

**Regular Meeting (Tuesday, January 20, 2026)**

Tully Central School District  
 Board of Education  
 Tully Junior-Senior High School  
 Library, 6:00 P.M.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Edward Wortley, President  
 Bettemae Russell, Vice President  
 Shannon Brown, Member  
 Donna Doody, Member  
 Scott Haynes, Member  
 Jeffrey Phelps, Member  
 Cheryl Wayne, Member

**ADMINISTRATION PRESENT**

Todd Freeman, Interim Superintendent  
 Ed Kupiec, Elementary Principal  
 Mike O'Brien, Jr./Sr. High Principal  
 Adam O'Neill, Director of Student Support Svcs.  
 Paul Schiener, Director of Instructional Support Svcs.  
 Kevin Sommer, School Business Administrator

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Jeanette Neadom, District Clerk

**1. Call Meeting to Order** - Meeting was called to order by Edward Wortley at 6:03 p.m.

1.1 Pledge of Allegiance

1.2 Approve Agenda - Motion by Jeffrey Phelps, seconded by Cheryl Wayne to approve the agenda as presented. Vote 7 to 0. Motion Carried.

**2. Minutes**

2.1 Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting - Motion by Jeffrey Phelps, seconded by Cheryl Wayne to approve the December 16, 2025 minutes as presented. Vote 7 to 0. Motion Carried.

**3. Recognitions**

3.1 Student and Staff Recognitions - None

**4. Visitors**

4.1 Visitors are recognized and welcomed - Suzanne Hardy, Erika Baritell, Wendy Fowler-Conner, Art Rienhardt, Kayla Liddington. Parent expressed transportation information related to petition she submitted to BOE Clerk for BOE review.

**5. Presentations and Items for Discussion**

5.1 Presentation of Special Education Plan - Adam O'Neill presented this information.

5.2 Presentation of Grade 3-5 Assessments - Ed Kupiec presented this information.

5.3 2026-2027 Budget Development - Kevin Sommer presented this information.

5.4 Superintendent's Report

Student Counsel - Winter spirit week, prom planning, FFA trip, students volunteer at Otisco FD for pancake breakfast, Teen Institute, Yearbook 100 yr edition, and impressive awards for student musicians and artists.

JSHS - Transition from semester 1 to semester 2, January regents underway, electives fair held, graduation committee is starting planning phase.

TES - AIMS Web benchmarking, NYS testing stimulations, Prek report cards transitioning to Schooltool, Feb. 6 & 7 is TES Musical, enrollment for Prek and K are continuing.

District Updates - Draft 2026-27 Calendar, Strategic Plan continues to move forward, working on a district wide calendar that potentially will go out this summer for upcoming 2026-27 school year.

5.5 Board of Education President's Report - BOE Member Candidate packets will be available starting February 2, 2026. There will be 2 (two) seats available for 3 (three) year terms of July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2029. Nominating petitions will be due back to the district office/district clerk on April 20, 2026 by 5 p.m. More information will be shared in February's Knight Insight.

5.6 Committee Reports - no additions or edits to minutes.

- Tuesday, December 16 - Finance and Audit Committee
- Tuesday, January 13 - Policy Committee, 8:15 a.m.
- Wednesday, January 14 - Academic Advisory Committee, 3:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, January 14 - Wellness Committee, 3:00 p.m.

**6. Financial Items** - None - due to transition; will be presented next month.

## **7. Policies**

### 7.1 Policies for First Reading

- Policy 5840 Artificial Intelligence (new policy-clean version/no marked version) - Motion by Bettemae Russell, seconded by Shannon Brown to approve policy 5840 for first reading. Vote 7 to 0. Motion Carried.
- Policy 5850 Data Networks and Security Access - Motion by Jeffrey Phelps, seconded by Cheryl Wayne to approve policy 5850 for first reading. Vote 7 to 0. Motion Carried.

### 7.2 Policies for Second Reading

- 5413 - Procurement: Uniform Grant Guidance for Federal Awards (New Policy)
- 5681 - School Safety Plans
- 5851 - Cybersecurity Incident Response (New Policy)
- 7522 - Concussion Management

Motion by Jeffrey Phelps, seconded by Donna Doody to approve and adopt policies 5413, 5681, 5851 and 7522 by consent. Vote 7 to 0. Motion Carried.

