

Pine Plains Central School District  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
August 4, 2021

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Anne Arent, President  
Amie Fredericks, Vice-President  
Fred Couse  
James Griffin (Zoom)  
Heidi Johnson  
Jean Stapf  
Joseph Kiernan

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Martin Handler, Superintendent of Schools  
Monica LaClair, Assistant Superintendent  
Julia Tomaine, District Clerk  
Brian Timm, Assistant Superintendent, absent

**OPEN MEETING**

The regular meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. in the library of the Stissing Mountain Junior / Senior High School by Mrs. Arent. She then led the Pledge of Allegiance. Mrs. Arent informed the attendees of the meeting that masks would be required due to the increasing transmission rate of COVID-19 in the County.

Mr. Griffin was zooming from the following address:

Shinagawa Prince Hotel  
4 Chome-10-30 Takanawa,  
Minato City, Tokyo 108-8611  
Japan

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Members of the public spoke on the following topics:

- Fall Planning
- Mask issues (mask breaks)
- Social Media
- Extra-curricular participation by home schooled students
- Gay Straight Alliance bulletin board in the hallway

Mr. Couse moved and Mrs. Stapf seconded a motion to take a short recess at 7:09 pm due to a few disruptive and contentious audience members.

**VOTE: Motion passed unanimously. (Motion #2021/22-63)**

Mrs. Stapf moved and Mr. Griffin seconded a motion to reconvene after the recess at 7:27 pm.

**VOTE: Motion passed unanimously. (Motion #2021/22-64)**

**REPORT OF BOARD AND STANDING COMMITTEES**

None.

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**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Handler polled the Board if they would be available for a special meeting next week to set the tax levy. It was the consensus of the Board that they would be available. They will reach out to the clerk to set a date and time.

Ms. Monica LaClair, Assistant Superintendent for Business, discussed the Draft Fund Balance and Reserves report.

Dr. Handler presented Mrs. Janie Babcock's proposal for staff changes in the Special Education Department. She requested to abolish .6 Teaching Assistant FTE and 1.0 Teacher Aide FTE to replace with 1.0 Teaching Assistant FTE.

The Board requested more information on SPED staffing.

Dr. Handler spoke about the COVID-19 transmission rate and discussed his meeting with the Dutchess Health Department.

Mrs. Arent exited the room at 7:54 pm, returned 7:56 pm.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Mr. Kiernan moved and Mrs. Fredericks seconded a motion to approve consent agenda items 1 - 4.

1. To approve the meeting minutes from July 21, 2021.
2. To approve the following Financial Reports: -Claims Auditor's Reports and Cash Disbursements
3. To approve the attached recommendations of the Committee on Special Education and authorize the funds to implement special education programs and services consistent with such recommendations noting that these are confidential.
4. To accept as the first reading and adoption of the following policy:  
Policy #6645 - FIXED ASSETS CAPITALIZATION AND INVENTORIES

**VOTE: Motion passed unanimously. (Motion #2021/22-65)**

**NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Couse moved and Mrs. Stapf seconded a motion to approve the following resolution:

**WHEREAS**, the property owner and town entered into a Consent Judgment of a tax certiorari proceeding captioned Alice Henkin v. The Town of Milan and its Assessor and Board of Assessment Review, signed by the Honorable James V. Brands, Supreme Court Justice, State of New York, County of Dutchess, dated June 23, 2021, and

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**WHEREAS**, the property is located within the Pine Plains Central School District, described as Tax Map No. 6570-00-443384-0000, and  
**WHEREAS**, the Consent Judgment reduces the assessment for the 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 assessment as indicated below:

Assessment Roll/Tax year	Assessed Valuation	Reduced Assessment	Amount of Reduction
2018 (2018-2019)	\$372,000	\$186,000	\$186,000
2019 (2019-2020)	\$372,000	\$186,000	\$186,000

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that pursuant to the terms of the above referenced Consent Judgment, the Assistant Superintendent for Business is hereby authorized to issue a refund payable to the order of Alice Henkin, in the amount of the overpayment of school taxes paid on such properties, in the aggregate amount of \$4,916.28, without interest if paid within 60 days of June 23, 2021.

**VOTE: Motion passed unanimously. (Motion #2021/22-66)**

Mr. Griffin moved and Mrs. Stapf seconded a motion to approve the following resolution to ratify one year extension memorandum of agreement between the District and the Pine Plains Administrative Association:

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby ratifies the provisions of a Memorandum of Agreement between the Pine Plains Central School District (the “District”) and the Pine Plains Administrative Association (the “PPAA”), dated August 4, 2021, extending the parties’ Collectively Negotiated Agreement that expired on June 30, 2021 by one year, such that said Agreement shall now be extended through and expire on June 30, 2022;

and **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education authorizes the expenditure of those monies necessary to implement the economic provisions of the 2018-2022 Collectively Negotiated Agreement between the District and the PPAA.

**VOTE: Motion passed unanimously. (Motion #2021/22-67)**

**NEW BUSINESS - PERSONNEL**

Mrs. Fredericks moved and Mr. Couse seconded a motion to accept the resignation of Catherine Porco from the position of Foreign Language teacher, effective July 29, 2021.

**VOTE: Motion passed unanimously. (Motion #2021/22-68)**

Mrs. Stapf moved and Mr. Kiernan seconded a motion to amend motion #2021/22-43 to change Matthew Cade’s employment start date from August 2, 2021 to August 23, 2021.

**VOTE: Motion passed unanimously. (Motion #2021/22-69)**

Mr. Couse moved and Mrs. Fredericks seconded a motion to accept the resignation from Kerri Seidel from the position of Field Hockey Coach for the 2021-22 school year.

**VOTE: Motion passed unanimously. (Motion #2021/22-70)**

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Mr. Kiernan moved and Mr. Couse seconded a motion to appoint the following individuals as Fall Coaches for the 2021-22 school year, pending completion of all requirements:

- Samantha Mason, Head Coach Cross Country
- Emily Gannon , Assistant Coach, Girls Soccer
- Megan Proper, Assistant Coach, Field Hockey.

**VOTE: Motion passed unanimously. (Motion #2021/22-71)**

Mrs. Fredericks moved and Mr. Griffin seconded a motion to appoint the following individuals as substitutes for the 2021-22 school year:

- Megan Brenner, Teacher (Uncertified)
- Samantha Cole, Teaching Assistant, Teacher Aide
- Louis Gugliemetti, School Monitor

**VOTE: Motion passed unanimously. (Motion #2021/22-72)**

**PUBLIC / BOARD COMMENTS**

Members of the public spoke on the following topics:

- COVID Relief Fund
- Lead Sampling
- Masks
- Use of Social Media
- Request of Public Forum
- Homeschooling

**ADJOURN**

Mr. Kiernan moved and Mrs. Fredericks seconded a motion to adjourn at 8:20 pm.

**VOTE: Motion passed unanimously. (Motion #2021/22-73)**

Respectfully submitted,

Julia Tomaine, District Clerk