ICHABOD CRANE CENTRAL SCHOOL

BOARD OF EDUCATION September 15, 2026

MINUTES

The Ichabod Crane Board of Education held a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, September 15, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. in the High School Library. Prior to the start of the meeting, the Board hosted a reception for Newly Tenured and Newly Hired Instructional Faculty.

All Board Members Present:

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

School Officials Present:
Marie Digirolamo, Superintendent, Lucas Christensen, Assistant Superintendent, Cybil Howard, Acting Business Manager, Andrea Williams, Principal, Craig Shull, High School Principal, Marcella Sanchez, High School Assistant 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 7:01 p.m.

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

Board member Kelly Firmbach read the District's 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 SCHAEFER 2ND WAITS

To approve the agenda as presented

Board member Anne Schaefer mentioned a typo in item 7(CC) which the District Clerk was to correct

Carried, 9-0

MOTION FIRMBACH 2ND PHILLIPS

To approve the minutes of the August 18, 2026 - Regular Board meeting

Carried, 9-0

Board of Education Student Leader

MOTION NELSON 2ND FIRMBACH

To appoint, in accordance with policy #2245, Brooklyn Nabozny to serve as Student Representative to the Board of Education for the 2026-2027 school year

Carried, 9-0

High School Principal Craig Shull re-introduced Brooklyn Nabozy as he starts his second term on the Board.

The District Clerk administered the Oath of Office to the newly appointed student Board member.

Board Discussion

- Committee Meeting
  Although there was no meeting held, Board member Anne Schaefer summarized the committee's work which lead to the second reading of the following policy. Consideration for adoption of the policy is under the Consent Agenda.
    - Policy Committee:
      - Second Reading:

  4321.4 Independent Educational Evaluations Policy and Regulation (revised)

Superintendent Report

Superintendent Marie Digirolamo reported to the Board on the following:

- Welcome Back, Students and Staff!
    - 2026-2027 Professional Learning Days and the First Week of School
- Congratulations to:
    - Newly appointed and newly tenured faculty & staff
    - Bard Early College student, Holland Waits, whose piece was selected as a Major Work and published in the Bard sequencejournal.org. Holland's piece is titled *The Cities I Carry, the Room I Call Home* and was cited as a Major Work.
    - Heidi Chung, Alto Saxophone player, who was invited to participate in the NYSSMA All-State Performing Ensemble
    - Kalib Becker, a dedicated member of Troop 2113, Yankee Doodle District, Twin Rivers Council, on his earning the rank of Eagle Scout
    - All staff in tonight's Consent Agenda who have successfully completed their probationary periods

Business Office Report

Acting Business Manager Cybil Howard reported to the Board the following items:

- Update on Tax Collection
- Treasurer's Report, Revenues, Appropriations, Transfers and Warrants for the month of July
- Community Forum Presentation

The updated community forum which gives details on the current fiscal situation and a detailed Q&A are posted on the budget page of the district's website.

Public Participation
Seven people from the public addressed the Board all on the current fiscal situation.

Board Discussion
The Board discussed a representative for NYSSBA.

- NYSSBA Voting Delegate: Meeting Thursday, October 15 at 4pm

Student Board Member Report
Student Board member Brooklyn Nabozny reported to the Board on activities and events happening in the schools in the district.

Consent Agenda
MOTION LAFFERTY-BROWN 2ND SCHAEFER
To accept the Consent Agenda as presented

MOTION WAITS 2ND THORLEIFSON
To amend the Consent Agenda to move item 7(FF), Turner Construction Manager agreement, to Discussion Action
Carried, 9-0

The Board then voted on the approval of the remaining items under the Consent Agenda:

7(A) CONSIDERATION FOR ABOLISHMENT
BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the Ichabod Crane School District hereby abolishes the following positions effective September 11, 2026:

- 1.0 Elementary Teacher
- 2.0 HS Social Studies
- 0.7 MS Art
- 0.6 MS Music (vacant)
- 1.0 Assistant Principal
- 1.0 Communications Specialist
- 1.0 Clerk-Typist

The Superintendent is directed to notify the affected staff member of this action.

7(B) CONSIDERATION FOR ACCEPTANCE
To accept the resignation of Michelle Novak-McDonald, bus driver, effective August 25, 2026

7(C) CONSIDERATION FOR ACCEPTANCE
To accept the resignation of Robert Gusty, Teaching Assistant, effective September 7, 2026

7(D) CONSIDERATION FOR ACCEPTANCE
To accept the resignation of Melodie Potter, Food Service Helper, effective June 16, 2026

7(E) CONSIDERATION FOR ACCEPTANCE
To accept the resignation of Stephanie Elliott, Monitor, effective September 5, 2026

7(F) CONSIDERATION FOR ACCEPTANCE (Warrants in Supplemental File)
To accept the Warrants for the month of July 2026

7(G) CONSIDERATION FOR ACCEPTANCE
To accept the CPSE and CSE Recommendations for the 2026-2027 school year as follows: meeting dates of: 6/18; 7/30; 8/18

