

ICHABOD CRANE CENTRAL SCHOOL

BOARD OF EDUCATION

JANUARY 13, 2026

MINUTES

A Regular Meeting of the Ichabod Crane Board of Education was held on Tuesday, January 13, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. in the High School Library.

Board Members Present:

Max DiOrio	Kelly Firmbach	Matthew Nelson
Elizabeth Phillips	Christopher Scoville	Cal Waits

Board Members Absent:

Meghan Lafferty-Brown	Anne Schaefer	Valerie Spensieri
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School Officials Present:

Marie Digirolamo, Superintendent, Lucas Christensen, Assistant Superintendent, Michael Brennan, Business Manager, Craig Shull, High School Principal, Marcella Sanchez, High School Assistant Principal, Anthony Marturano, Middle School Principal, Erin Russo, Middle School Assistant Principal, Andrea Williams, Primary School Principal, Peg Warner, Special Education Director, and Mindy Potts, District Clerk

Board President Matthew Nelson called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m., announced the fire exits, and conducted the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board Vice-President Elizabeth Phillips read the District Mission Statement:

"The Ichabod Crane Central School District is dedicated to preparing students to become contributing members of society in an ever-changing world by valuing diversity; providing a safe environment; and promoting unique talents, a desire for life-long learning, a strong spirit of community, and Rider pride."

MOTION PHILLIPS 2ND FIRMBACH

To approve the agenda as presented

Carried, 6-0

MOTION WAITS 2ND DIORIO

To approve the minutes of the following meetings:

- December 3, 2025 - Regular Board meeting
- December 16, 2025 - Special Meeting

Carried, 6-0

Public Participation

No one from the public wished to address the Board at this time.

Board Discussion

- Committee Meetings
 - Academic Committee

Board Member Christopher Scoville reported on the Academic Committee meeting held on December 9

- Budget/Finance

Board President Matthew Nelson gave a brief report on the January 6 Budget Committee meeting as Business Manager Michael Brennan would be covering topics in his Budget Presentation

Brief report

- Other

The Board took a moment to recognize the passing of past ICC elementary teacher, Primary School Principal, Board member and Board President Anthony "Tony" Welcome. Mr. Welcome also earned a spot on the Ichabod Crane Wall of Fame. He will be missed.

Reports/Presentations/Hearings

- A. Academic Report: K-12 Music
Teacher leaders Josh Overrocker, Amy Giammatei, and Karolyn Eberhardt presented to the Board
- B. Academic Report: K-12 Social Studies
Teachers Leaders Berit Erickson, Lara Marotta, Bob Hanna, and Patrick Sanger presented to the Board
- C. Student Board Member Report
Student Board Member Denise Miranda reported on student happenings around the district in each building
- D. Superintendent's Report
Superintendent Marie Digirolamo thanked the Board, district employees for their work preparing a capital project vote and also thanked, most importantly, the public for its support of the capital project. The new Primary School Principal, Kerry Light was also welcomed and as she was in attendance, greeted and thanked the Board
- E. Business Office Report
Business Manager Michael Brennan gave the first 2026-2027 budget presentation, Maintenance of Effort

Consent Agenda

MOTION WAITS 2ND FIRMBACH

To approve the following items contained under the Consent Agenda:

- 7(A) CONSIDERATION FOR APPROVAL
To approve the resignation for purpose of retirement for Wilhelmena Mazure, Treasurer, effective on or about August 26, 2026
- 7(B) CONSIDERATION FOR APPROVAL
BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Ichabod Crane Central School District hereby approves the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the probationary appointment of Aide, Megan Tuczynski, be terminated effective December 16, 2025.

