

ICHABOD CRANE CENTRAL SCHOOL

BOARD OF EDUCATION

August 18, 2026

MINUTES

A Regular Meeting of the Ichabod Crane Board of Education was held on Tuesday, August 18, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. in the High School Library.

Board Members Present:

Kelly Firmbach	Meghan Lafferty-Brown	Matthew Nelson
Elizabeth Phillips	Christopher Scoville	Valerie Spensieri
Betsy Thorleifson	Cal Waits	

Board Member Absent: Anne Schaefer

School Officials Present:

Marie Digirolamo, Superintendent, Lucas Christensen, Assistant Superintendent, Michael Brennan, Business Manager, Andrea Williams, Principal, Craig Shull, High School Principal, Anthony Marturano, Middle School Principal, Kerry Light, Primary School Principal, Peg Warner, Special Education Director, Dan Doyle, Director of Operations, and Mindy Potts, District Clerk

Board President Matthew Nelson called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Board President Matthew Nelson announced the fire exits and conducted the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board Member Cal Waits 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 NELSON 2ND FIRMBACH

To approve the agenda with modifications as presented

Carried, 8-0

MOTION WAITS 2ND SCOVILLE

To approve the minutes of:

- July 14, 2025 - Organizational and Regular Meeting Minutes
- July 21, 2026 - Workshop Meeting Minutes

Carried, 8-0

A. Hearing Code of Conduct

- The hearing on Policy 5305 Code of Conduct changes was declared open at 7:07 p.m. Superintendent Marie Digirolamo gave a brief overview, noting there were no changes. No one from the public or the Board had any questions at this time. The hearing was declared closed at 7:09 p.m.
- Consideration for adoption of policy 5310 Code of Conduct under Consent Agenda

B. District-Wide Safety Plan (public safety plan contained in Supplemental File)

Philip Estey, Senior Security Specialist, Needham Risk Management gave a brief overview of updates to the public portion of the District's Safety Plan and answered questions

- Consideration for adoption of District-wide Safety Plan under Consent Agenda

Executive Session

MOTION NELSON 2ND SCOVILLE

To adjourn to Executive Session to discuss the employment and financial history of particular individuals

Carried, 8-0

The Board returned to public session at 8:03 p.m.

Board Discussion

- Committee Meetings
 - Policy Committee

Board member Meghan Lafferty Brown reported on the Policy Committee Meeting held on July 28

- Discussion Policy 1500 Use of District Facilities

The following policy is considered to have one reading:

- First Reading:
 - 4321.4 Independent Educational Evaluations Policy and Regulation (revised)

As Policy 6710 Purchasing Authority named Michael Brennan, with his retirement, the policy would need to be updated with Cybil Howard's name. Consideration for this update is under the Consent Agenda.

Academic Department Reports and Program Reviews 2026-2027

Assistant Superintendent Lucas Christensen reported the District would have no academic reports in order to prepare for new and improved presentations starting school year 2027-2028

Board President addressed the public and thanked them for showing up to the Board meeting and for expressing their views to the Board.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Marie Digirolamo reported briefly to the Board:

- Summer News and Back to School Preparations
- Update on iReady and Screentime Study
- Welcome, Cybil Howard, Temporary Interim Chief Financial Officer
- Budget and Finance Statement

Business Office Report

Interim Business Official Cybil Howard briefly reported to the Board and public:

- Tax report
- Budget and Finance details
- Thank you - Donation of 10 backpacks with school supplies from Thomas Pest Services

Public Comment

Three members of the public addressed the Board on the financial status of the District

Consent Agenda

MOTION SCOVILLE 2ND WAITS

To approve the following items under the Consent Agenda:

7(A) CONSIDERATION FOR ACCEPTANCE

To accept the resignation for the purpose of retirement of Michael Brennan, School District Leader of Business and Operations (Civil Service Title: Business Manager II), effective July 31, 2026

7(B) CONSIDERATION FOR APPROVAL AND ADOPTION (Warrant in Supplemental File)

To adopt a tax levy, inclusive of STAR reimbursement, at \$29,102,240 with the tax levy to be at 2.71% over last year's actual levy;

AND WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the Kinderhook Central School District at the Annual District Vote and Election held on May 19, 2026, was authorized by the voters of the district to expend sums in the total amount of \$ 51,936,861 during the 2026-2027 school year, and to levy the necessary tax therefor;

