

Central Bucks School District
School Board Brief
February 20, 2025

At the February 20, 2025 School Board Meeting, the Central Bucks Board of School Directors:

Announced that the Board will meet in executive session following the board meeting this evening, February 20, 2025, regarding the impending investigation into allegations of abuse at Jamison Elementary School, and that the Board met in Executive Session on February 10, 2025 regarding the impending investigation into allegations of abuse at Jamison Elementary School, and on February 19, 2025 regarding the alleged abuse at Jamison Elementary School and two litigation cases: personal injury and equal pay, as well as collective bargaining for the Transportation and the Act 93 groups.

Heard Superintendent's Report:

Recognitions: Mr. Jason Jaffe recognized Bridge Valley Elementary School student Avantika Bose for her original design for the January lock screen contest. Avantika's artwork was based on this month's Portrait of a Graduate attribute "Balanced Individuals". Dr. Yanni recognized Central Bucks High School East for being named a "Model Professional Learning Community at Work". Principal Dr. Chad Watters shared information about the teams of teachers that used assessments for interventions with students. Dr. Yanni recognized the 2025 U.S. Presidential Scholars Program candidates: Saurav Bharatam, Kaiya Crowley, Benjamin Fievitz, Susan Suber, and James Wan.

Remarks: Dr. Yanni shared updates from February meetings, including updates on full-day kindergarten and middle school scheduling, reviews of Title IX regulations, early admission for kindergarten, and the removal of the option of a combined Doyle/Kutz/Linden Elementary School. Dr. Yanni discussed agenda items including Bond financing for the high school and Mill Creek building additions, architectural services for Buckingham and Titus Elementary School renovations, and an agreement for a search for our next Chief Financial Officer. Dr. Yanni shared information about Community Town Halls to discuss the future of Doyle, Kutz, and Linden Elementary Schools: 7:00 p.m. on February 27th at CB East and 7:00 p.m. on March 27th at CB South.

Next, students from each of our high schools shared updates: Katie Grill, CB West, spoke about a schoolwide Spring Field Day Competition, a Philadelphia Inquirer reporter who recently spoke to some classes, the school's Athletic College Signing Day, and tonight's Broadway Cares concert. Tim Santucci, CB East, spoke about miniTHON on April 4th, the school's recent PLC Recognition, sports teams at States, the Swim Team at Districts, and the DECA Club at States. Max Jin, CB South, spoke about the school's 20th anniversary, Clash of the Titans, Community Internship Programs, Fill the Bus initiative, Holiday Light Drive, bringing back "No Place for Hate", a DECA Club field trip, the Swim Team at the Colonial League Championship, Girls Basketball at District One Tournament, the school's Mock Trial Club earning 2nd Place, and funds raised at miniTHON.

Heard Public Comment about agenda items:

1. Shannon Harris spoke about the district having lost \$12,000.00 due to approving tax reassessments and rumors that the district plans to raise taxes above Act 1 Index. Ms. Harris spoke about the need to take out \$45 million in Bonds at this time and about which Special Education staff are taking leaves of absence. Ms. Harris spoke about the state report confirming abuse.

Following Public Comment, Dr. Yanni confirmed with COO Houser that this year taxes went to Index, not above Index.

Approved the minutes of the January 16, 2025 School Board Meeting.

Approved the minutes of the February 6, 2025 Special Meeting of the School Board.

Reviewed School Board Reports:

Education Committee.

Policy Committee.

Finance and Operations Committee.

Bucks County Intermediate Unit.

Middle Bucks Institute of Technology.

Discussed Discussion Item:

Capital Projects Discussion: Mr. Kimicata offered ideas for using existing schools that would eliminate the need to build additions to the three current high schools. Mr. Kimicata discussed exploring the possibilities of converting Tohickon Middle School to a high school and converting Groveland Elementary School into a middle school.

Mr. Dugger spoke about dispersing special education students throughout the district. Mrs. Zdanowicz spoke about the need to redistrict if turning Groveland into a middle school. Dr. Yanni said that the addition planned for Mill Creek Elementary School is because there is enough land there. Mrs. Smith spoke about not wanting to push realignment back, avoiding a full redistricting, being in favor of pausing the Doyle/Linden discussion so that HVAC options can be fully explored, concern over the financial instability of the district, and keeping the footprint of all 23 schools. Mr. Haring spoke about not wanting to discount all of the work that professionals have done to date, not being in favor of raising taxes every year, buildings being neglected over the years, and the need to make some decisions. Mrs. Gibson spoke about costs involved with consultants needed to convert schools, disrupting many students, and about her appreciating for Mr. Kimicata's alternative plan suggestions.

Approved Business Department Items:

Financial Reports.

Accounts Payable Check Disbursements in the amount of \$10,227,612.60.

Staff conferences and workshops in the amount of \$19,280.00.

First Student drivers.

School Bus purchases in the amount of \$2,238,772.00.

Weglot translation services contract in the amount of \$41,170.00.

E-Plus Technology wireless equipment and licenses contract in the amount of \$878,913.00.

E-Plus technology network switches and licenses contract in the amount of \$229,742.00.

E-Plus Technology firewall, switching, wireless and camera licenses contract in the amount of \$18,871.00.

Indian Valley Appraisal for tax assessment appeals.