- 7(C) CONSIDERATION FOR ACCEPTANCE (Full report in Supplemental File)
To accept the Treasurer's Report for November 2025 including Warrants, Revenues, Appropriations and Transfers as presented
- 7(D) CONSIDERATION FOR APPROVAL
To accept the CPSE and CSE Recommendations for the 2025-2026 school year as follows:
Meeting Dates of: 11/7; 12/1; 12/5; 12/10; 12/16; 1/8;
- 7(E) CONSIDERATION FOR APPOINTMENT
To appoint, upon the recommendation of Marie Digirolamo, Superintendent, the following Interscholastic Coaches for the 2025-2026 school year:
- Indoor Track & Field - Jonathan Hanna - Volunteer Assistant
- 7(F) CONSIDERATION FOR APPOINTMENT
To accept the resignation of (George) Ross Cox, Head Building Mechanic, for the purpose of accepting another position within the district, and
To appoint upon the recommendation of Marie Digirolamo, Superintendent, (George) Ross Cox, to the probationary position of Senior Head Building Mechanic, step 1, effective July 1, 2025
- 7(G) CONSIDERATION FOR APPOINTMENT
To appoint the following additions to the substitute listing for the 2025-2026 school year:
- Benjamin Pauli, Uncertified Substitute Teacher and TA. effective 1/14/26
 - Emma Scheitinger, Uncertified Substitute Teacher and TA. effective 1/6/26
 - Sydney Cook, Substitute Aide, effective 12/15/25
 - Jonathan Ronsani, Substitute Bus Driver, effective 1/5/26
 - Ruth Kling, Substitute RN, effective 1/14/26
- 7(H) CONSIDERATION FOR APPOINTMENT
To appoint upon the recommendation of Marie Digirolamo, Superintendent, Kayla Poulter, to the probationary position of bus attendant, step 1, effective January 6, 2026
- 7(I) CONSIDERATION FOR APPOINTMENT
To appoint upon the recommendation of Marie Digirolamo, Superintendent, Christine McGuirk, to the probationary position of Aide, step 1, effective January 5, 2026
- 7(J) CONSIDERATION FOR APPOINTMENT
To appoint upon the recommendation of Marie Digirolamo, Superintendent, Tangy Sollenberger, to the probationary position of Bus Driver, step 1, effective January 6, 2026
- 7(K) CONSIDERATION FOR APPOINTMENT
To appoint upon the recommendation of Marie Digirolamo, Superintendent, Alexandria Mohkiber, to the probationary position of Food Service Helper, step 1, effective January 5, 2026
- 7(L) CONSIDERATION FOR APPOINTMENT
To appoint upon the recommendation of Marie Digirolamo, Superintendent, Lori Bartlett, to the provisional position of clerk-typist, step 1, effective January 14, 2026

- 7(M) CONSIDERATION FOR APPOINTMENT
To accept the resignation of Heather Dorval, Monitor, for the purpose of accepting another position within the district; and
To appoint upon the recommendation of Marie Digirolamo, Superintendent, Heather Dorval, to the probationary position of Food Service Helper, step 1, effective January 20, 2026
- 7(N) CONSIDERATION FOR APPOINTMENT
Whereas Kerry Light who is eligible for a New York State Public School Teacher Certificate in the certification area(s) of School Building Leader

Whereas Marie Digirolamo, Superintendent of the Ichabod Crane Central School District, recommends Kerry Light be appointed to a probationary position, conditionally, pending New York State Education Department certification and safety clearance, now therefore

Be it resolved that the Board of Education of the Ichabod Crane Central School District in compliance with Education Law 3012 and 8 NYCRR Part 30.3 does hereby appoint Kerry Light to the position of professional educator in the tenure area(s) of Principal, Step 12 for a probationary period of four years to commence on or about April 8, 2026 and to expire on April 7, 2030
- 7(O) CONSIDERATION FOR APPOINTMENT AND APPROVAL (Full agreement in Supplemental File)
BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Ichabod Crane Central School District, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, hereby appoints Debra Berndt as Interim Primary School Principal, commencing January 26, 2026 and continuing on a per-diem basis, approves the Agreement dated January 5, 2026, and approves the payment of moneys therein.
- 7(P) CONSIDERATION FOR APPOINTMENT
To appoint upon the recommendation of Marie Digirolamo, Superintendent, Kim Williams having successfully completed a 52 week probationary period which ended January 2, 2026, to the permanent position of Monitor
- 7(Q) CONSIDERATION FOR APPOINTMENT
To appoint upon the recommendation of Marie Digirolamo, Superintendent, Lisa Cherwinski having successfully completed a 52 week probationary period which ended January 2, 2026, to the permanent position of Cook
- 7(R) CONSIDERATION FOR APPOINTMENT
To appoint upon the recommendation of Marie Digirolamo, Superintendent, Jon Deere having successfully completed a 52 week probationary period which ended January 8, 2026, to the permanent position of Custodian
- 7(S) CONSIDERATION FOR APPOINTMENT
To appoint upon the recommendation of Marie Digirolamo, Superintendent, Roger Gile having successfully completed a 52 week probationary period which ends January 27, 2026, to the permanent position of Cleaner

