wheelchair lift. The cost of the replacements is not to exceed $500,337. The Newport Free Library is asking for a tax levy increase in the amount of $5,000 to increase their annual budget allotment from $57,000 to $62,000.

After the presentation, Mr. Siddon opened the floor to public comments and community feedback.

**Tax Levy Concerns:** Community members expressed their concern regarding a potential 15% tax increase, with residents highlighting the discrepancy between rising assessed property values and the school's need for revenue.

**Assessment vs. Levy:** Residents expressed confusion and concern over how the 15% levy increase interacts with rising town-assessed property values, with speakers noting that their individual tax bills have already increased with their assessments.

**Fiscal Management:** Several attendees questioned why the district is facing such a high increase now and why it wasn't addressed sooner.

**Sustainability:** Community members asked if this 15% increase is a one-time adjustment or if the district plans to request further large tax levy increases in future years. The administration stated that the goal is to stabilize the budget, but cautioned that they must continue to explore staff reductions and revenue alternatives.

**Administrative Restructuring:** Several speakers disputed the current administrative structure, suggesting that the district should prioritize classroom spending and reduce the number of administrators in the building.

**Board Communication:** Attendees expressed frustration that they do not hear open, dynamic conversation among board members during public meetings, leading to a perceived lack of trust. Residents urged the Board of Education to improve communication and openness, particularly regarding "Plan B" if the budget fails.

**Executive Session Concerns:** Residents criticized the frequent use of executive sessions. A speaker noted that the board often enters these sessions to discuss matters that should be public, then votes upon returning without adequately explaining the results to the community.

**Recent Improvements:** In response to these concerns, Mr. Siddon and Ms. Michael acknowledged the feedback. They stated that they have already changed the agenda structure and moved the executive sessions towards the end of the agenda, after public discussion, and also advised that they have been more clearly stating the reasons for entering closed sessions.

**One Bus Run Efficiency:** Community members questioned why buses often run with one or two students on board, implying that a one-run system might be more cost-effective.

**Double Runs:** There was a spirited debate regarding "double runs" (busing high school and elementary students at different times). While some residents argued for consolidating routes to save money, administration and other community members defended the current system, citing safety, disciplinary concerns, and the need to accommodate several different schedules for special education and mandated homeless student transportation.

**Bus Mechanic Positions:** Residents asked about the necessity of maintaining multiple mechanics if the buses are traded in every five years. Officials responded that they are required by state regulation to inspect buses every 30 days and pull brake inspections annually, which mandates consistent in-house maintenance.

**Electric Bus Mandate:** There was significant concern regarding the New York State mandate for electric school buses. Administrators stated they have filed waivers to push back the compliance date, citing concerns over infrastructure costs, battery performance in cold weather, and recent reports of fire hazards in electric bus fleets.

Mr. Siddon thanked the community members for attending the meeting and voicing their concerns. He also advised that if more questions come up community members are urged to please call the district office.

The Public Budget Hearing ended at 7:45 PM

**REGULAR MONTHLY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**

The regularly-scheduled monthly Board of Education meeting began at 7:47 PM, immediately after the Public Budget Hearing ended.

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

A motion made by Mrs. Brewer and seconded by Mr. Schatzel to approve the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the following consent agenda items be approved and/or accepted: meeting minutes from the 4/2, 4/15, and 4/20/2026 Special Budget Meetings, and minutes from the 4/13/2026 Regular Meeting, CSE/CPSE report, treasurer's report, budget report, claims audit report, and administrative reports, as presented.

All voted in favor; motion carried 7:0

**DISCUSSION ITEMS: 2026-2027 BUDGET PRESENTATION**

Mr. Siddon thanked the Board members, Ms. Crossett, and Administrative Team for working through the budget process this year. If the budget doesn't pass, we will have another board meeting before the public budget hearing on June 8. The scheduled uniform budget revote day is Tuesday, June 16, 2026.

**DISCUSSION ITEM: FOOD SERVICE DIRECTOR POSITION**

Ms. Butler is retiring at the end of the school year. The job opening has been posted on OLAS and several applications have been received. The interview process will begin on May 27, 2026. The interview committee will include two of our Board members, as well as internal interviewers. If needed, the option is still open to look into using the cafeteria services that BOCES can provide.

**DISCUSSION ITEM: END OF THE YEAR IMPORTANT DATES**

The school year is coming to an end and there are many upcoming ceremonies and celebration events on the calendar.

- May 19: Annual Budget Vote & School Board Elections 12:00 - 8:00 PM
- May 19: Spring Concert IV (4th Grade/Elementary Band & Chorus) 6:30 PM
- May 22: "Snow Day" Give Back Day - No School for Students and 10/11-month Staff
- May 25: Memorial Day Holiday - School Building Closed; Parade - Middleville 10:00 AM
- June 6: Sherburne Pageant of Bands
- June 8: Board of Education Meeting (High School Library) 6:00 PM
- June 9: ELA Regents
- June 10: Algebra II Regents
- June 11: Honor's Ceremony 5:00pm Auditorium
- June 16: Last full day for HS/MS students
- June 17-25: Regents Exams
- June 17: Athletic Banquet 5:00pm High School Gym
- June 19: Juneteenth No School / Building Closed
- June 23: Last full day of school for Elementary
- June 23: UPK Moving Up Day 9:30am Auditorium
- June 24: 6th Grade Moving Up Day 9:30am Auditorium
- June 27: High School Graduation 10:00am Auditorium

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Erin Roberts, who lives in Newport, asked, "Do you always include board members now when you're interviewing? It used to be (the) principal or superintendent."