7(H) CONSIDERATION FOR APPOINTMENT
To appoint the following additions to the substitute listing for the 2026-2027 school year:

- Michelle Novak-McDonald: Substitute Driver effective 8/25/26
- Lori Bartlett: Substitute Clerical, Health Aide, and Monitor effective 9/14/26
- Spencer Bates: Uncertified Substitute Teacher/TA effective 9/8/26
- Toni Strattman: Uncertified Substitute Teacher/TA and Aide effective 9/8/26
- Emma Heartquist: : Uncertified Substitute Teacher/TA effective 9/8/26
- Helen O'Toole: Uncertified Substitute Teacher/TA effective 9/8/26
- Bethann Proper: Certified Substitute Teacher/TA effective 9/8/26
- Thomas VanTassel: Uncertified Substitute Teacher/TA effective 9/8/26
- Matthew Bowes: Uncertified Substitute Teacher/TA effective 9/8/26
- Sarah Geiger: Uncertified Substitute Teacher/TA effective 9/8/26
- Cecelia Stroh: Uncertified Substitute Teacher/TA effective 9/8/26
- James Leppert: Certified Substitute Teacher/TA effective 9/8/26

7(I) CONSIDERATION FOR APPOINTMENT
To appoint, upon the recommendation of Marie Digirolamo, Superintendent, the following Interscholastic Coaches for the 2026-2027 school year:

- Varsity Football - Ben Vecellio - Volunteer Assistant Coach
- Varsity Girls Cross Country - Tyler Ronan - Volunteer Coach
- Varsity Cheerleading - Breannah Clark - Volunteer Coach
- Boys' Varsity Cross Country - Bob Allard - Volunteer Coach

7(J) CONSIDERATION FOR APPOINTMENT
To appoint, upon the recommendation of Marie Digirolamo, Superintendent, TEACHER LEADERS for the 2026-2027 school year as follows:

- Team Leader Grade 3: Mary Oles
- Extended Day Teacher: Nick Spanswick
- MS Athletic Coverage: Gene Ringwood

7(K) CONSIDERATION FOR AUTHORIZATION
To authorize Alba Velazquez to issue working papers for the 2026-2027 school year

7(L) CONSIDERATION FOR APPOINTMENT
To appoint upon the recommendation of Marie Digirolamo, Superintendent, Kelly Nicoletta, to the probationary position of Food Service Helper, step 1, effective September 1, 2026

7(M) CONSIDERATION FOR APPOINTMENT
To appoint upon the recommendation of Marie Digirolamo, Superintendent, Monica Waring, to the probationary position of Food Service Helper, step 1, effective September 1, 2026

7(N) CONSIDERATION FOR APPOINTMENT
To appoint upon the recommendation of Marie Digirolamo, Superintendent, Rebecca Preusser, to the provisional position of .3 FTE Accounts Payable Clerk, effective on or about September 16, 2026

7(O) CONSIDERATION FOR APPOINTMENT
To appoint, upon the recommendation of Superintendent Marie Digirolamo, Jacquelyn Purificato as a short term substitute to fill the position held by Christine Suchoski who is on leave from her Special Education teaching position. Ms Purificato's appointment will be effective on or about September 1, 2026 and, provided she renders satisfactory service, is intended to continue but no later than November 2, 2026. No term of employment is conferred by this resolution of appointment and Ms Purificato's employment may be terminated at any time.

7(P) CONSIDERATION FOR APPOINTMENT
To appoint, upon the recommendation of Superintendent Marie Digirolamo, Jennifer Allard to a long term substitute to fill the position held by Mallory Urbanski who is on a leave of absence from her Special Education teaching position. Ms. Allard's appointment will be effective on or about September 14, 2026 and, provided she renders satisfactory service, is intended to continue but no later than June 30, 2027. Ms. Allard will be compensated at a rate of MA Step 7 until Special Education certification is confirmed, at which time she will be placed on MA Step 22 effective that date. No term of employment is conferred by this resolution of appointment and Ms. Allard's employment may be terminated at any time.

7(Q) CONSIDERATION FOR APPOINTMENT
To appoint, upon the recommendation of Superintendent Marie Digirolamo, Melissa Taylor to a long term substitute to fill the position held by Kati Johnson who took a Leave of Absence from her Teaching Assistant position. Ms. Taylor's appointment will be effective on or about September 8, 2026 and, provided she renders satisfactory service, is intended to continue but no later than June 30, 2027 at a rate of TA-AA Step 1. No term of employment is conferred by this resolution of appointment and Ms. Taylor's employment may be terminated at any time.