- 7(T) CONSIDERATION FOR APPOINTMENT
To appoint upon the recommendation of Marie Digirolamo, Superintendent, Alexandria Mokhiber having successfully completed a 52 week probationary period which ends January 21, 2026, to the permanent position of Driver
- 7(U) CONSIDERATION FOR APPOINTMENT
To appoint upon the recommendation of Marie Digirolamo, Superintendent, Donna Williams having successfully completed a 52 week probationary period which ends January 29, 2026, to the permanent position of Custodian
- 7(V) item removed
- 7(W) CONSIDERATION FOR APPOINTMENT AND APPROVAL
To to appoint upon the recommendation of Marie Digirolamo, Superintendent, the following additional After School Extraclass Appointments at the Middle School for the 2025-26 school year:
- Ski Club Chaperone: Brian Sadowski
- 7(X) CONSIDERATION FOR APPOINTMENT
To appoint upon the recommendation of Marie Digirolamo, Superintendent, Adult Education Instructors, with such appointments to take effect if there is sufficient enrollment to offer the courses of study to which a teacher is appointed:
- Sandra Flavin - PiYo Instructor
- 7(Y) CONSIDERATION FOR APPROVAL
To approve an unpaid Leave of Absence for Danielle Hallenbeck from her Teaching position, effective on or about April 27, 2026 through June 30, 2026
- 7(Z) CONSIDERATION FOR APPOINTMENT
To approve the following Student Teachers/Interns and assignments as listed:
- Megan Leylegian, student teacher with Angela Shevy, January 26-March 20, 2026
- 7(AA) CONSIDERATION FOR APPROVAL (Full list in Supplemental File)
To approve per Board Policy #6900-(Disposal of District Property), as Surplus & Obsolete, the attached lists:
- IT Equipment
- 7(BB) CONSIDERATION FOR APPROVAL
Changes to the 2025-2026 calendar:
For unused emergency weather days: Dependent on the number of emergency weather days used, April 2, April 13, May 26 and May 22 may be designated as school recess per the following:
- Only 1 emergency day used: April 2, April 13, May 26 and May 22 will be school recess
 - Only 2 emergency days used: April 13, May 26 and May 22 will be school recess
 - Only 3 emergency days used: May 26 and May 22 will be school recess
 - Only 4 emergency days used: May 22 will be school recess
 - All 5 emergency days used, no change to the calendar

- 7(CC) CONSIDERATION FOR ACCEPTANCE (Full report in Supplemental File)
To accept the High School and Middle School Extraclass Activity Fund Reports as of the following date(s):
Account Balance as of 11/30: \$214,199.10
- 7(DD) CONSIDERATION FOR ACCEPTANCE (Full report in Supplemental File)
To accept the Internal Claims Auditor Report for December 2025 as presented
- 7(EE) CONSIDERATION FOR APPROVAL (voter approval 12/16/25)
Bond resolution dated January 13, 2026 of the Board of Education of the Ichabod Crane (Kinderhook) Central School District authorizing not to exceed \$30,981,651 aggregate principal amount of serial general obligation bonds and the expenditure of \$300,000 from the Capital Reserve Fund to finance the reconstruction, renovation, and improvement of various district buildings, facilities, and sites, constructions and replacement of the multi-sport field with a new grass field, and the acquisition of original furnishings, equipment, machinery, or apparatus, at an estimated maximum cost of \$31,281,651, the expenditure of such sums for such purpose, levy of tax in annual installments in payment thereof, and determining other matters in connection therewith