## **8. Personnel**

8.1 Resignation of District School Treasurer/Extra Curricular Accounts Treasurer - acceptance of the resignation from Timothy Lynch from the position of District School Treasurer/Extra Curricular Accounts Treasurer retroactively effective to January 2, 2026.

8.2 Leave of Absence of JSHS Art Teacher - acceptance of the leave of absence request from Michelle Gazdik from the position as JSHS Art Teacher with an anticipated start date of January 26, 2026 and with an anticipated return date of March 2, 2026.

8.3 Retirement of JSHS Guidance Counselor - acceptance of the resignation due to retirement from Jennifer Newton from the position of JSHS Guidance Counselor effective June 30, 2026.

8.4 Retirement of Elementary Art Teacher - acceptance of the resignation due to retirement from Kathryn Martin from the position of Elementary Art Teacher effective June 30, 2026.

8.5 Retirement of Teaching Assistant - acceptance of the resignation due to retirement of Roxann Esposito from the position of Teaching Assistant effective June 30, 2026.

8.6 Resignation of Teaching Assistant - acceptance of the resignation from Megan Chawgo from the position of Teaching Assistant effective January 22, 2026.

8.7 Appointment of Teaching Assistant - approval of the probationary appointment of Victoria Monico to the position of Teaching Assistant with a retroactive effective date of January 5, 2026, with a four year probationary appointment with an anticipated tenure date of January 5, 2030. This appointment is in accordance with the terms of the current Tully Teachers' Association agreement.

8.8 Appointment of Teaching Assistant - approval of the probationary appointment of Shelby Fire-Hoke to the position of Teaching Assistant pending fingerprint clearance verification. The start date will be on or about fingerprint clearance. The anticipated tenure date will be four (4) years from start date. This appointment is in accordance with the terms of the current Tully Teachers' Association agreement.

8.9 Appointment of Bus Driver Trainee - approval of the appointment of Timothy Shaver to the non-competitive class Cortland County civil service position of Bus Driver Trainee with an anticipated start date of January 21, 2026, with an anticipated end date of April 8, 2026. This is a temporary 12 week position. This appointment is in accordance with the terms of the current Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Tully Central School District and Teamsters Local Union 317.

8.10 Appointment of Bus Driver Trainee - approval of the appointment of Christopher Card to the non-competitive class Cortland County civil service position of Bus Driver Trainee with an anticipated start date of January 21, 2026, with an anticipated end date of April 8, 2026. This is a temporary 12 week position. This appointment is in accordance with the terms of the current Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Tully Central School District and Teamsters Local Union 317.

8.11 Leave of Absence of Contract Bus Driver - acceptance of the leave of absence request from Richard Burke from the position as Contract Bus Driver with a retroactive start date of December 4, 2025 and with a return date yet to be determined.

8.12 Revised JSHS Department Chairperson(s) and New Teacher Mentors - approval of the revised JSHS Department Chairperson(s) and New Teacher Mentors appointments for the 2025-26 as presented.

8.13 Approval of Student Teachers - approval of the student teachers for the Spring 2025-2026 school year as presented.

<b>Student Teacher/College</b>	<b>Host Teacher/Building</b>	<b>Term/Dates</b>
Chloe Tinkler/Le Moyne	Courtnie VanDerzee	3/8 - 5/11/2026
Sarah Kiefer	Erika Baritell	1/26 - 5/13/2026
Brianna Dearstine/LeMoyne*	Lisa Saile/TES	Spring Semester

\*Replaces Sierra Medina

8.14 Substitutes - approval of substitutes as presented.

#### **Substitute Non-Certified Teacher**

Oliver Walters effective January 21, 2026 (Teacher Immersion Program/SUNY Cortland) - **First name correction to Olivia.**  
Chelsea Metz effective January 21, 2026 (Teacher Immersion Program/SUNY Cortland)

#### **Substitute Non-Certified Teaching Assistant**

Oliver Walters effective January 21, 2026 (Teacher Immersion Program/SUNY Cortland) - **First name correction to Olivia.**  
Chelsea Metz effective January 21, 2026 (Teacher Immersion Program/SUNY Cortland)  
Breanna Foster effective January 21, 2026  
Kaitlyn Pugh **pending fingerprint clearance and appointment date will become effective once clearance is received**

#### **Substitute School Nurse**

Breanna Foster effective January 21, 2026

#### **Substitute Contract Bus Driver**

Glen Wintermute effective January 21, 2026

#### **Substitute Clerical/Keyboard Specialist P/T**

Kaitlyn Pugh **pending fingerprint clearance and appointment date will become effective once clearance is received**

Motion by Cheryl Wayne, seconded by Jeffrey Phelps to approve personnel items 8.1 - 8.14 by consent. Vote 7 to 0. Motion Carried.