Mr. Siddon responded saying that he likes having a board member or two on the committee when interviewing for a director or supervisory position. He learned this at his last district and liked it because this is a small school and people wear different hats, and having the board's input during the hiring process helps out.

**RECESS TO PROPOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Motion made by Ms. Lynch and seconded by Mr. Schatzel to recess into executive session to discuss:

- The Review and Appointment of Employees
- Contract Negotiations Involving the WCV Teachers Association
- Review of Individual *Terms & Conditions of Employment* Contracts

All voted in favor; motion carried 7:0 Entered Executive Session: 8:35 PM Exited Executive Session: 9:22 PM

Mr. Schatzel left the Board meeting at 8:36 PM.

**RECONVENE PUBLIC SESSION**

Board President, Shauna Harrington, reconvened the public session at 9:24 PM.

**ACTION ITEMS: PERSONNEL – RESIGNATION**

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent, motion was made by Ms. Lynch and seconded by Mrs. Brewer to approve the following resolution,
RESOLVED, to accept the resignation, for purpose of retirement, of;

**Name:** **Carol Leon**
**Position**: Bus Driver (full-time)
**Effective**: June 30, 2026
All voted in favor; motion carried 6:0

**ACTION ITEMS: PERSONNEL – SUBSTITUTE APPOINTMENTS**

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent, motion was made by Mrs. Crocker and seconded by Mrs. Northup-Lynch to approve the following resolution,
RESOLVED, to appoint;

**Name:** **Ashley Potter**
**Position**: Substitute Teacher / Teaching Assistant / Aide-Monitor (PreK-12)
**Salary:** Per the district-approved rate sheet and CSEA Bargaining Agreement
**Effective**: September 2, 2026
All voted in favor; motion carried 6:0

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent, motion was made by Mrs. Northup-Lynch and seconded by Ms. Lynch approve the following resolution,
RESOLVED, to appoint;

**Name:** **Kaitlyn Galinski**
**Position**: Substitute Teaching Assistant / Aide-Monitor (PreK-12)
**Salary:** Per the district-approved rate sheet and CSEA Bargaining Agreement
**Effective**: May 12, 2026
All voted in favor; motion carried 6:0

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent, motion was made by Mrs. Northup-Lynch and seconded by Mrs. Brewer to approve the following resolution,
RESOLVED, to appoint;

**Name:** **Carol Leon**
**Position**: Substitute Bus Driver
**Salary:** Per the hourly rate of the CSEA Bargaining Agreement
**Effective**: July 2, 2026
All voted in favor; motion carried 6:0

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent, motion was made by Mrs. Crocker and seconded by Mr. Kemler to approve the following resolution,
RESOLVED, to appoint;

**Name:** **Lisa Perry**
**Position**: Substitute Custodian
**Salary:** Per the hourly rate of the CSEA Bargaining Agreement
**Effective**: May 12, 2026
All voted in favor; motion carried 6:0

**ACTION ITEM: TENURE APPROVALS**

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent, motion was made by Mrs. Crocker seconded by Mrs. Northup-Lynch to grant tenure to **Gretchen Blynt**, in the tenure area of ***Secondary English***, effective September 1, 2026
All voted in favor; motion carried 6:0

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent, motion was made by Mrs. Crocker seconded by Ms. Lynch to grant tenure to **Edmund Dougherty**, in the tenure area of ***Secondary Science***, effective September 1, 2026
All voted in favor; motion carried 6:0

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent, motion was made by Mrs. Northup-Lynch seconded by Ms. Lynch to grant tenure to **Marc Rogowski**, in the tenure area of ***Secondary English***, effective September 1, 2026
All voted in favor; motion carried 6:0

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent, motion was made by Ms. Lynch seconded by Mrs. Brewer to grant tenure to **Ricci Sayers**, in the tenure area of ***Art***, effective September 1, 2026
All voted in favor; motion carried 6:0

**ACTION ITEM: ADOPT RESOLUTION FOR SENIOR DRIVE YOUR TRACTOR TO SCHOOL DAY**

Motion made by Mrs. Crocker and seconded by Mrs. Northup-Lynch to adopt the **Senior Drive Your Tractor to School Day** resolution, as presented.