WHEREAS, the qualified voters of the Ichabod Crane (Kinderhook) Central School District (the "District"), at a special meeting of such voters duly held on the 16th day of December, 2025, duly approved a proposition authorizing (1) the reconstruction, renovation and improvement of various District buildings, facilities and sites, construction and replacement of the multi-sport field with a new grass field, the acquisition of original furnishings, equipment, machinery or apparatus for which such buildings, facilities, sites and multi-sport field are to be used and payment of incidental costs related thereto at a maximum aggregate cost of \$31,281,651; (2) the expenditure of such sum for such purposes; (3) the expenditure of \$300,000 from the Capital Reserve Fund; (4) the levy of the necessary tax therefore, to be levied and collected in annual installments in such years and in such amounts as may be determined by the Board of Education, taking into account state aid and the amount expended from the Capital Reserve Fund; and (5) in anticipation of the collection of such tax, the issuance of bonds and notes of the District at one time or from time to time in the principal amount not to exceed \$30,981,651 and levy a tax to pay interest on said obligations when due;

NOW THEREFOR, BE IT RESOLVED BY THIS BOARD OF EDUCATION AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The District shall reconstruct, renovate and improve various District buildings, facilities and sites, construct and replace the multi-sport field with a new grass field, acquire original furnishings, equipment, machinery or apparatus for which such buildings, facilities, sites and multi-sport field are to be used and pay incidental costs related thereto, at a maximum cost of \$31,281,651, as more particularly described in Section 3 hereof, and as generally outlined to and considered by the voters of the District at a special meeting held on December 16, 2025.

Section 2. In order to finance the class of objects or purposes described herein, the District is hereby authorized to (A) issue its serial general obligation bonds (the "Bonds") in the aggregate principal amount of not to exceed \$30,981,651 pursuant to the Local Finance Law of New York, and (B) expend \$300,000 from the Capital Reserve Fund.

Section 3. The class of objects or purposes to be financed pursuant to this Resolution (hereinafter referred to as the "Purpose") is the reconstruction, renovation and improvement of various District buildings, facilities and sites, construction and replacement of the multi-sport field with a new grass field, the acquisition of original furnishings, equipment, machinery or apparatus

for which such buildings, facilities, sites and multi-sport field are to be used and payment of incidental costs related thereto.

Section 4. It is hereby determined and declared that (a) the maximum cost of the Purpose, as estimated by the Board of Education, is \$31,281,651, (b) no money has heretofore been authorized to be applied to the payment of the cost of the Purpose, and (c) the District plans to finance the cost of the Purpose from funds received from the State of New York as building aid, funds raised by the issuance of the Bonds and bond anticipation notes hereinafter referred to and the expenditure of \$300,000 from the Capital Reserve Fund.

Section 5. It is hereby determined that the Purpose is one of the class of objects or purposes described in Subdivision 97 of Paragraph a of Section 11.00 of the Local Finance Law, and that the period of probable usefulness of the Purpose is thirty (30) years.

Section 6. Subject to the provisions of the Local Finance Law, the power to authorize the issuance of and to sell bond anticipation notes in anticipation of the sale of the Bonds, including renewals of such notes, is hereby delegated to the President of the Board of Education, the chief fiscal officer.

Section 7. The power to further authorize the issuance of the Bonds and bond anticipation notes and to prescribe the terms, form and contents of the Bonds and bond anticipation notes, including the consolidation with other issues and the use of substantially level or declining debt service, subject to the provisions of this Resolution and the Local Finance Law, and to sell and deliver the Bonds and bond anticipation notes, is hereby delegated to the President of the Board of Education. The President of the Board of Education is hereby authorized to sign and the District Clerk is hereby authorized to attest any Bonds and bond anticipation notes issued pursuant to this Resolution, and the District Clerk is hereby authorized to affix to such Bonds and bond anticipation notes the corporate seal of the District. The President of the Board of Education is authorized to execute and deliver any documents, including a financing agreement with the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York, if applicable, and to take such other action as may be necessary and proper to carry out the intent and provisions hereof.

