

Regular Meeting (Monday, March 23, 2026)

Generated by Alicia Zupancic on Tuesday, March 24, 2026

Members present

Janet Griffin, Lori Megivern, Joseph McMahon, Sherlyn Pallassino, Gavin Teeter

Members absent

Brendan McGovern, Brett Barnes

Meeting called to order at 6:01 PM

1. Opening of Meeting

Procedural: 1.1 Call to Order

Procedural: 1.2 Pledge of Allegiance

Janet Griffin called the meeting to order at 6:01pm and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Procedural: 1.3 Moment of Silence

Janet Griffin asked for a moment of silence in memory of Mr. Murray Banks and Mrs. Barbara Karn.

Mr. Banks was a physical education teacher at Cortland from 1970-1978.

Mrs. Karn retired as a 5th grade teacher from Virgil Elementary School after twenty-one years.

Procedural: 1.4 Recite Board Norms

Joseph McMahon recited the board norms.

The Board President or Vice President will recite the board norms at the April meeting.

Action: 1.5 Approval of Agenda

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 Sherlyn Pallassino, second by Joseph McMahon.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Janet Griffin, Lori Megivern, Joseph McMahon, Sherlyn Pallassino, Gavin Teeter

2. Recognition

Recognition: 2.1 Tiger Paw Recipient

Janesa Cornish recognized Jennifer Drake and Anthony Canestaro for their actions, kindness and heart in a student medical emergency.

Kristen Cinquanti recognized Janesa Cornish for her dedication, her passion, and her commitment to the students and staff at the high school.

3. Executive Session

Action: 3.1 Proposed Executive Session

Motion to convene into executive session.

Motion by Joseph McMahon, second by Sherlyn Pallassino.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Janet Griffin, Lori Megivern, Joseph McMahon, Sherlyn Pallassino, Gavin Teeter

Time: 6:07 PM

Action: 3.2 Reconvene In Open Session

Motion to reconvene in open session.

Motion by Joseph McMahon, second by Sherlyn Pallassino.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Janet Griffin, Lori Megivern, Joseph McMahon, Sherlyn Pallassino, Gavin Teeter

Time: 8:03 PM

4. Communications

Procedural: 4.1 Audience Participation

Jaime Francey-Henry addressed the board regarding layoffs.

Donald Chu addressed the board regarding the budget and layoffs.

5. Presentations

Reports: 5.1 Presentation of Costa Rica Trip Preparation

Keith Palm presented a 2027 trip to Costa Rica.

Reports: 5.2 Budget Presentation

Kris Williamson shared a budget presentation with the board focused on the budget process, a draft expense budget, a draft revenue budget and closing the budget gap. The board had consensus for the budget to be built with a 6.5% tax levy increase.

Reports: 5.3 Superintendent Update

Robert Edwards celebrated our new resource officer, Officer Locke. Officer Locke has been spending time getting to know the students.

Guys and Dolls Play was well done and a really cool production. He thanked the staff and students for their work.

The CHS Smash Brothers team battled in Syracuse. We had one student finish in second place.

Bob shared this message from Lizzie McAndrews, "You've Got This!"

He talked about potential restructuring of the district with grades 6-12 at the Jr. Sr. High School in the future.

He shared how the revenues coming into the school district do not even fully cover the staff benefits.

He shared the dates of the spring concerts with the board. The board will receive invitations.

6. Consent Agenda

Action (Consent): 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 24, 2026 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 approves the 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 approves the 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 agenda as presented.

Motion by Gavin Teeter, second by Sherlyn Pallassino.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Janet Griffin, Lori Megivern, Joseph McMahon, Sherlyn Pallassino, 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 Sherlyn Pallassino, second by Joseph McMahon.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Janet Griffin, Lori Megivern, Joseph McMahon, Sherlyn Pallassino, Gavin Teeter

8. Old Business

Action: 8.1 SRO Contract Revisions

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 revised SRO Agreement as presented.

Motion by Joseph McMahon, second by Gavin Teeter.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Janet Griffin, Joseph McMahon, Sherlyn Pallassino, Gavin Teeter

No: Lori Megivern

9. New Business

Action: 9.1 Request for an Extended Overnight Field Trip to Costa Rica

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 for an Extended Overnight Field Trip to Costa Rica. This is the initial request. The final approval will be sixty days in advance of the departure date.

