

Regular Meeting (Tuesday, August 26, 2025)

Generated by Alicia Zupancic on Wednesday, August 27, 2025

Members present

Janet Griffin, Lori Megivern, Brett Barnes, Joseph McMahon, Sherlyn Pallassino, Brendan McGovern, Gavin Teeter and Ayden Harmin

Meeting called to order at 6:00 PM

1. Opening of Meeting

Procedural: 1.1 Call to Order

Procedural: 1.2 Pledge of Allegiance

Brendan McGovern called the meeting to order and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Procedural: 1.3 Moment of Silence

Brendan McGovern called for a moment of silence in memory of Alayna Race, a member of our senior class and Edward Joseph Ward who started working in our district as a math teacher in 1967 and retired in 1985.

Procedural: 1.4 Recite Board Norms

Janet Griffin recited the board norms.

Brett Barnes will recite the board norms at our September meeting.

Action: 1.5 Approval of Agenda

Lori Megivern made a motion to table item 6.3 - Approval of Encroachment Agreement. It was seconded by Janet Griffin.

Lori Megivern voted yes.

Brett Barnes voted no.

Janet Griffin voted no.

Joseph McMahon voted no.

Gavin Teeter voted no.

Brendan McGovern abstained.

Sherlyn Pallassino abstained.

The motion failed.

BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of Mr. Robert Edwards, Superintendent of Schools, that the Cortland Enlarged City School District Board of Education approves the agenda as presented.

Motion by Brett Barnes, second by Joseph McMahon.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Janet Griffin, Lori Megivern, Brett Barnes, Joseph McMahon, Sherlyn Pallassino, Brendan McGovern, Gavin Teeter

2. Executive Session

Action: 2.1 Proposed Executive Session

Motion to convene into executive session.

Motion by Janet Griffin, second by Brett Barnes.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Janet Griffin, Lori Megivern, Brett Barnes, Joseph McMahon, Sherlyn Pallassino, Brendan McGovern, Gavin Teeter

Time: 6:09 PM

Action: 2.2 Reconvene In Open Session

Motion to reconvene in open session.

Motion by Sherlyn Pallassino, second by Joseph McMahon.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Janet Griffin, Lori Megivern, Brett Barnes, Joseph McMahon, Sherlyn Pallassino, Brendan McGovern, Gavin Teeter

Time: 6:42 PM

3. Communications

Procedural: 3.1 Audience Participation

Taylor Butler, Aaron Kinney and Patty Dawson addressed the board regarding transportation to Truxton Academy.

Donald Chu addressed the board regarding the budget deficit and hiring a consultant.

4. Consent Calendar

Action (Consent), Minutes: 4.1 Approval of Minutes

Resolution: BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of Mr. Robert Edwards, Superintendent of Schools, that the Cortland Enlarged City School District Board of Education accepts the minutes of the regular Board Meeting on July 22, 2025 as presented.

Action (Consent): 4.2 Approval of CSE/CPSE Recommendations

Resolution: BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of Mr. Robert Edwards, Superintendent of Schools, that the Cortland Enlarged City School District Board of Education approves the CSE/CPSE recommendations as presented.

Item 4.3 Approval of Financial Reports

This item was removed from the Consent Agenda and put under New Business as Item 6.8

Action (Consent): 4.4 Approval of Transportation Requests

Resolution: BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of Mr. Robert Edwards, Superintendent of Schools, that the Cortland Enlarged City School District Board of Education approves the transportation requests as presented.

Action (Consent): 4.5 Consent Vote

Resolution: BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of Mr. Robert Edwards, Superintendent of Schools, that the Cortland Enlarged City School District Board of Education accepts the consent calendar as presented.

Motion by Janet Griffin, second by Brett Barnes.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Janet Griffin, Lori Megivern, Brett Barnes, Joseph McMahon, Sherlyn Pallassino, Brendan McGovern, Gavin Teeter

5. Old Business

Action: 5.1 Revised 2025-2026 Tax Rates

BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of Mr. Robert Edwards, Superintendent of Schools, that the Cortland Enlarged City School District Board of Education approves the revised 2025-2026 tax rates as presented.

