

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING  
Regular Meeting  
April 16, 2025

Present:	Mrs. Cathi Root, President Mrs. Pamela Zwierlein, Vice-President Mr. Gregory Schweiger, Member Mr. Robert Seymour, Member Mrs. Lee Wood, Member
Adm./Others:	Mr. Joshua Roe, Superintendent Mrs. Mary Grace Camin, MS Principal Mrs. Michelle Bombard, ES Principal Mr. Michael Williams, Director of CSE Mr. James Wood, Interim HS Principal Mrs. Kendra Seaver, Business Executive Mrs. Kristy Robertson, Clerk
Others:	Mr. Andrew Earley Mrs. Des Ford Mr. Alex MacDonald Mr. Doug Graham Mrs. Colleen VanHousen Mr. Jeff VanHousen
Absent:	Mr. Aaron Lounsbury, Member Mr. Scot Taylor, Member

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mrs. Root called the regular meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

**2. PLEDGE TO THE FLAG**

**3. VOICE OF THE PUBLIC**

Mr. Alex MacDonald addressed the Board on behalf of the Tioga Central Bargaining Units and read a joint statement regarding Voice of the Public that included concerns and potential guidelines for public comment going forward.

Mrs. Root asked for a copy of the joint statement and thanked him for taking the time to bring these concerns to the Board.

Mr. Jeff VanHousen addressed the Board regarding his child and concerns with the current homebound instruction being received.

Mrs. Root thanked Mr. VanHousen for advising the board of his concerns. Board policy prevents discussion of confidential information in public session. Any further discussion will happen in executive session.

Mr. and Mrs. VanHousen left the meeting at 6:10 pm.

#### **4. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES**

A MOTION was made by Gregory Schweiger, seconded by Robert Seymour, and carried by a vote of 5-0 to approve the March 31, 2025, Special Board Meeting Minutes, and April 2, 2025, Regular Board Meeting Minutes.

#### **5. REPORTS/PRESENTATIONS**

The next Workers' Compensation Alliance meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 28, 2025.

There was nothing to report for Legislative, Health Trust Consortium, other board reports, events, or updates.

Mrs. Camin reported that State testing has begun and there were a few issues at the State level that led to 5<sup>th</sup> grade having to pause the ELA test after starting, the State fixed the issues and CBT testing for 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grades is done, 7<sup>th</sup> will be completing the paper-based ELA test after spring break.

Mrs. Bombard reported that new PreK students for the 25/26 school year were assessed by our PreK teachers; the next Top Tiger assembly will be held this Friday.

Mrs. Des Ford left the meeting at 6:16pm

Mrs. Bombard's report continued, the annual Hat Parade will be held tomorrow; 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders are getting ready for the upcoming ELA test.

Mrs. Root asked how long students can stay in the 8:1:1 classroom. Mrs. Bombard answered that it is determined by age with a 3-year window, students in that classroom are 5-8 years of age.

Mrs. Root inquired about how State testing is handled for our ELL students. Mrs. Camin answered that ELL students do not take the State ELA test their first year of school, because they must take the NYSESLAT test that assesses their proficiency in English, Math and Science tests can be given in their native language and parents are able to opt them out of testing.

Mr. Williams reported that our new physical therapy provider will be coming in tomorrow to meet everyone and to make sure she has everything she needs to begin working with students on Monday after spring break; annual reviews for our off-site students are underway, the families are very thankful for all the support they receive.

Mr. Wood introduced senior class president, Andrew Earley who prepared a presentation regarding the proposed senior class trip. There was a brief delay while his presentation was loaded on the computer.

Mr. Schweiger asked Mrs. Camin how many students were opted out of the ELA test. Mrs. Camin answered that it was less than 5% of students.

Mr. Earley gave a brief presentation to the Board regarding the proposed senior class trip to Wildwood, NJ. The presentation included details including dates, chaperones, lodging, daily agenda, eligibility, rules, and consequences of breaking any of the rules. Various members of the board asked Mr. Earley questions and gave feedback on other details and information that he should consider regarding the proposed trip.

Mr. Wood reported that spring spirit week was held last week and wrapped up with a pep rally on Friday, Miss Rose and Miss Acosta did a great job.

