

**Central Bucks School District
School Board Brief
April 24, 2025**

At the April 24, 2025 School Board Meeting, the Central Bucks Board of School Directors:

Announced that Superintendent Yanni was placed on administrative leave at 5:00 p.m. this evening, and Dr. Malone will serve as Substitute Superintendent. Announced that some people listed on the public comment sign-up sheet for period 1 (agenda items only) are more appropriately placed during period 2, so they will be afforded the opportunity to speak at that time. Announced that the Board expects to have Dr. Dalton's investigative report in mid- to late-May, and the Board will share what they are able to at that time.

Announced that the Board met in executive session regarding matters of personnel related to the ongoing investigation at Jamison Elementary School on March 31, 2025, April 10, 2025, and April 24, 2025. Announced that the Board also met in Executive Session regarding Act 93 negotiations, EPA litigation, and CBTA collective bargaining immediately prior to this evening's meeting, on April 24, 2025.

Heard Superintendent's Report:

Recognitions: President Gibson and Mr. Jaffe recognized and congratulated CB South 12th-grade student Julian Lee, this month's Portrait of a Graduate lock screen contest winner for the attribute "Adaptable Innovators".

Remarks: Students from each of our high schools shared updates: Luka Jonjic, CB South, spoke about prom, Titans Connect prom, Unified Track, HOSA competition, community partnerships and internship luncheon, Good of Green Club, 1st place eSports team, and a recent No Place for Hate project.

Dan Curran, CB East, spoke about Patriot Prime Time media crew, Patriot Players' *Anastasia* production, miniTHON fundraiser, fitness squad workouts, OEG, Phantasmagoria Coffee House, Track Penn Relays, and the close of the Tennis and Lacrosse seasons.

Landon Shea, CB West, spoke about BCCC Art Exhibition winners, Acapella Rock Festival, Physical Computing Technology Program, MBIT Auto Tech Competition, and a 2020 graduate who was recently named a Goldwater Scholar.

Dr. Malone spoke about the district's pause of the "Update the Eight" elementary school renovations. Dr. Malone spoke about developing the July 2026-June 2029 Comprehensive Plan. Dr. Malone spoke about some agenda items, including the audit report, the 2026-27 district calendar, realignment construction projects, and SRO agreements. Dr. Malone announced that Dr. Helen Zaleski has been recommended as the next Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Education.

Heard Public Comment about agenda items:

1. Jennifer Horan spoke in support of the appointment of Dr. Zaleski to Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Education.

The following citizens were signed up for period 1 but will speak during period 2 since they are not speaking about agenda topics:

2. Tony Arjona
3. Leslie Watson
4. Edward Mackouse
5. Art Larson
6. Anusha Viswanathan
7. Michael Henry

8. Jessica Steinberg

Approved the minutes of the March 20, 2025 School Board Meeting.

Reviewed School Board Reports:

Education Committee.

Policy Committee.

Finance and Operations Committee.

Bucks County Intermediate Unit.

Middle Bucks Institute of Technology.

Approved Business Department Items:

Financial Reports.

2023-2024 School Year Audit Report.

IPS Global Contract in the amount of \$183,444.92.

Stipulation and Order-John Pierce Revocable Trust-38 Tradesville Drive, Doylestown Township.

Stipulation and Order-Tulio-8 Greenway Drive, Doylestown Township.

Staff conferences and workshops in the amount of \$6,420.00.

Accounts Payable Check Disbursements in the amount of \$7,710,924.25.

First Student Bus Drivers for Compliance with the Pennsylvania Department of Education's Requirements.

Approved Other Board Action Items:

Appointment of Dr. Helen Sclama Zaleski as Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Education for a Five-Year Term commencing July 1, 2025.

Employment Contract with Dr. Helen Sclama Zaleski, Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Education, effective July 1, 2025.

Appointment of Susan Gibson as CBSD Voting Delegate for the 2025 PSBA Delegate Assembly.

Appointment of Heather Reynolds as CBSD Voting Delegate for the 2025 PSBA Delegate Assembly.

Foreign Exchange Student #1 for 2025-2026 School Year at Central Bucks High School West (Semester 1 Only).

Foreign Exchange Student #2 for 2025-2026 School Year at Central Bucks High School West.

2026-2027 District Calendar.

2025-2026 MBIT General Fund Budget and Non-Major Fund Budgets.

