

Regular Meeting (Tuesday, February 25, 2025)

Generated by Alicia Zupancic on Wednesday, February 26, 2025

Members present

Janet Griffin, Lori Megivern, Brett Barnes, Donald Chu, Joseph McMahon, Sherlyn Pallassino, Brendan McGovern and Giovanna Perfetti

Meeting called to order at 6:00 PM

1. Opening of Meeting

Procedural: 1.1 Call to Order

Procedural: 1.2 Pledge of Allegiance

Brett Barnes called the meeting to order and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Procedural: 1.3 Recite Board Norms

Brendan McGovern recited the board norms.

Lori Megivern agreed to read the board norms at the March 25, 2025 meeting.

Procedural: 1.4 Moment of Silence

Brett Barnes called for a moment of silence in memory of Mrs. Nancy Jean Coble Governali. Mrs. Governali retired in 2005 after a twenty year career as a junior high math teacher.

2. Executive Session

Action: 2.1 Proposed Executive Session

Motion to convene into executive session.

Motion by Donald Chu, second by Joseph McMahon.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Janet Griffin, Lori Megivern, Brett Barnes, Donald Chu, Joseph McMahon, Sherlyn Pallassino, Brendan McGovern

Time: 6:03 PM

Action: 2.2 Reconvene In Open Session

Motion by Sherlyn Pallassino, second by Joseph McMahon.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Janet Griffin, Lori Megivern, Brett Barnes, Donald Chu, Joseph McMahon, Sherlyn Pallassino, Brendan McGovern

Time: 6:29 PM

3. Recognition

Recognition: 3.1 Tiger Paw Recipients

Jennifer Block recognized Kristy Buchalla for her leadership and dedication to the staff and students learning at Smith School.

Janesa Cornish recognized Pam West and Vickie Myers for their quick, efficient response during a medical emergency and for the way they made the students feel safe.

John Zarcone recognized Stephanie Passeri Densmore for her dedication to the teaching profession and to the Cortland Enlarged City School District as a whole.

4. Communications

Procedural: 4.1 Audience Participation

Jenifer Phelan spoke to the board in favor of offering driver education.

Toral Patel made a DEI statement to the board.

5. Presentations

Reports: 5.1 Cortland Public Education Foundation (CPEF)

Bob Russell, President of the Cortland Public Education Foundation (CPEF) and Betsy Cheetham, CPEF board member, recognized the Fall 2024 and the Spring 2025 CPEF grant recipients.

The board would like to thank CPEF for their continued support.

Reports: 5.2 Superintendent Update

Bob Edwards celebrated Cortland students' art at the Syracuse Airport. He also celebrated the Lego League State event in Buffalo. He thanked the Randall PTO, Juli Quinn, coaches, and all the staff that supported the Lego League event. He gave a winter sports update. Spring sports start March 17th. He celebrated the hard work of some of our great staff. He gave a reminder that May 28, 2025 is the Cortland County Olympiad.

Reports: 5.3 Budget Presentation

Kris Williamson gave a budget presentation focused on the tax cap calculations, long-term expense and revenue projections, and the current projected revenue and expense budgets.

6. Consent Calendar

Action (Consent), Minutes: 6.1 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 February 4, 2025 as presented.

Action (Consent): 6.2 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 accepts the approval of CSE/CPSE recommendations as presented.

Action (Consent): 6.3 Approval of Financial Reports

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

Action (Consent): 6.4 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 Donald Chu, second by Janet Griffin.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Janet Griffin, Lori Megivern, Brett Barnes, Donald Chu, Joseph McMahon, Sherlyn Pallassino, Brendan McGovern

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 accepts the approval of personnel action as presented.

Motion by Donald Chu, second by Sherlyn Pallassino.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Janet Griffin, Lori Megivern, Brett Barnes, Donald Chu, Joseph McMahon, Sherlyn Pallassino, Brendan McGovern

8. Old Business

Action: 8.1 Revised Intent to Purchase School Buses for the 2025-2026 School Year

BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Transportation and Facilities Committee, that the Cortland Enlarged City School District Board of Education approves the revised intent to purchase buses for the 2025-2026 school year as presented.

Motion by Donald Chu, second by Sherlyn Pallassino.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Janet Griffin, Lori Megivern, Brett Barnes, Donald Chu, Joseph McMahon, Sherlyn Pallassino, Brendan McGovern

9. New Business

Action: 9.1 2025-2026 Student / Faculty Calendar

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 2025-2026 Student / Faculty Calendar as presented.

Motion by Donald Chu, second by Sherlyn Pallassino.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Janet Griffin, Lori Megivern, Brett Barnes, Donald Chu, Joseph McMahon, Sherlyn Pallassino, Brendan McGovern

Action: 9.2 SEQRA Resolution - 2025 Capital Improvement Project

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 Capital Improvement Project SEQRA Resolution as presented.

Motion by Donald Chu, second by Sherlyn Pallassino.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Janet Griffin, Lori Megivern, Brett Barnes, Donald Chu, Joseph McMahon, Sherlyn Pallassino, Brendan McGovern

Action: 9.3 Bond Resolution - 2025 Capital Project

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 Capital Project Bond Resolution as presented.

Motion by Donald Chu, second by Janet Griffin

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Janet Griffin, Lori Megivern, Brett Barnes, Donald Chu, Joseph McMahon, Sherlyn Pallassino, Brendan McGovern

Action: 9.4 Bus Bond Resolution for Proposition 2

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 Bus Bond Resolution as presented.

