

Dear Ichabod Crane Families,

The financial figure reported by CBS6 in a segment that ran on Tuesday, Sept. 1, 2026 is a deeply misleading representation of Ichabod Crane Central School District's current financial situation.

The figure cited in the report does not represent the District's *operating deficit* on its operating budget – which is the year-to-year “budget” as most people understand it.

Last night's report includes accounting liabilities that school districts are required to report under [GASB 75 standards](#). A major driver of these long-term liabilities is retiree health insurance obligations, known as Other Post-Employment Benefits, or OPEB. As is the case with every school district in New York State, these liabilities run in the tens or hundreds of millions, but are not true “deficits” for a year-to-year operating budget.

Furthermore, none of this is new information, and it has been publicly discussed at school board meetings and is readily available on our website. We strongly encourage the media and the public to attend our school board meetings to avoid future confusion.

As previously communicated to the school community, we have taken the steps necessary to stabilize the district for the 2026-27 school year and are ready to open school on Tuesday with that plan in place. We do not anticipate additional staffing reductions this school year.

Our work will now focus on determining the true *operating* deficit position of the district. We are committed to doing this accurately and thoroughly. This includes the ongoing audit of 2025-26 financials which will be complete by mid-October.

We remain committed to providing our community with accurate, timely and transparent information as this work continues. All official District budget updates and communications can be found on our [district website](#).

Sincerely,

Marie Digirolamo

Superintendent of Schools