Memorandum of Understanding with CBEA: Bereavement Leave.

Addendum to Settlement Agreement.

Approved Operations Department Items:

Facility Use Regulations for 2025-2026 School Year.

Trane Technologies Chiller HVAC Equipment Preventative Maintenance Contract in the amount of \$216,287.00.

Proposal from Modernfold Styles, Inc. for Refurbishment of Partition Wall at Cold Spring Elementary in the amount of \$55,986.00.

T. Schiefer Contractors Construction Contract for 2025 Playground Renovations in the amount of \$772,500.00.

Proceed with District Administration Center Business Department and Human Resources Department Area Renovation Plans.

DEP Consent Order Agreement for CB East Well.

Warrington Township Land Development Agreement and Financial Security and Stormwater O&M Agreement for improvements to Mill Creek Elementary.

Construction Contracts for Realignment Renovations and Additions to Central Bucks High School West in the amount of \$16,211,000.00.

SRO Agreement with Warrington Township in the amount of \$160,000.00.

SRO Agreement with CB Regional Police Commission on the amount of \$150,000.00.

Approved Special Education Department Item:

2025-2028 Special Education Plan

2025-2026 BCIU Special Education Agreement.

SSKW Special Education Counsel in the amount of \$21,000.00.

Settlement Agreement in the amount of \$80,000.00.

IEP Waiver Agreement.

IEP Waiver Agreement.

Approved Student Services Item: 2025-2026 BCIU MOU for Head Start Grantee/Pre-K Provider/Private Agency.

Approved Education Items:

Discovery Education Resources: Elementary Science in the amount of \$1,013,797.00.

Software Pilots: Summit K-12 and Boost in the amount of \$36,000.00.

Textbook Adoption: AP Spanish in the amount of \$24,289.35.

Textbook Adoption: TCI Grades 6-8 in the amount of \$423,477.00.

Textbook Adoption: TCI Grades 9-12 in the amount of \$418,968.00.

Approved Policy Items:

First Read: School Board Policies 004, 006.1, 121, and 249.

Second Read: School Board Policies 103.1, 113, 113.1 and 113.2.

Approved Field Trips:

Tohickon Archeology & Paleontology Enrichment Club in May 28, 2025.

CBE Football in July 2025.

CBW Music Department in February 2026.

Approved Human Resources Department Items:

Retirements, Resignations, and Terminations.

Leaves of Absence: Affirmation.

Leaves of Absence: Approval

Appointments.

Assignment, Classification, and Status Changes.

New Positions.

Athletic Points.

Sabbaticals.

Heard Public Comment:

1. Tony Arjona read aloud an April 24, 2025 email from Jim Pepper to CBSD lawyers regarding document retention.

2. Leslie Watson said that she did not wish to speak after all.

3. Edward Mackouse spoke about IEPs, attending his children's classes when they were still in school, autism, climate and fossil fuels, national debt, Medicaid and medical bills, Robert F. Kennedy Jr, and transgender surgeries.

