

**Central Bucks School District**  
**School Board Brief**  
**January 16, 2025**

At the January 16, 2025 School Board Meeting, the Central Bucks Board of School Directors:

**Announced** that the Board met in Executive Session on January 13, 2025 regarding ongoing Equal Pay litigation and a confidential student matter.

**Announced** that the Board met in executive session on January 16, 2025, prior to this evening's meeting, regarding collective bargaining with transportation employees and new Equal Pay litigation.

**Heard** Superintendent's Report:

Recognitions: Dr. Yanni recognized Holicong Middle School student Sulan Shi for her original design for the January lock screen contest. Sulan's artwork was based on this month's Portrait of a Graduate attribute "Critical Thinkers". Dr. Yanni congratulated CB East for earning the "Model PLC at Work" distinction, Dr. Yanni recognized Technology & Innovation team members Jason Jaffe and Lindsay Smith for representing CBSD at the 2025 FETC Conference. Dr. Yanni thanked the Central Bucks Education Foundation and its donors for over \$40,000.00 in awarded grants.

Remarks: Dr. Yanni shared information that was presented at January committee meetings, including Artificial Intelligence in CBSD, EmpathED, the preliminary 2025-2026 budget, Title IX information, and updates to the kindergarten age of admission policy. Dr. Yanni announced that all families and community members are welcome to attend upcoming Town Hall meetings to discuss the future of Doyle, Linden, and Kutz Elementary Schools. Dr. Yanni reviewed the continuously updated "Making Practice Public" page on the district's website. Dr. Yanni announced that January is School Board member recognition month and thanked our nine school board members for their service.

**Heard** Public Comment about agenda items:

1. Alyson Zimmer spoke about potential tax increases and people reassessing property values. Next, Ms. Zimmer started to speak about a recent Delaware Valley Journal article but was asked to stop speaking about non-agenda topics during this first public comment section; she will continue speaking during the second public comment section (see speaker #11 in section 16A, below).

2. Vonna DeArmond spoke about School Board Policy 006, notices for the public, public meeting law, and being very explicit when writing this policy. Next, Ms. DeArmond started to speak about the Sunshine Act and Karen Smith's deposition but was asked to stop speaking about non-agenda topics during this first public comment section; she will continue speaking during the second public comment section (see speaker #3 in section 16A, below).

3. Edward Mackouse spoke about School Board Policy 103, discrimination, Title IX, and sports. Mr. Mackouse spoke about PSAT scores at CB East for boys and for girls.

**Approved** the minutes of the December 2, 2024 School Board Organization Meeting.

**Approved** the minutes of the December 2, 2024 School Board Meeting.

**Reviewed** School Board Reports:  
Education Committee.

Policy Committee.  
Finance and Operations Committee.  
Middle Bucks Institute of Technology.

**Approved Business Department Items:**

Financial Reports.

Accounts Payable Check Disbursements in the amount of \$3,330,982.69.

2026-2030 Tax Collector Renumeration Resolution.

Tax Assessment Settlement Agreement: John Pierce Revocable Trust, in the amount of \$723.79.

Tax Assessment Settlement Agreement: Calahan, in the amount of \$4,455.11.

Tax Assessment Settlement Agreement: Nikpour, in the amount of \$3,416.85.

Tax Assessment Settlement Agreement: Rzepski, in the amount of \$3,556.21.

Staff conferences and workshops in the amount of \$12,282.00.

First Student Drivers and Aide.

Student Activity Encumbrance Reports.

Preliminary Budget in the amount of \$435,508,735.00.

**Approved Operations Department Items:**

Siemens Boiler Controls Replacements at CB South in the amount of \$41,774.00.

Box Truck purchase from Bergey's Isuzu in the amount of \$120,518.68.

Tamanend Middle School HVAC equipment project to Integrity Mechanical, Inc. and S&S Electrical Services, Inc. in the amount of \$583,433.00.

JMS Acoustics CB East choral room study in the amount of \$3,250.00.

Gilmore & Associates CB East stormwater management in the amount of \$8,600.00.

Johnson Controls HVAC unit replacement at Operations/Transportation building in the amount of \$205,575.00.

Bauder Audio Systems, Inc. new audio system rack for board room sound system in the amount of \$53,046.56.

Doylestown Township waiver of land development resolution for Kutz Elementary School playground project.

**Approved Special Education Department Item:**

IEP Waiver Agreement

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Settlement Agreement in the amount of \$27,675.67.

Settlement Agreement in the amount of \$115,300.40.

Settlement Agreement in the amount of \$70,350.02.

Settlement Agreement in the amount of \$144,000.00.

Settlement Agreement in the amount of \$272,000.00.

**Approved Student Service Items:**

Foundations Agreement for the 2024-2025 school year.

BCIU Concussion Agreement presentation.

Suazo-Legido professional Development agreement at \$250.00 per hour plus travel expenses.

**Approved Education Items:**

Middle School Science resource adoption.

AP Chemistry textbook adoption.

DIG Into Math and Money Skills textbook adoptions.

Mastery Connect pilot at CB East.  
EmpathED platform license, with cost covered by the CB Ed Foundation.

**Approved Policy Items:**

First Read: School Board Policies 103 and 104.

Second Read: School Board Policies 006, 201, 217, 217.1, and 217.2.

Second Read Repeal: School Board Policy 217.3

**Approved Field Trips:**

CBE Girls Track in January and February 2025.

CBS Wrestling in December 2024.

CBS Wrestling in January 2025.

CBS Cheerleading in January 2025.

CBS Baseball in March 2025.

CBW Girls Wrestling in January 2025.

CBW Cheerleading in February 2025.

CBW Harlequin Club in March 2025.