AND BE IT HEREBY DIRECTED, that the tax warrant of the Board of Education, inclusive of STAR reimbursement, dated August 18, 2026 in the amount of \$29,102,240 is hereby executed and the collection of said taxes to begin on September 1, 2026 and to end on November 2, 2026 giving the Tax Warrant an effective period of 60 days, at the expiration of which time said Tax Collector shall make an account in writing to the Board of Education;

AND BE IT FURTHER DIRECTED that the delinquent tax penalties shall be fixed as follows:

- First 30 days (September 1 - September 30) no penalty
- Second 30 days (October 1 - November 2) 2% penalty

AND TO ESTABLISH the date of July 26, 2027 as the last date for accepting applications for third party notification of Real Property Taxes in accordance with Chapter 758 of the Laws of 1986

7(C) AUTHORIZATION FOR PRESIDENT TO SIGN

To authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the following documents:

- Uncollected Levy for Rensselaer and Columbia Counties

7(D) CONSIDERATION FOR AMENDMENT

To amend the resolution from the July 14, 2026 Board meeting appointing the Trap Club advisor rate as \$650. Corrected advisor rate is \$3,000 (per Trap Shooting MOA approved 02/10/26)

7(E) CONSIDERATION FOR APPROVAL

To approve, in accordance with policy #8332 Use of District Owned Cell Phones, the following job titles to require use of a district-owned cell phone:

- Superintendent

7(F) CONSIDERATION FOR ACCEPTANCE

To accept the resignation of Kacey Veakins, Teaching Assistant, effective August 6, 2026

- 7(G) CONSIDERATION FOR ACCEPTANCE (Warrant in Supplemental File)
To accept the June 2026 Warrants as presented
- 7(H) CONSIDERATION FOR ACCEPTANCE
To accept the CPSE and CSE Recommendations for the 2026-2027 school year as follows:
Meeting Dates of: 5/29; 6/12; 6/18; 6/23; 7/9; 7/23; 8/10
- 7(I) CONSIDERATION FOR APPOINTMENT (full list in Supplemental File)
To appoint the following to substitute teaching and non-teaching positions for the 2026-2027 school year:
- Teaching Substitutes
 - Non-Teaching Substitutes
- 7(J) CONSIDERATION FOR APPROVAL (Full Public Plan in Supplemental File)
To approve the District-wide Safety Plan as presented
- 7(K) CONSIDERATION FOR ADOPTION
To adopt the following policies pursuant to Board Policy #2410 – Formulation, Adoption and Amendment of Policies:
- 5310 Code of Conduct (reviewed no changes)
 - Policy 6710 Purchasing Authority (revised)
- 7(L) CONSIDERATION FOR APPOINTMENT AND APPROVAL
To to appoint upon the recommendation of Marie Digirolamo, Superintendent, the following Extraclass Appointments Appointments for the 2026-27 school year:
- MS Art Club Advisor: Jessica Mascolo
 - MS Book Club Advisor: Beth Kelly
 - MS Chess Club Advisor: David Manarel
 - MS DC Club Advisor: Lara Marotta
 - MS Dungeons and Dragons Advisor: Sherri Gelineau
 - MS Friends of Rachel Advisor: Mary Middleton and Judy Ooms
 - MS Garden/Floral Club Advisor: Tori Jefferson
 - MS Hiking Club Advisor: Paige Martin
 - MS International Club Advisor: Marcella Mason
 - MS Jazz band Advisor: Alessandra Shellard
 - Lego Robotics (Elementary) Advisor: Selena Cook and Sue Mallery
 - National Junior Honor Society Advisor: Jenna Hoffman
 - MS Newspaper Club Advisor: Mary Middleton and Rachel Imbert
 - MS Pawsitive Peers Advisors: Tina Butterworth and Laura Sarno
 - MS Pride Club Advisor: Nick Spanswick
 - MS School Store Advisors: Judy Ooms and Mary Middleton
 - MS Sing Swing Advisor: Josh Overrocker
 - MS Ski Club Advisor: Margaret Warner
 - MS Spanish Club Advisor: Nick Spanswick
 - MS STEM Club Advisor: Jared Bevington
 - MS Student Council Advisors: Deb Rivero and Kristyn McHugh
 - MS Vegetable Garden Club Advisor: Gosia Geiger
 - MS Walking Club Advisor: Sherri Gelineau
 - MS Writing Club Advisor: Kristyn McHugh
 - MS Yearbook Club Advisors: Blair Pantoja and Jessica Mascolo
 - MS Yoga Club Advisor: Margaret Warner
 - HS Maureen Van Tassel: Afterschool Detention Supervisor