4. Art Larson spoke about No Place for Hate, organized crime families, insurance company rates, taxes, and private equity.
5. Anusha Viswanathan spoke about children with special needs, IEPs, and read aloud some quotes from the Health and Human Services Secretary.
6. Michael Henry spoke about finding ways to support transgender people,
7. Jessica Steinberg spoke about her child's experience in school and the need to have trust in the people who interact with your child with autism.
8. Peder Cox spoke about a teacher and EA needing to be fired, lose their licenses, and be criminally charged. Mr. Cox spoke about discipline for other CBSD administrators. Mr. Cox spoke about MBIT not being big enough to handle the needs of this school district. Mr. Cox spoke about expanding MBIT classes into vacant school spaces.
9. Mariann Davies spoke about having read the entire investigative report, that Dr. Yanni should be fired, and about the Board remaining silent and not speaking in support of Mr. Pepper at past meetings.
10. Betty Santoro spoke about her support of Mr. Pepper for seeking justice for his child and all students in the classroom, a cover-up by CB staff, a lack of action by administration and the Board, broken trust, and asked what action the Board will take to correct this mishandling of child abuse.
11. Shannon Martin was listed on the sign-up sheet, but she asked Amanda O'Connor to speak instead. Amanda O'Connor spoke about the Jamison Elementary investigation, those who stayed silent, and the need for the district to act to have safeguards, a culture of change, and an overhaul of reporting procedures.
12. Fania Karlitsky spoke about protecting children, a breach of protocol and a betrayal of trust, and the violation of students' rights. Ms. Karlitsky spoke about holding the teacher and EA accountable. Ms. Karlitsky spoke about administrators facing consequences, and about the Board doing what is right for this district.
13. Diana Leygerman spoke about a culture of fear and anxiety in the district, child abuse being allowed to fester, feeling disgusted by what has come to light, and that those responsible should be held accountable and face consequences.
14. John Doherty spoke about the respect and admiration he has for Mr. Pepper.
15. Vonna DeArmond said that she is here in support of Mr. Pepper and all the parents and children. Ms. DeArmond spoke about the Board having had the chance to take action months ago. Ms. DeArmond spoke about Mrs. Leygerman's use of information about Mr. Pepper's children during a political campaign.
16. Paul Calderaio spoke about advocating for those with special needs. Mr. Calderaio spoke about the Board holding abusers accountable and assuring that this never happens again.
17. Debra Cannon spoke about the DRP report's recommendation that the district issue discipline. Ms. Cannon spoke about Union members, the district's 60-day video retention practice, Mrs. Leygerman and Mrs. Smith trafficking confidential information about Mr. Pepper's son, and that May is Child Abuse Awareness Month.
18. Jana Rotunno spoke about Dr. Garvin not answering the question "was what happened in the classroom abuse" during her DRP interview regarding Jamison Elementary.
19. Daniel Grabianowski spoke about the Board majority owning this, the DRP investigative findings, an institutional failure within CBSD, PSEA's silence, and Neighbors United. Mr. Grabianowski said he credits the Board for taking action against Dr. Yanni.
20. Joan Stabene said that she prays that our children are safe. Ms. Stabene spoke about offering property tax rebates to seniors and low-income residents if it is financially feasible for the district.
21. Mike Christianson spoke about the DRP finding that the PCA was credible, Child Line reports filed by Dr. Yanni, the flawed district fact-finding, and a culture of fear and retaliation which interfered with the protection of students.
22. Katherine Semisch spoke about what happened being tragic, holding people accountable, and the need for prevention.

23. Leigh Vlasblom spoke of her support for Mr. Pepper, thanked the Board for deciding to take action, the DRP reporting that the special ed administration was unaware of events, and said that trust is broken and lost.

Heard Board Comment:

President Gibson thanked citizens for speaking during public comment this evening. Mrs. Gibson said that the abuse that occurred at Jamison Elementary is horrific and inexcusable, that she has advocated for personnel leaves and accountability while trying to respect the process. Mrs. Gibson spoke about trying to repair broken trust and healing. Mrs. Gibson said that she hopes the investigation will shed light on how we can figure out how to prevent this from ever happening again.

Mr. Pepper said that without the support staff union's action, this would have been buried. Mr. Pepper said that the school principal wanted to fire the support staff member who was the reporter, and the support staff union stepped in and prevented that. Mr. Pepper spoke about the teachers union and how they tried to strongarm teachers who had knowledge of the abuse of the children in that room and tried to frustrate the DRP's during its investigation. Mr. Pepper said that he blames Dr. Garvin and Dr. Yanni for the cover-up of the abuse of children in that classroom. Mr. Pepper said that he thinks there was a culture of protecting the principals. Mr. Pepper said that everything he said happened is true and has been borne out. Mr. Pepper spoke about board members' decisions about putting staff on paid leave. Mr. Pepper spoke about a material term in Garvin's contract that was broken. Mr. Pepper said that this can never happen again.

Mrs. Reynolds said that there are legal reasons why Board members cannot speak about certain matters. Mrs. Reynolds spoke about her outrage at what happened, the horrifying and heartbreaking findings in the DRP report, and that our students always deserve to be respected, protected, and cared for. Mrs. Reynolds spoke about the actions of a few not defining the many. Mrs. Reynolds spoke about the Board having taken decisive action, in light of the DRP report, by placing Dr. Yanni on immediate, paid administrative leave.

Mrs. Foley apologized to the families in the community that feel devastation and heartbreak. Mrs. Foley spoke about her feelings of disgust, grief, and heartbreak regarding the findings in the DRP report. Mrs. Foley spoke about having safeguards in place that should have prevented what happened in the Jamison classroom.