8.15 Appointment of District School Treasurer/Extra Curricular Accounts Treasurer - appointment of Richard Tordel to the competitive class Cortland County civil service position of provisional District Treasurer/Extra Curricular Accounts Treasurer effective January 21, 2026. This appointment is contingent upon Richard taking the next available School Treasurer exam through Cortland County Civil Service and placing in the top three candidates. This position is in accordance with the terms of the District Treasurer/Extra Curricular Accounts Treasurer Agreement.

Motion by Bettemae Russell, seconded by Donna Doody to approve personnel item 8.15. Vote 6 to 0 with one abstention- Shannon Brown. Motion Carried.

### **9. New Business**

9.1 Bond Resolution 2025 Capital Project - approval of the attached bond resolution prepared by Trespasz & Marquardt, LLP for the 2025 Capital Project as presented.

9.2 Special Education Plan - approval of the adoption of the Special Education Plan from January 20, 2026 through January 20, 2028 as presented.

9.3 Advisory Agreement - Treasurer - approval of the agreement for Kathy Nichols to serve as "Contractor" for in-person training and advisory for treasurer, accounts payable, payroll and other duties as defined by the Superintendent for the period of January 8, 2026 through August 30, 2026 and the Superintendent of Schools is authorized to sign the same.

9.4 Advisory Agreement-Facilities Assessment - approval of the agreement for Dennis Greer to serve as "Contractor" for in-person facilities assessment as outlined in Agreement for the period of January 21, 2026 through April 1, 2026 and the Superintendent of Schools is authorized to sign the same.

9.5 FFA 2026 State Conference Fieldtrip - approval of the FFA 2026 State Conference overnight fieldtrip as presented.

9.6 JSBS Overnight Fieldtrip - approval of the All-Eastern Choral Conference overnight field trip as presented.

9.7 Donation to the Class of 2027 - acceptance of the donation on behalf of the Tully CSD Class of 2027 in the amount of \$3,000 and that these funds be deposited in the Class of 2027 Extra-Classroom Activity account.

9.8 CSE Recommendations - approval of CSE recommendations as presented.

Motion by Donna Doody, seconded by Bettemae Russell to approve new business items 9.1 - 9.8 by consent. Vote 7 to 0. Motion Carried.

## **10. Meetings and Dates**

### 10.1 Upcoming meetings and dates

- Wednesday, January 21 - Facilities Committee, 3:00 p.m. virtual
- Thursday, January 22 - Health & Safety Committee, 3:00 p.m
- Wednesday, February 4 - Athletic Advisory Committee, 3:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, February 10 - Policy Committee, 8:15 a.m.
- Tuesday, February 10 - Finance and Audit Committee, 5:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, February 10 - BOE Meeting, 6:00 p.m.

## **11. Public Comments**

### 11.1 Public Comments

## **12. Executive Session**

12.1 Proposed Executive Session - Motion by Jeffrey Phelps, seconded by Scott Haynes to adjourn into executive session to discuss personnel updates. Vote 7 to 0. Motion Carried. Time: 6:57 p.m.

12.2 Return from Executive Session - Motion by Jeffrey Phelps, seconded by Cheryl Wayne to return to open session. Vote 7 to 0. Motion Carried. Time: 8:44 p.m.

## **13. Adjournment**

13.1 Adjourn Meeting - Motion by Jeffrey Phelps, seconded by Scott Haynes to adjourn the meeting. Vote 7 to 0. Motion Carried. Time: 8:44 p.m.

  
Jeanette Neadom, District Clerk

Draft Minutes: 1/27/2026

Scheduled for BOE Review: 2/10/2026

BOE Approval: 2/10/2026