Harrison Tax settlement in the amount of \$5,962.00.

Assessment Valuation Settlement of 8 Greenway Drive from \$101,220.00 to \$87,100.00.

Upset Sale acceptance for Parcel 06-010-210.

Resolution to acquire \$45,000,000.00 in Bonds for additions at Mill Creek Elementary, CB East, South, and West.

Approved Operations Department Items:

CBS Fitness equipment in the amount of \$134,465.00.

Mill Creek Elementary addition construction contracts in the amount of \$5,618,772.00.

Titus Elementary school zone flashing signals in the amount of \$50,209.00.

Titus Elementary Assistant Principal's office construction in the amount of \$39,631.00.

Operations building emergency generator replacement in the amount of \$82,378.60.

Mill Creek and Gayman Elementary playground equipment in the amount of \$517,342.60.
Holicong Middle chilled water plant replacement engineering services in the amount of \$16,020.00.
Unami Middle cooling tower replacement and CB East HS pool heater replacement in the amount of \$20,200.00.
Administration Center exterior sealant replacement in the amount of \$19,725.00.
Administration Center architectural services for Business and H/R offices in the amount of \$34,070.00.
Buckingham and Titus Elementary architectural services for renovations in the amount of \$2,360,810.00.
Mill Creek Elementary Resolution for amended final land approval granted by Warrington Township.

Approved Special Education Department Item:

Waiver Agreement.
IEP Waiver Agreement.
IEP Waiver Agreement.
Settlement Agreement in the amount of \$37,160.00.

Approved Student Service Items:

Middle school tuition student for 25-26 school year.
School investigative services agreement for 24-25 school year.

Approved Policy Items:

First Read: School Board Policies 208 and 626.
Second Read: School Board Policies 103 and 104; renumbered old 103 to 103.1.

Approved Field Trips:

CBE DECA Club in February 2025.
CBS DECA Club in February 2025
CBE FBLA Club in April 2025.
CBS Girls Track in February 2025.
Holicong 9th-grade in May 2025.
Lenape 8th-grade in March 2025.
Tamanend 9th-grade in April 2025
Unami PEN Class in May 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:

BCIU Agreement for Chief Financial Officer search.
2025-2026 BCIU Programs and Services Budget.

Heard Public Comment:

1. Shannon Harris thanked Mrs. Foley for supporting Mr. Pepper. Ms. Harris spoke about Principal Heineman, how to report child abuse, new hires that haven't completed mandated reporter training within the first six months of employment, Project Veritas, illegal immigrants, and a DOGE audit.

2. Katherine Semisch spoke about education choices for children, vouchers that transfer funds out of school budgets, parents having a say in their children's education, public schools, and opposing the Education Choice for Children Act.
3. JoAnna Holton spoke about her son's experience at his CB elementary school. Ms. Holton spoke about finding out that her son had been restrained in his classroom multiple times for 20-40 minutes at a time, the PDE investigation, the whistle-blower's complaint, an unanswered email she sent to Dr. Yanni, and the school having failed her son.
4. Dave Elliot spoke about reasons to fire or not to fire Dr. Yanni. Mr. Elliot spoke about covering up the abuse of nonverbal children with autism.
5. Carla Grabianowski spoke about the whistle-blower's complaint, asked if the H/R report includes information about restraints, asked if the Board accepts the results of the PDE investigation, and asked what process Dr. Yanni, Dr. Garvin, Mr. Freiling, and Ms. Trawinski used to clear the allegations of abuse at Jamison.
6. Daniel Grabianowski spoke about fiscal restraint and taxes, the whistle-blower's complaint, the timeline of the submission of the Child Line report, and about emails between Dr. Yanni, Dr. Garvin, Mr. Freiling, and Ms. Trawinski about the whistle-blower's email.
7. Tanya Kovacs spoke about Dr. Yanni's conversations with the Warwick Police Department, a personality conflict between the teacher and the whistle-blower, CB Regional Police letting Mr. Pepper know of the Child Line report, and the PDE report that found seven witnesses to the use of restraints and water restriction in the classroom.
8. Debra Cannon spoke about the PDE report finding seven witnesses to the use of restraints in the classroom, Dr. Yanni's report to Child Line, the H/R report regarding the use of restraints, and about failing to tell Mr. Pepper about his son bumping heads with a staff member that resulted in the staff member missing work due to a concussion.
9. Lisa Sciscio spoke about the district not informing parents of their non-verbal child possibly having a concussion, asked if Dr. Yanni, Dr. Garvin, Mr. Heineman, Mr. Freiling, and Ms. Trawinski would be willing to resign, or if the Board would fire them, if the teacher loses her teaching certificate. Ms. Sciscio spoke about not reporting a child's head injury and asked why Dr. Yanni, Dr. Garvin, Mr. Freiling, and Ms. Trawinski were not put out on leave. Ms. Sciscio asked if the Attorney General will investigate and prosecute the people who abused children at Jamison Elementary and the people who covered up the abuse.
10. Vonna DeArmond asked why employee names are not listed on this evening's Leaves of Absence list. Ms. DeArmond spoke about staff at Jamison Elementary School being afraid to speak out, about mandated reporter training and the responsibilities of a mandated reporter and asked why the Board isn't taking immediate action.