Motion by Janet Griffin, second by Sherlyn Pallassino.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Janet Griffin, Lori Megivern, Brett Barnes, Joseph McMahon, Sherlyn Pallassino, Brendan McGovern, Gavin Teeter

6. New Business

Action: 6.1 Approval of the District Wide Safety Plan for 2025-2026

BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of Mr. Robert Edwards, Superintendent of Schools, that the Cortland Enlarged City School District Board of Education approves the District Wide Safety Plan for 2025-2026 as presented.

Motion by Sherlyn Pallassino, second by Joseph McMahon.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Janet Griffin, Lori Megivern, Brett Barnes, Joseph McMahon, Sherlyn Pallassino, Brendan McGovern, Gavin Teeter

Action: 6.2 Creation of Position

BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of Mr. Robert Edwards, Superintendent of Schools, that the Cortland Enlarged City School District Board of Education approves to add a Civil Service position: Bus Driver / Delivery Attendant, as presented.

Motion by Janet Griffin, second by Brett Barnes.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Janet Griffin, Lori Megivern, Brett Barnes, Joseph McMahon, Sherlyn Pallassino, Brendan McGovern, Gavin Teeter

Action: 6.3 Approval of Encroachment Agreement

BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of Mr. Robert Edwards, Superintendent of Schools, that the Cortland Enlarged City School District Board of Education approves the Encroachment Agreement, as presented.

Motion by Brett Barnes, second by Joseph McMahon.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Janet Griffin, Lori Megivern, Brett Barnes, Joseph McMahon, Sherlyn Pallassino, Brendan McGovern, Gavin Teeter

Action: 6.4 Rental/Ancillary Agreement with OCM BOCES September 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026

Resolution upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, to approve the Rental/Ancillary Agreement with OCM BOCES for the use of a classroom for ancillary services at the Cortland Jr/Sr High School and Smith Intermediate School for Special Education from September 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026.

Motion by Sherlyn Pallassino, second by Janet Griffin.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Janet Griffin, Lori Megivern, Brett Barnes, Joseph McMahon, Sherlyn Pallassino, Brendan McGovern, Gavin Teeter

Action: 6.5 Surplus Items

BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of Mr. Robert Edwards, Superintendent of Schools, that the Cortland Enlarged City School District Board of Education approves the request to surplus items as presented.

Motion by Brett Barnes, second by Janet Griffin.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Janet Griffin, Lori Megivern, Brett Barnes, Joseph McMahon, Sherlyn Pallassino, Brendan McGovern, Gavin Teeter

Action: 6.6 Independent Consultant Agreement

BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of Mr. Robert Edwards, Superintendent of Schools, that the Cortland Enlarged City School District Board of Education approves the Independent Consultant Agreement with Deborah Ayers, as presented.

Motion by Janet Griffin, second by Brett Barnes.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Janet Griffin, Brett Barnes, Joseph McMahon, Sherlyn Pallassino, Brendan McGovern, Gavin Teeter

No: Lori Megivern

Action: 6.7 Transportation Requests

WHEREAS, the Board of Education has received a request for transportation to a non-public school from a parent(s) of a resident student(s); and
WHEREAS, the Board of Education has reviewed information related to the request and been briefed by the Superintendent of Schools in executive session; and
NOW, after due deliberation, the request(s) for transportation to the non-public school is hereby approved.

Motion by Brett Barnes, second by Sherlyn Pallassino.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Janet Griffin, Lori Megivern, Brett Barnes, Joseph McMahon, Sherlyn Pallassino, Brendan McGovern, Gavin Teeter

Action: 6.8 Approval of Financial Reports

BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of Mr. Robert Edwards, Superintendent of Schools, that the Cortland Enlarged City School District Board of Education accepts the consent calendar as presented.