7(R) CONSIDERATION FOR APPOINTMENT
To appoint upon the recommendation of Marie Digirolamo, Superintendent, Julie Plourde having successfully completed a 52 week probationary period which ends, August 26, 2026, to the permanent position of Food Service Helper

7(S) CONSIDERATION FOR APPOINTMENT
To appoint upon the recommendation of Marie Digirolamo, Superintendent, Elizabeth Hlavac having successfully completed a 52 week probationary period which ends, October 8, 2026, to the permanent position of Head Cook

7(T) CONSIDERATION FOR APPOINTMENT
To appoint upon the recommendation of Marie Digirolamo, Superintendent, Nicole Gildersleever having successfully completed a 52 week probationary period which ends, September 1, 2026, to the permanent position of Monitor

7(U) CONSIDERATION FOR APPOINTMENT
To appoint upon the recommendation of Marie Digirolamo, Superintendent, Rosemarie Spinella having successfully completed a 52 week probationary period which ends, August 26, 2026, to the permanent position of Monitor

7(V) Item removed

7(W) CONSIDERATION FOR APPOINTMENT
To appoint upon the recommendation of Marie Digirolamo, Superintendent, Erin Laughlin having successfully completed a 52 week probationary period which ends, September 29, 2026, to the permanent position of Aide

7(X) CONSIDERATION FOR APPOINTMENT
To appoint upon the recommendation of Marie Digirolamo, Superintendent, Bridget Bashford having successfully completed a 52 week probationary period which ends, August 26, 2026, to the permanent position of RN (1: for a student with disabilities

7(Y) CONSIDERATION FOR APPOINTMENT
To appoint upon the recommendation of Marie Digirolamo, Superintendent, Thomas Seamon having successfully completed a 52 week probationary period which ends, September 1, 2026, to the permanent position of Driver

7(Z) CONSIDERATION FOR APPOINTMENT
To appoint upon the recommendation of Marie Digirolamo, Superintendent, Richard Sitzer having successfully completed a 52 week probationary period which ends, September 2, 2026, to the permanent position of Mechanic

7(AA) CONSIDERATION FOR APPOINTMENT
To appoint upon the recommendation of Marie Digirolamo, Superintendent, Zachary Rowe having successfully completed a 52 week probationary period which ends, September 30, 2026, to the permanent position of Custodian

7(BB) CONSIDERATION FOR APPOINTMENT
To appoint upon the recommendation of Marie Digirolamo, Superintendent, Anthony Mertz having successfully completed a 52 week probationary period which ends, September 30, 2026, to the permanent position of Custodian

7(CC) CONSIDERATION FOR APPROVAL (Listing in Supplemental File)
To approve per Board Policy #6900-(Disposal of District Property), as Surplus & Obsolete, the attached lists:

- Consumables - CKLA Literacy Program

7(DD) CONSIDERATION FOR ADOPTION
To adopt the following policies pursuant to Board Policy #2410 – Formulation, Adoption and Amendment of Policies:
- 4321.4 Independent Educational Evaluations Policy and Regulation (revised)

7(EE) Item Removed

7(FF) CONSIDERATION FOR AUTHORIZATION FOR SIGNATURE (Agreements in Supplemental File)
To authorize the Board President or Superintendent to execute the following documents:
- Item moved to Discussion Action Item 8(A)
- Agreement with Columbia County and Mental Health Association - School Based Prevention
- MOA ICTA - APPR
- Agreement - OK Kids
- Agreement - Atlantic Testing Laboratories
- IEE Agreements (two special education students)

7(GG) CONSIDERATION FOR APPOINTMENT
To appoint Andrea Williams as DASA Coordinator at the MS for the 2026-2027 school year

7(HH) CONSIDERATION FOR APPOINTMENT
To appoint upon the recommendation of Marie Digirolamo, Superintendent, Dawn Kerber, to the probationary position of Monitor, step 1, effective September 1, 2026

End of Consent Agenda
Carried, 9-0

Discussion Action
MOTION NELSON 2ND PHILLIPS (Agreement contained in Supplemental File)
To authorize the Board President or Superintendent to execute the following documents:
- Construction Manager Agreement - Turner Construction

The Board discussed the terms and obligations of approving this agreement
Carried, 9-0

Public Participation (agenda items only)
Three members of the public addressed the Board regarding the Capital Project

Meetings
- October 6 - Regular Meeting 7pm - HS Library
  - Facilities Tour 5pm - meet at HS Lobby
- November 3 - Regular Meeting 7pm - HS Library

Committee Meetings
- Budget and Finance Committee at 5:45 pm on September 22 in HS Library
- Audit Committee at 5:45 pm on September 29 in HS Library

Executive Session
MOTION NELSON 2ND WAITS
To adjourn to Executive Session at 8:40 p.m. to discuss the employment and financial history of particular individuals and to discuss proposed, pending or current litigation
Carried, 9-0

MOTION PHILLIPS 2ND NELSON
To appoint Kelly Firmbach as Clerk Pro Tem
Carried, 9-0

Others present in Executive Session:
Superintendent Marie Digirolamo

The District Clerk left the meeting.

The meeting was reconvened in open session at 10:20 p.m.

MOTION LAFFERTY-BROWN 2ND PHILLIPS
To adjourn the meeting at 10:21 p.m.
Carried, 9-0