7(R) CONSIDERATION FOR APPOINTMENT

To appoint, upon the recommendation of Marie Digirolamo, Superintendent, the following committee of district stakeholders to provide general oversight of the Participant Directed Tax Deferred Retirement Accounts as stipulated by Board policy #6870:

- Cybil Howard

7(S) CONSIDERATION FOR APPOINTMENT

To appoint, upon the recommendation of Superintendent Marie Digirolamo, Allison Koslowski to a long term substitute to fill the position held by Trina Silvis who is on a leave of absence from her Speech Pathologist position. Ms. Koslowski's appointment will be effective on or about August 26, 2026 and, provided she renders satisfactory service, is intended to continue but no later than June 30, 2027 at a rate of MO Step 8. No term of employment is conferred by this resolution of appointment and Ms. Koslowski's employment may be terminated at any time.

7(T) CONSIDERATION FOR APPOINTMENT

To approve a leave of absence for the 2026-2027 school year from Katherine Johnson, Teaching Assistant, to accept another position within the district; and,
To appoint, upon the recommendation of Superintendent Marie Digirolamo, Katherine Johnson to a long term substitute position. Ms. Johnson's appointment will be effective on or about August 26, 2026 and, provided she renders satisfactory service, is intended to continue but no later than June 30, 2027 at a rate of BO Step 1. No term of employment is conferred by this resolution of appointment and Ms. Johnson's employment may be terminated at any time.

7(U) CONSIDERATION FOR APPROVAL

To approve an unpaid Leave of Absence for Shawnah Rochester from her Clerk-Typist position, effective on or about November 12-December 24, 2026

7(V) CONSIDERATION FOR APPROVAL (Full list in Supplemental File)

To approve per Board Policy #6900-(Disposal of District Property), as Surplus & Obsolete, the attached lists:

- Fountas and Pinnell Literacy Program Consumables

7(W) 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 6/30: \$160,937.25

7(X) CONSIDERATION FOR AUTHORIZATION AND APPROVAL

To approve and reauthorize a resolution: Tax Anticipation Note dated July 14, 2026 of the Board of Education of the Kinderhook Central School District authorizing the issuance of Tax Anticipation Notes in anticipation of the receipt of Real Property Taxes and determining other matters in connection therewith

7(Y) CONSIDERATION FOR APPROVAL

To approve the destruction of unused ballots and other intermediate records with retention periods of 1 year or less budget vote and election as allowed by the LGS-1 (Budget vote held May 20, 2025)

7(Z) CONSIDERATION FOR ACCEPTANCE

To accept, per Board Policy #1800 Gifts from the Public, a donation of 10 backpacks with school supplies from Thomas Pest Services

7(AA) CONSIDERATION FOR AUTHORIZATION (Full Agreements in Supplemental File)

To authorize the Superintendent or Board President to execute the following agreements:

- Updated SRD Agreement with Contract Rider
- Agreement for Independent Evaluation (Two Special Education Students)
- Agreement with Cybil Howard

End of Consent Agenda

Board President called for a roll call vote on approving the Consent Agenda

Kelly Firmbach - YES

Meghan Lafferty-Brown - YES

Matthew Nelson - YES

Elizabeth Phillips - YES

Anne Schaefer - ABSENT

Christopher Scoville - YES

Valerie Spensieri - YES

Betsy Thorleifson - YES

Cal Waits - YES

Meetings/Important Dates

- Tuesday, September 1 - 7:45-8:15 am
 - Superintendent's Conference Day Schedule - All Staff Welcome Back
 - BOE members welcome to attend
- September 8 - First Day of Classes
- September 15 - Regular Board Meeting 7 pm - HS Library (did he just say this is subject to change?)
 - New Teacher and Newly Tenured Teacher Reception 6:30 pm
- October 7 - Regular Board Meeting 7 pm - HS Library
 - District Tour 6:00 pm meet at High School Main Entrance - Open to the public

Committee Meetings

- Academic Committee at 5:15 pm on September 15 in Central Office
- Budget and Finance Committee at 5:45 pm on September 22 in Central Office
- Audit Committee at 5:45 pm on September 29 in Central Office

MOTION FIRMBACH

2ND PHILLIPS

To adjourn the meeting at 8:49 p.m.

Carried, 8-0