West Canada Valley Central School District
Board of Education Special Budget Meeting
Tuesday, May 26, 2026 ~ 6:00 PM

Members Present	**Others Present**
Alisa Brewer (6:04 PM)	Jeremy Siddon, Superintendent
Shannon Crocker	Kelley Crossett, Business Manager
Shauna Harrington	Daphne Raymo, District Clerk
Roger Kemler	Glenn Broadbent, MS/HS Principal
Janine Lynch	Christine Nofri, Elementary Principal
Sara Northup-Lynch	Emily Looman, Director of Special Programs
Edwin Schatzel	Dennis Lynch, Director of Facilities
	Felix Ray, Transportation Supervisor

Attendees (from optional sign-in sheet)

Melissa Bolton	Kathy McEvoy	Danielle Allen	Karen Hopsicker
Marylee Dedicke	Mary Lou Flansburg	Patricia Goodman	Tracey Farber
Beth Lyon	David J. Amendolare	Mariah Kane	

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 6:00 PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present.

DISCUSSION ITEM: IDENTIFY ADDITIONAL REDUCTIONS TO REDUCE THE TAX LEVY

Mr. Siddon opened the meeting and advised that the district is working to amend its budget after the initial 15% tax levy proposal was rejected by voters. The goal is to try to reach a lower, single-digit tax levy increase for the 2026-2027 school year. It was stressed that the district is not looking to eliminate athletics, drama productions, or extracurriculars entirely, as these programs serve as a vital hub for the community. The revised proposed budget entails a **9% tax levy increase** with an annual budget amount of **$21,273,665**. Key points of discussion included:

Administrative / Additional Staff Cost Cutting: The revised budget includes a salary freeze which was voluntarily requested by the superintendent, the transportation supervisor, and the director of facilities. The business administrator will move to a 4-day work week with a 20% reduction in pay. Additional staff reduction would include one (1) music teacher.

Educational Programs: The district is reviewing the reduction of virtual courses, like American Sign Language, for an approximate savings of $61,000 and is looking into shared service opportunities with neighboring districts.

Extracurriculars & Athletics: The board discussed potential cuts, such as the 5:00 PM bus run and limiting athletics to league games only, eliminating non-league games that often require long-distance travel.

Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT): A community member suggested that the district "carve out" the revenue received from the windmill company and use those funds specifically to support sports and extracurricular activities. Administration explained that the income from the windmill company has been deposited into the district's general fund alongside other revenues to help offset the overall tax levy. Doing this would create a $360,000 deficit in the general fund that would need to be found elsewhere in the budget.

TIMELINE AND LEGAL REQUIREMENTS FOR A SECOND BUDGET VOTE

June 8th: The required public budget hearing will be held at 6:00 p.m. to present visuals comparing the proposed 9% budget increase against a contingency budget. The regularly-scheduled monthly board of education meeting will begin immediately afterward.

June 16th: A revised budget vote is scheduled to take place from 12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the high school lobby.

REVIEW IMPLICATIONS OF A CONTINGENCY BUDGET IF A SECOND VOTE FAILS

Contingency Budget: If the second budget proposal is defeated and the district moves to a contingency budget, the superintendent and board emphasized that it would be significantly more harmful to students than the 9% proposal. Mr. Siddon advised that this would necessitate deeper reductions across "the whole gamut" of extracurricular programs and staff, urging the community to pass the 9% budget to avoid these severe consequences.

Transparency: There was a consensus that the district needs to provide clear visual comparisons for the public, showing exactly what a 9% budget increase entails versus the specific, deeper cuts required by a contingency budget, to help taxpayers understand the exactly what is at stake.

RECESS TO PROPOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion made by Mr. Schatzel and seconded by Mrs. Northup-Lynch for the board to recess into executive session for the purpose of discussing:

- Employment history and matters related to a particular employee.

All voted in favor; motion carried 7:0 **Entered Executive Session: 7:37 PM Exited Executive Session: 8:25 PM**

RECONVENE PUBLIC SESSION

Board President, Shauna Harrington, reconvened the public session at 8:27 PM.

ACTION ITEM: ACCEPT REVISED 2026-2027 BUDGET

Motion made by Mr. Schatzel and seconded by Ms. Lynch to accept the following resolution;
BE IT RESOLVED; that the Board accepts the **revised** 2026-2027 budget reflecting a **9% tax levy increase**, and a total budget amount of **$21,730,665** .

All voted in favor; motion carried 7:0

ADJOURN

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

All voted in favor; motion carried 7:0 **Meeting adjourned: 8:29 PM**

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President, Board of Education Clerk, Board of Education