

Board of Education President and Vice President Announced

The Pittsford Central School District Board of Education elected its president and vice president at its reorganization meeting on July 11, 2023. Robin Scott was elected as president, and Jeff Casey was elected as vice president.

Ms. Scott has been a member of the Pittsford Central School District Board of Education since 2020 and had served as Vice President since 2022. Mr. Casey is serving his first term. He also served on the Audit Oversight Committee, and the Communications and Messaging sub-committee.

For additional Board of Education information, please visit the District website at pittsfordschools.org/BOE.

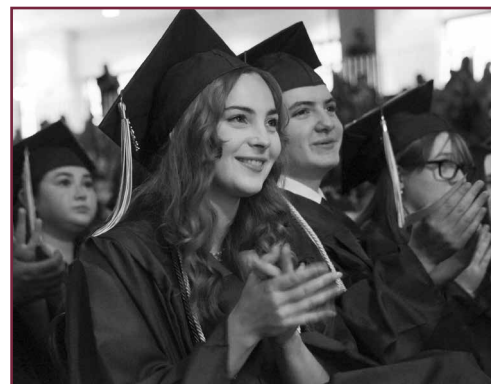


Mendon and Sutherland Ranked Top High Schools in Rochester

In the recently released U.S. News and World Report's "Best High Schools" rankings, Mendon High School (MHS) and Sutherland High School (SHS) ranked in the number one and two spots, respectively, among Rochester area high schools. To determine the rankings, more than 17,600 nationally-ranked high schools were evaluated at the national, state and local level on a variety of factors including math, reading and science state assessment scores; college-readiness as demonstrated by scores on college-level (Advanced Placement) exams; and graduation rates.

"These rankings are a clear indication of the success our students achieve through hard work and dedication as well as the level of expertise and commitment our teachers and staff demonstrate to make sure every student has the support needed to reach their goals," said Superintendent Michael Pero.

Of the 17,680 U.S. public high schools ranked, MHS and SHS landed among the top 2% of U.S. public high schools with Mendon at #261 and Sutherland at #349. At the New York State level, MHS was #30 and SHS was #46 out of 1,198 ranked NYS high schools. Both schools were among the top 250 STEM – science, technology, engineering and math – schools in America.



New School Year Sees Safety Upgrades to Building Access Control Systems

As Pittsford Schools prepared for the 2023-24 school year, significant safety upgrades were made to building access control systems throughout the District. These upgrades include new intruder locks as well as servers, control panels and software that enhance safety measures related to building access and monitoring systems.

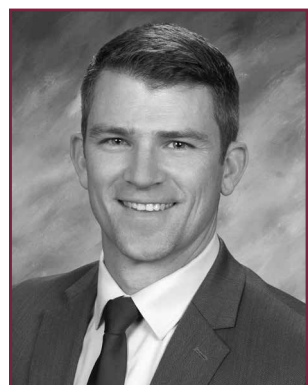
While the card readers on external doors will look the same, the electronic function of those systems were upgraded to streamline the issuing of identification badges and maximize reliability. A new server that controls badge readers throughout the District has been installed, and updated control panels were connected in server closets at each building.

Additionally, new visitor management software was installed in every main office which automatically syncs with the District-wide emergency alert/communication system. With this new software, visitors can sign in using an iPad. As in the past, visitors entering a school building will need to bring a valid driver's license to enter a building for any purpose.



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Administrator Appointments



The Board of Education unanimously appointed Patrick Irving, Ed.D., as Pittsford Schools' new Director of Athletics. He began his new role in August 2023.

"With 17 years of combined experience in the classroom as a PE teacher and as the Director of Physical Education, Health and Athletics at two school districts, Dr. Irving has a rich background set in

education-based athletics," said Superintendent Michael Pero.

He taught at two schools in New York City and returned to Rochester for the Director of Physical Education, Health and Athletics position at East High School and most recently served as the Director of Physical Education, Health and Athletics at Gates Chili Central School District. He is replacing the retiring Athletic Director, Scott Barker.

Dr. Irving holds a bachelor's degree in physical education from St. Bonaventure University, a master's in health education from Brooklyn College, and a Certificate in School Leadership from Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts. He also attended the University of Rochester where he received his Doctorate degree in Education.

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Strategic Initiative is Focus of Leadership Workshop

During a two-day workshop this summer, administrators, Board of Education members, principals, teachers, paraprofessionals, PTSA leadership and community members came together as part of the District Leadership Team to work on the Strategic Initiative and how it ties into the NYS Education Department's (NYSED) Culturally Responsive-Sustaining Education (CR-SE) framework, the NYSED Social Emotional Learning (SEL) benchmarks and Pittsford's identified Next Generation Skills.