Motion by Gavin Teeter, second by Joseph McMahon.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Janet Griffin, Lori Megivern, Joseph McMahon, Sherlyn Pallassino, Gavin Teeter

Action: 9.2 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 Gavin Teeter, second by Sherlyn Pallassino.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Janet Griffin, Lori Megivern, Joseph McMahon, Sherlyn Pallassino, Gavin Teeter

Action: 9.3 2025-2026 Tax Collection Report

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 Tax Collection Report as presented.

Motion by Gavin Teeter, second by Joseph McMahon.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Janet Griffin, Lori Megivern, Joseph McMahon, Sherlyn Pallassino, Gavin Teeter

Action: 9.4 Construction Contracts for Phase 4 of the 2021 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 awards the Site Construction Contract to Fahs Construction Group, Inc. as the lowest qualified bidder in the amount of \$347,000 and awards the Mechanical Construction Contract to King & King Mechanical, Inc. as the lowest qualified bidder in the amount of \$284,243 for the 2021 Capital Project Phase 4 - Junior Senior High School SED# 11-02-00-01-0-007-021 and Randall Middle School SED# 11-02-00-01-0-002-014.

Motion by Gavin Teeter, second by Joseph McMahon.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Janet Griffin, Lori Megivern, Joseph McMahon, Sherlyn Pallassino, Gavin Teeter

Action: 9.5 Construction Contracts for the 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 awards the General Construction Contract to Daniel J Lynch, Inc. as the lowest qualified bidder in the amount of \$1,708,000; awards the Mechanical Construction Contract to King & King Mechanical, Inc. as the lowest qualified bidder in the amount of \$229,317; awards the Electrical Construction Contract to Patricia Electric, Inc. as the lowest qualified bidder in the amount of \$375,000 and awards the Plumbing Construction Contract to Lovett Mechanical Contractors as the lowest qualified bidder in the amount of \$48,100 for the 2025 Capital Project - Junior Senior High School SED# 11-02-00-01-0-007-020 and Randall Middle School SED# 11-02-00-01-0-002-013.

Motion by Gavin Teeter, second by Sherlyn Pallassino.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Janet Griffin, Lori Megivern, Joseph McMahon, Sherlyn Pallassino, Gavin Teeter

10. Leadership Reports

Reports: 10.1 Cabinet

Juli Quinn

- *The reports of the Mindex Conference and the Superintendent's conference to Albany are in BoardDocs for the board to view.*

Kristen Shoemaker

- *The special education department is halfway through the annual reviews.*
- *This year's date for the Olympiad is May 26, 2026.*

Kris Williamson

- *There will be a Budget Town Hall meeting on April 13, 2026 at 5:00 pm at the high school.*

Robert Edwards

- *Facilities updates*
 - *Jordan Lilley shared that the fuel tanks were recently inspected and cleaned. He was informed that they would soon need to be replaced.*
 - *The new freezer at the high school is in.*
 - *If any board member would like to see the new addition at Barry, let the board clerk know.*
- *Shout out to Cabinet as we work through this budget season.*
- *Shout out to Juli Quinn for a wonderful professional development day.*
- *The Community Engagement Committee had an idea to have board members do individual short videos telling potential candidates what it is like being a board member and possibly having a meet the board night.*

Reports: 10.2 Board of Education

Lori Megivern

- *Discussed the Shared Decision Making Team.*

Gavin Teeter

- *The Community Engagement Committee discussed having board members being more present in schools by having lunch with students.*
 - *The board clerk will send a schedule to board members.*

Reports: 10.3 Ex-Officio Student Board Member

Sai Patel

- *Shared feedback from a survey that was sent to parents of homeschooled students.*
- *He also shared a concern from some of his peers regarding a CHS bathroom being locked.*

Ayden Harmin

- *Presented a budget website he created to the board.*

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

Action: 12.2 Reconvene In Open Session

This executive session was not needed.

13. Closing of Meeting

Action: 13.1 Adjourn

Motion to adjourn.

Motion by Sherlyn Pallassino, second by Joseph McMahon.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Janet Griffin, Lori Megivern, Joseph McMahon, Sherlyn Pallassino, Gavin Teeter

Time: 10:05 PM