All voted in favor; motion carried 6:0

**West Canada Valley Central School District**
**Board of Education Resolution**
**SENIOR DRIVE YOUR TRACTOR TO SCHOOL DAY**

**WHEREAS**, the West Canada Valley Central School District wishes to recognize the agricultural heritage of our community and support FFA/agricultural education; and

**WHEREAS**, Senior students have requested the privilege of driving their tractors to school to celebrate the end of the school year and their graduation; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Education desires to allow this activity while ensuring the safety of all students, staff, and visitors, while protecting school property;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Board of Education authorizes senior students to drive tractors to school on Friday, June 12, 2026, provided the following conditions are met:

1. **Permission Slip:** A signed parent/guardian permission slip, acknowledging liability, is submitted to the administration at least 24 hours in advance.
2. **Safety & Operation:** Tractors must be operated safely and in accordance with all local/state regulations, including the use of SMV (Slow Moving Vehicle) signs.
3. **Parking:** Tractors must be parked in the designated, approved area.
4. **Liability:** The student and parent/guardian accept all responsibility for damage to school property or accidents caused by the student.

**RESOLVED** that this Resolution shall be effective as of **May 11, 2026**.

**CERTIFICATION**
It is hereby certified that the above motion was approved by the West Canada Valley Central School District Board of Education at its meeting, duly noticed, held on **May 11, 2026**.

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Clerk Board of Education Date

**ACTION ITEM: ADOPT DATA PRIVACY RESOLUTION FOR THE RIC ONE RISK OPERATIONS CENTER (ROC)**

Motion made by Ms. Lynch and seconded by Mrs. Northup-Lynch to adopt the Data Privacy Resolution for the RIC ONE Risk Operations Center (ROC) resolution, as presented.

All voted in favor; motion carried 6:0

**West Canada Valley Central School District**
**Board of Education Resolution**
**RIC ONE RISK OPERATIONS CENTER (ROC)**

WHEREAS, four (4) BOCES (Onondaga-Cortland-Madison BOCES, Albany-Schoharie-Schenectady-Saratoga BOCES, Madison-Oneida BOCES and Broome-Tioga BOCES) have collaborated and entered into an Article 5 General Municipal Law intermunicipal arrangement for the purpose of improving vendor management and data security and privacy practices for school districts and/or BOCES statewide known as the RIC ONE Risk Operations Center (the "ROC");

"WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the West Canada Valley Central School District, through its affiliation with a locally based Regional Information Center, participates with the ROC and desires, for the 2026-2027 fiscal year, to authorize the ROC to enter into Data Privacy Agreements and related exhibits (DPAs) with vendors and third-party contractors that include the requirements of, and compliance with, New York State Education Law Section 2-d and Part 121 Regulations (collectively, "Ed Law 2d") related to student personally identifiable information (PII) and certain Teacher and Principal APPR data;"

WHEREAS, the ROC also partners with NYSED, the Access4Learning Student Data Privacy Consortium (SDPC) and The Education Cooperative (TEC), to negotiate and approve Ed Law 2-d compliant DPAs;

WHEREAS, the DPAs are presented to school districts and/or BOCES for final execution and do not require the expenditure of funds beyond those budgeted; and

BE IT RESOLVED, Board of Education of the West Canada Valley Central School District authorizes the attorneys designated by the ROC to negotiate and approve of DPAs for software and/or technology resources; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the West Canada Valley Central School District Board of Education grants the ROC and its designated attorneys the authority to negotiate the terms and conditions of DPAs and take such actions so as to effectuate the purposes and intent of this resolution.

CERTIFICATION

It is hereby certified that the above motion was approved by the West Canada Valley Central School District Board of Education at its meeting, duly noticed, held on **May 11, 2026**.

Dated: May 11, 2026

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Board Clerk

**APPOINT CHIEF ELECTION INSPECTOR**

Motion made by Mr. Kemler and seconded by Ms. Lynch to approve the following resolution;
RESOLVED, to appoint;

**Name:** **Tina Sternberg**
**Position:** Chief Election Inspector
**Effective:** May 12, 2026
All voted in favor; motion carried 6:0

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- May 12: Second Annual Nighthawks Art Show (High School Library) 6:00 - 8:30 PM
- May 12: Spring Concert III (Jr. & Sr. Choruses, Jr. Band) 7:00 PM
- May 13: Half Superintendent's Day - Early Dismissal: MS/HS 10:30, PreK 10:50 (pickup only), Elementary 11:30
- May 19: Annual Budget Vote & School Board Elections 12:00 - 8:00 PM
- May 19: Spring Concert IV (4th Grade/Elementary Band & Chorus) 6:30 PM
- May 22: "Snow Day" Give Back Day - No School for Students and 10/11-month Staff
- May 25: Memorial Day Holiday - School Building Closed; Parade - Middleville 10:00 AM
- June 6: Sherburne Pageant of Bands
- June 8: Board of Education Meeting (High School Library) 6:00 PM

**ADJOURN**

Motion made by Ms. Lynch and seconded by Mrs. Northup-Lynch to adjourn the meeting.

All voted in favor; motion carried 6:0 **Regular Meeting adjourned: 9:30 PM**

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President, Board of Education Clerk, Board of Education