Motion by Brett Barnes, second by Janet Griffin.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Janet Griffin, Lori Megivern, Brett Barnes, Joseph McMahon, Sherlyn Pallassino, Brendan McGovern, Gavin Teeter

7. Personnel Action

Action: 7.1 Approval of Personnel Action

BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of Mr. Robert Edwards, Superintendent of Schools, that the Cortland Enlarged City School District Board of Education approves the personnel action as presented.

Motion by Joseph McMahon, second by Brett Barnes.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Janet Griffin, Lori Megivern, Brett Barnes, Joseph McMahon, Sherlyn Pallassino, Brendan McGovern, Gavin Teeter

8. Leadership Reports

Reports: 8.1 Cabinet

Kristen Ailport

- *We've been working to staff special education.*
- *New Staff Orientation was great.*
- *Special education teachers have been working on inclusion planning.*
- *People have been working hard to make sure we are ready for the kiddos next week.*

Juli Quinn

- *Great New Staff Orientation. We have had two full days with them. They were given a bus tour of Cortland. It is a great crew coming in.*
- *Attended PLC at work conference in Rochester with the junior high guiding coalition. There was great work done there.*

Kris Williamson

- *Tax bills will be mailed out on September 1 with the first installment being due on September 30.*
- *Thank you to the board for approving the consultant contract.*
- *We are working on a flyer to go out to the community regarding taxes and interest in being a stakeholder in the budget process.*
- *OCM BOCES will have a capital project vote on November 19.*
- *There will be updates to the District Wide Safety Plan in January.*
- *Tax cap calculations were audited with no findings.*

Bob Edwards

- *Thank you to cabinet for their hard work during the hiring season.*
- *Thank you to Anastasia and her crew for transforming some of our technology.*
- *Federal Title monies came through for Title 1, 2, and 4.*
- *Shout out to Jordon Lilley for the tennis court dedication to Robert Vidulich and for the new teacher tour.*
- *Thank you to Juli for facilitating the new teacher orientation and administrative team retreat.*

Reports: 8.2 Board of Education

Brendan McGovern announced the BOE committee members as follows:

- *Policy Committee*
 - *Janet Griffin*
 - *Sherlyn Pallassino*
 - *Gavin Teeter*
 - *Ayden Harmin*

- *Finance Committee*
 - *Brendan McGovern*
 - *Joseph McMahon*
 - *Lori Megivern*
- *Community Engagement Committee*
 - *Brendan McGovern*
 - *Brett Barnes*
 - *Gavin Teeter*
 - *Ayden Harmin*
- *Facilities and Transportation Committee*
 - *Joseph McMahon*
 - *Lori Megivern*
 - *Sherlyn Pallassino*
- *Audit Committee*
 - *Brendan McGovern*
 - *Lori Megivern*
 - *Sherlyn Pallassino*
 - *Ayden Harmin*

Parent Square and social media will be used to let community members know when the committee meetings are going to take place.

Lori Megivern wants to add conferences to the agenda.

Reports: 8.3 Ex-Officio Student Board Member

Ayden Harmin shared a 2026 Senior Class Parking Spot Painting Report. It is attached in BoardDocs.

9. Other Communication

Discussion: 9.1 Audience Participation

There were no requests to address the board.

10. Executive Session

Action: 10.1 Proposed Executive Session

Motion to convene into executive session.

Motion by Janet Griffin, second by Gavin Teeter.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Janet Griffin, Lori Megivern, Brett Barnes, Joseph McMahon, Sherlyn Pallassino, Brendan McGovern, Gavin Teeter

Time: 8:06 PM

Action: 10.2 Reconvene In Open Session

Motion by Brett Barnes, second by Gavin Teeter.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Janet Griffin, Lori Megivern, Brett Barnes, Joseph McMahon, Sherlyn Pallassino, Brendan McGovern, Gavin Teeter

Time: 8:37 PM

11. Closing of Meeting

Action: 11.1 Adjourn

Motion by Brett Barnes, second by Joseph McMahon

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Janet Griffin, Lori Megivern, Brett Barnes, Joseph McMahon, Sherlyn Pallassino, Brendan McGovern, Gavin Teeter

Time: 8:38 PM