**Approved Human Resources Department Items:**

Retirements, Resignations, and Terminations.

Leaves of Absence.

Appointments.

Assignment, Classification, and Status Changes.

New Positions.

Activities EDRs and Athletic Points.

Sabbaticals.

**Approved Other Action Items:**

Dual Enrollment/Dual Credit Agreement with Delaware Valley University.

Acceptance of Funds from Central Bucks Educational Foundation for CBEF-approved grants.

**Heard Public Comment:**

1. Shannon Harris spoke about nine depositions that she received through a Right to Know request and said that they are available at cbsd411. Ms. Harris spoke about Democratic board members meeting with Solicitor Conn before December 4th, the hiring of Solicitor Conn, Mrs. Smith's deposition, Mrs. Gibson's deposition, Signal communications between Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Gibson, Mrs. Reynolds, Mr. Haring, and Solicitor Conn. Ms. Harris spoke about board members having destroyed evidence on litigation hold. Mrs. Harris was asked to stop speaking when her speaking time of three minutes expired.

2. Debra Cannon said that a whistle-blower turned in a complaint alleging abuse of a student. Ms. Cannon said that Dr. Yanni, Dr. Garvin, and Mr. Freiling were told about this report, which pertains to a non-verbal child. Ms. Cannon read a timeline of an investigation into the allegations by Dr. Yanni, Dr. Garvin, and Mr. Freiling. Ms. Cannon spoke about a ChildLine report submitted by Dr. Yanni and about information withheld from law enforcement and from parents.

3. Vonna DeArmond spoke about a complaint filed with Human Resources by a district PCA, read timelines and details of a whistle-blower's complaint and of a ChildLine report, and spoke of allegations of abuse that were withheld from the parents.

4. Dana Hunter read aloud a text of a police report regarding allegations of the abuse of a student.

5. Leigh Vlasblom spoke about a CB employee who emailed supervisors and read a timeline of allegations of student abuse. Ms. Vlasblom read aloud a text from Dr. Yanni to Mr. Pepper and read aloud a letter from Mr. Freiling to Mr. Pepper about the district's investigation into a whistle-blower's complaint. Next, Ms. Vlasblom read aloud some of the details of the allegations but was asked to stop speaking when her speaking time of three minutes expired.

**Recessed** the meeting for approximately six minutes.

**Resumed hearing** public comment:

6. Howard Schargel read aloud a January 5th email from Dr. Yanni to the school board regarding alleged student abuse at Jamison Elementary School.

7. Jana Rotunno spoke about a ChildLine report from Dr. Yanni, abuse allegations in a whistle-blower's complaint that were not shared with parents, an investigation by Superintendent Yanni, Assistant Superintendent Garvin, Human Resources Director Freiling, and H/R Manager Trawinski. Ms. Rotunno said that the Courier Times will be publishing an article about these allegations tonight.

8. Lisa Sciscio read aloud an email that Jim Pepper sent to Drs. Yanni and Garvin, Mr. Freiling, and school board members, minus Mrs. Smith, regarding allegations of the abuse of a non-verbal child.

9. Shannon Harris was listed on the sign-up sheet twice, but only spoke once (see speaker #1, above).

10. Edward Mackouse spoke about Mr. Pepper's service on the school board. Mr. Mackouse said that we need to concentrate on making things better and working together. Mr. Mackouse spoke about boys named National Merit semi-finalists and discrimination against girls.

11. Alyson Zimmer (not listed on sign-up sheet) spoke about a Delaware Valley Journal article, Karen Smith excluding board members Sciscio, Cannon, and Pepper, and read aloud some Signal messages from Mrs. Reynolds, Mrs. Gibson, and Mr. Haring. Mrs. Zimmer asked for resignations from Mrs. Reynolds, Mrs. Gibson, Mrs. Foley, Mrs. Smith, Mr. Haring, and Dr. Yanni. Mrs. Zimmer asked parents to pay attention to what this board is doing.

**Heard Board Member Comments:**

Following public comment and prior to adjournment, Mr. Pepper thanked people who came forward to protect his son and others like him. Mr. Pepper said that there are many wonderful people in this district who work with our students. Mr. Pepper thanked board members Gibson, Reynolds, Foley, and Haring, all of whom reached out to him to ask about what happened to his boy. Mr. Pepper said that he is beyond angry about what happened to his son. Mr. Pepper said that his son was treated worse than an animal and that when district administration found out about it, multiple people lied to him and to his wife. Mr. Pepper said that Administration's position is that he and his wife have no right to know what happened to their son in the classroom. Mr. Pepper said that Administration says that there was a personality conflict between the classroom aide and the teacher, that the problems in the classroom revealed only instructional concerns, and that the district found no evidence of abuse. Mr. Pepper said that Dr. Yanni, Dr. Garvin, and Mr. Freiling need to go. Mr. Pepper spoke about District Attorney Schorn deciding not to prosecute. Next, Mr. Pepper read aloud a statement from his wife. Mrs. Pepper's statement thanked the people who stepped forward to protect their son. Mrs. Pepper's statement shared her feelings of betrayal, heartbreak, anger, and numbness after learning about what happened to their son. Mrs. Pepper's statement said that the system in place to protect their son has failed him. Mrs. Pepper's statement said there is something radically wrong with people who would treat a non-verbal boy in the ways that her son was treated, and

something radically wrong with people who would cover it up. Mrs. Pepper's statement said that she will not rest until everyone is held accountable and justice is served.

Following Mr. Pepper's comments, Mrs. Reynolds said that while the Board cannot comment on personnel matters, they have heard and are aware of the concerns and are taking them very seriously. Next, Mr. Haring said that this district failed his kids and wife years ago, and that we need to do better as a Board and look into this a lot further.