Mr. Andrew Earley left the meeting at 6:45pm

Mr. Wood's report continued, art students will be going to Syracuse to participate in the Feats of Clay event and approximately 30 students will be going to Dryden for NYSSMA solos, Mr. Williams is doing a great job scheduling transportation for all these events; spring sports are underway and in typical fashion, weather is a factor.

Mr. Roe reported that State testing is underway, the State was not prepared and testing started with a glitch that delayed the test being administered state-wide on day one and half of day two; we have secured a signed physical therapy contract thanks to the efforts of Michael Williams and Kendra Seaver; area superintendents met today regarding regionalization and collaborating to meet the ever increasing needs of special education students, there are 40+ students across BT BOCES on a wait list and receiving home instruction due to the lack of special education programming to meet their needs, the beginning of this collaboration includes identifying classroom availability; superintendents from Tioga County will be meeting with the Boys and Girls Club to discuss the potential use of their classrooms during the school day to offer alternate instruction.

Mrs. Root asked if BOECS is being limited by space or available teachers? Mr. Roe answered that space is the limiting factor.

Mr. Roe reported that there were no changes to report regarding the budget since the last meeting; there is still no NYS budget

Mr. Doug Graham left the meeting at 6:58pm

## **6. OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

A MOTION was made by Lee Wood, seconded by Pamela Zwierlein, and carried by a vote of 5-0 to approve the Old/New Business Consent Agenda as follows:

***Approval of graduation date as Friday, June 27, 2025, at 6:00pm***

***Approval of the SEQRA Resolution for Capital Outlay 2025/2026 as presented***

***Approval of the 2025-26 BT BOCES Administrative Budget in the amount of \$4,056,153 and cast votes for three (3) three-year positions for the trustee seats for the Broome Tioga Board of Cooperative Educational Services. Megan Gorski, Nicholas Matyas, Michelle Noyes, Sandra Ruffo, and Christine Widdall are the nominees. Votes of 5-0 were cast for Nicholas Matyas, Sandra Ruffo, and Christine Widdall.***

***Approval of the following resolution:***

*BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Education of Tioga Central School District, Tioga County, New York, as follows:*

*Section 1.* *The propositions hereinafter set forth are hereby authorized to be submitted for the approval of the qualified voters at the Annual School District Meeting and Election to be held in said School District, on the 20<sup>th</sup> day of May 2025.*

*Section 2.* *The School District Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to include as a part of the notice of the Annual District Meeting and Election notice with reference to the submission of said propositions in substantially the following form:*

*\* \* \* \* \**

*NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that at said Annual School District Meeting and Election to be held on May 20, 2025, the following propositions will be submitted:*

### *2025 – 2026 Budget*

*Shall the Board of Education of the Tioga Central School District, in the County of Tioga, New York, be and hereby is authorized to expend sums set forth in the General Fund Appropriations in the amount of \$25,069,385 and to levy the necessary tax, therefore.*

### *School Bus Purchase*

*RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Tioga Central School District, in the Town of Tioga, Tioga County, New York, is hereby authorized and directed to purchase two (2) school buses and to expend therefore a gross sum not exceeding \$380,000 as follows: 2 - 66 Passenger School Buses at a gross cost not exceeding \$190,000 each. And that there shall be applied to the purchase any trade-in allowance to be received for a bus (or buses) now owned by the school district, and that the aforesaid sum of \$380,000 or so much thereof may be necessary, shall be raised by tax on the taxable property of the school district to be collected in annual installments; and FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education is authorized to issue obligations of the district therefore in accordance with Education Law and Local Finance Law. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if*

*enacted legislation allows school districts to pay cash for new school buses without penalty of capacity ratings, the Board of Education is authorized to pay cash for the buses in an amount not to exceed \$380,000 with the appropriation coming from the General Fund Balance.*

*Cady Library*

*RESOLVED, that, pursuant to Education Law, Section 259, the Board of Education of the Tioga Central School District is authorized to levy and collect an annual tax, year after year, separate and apart from the annual school district budget, in the amount of \$4,000, in addition to the current appropriation of \$4,000 for a total of \$8,000 annually, which shall be paid to the George P. & Susan Platt Cady Library for the support and maintenance of the library; with this appropriated amount to be the annual appropriation until thereafter modified by a future vote of the electors of the Tioga Central School District.*