Motion by Donald Chu, second by Joseph McMahon.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Janet Griffin, Lori Megivern, Brett Barnes, Donald Chu, Joseph McMahon, Sherlyn Pallassino, Brendan McGovern

Action: 9.5 Bus Bond Resolution for Proposition 3

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 Bus Bond Resolution as presented.

Motion by Donald Chu, second by Janet Griffin.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Janet Griffin, Lori Megivern, Brett Barnes, Donald Chu, Joseph McMahon, Sherlyn Pallassino, Brendan McGovern

Action: 9.6 Notice of Annual Meeting

BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of Mr. Robert Edwards, Superintendent of Schools, that the Cortland Enlarged City School District Board of Education hereby approves the Notice of Annual Meeting defining the Budget Public Hearing date, polling locations, voter registration day, Student Transportation Vehicles Propositions, Capital Improvement Project Proposition and Cortland Free Library Tax Proposition as presented.

Motion by Donald Chu, second by Janet Griffin.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Janet Griffin, Lori Megivern, Brett Barnes, Donald Chu, Joseph McMahon, Sherlyn Pallassino, Brendan McGovern

Action: 9.7 Appointment of Board of Registration and Election Inspectors for the Budget Vote and School Board Elections on May 20, 2025

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 appointments of the Board of Registration and Election Inspectors for the Budget Vote and School Board Elections on May 20, 2025 as presented.

Motion by Donald Chu, second by Sherlyn Pallassino.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Janet Griffin, Lori Megivern, Brett Barnes, Donald Chu, Joseph McMahon, Sherlyn Pallassino, Brendan McGovern

Action: 9.8 Budget Adjustment- for 2024-25 Due to Speech and OT Needs
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 resolution to increase the budget for 2024-25 due to speech and OT needs as presented.

Motion by Donald Chu, second by Joseph McMahon.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Janet Griffin, Lori Megivern, Brett Barnes, Donald Chu, Joseph McMahon, Sherlyn Pallassino, Brendan McGovern

Action: 9.9 First Reading of Revised Policy #5661 Wellness Policies on Physical Activity and Nutrition

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 first reading of revised policy #5661 - Wellness Policies on Physical Activity and Nutrition.

Motion by Donald Chu, second by Sherlyn Pallassino.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Janet Griffin, Lori Megivern, Brett Barnes, Donald Chu, Joseph McMahon, Sherlyn Pallassino, Brendan McGovern

10. Leadership Reports

Reports: 10.1 Cabinet

Bob Edwards

- *Talked about the tenure memo attached in BoardDocs under executive content.*

Kris Williamson

- *Gave an update on where we are with Frontline as an onboarding tool.*
- *Gave an update on Parker School.*
- *We have started the ball rolling on getting an electric bus to the district for people to see and possibly take a ride on.*
- *The Audit committee is meeting this Thursday at 8:00 a.m. at the Kaufman Center.*

Kristen Ailport

- *Thanked the board for approving the resolution to adjust the 2024-25 budget due to speech and OT needs.*
- *Gave an update on the Cortland County Olympiad.*

Katie Swanson

- *Talked about the vertical team meeting that took place today.*
- *Getting prepared for the last PD Day in March.*
- *Has been doing teacher observations. She loves being able to be in the classrooms.*

Reports: 10.2 Board of Education

Donald Chu

- *Led a cell phone policy discussion. He said that some teachers are in favor of a cell phone policy and asked what the implementation plan for the cell phone pouches is for the Junior High School. Bob Edwards said we are waiting on the Governor. We have made a move to purchase pouches for the Junior High School. The implementation plan is forthcoming.*
- *Suggested an electric school bus ad.*

Brett Barnes

- *Provided the board with a draft procedure for elections of the Cortland Enlarged City School District Board of Education President and Vice President. After the board discussed it, it was decided that it is a protocol not a procedure and that Brett would rewrite the protocol and share it with the whole board.*
- *Asked about the SRO MOU. There will be an update in executive session*

- *During his trip to Albany for Lobby Day, he learned that we fall into a group of 24 school districts in a unique situation regarding foundation aid. He feels hopeful that something may be done about it.*

Lori Megivern

- *Led a discussion on the JSHS Grading procedures.*
 - *She mentioned how a Regents grade could be changed only by an administrator.*
 - *Bob Edwards clarified that for a Regents grade to be changed there is an appeal process.*
 - *The board agreed that the procedures for grading at the JSHS should be looked at again by a committee.*

11. Other Communication

Discussion: 11.1 Audience Participation

There were no requests to address the board.

12. Executive Session

Action: 12.1 Proposed Executive Session

Motion to convene into executive session.

Motion by Sherlyn Pallassino, second by Donald Chu.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Janet Griffin, Lori Megivern, Brett Barnes, Donald Chu, Joseph McMahon, Sherlyn Pallassino, Brendan McGovern

Time: 8:54 PM

Action: 12.2 Reconvene In Open Session

Motion by Joseph McMahon, second by Sherlyn Pallassino.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Janet Griffin, Lori Megivern, Brett Barnes, Donald Chu, Joseph McMahon, Sherlyn Pallassino, Brendan McGovern

Time: 9:34 PM

13. Closing of Meeting

Action: 13.1 Adjourn

Motion by Joseph McMahon, second by Sherlyn Pallassino.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Janet Griffin, Lori Megivern, Brett Barnes, Donald Chu, Joseph McMahon, Sherlyn Pallassino, Brendan McGovern

Time: 9:35 PM