Section 8. The faith and credit of the District are hereby irrevocably pledged for the payment of the principal of and interest on the Bonds and bond anticipation notes as the same respectively become due and payable. An annual appropriation shall be made in each year sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on such obligations becoming due and payable in such year. After taking into account building aid received by the District, there shall be levied annually on all taxable real property of the District, a tax sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on such obligations as the same become due and payable.

Section 9. This Resolution shall constitute the declaration of the District's "official intent" to reimburse expenditures authorized by Section 1 with proceeds of the Bonds and notes, as required by United States Treasury Regulation Section 1.150-2.

Section 10. A summary of this Resolution shall be published by the District Clerk together with a notice in substantially the form prescribed by Section 81.00 of said Local Finance Law, and such publication shall be in each official newspaper of the District. The validity of the Bonds or of any bond anticipation notes issued in anticipation of the sale of the Bonds may be contested only if such obligations are authorized for an object or purpose for which the District is not authorized to expend money, or the provisions of law which should be complied with at the date of publication of this Resolution are not substantially complied with, and an action, suit or proceeding contesting such validity is commenced within twenty (20) days after the date of such publication; or if said obligations are authorized in violation of the provisions of the Constitution.

Section 11. The law firm, Barclay Damon LLP, is hereby appointed bond counsel to the District in connection with the issuance of the Bonds and bond anticipation notes authorized herein.

Section 12. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

7(F) CONSIDERATION FOR APPROVAL

To approve the following field trip requests and chaperones per Board Policy #4531:

DESTINATION: Senior Class Trip- Hershey Park, PA

DATE: June 18-19, 2026

PARTICIPANTS: approximately 68 Students

CHAPERONES: 7 chaperones including Katie Goid and Jennifer Two-Axe

End of Consent Agenda

Carried, 6-0

Superintendent Marie Digirolamo briefed the Board on the idea of a retirement incentive which will be discussed further in the next Budget Committee meeting and subsequently brought to the full Board.

Public Participation

No one wished to address the Board at this time

Meetings

Regular BOE Meeting

February 10 Regular Meeting at 7pm High School

Committee Meetings

Facilities: January 15 at 5:00 pm - virtual only

Policy: January 20 at 5:45 pm in CO Conference Room

Budget and Finance: February 3 at 5:45 pm in CO Conference Room

Budget Development Meetings

02/03/26: Budget and Finance Committee Meeting - Non-Instructional Budget

02/10/26: Board Meeting Presentation - Non-Instructional Budget and Bus Purchasing

02/24/26: Budget and Finance Committee Meeting - Instructional Budget

03/03/26: Board Meeting Presentation - Instructional Budget, State Aid Projections and Tax Cap

03/24/26: Budget and Finance Committee Meeting - Revenue

03/31/26: Board Meeting Presentation - Budget Updates and Draft Budget

04/14/26: Budget/Finance Committee Meeting - Final Draft Budget

04/21/26: Board Meeting Presentation - Final Budget and Anticipated Adoption

05/05/26: Budget Hearing and Regular Board Meeting

05/19/26: Vote and Election

Executive Session

MOTION NELSON 2ND FIRMBACH

To adjourn to Executive Session at 8:45 p.m. to discuss the employment history of a particular individual and to discuss pending litigation

Carried, 6-0

MOTION WAITS 2ND FIRMBACH

To appoint Board Member Kelly Firmbach as Clerk Pro Tem

Carried, 6-0

The District Clerk left the meeting.

Others present at Executive Session:

Superintendent Marie Digirolamo

Assistant Superintendent Lucas Christensen

District Counsel Ryan Mullahy

District Counsel Scott Cuesnel

Principal Debra Berndt (attended between 8:58-9:20 p.m.)

The meeting was reconvened in open session at 10:11 p.m.

MOTION NELSON 2ND PHILLIPS

To adjourn the meeting at 10:12 p.m.

Carried, 6-0