**Approval** of the 2025-2026 Property Tax Report Card as presented

## **7. FINANCIAL**

A MOTION was made by Gregory Schweiger, seconded by Lee Wood, and carried by a vote of 5-0 to approve the Financial Consent Agenda as follows:

**Approval** of the BT BOCES Final Request for Services for 2025-2026 in the amount of \$2,455,324.50

**Approval** of the March 2025 Treasurer's Report

**Approval** of the Physical Therapy Personal Services Agreement beginning April 17, 2025, through August 31, 2025

**Acceptance and award** the bid for the 2024-25 Capital Outlay Project Lighting Replacement as outlined in the letter of recommendation, dated April 15, 2025, from King + King Architects, totaling \$41,200.

## **8. PERSONNEL**

A MOTION was made by Pamela Zwierlein, seconded by Gregory Schweiger, and carried by a vote of 5-0 to approve the Personnel Consent Agenda as follows:

**Approval** of the following probationary appointment(s):

*Name of Appointee: Jessica Inman*

*Tenure Area: School Counselor*

*Date of Commencement of Probationary Service: September 1, 2025*

*Expiration Date Appointment\*: August 31, 2029*

*Certification Status: School Counselor- in process*

*\*To the extent required by the applicable provisions of Education Law §§2509, 2573, 3212 and 3014, in order to be granted tenure, the classroom teacher or building principal shall have received composite or overall annual professional performance review ratings pursuant to Education Law §3012-c and/or 3012-d of either effective or highly*

*effective in at least three (3) of the four (4) preceding years. If the classroom teacher or building principal receives an ineffective composite or overall rating in the final year of the probationary period, he or she shall not be eligible for tenure at that time. For purposes of this subdivision, classroom teacher and building principal mean a classroom teacher or building principal as such terms are defined in Sections 30-2.2 and 30-3.2 of this Part.*

**Approval of the following resolution:**

*WHEREAS, the Board of Education of Tioga Central School District, Tioga County, New York, has called an annual School District election of the qualified voters of said School District to be held on the 20th day of May 2025; and*

*WHEREAS, it is now desired to provide for the appointment of a permanent chairman, chief election inspector and assistant clerks for said annual school district election; NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT*

*RESOLVED, by the Board of Education of Tioga Central School District, Tioga County, New York, as follows:*

*Section 1. Cathi Root, a duly qualified voter of said School District is hereby appointed as the permanent chairperson of the annual school district election referred to in the preambles hereof.*

*Section 2. The following named qualified voters of said School District are hereby appointed to act as inspectors of election at said annual school district election, so that there shall be at least two inspectors for each ballot box/voting machine to be used thereat: Jody Cooley, Cynthia Middendorf, Debra Sherman, Shirley Sherman*

*Section 3. Kristy Robertson is hereby designated as chief election inspector.*

*Section 4. Each inspector of election appointed for said annual school district election, as herein provided, shall be entitled to compensation at the rate determined by the district for each day actually and necessarily spent on the duties of said election. The Clerk of said School District is hereby authorized and directed to give written notice of appointment to the persons herein respectively appointed as permanent chairmen and inspectors of election for said annual school district election.*

*Section 5. This resolution shall take effect immediately.*

**Approval of the following addition(s) to the substitute list(s) for the 24-25 school year:**

- Jessica Inman- Instructional Staff
- Ashley Guiles- Support Staff

## **9. VOICE OF THE PUBLIC**

Mr. Alex Macdonald left the meeting at 7:12pm

## **10. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

A MOTION was made by Gregory Schweiger, seconded by Robert Seymour and carried by a vote of 5-0 to enter executive session at 7:12pm to discuss CSE/CPSE/504 matters, and the employment history of a particular person or persons leading to the appointment of a particular person or persons.

A MOTION was made by Gregory Schweiger, seconded by Robert Seymour, and carried by a vote of 5-0 to approve CSE/CPSE/504 Recommendations.

A MOTION was made by Gregory Schweiger, seconded by Robert Seymour, and carried by a vote of 5-0 to return to public session at 7:47pm.

## **11. ADJOURN**

A MOTION was made by Pamela Zwierlein, seconded by Lee Wood and carried by a vote of 5-0 to adjourn the meeting at 7:47pm.

Kristy Robertson  
Clerk