The team analyzed how each of these three significant objectives share a connection to each other and to the Pittsford Schools' revised Strategic Initiative:

"Engage students in the learning by increasing rigor and authenticity through the development and use of:

- Instructional moves that allow for students to be involved in complex and challenging thinking;*
- Practices that create a welcoming and affirming environment;*
- Curriculum and dynamic structures that require integrative thinking and a global perspective/involvement."*

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Summer Construction: Capital Improvement Project Work and Emergency Roof Repair

As part of the first phase of the 2023 Capital Improvement Project (CIP), a variety of work was completed around the District this summer.

One of the most noticeable renovations was to the Pittsford Schools' Swim Team changing room and shower facilities at Mendon High School. With more than 20 consecutive Section V titles won by both the boys' and girls' swim teams, our champion swimmers will enjoy a variety of upgrades, including new showers and lighting, a protective/decorative wall wrap featuring school colors and swim imagery, and new benches and cubbies that are in the process of being installed. Mendon and Sutherland swimmers are combined into one Pittsford team, and since the girls' swim season in the fall and the boys' season is in the winter, both teams will benefit from this space.

Other CIP construction included the installation of energy efficient LED lights in gyms and auditoriums in various locations, a fan motor replacement in the basement of Mendon High School, and emergency backup generators at Mendon High School, Thornell Road Elementary School and the Transportation/Maintenance/Food Services facility. This completes the installation of emergency generators at all Pittsford Schools' buildings.

In a separate project, the roof over the Sutherland High School auditorium and library was replaced after sustaining damage from a windstorm this past winter.



Emergency generators were installed at MHS, TRE and TMF, finalizing the plan to install a generator at each site in the District



New showers, wall-wrap and lighting in swim team changing room

Six Class of 2023 Students Recognized as National Merit Scholarship Finalists

Congratulations to the Pittsford Central School District class of 2023 students who were named National Merit Scholarship Finalists by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation! They are among 15,000 of the highest-scoring entrants to advance to the Finalist level and represent less than one percent of U.S. high school seniors to achieve this distinction.

Approximately 1.5 million students enter the National Merit Scholarship Program annually by taking the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®).

MHS Finalists

- Zixuan "Angel" Tang
- Lila VanHouten
- Grace Wu

SHS Finalists

- Ellison Huang
- Aiwen Li
- Victoria Wang

Consent for Use of Photographs/Videos

Throughout the school year, photographs and/or video may be taken of students for use for broadcast news purposes and in district-produced publications, digital communication including social media, videos, podcasts, webpages or by the news media. Please consult the Board of Education policies on the website for more information.

Pittsford Schools to Receive Title I Funds

Pittsford Central School District is receiving Title I Targeted Assistance funds again this year (Allen Creek, Park Road, Jefferson Road, Calkins Road and Sutherland). For this reason, the District is required to publish its “Program and Projects Funded by Title I” policy (#8260) adopted by the Board of Education on May 23, 2005. The policy is as follows:

Programs and Projects Funded by Title I

Parental Involvement
The Board of Education recognizes the rights of parent/guardians to be fully informed of all information relevant to their children who participate in programs and projects funded by Title I. The District shall ensure parental involvement in these programs and projects by:

- a) Providing such support for parental involvement activities as required by law;
- b) Convening an annual meeting to which all parents/guardians of participating children shall be invited;
- c) Providing parents/guardians with reports on their children's progress;
- d) Providing opportunities for regular meetings of parents/guardians.

In addition to the above, the District shall, jointly and in agreement with parents of students receiving Title I services, establish expectations for parent involvement in Title I programs in accordance with Section 1118(a) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. Similarly, each school receiving Title I Targeted Assistance funds shall establish building level school/parent involvement policies in accordance with Section 1118(b). Such school/parent policies shall include, where applicable, school-parent compacts outlining how parents, the entire school staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student achievement and the means by which the school and parents will build and develop a partnership to help students achieve the state's high standards.

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Administrator Appointments Cont'd.



Orlando Benzan joins Pittsford Schools as the new Coordinator of Equity & Inclusivity, commencing his role on September 18, 2023.

“With 25 years in the field of education as a teacher, coach, administrator, and most recently an assistant principal and the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Coordinator for Brockport Central School District, Mr. Benzan brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to his new role with Pittsford Schools. His demonstrated commitment to culturally responsive education, inclusivity and continuous improvement make him a welcome addition to our Pittsford Schools community,” said Superintendent Pero.

Mr. Benzan has served as Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Coordinator at Brockport Central School District since 2021, as well as High School Assistant Principal, and Social Studies teacher. He previously worked at Holley Central School District as a Global History and Geography/Participation in Government Teacher, a US History and Government and Spanish teacher at Gates-Chili Central School District, and Spanish teacher at Hancock Central School District.

As Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Coordinator for Brockport CSD, he drafted a three-year strategic plan aimed at fostering equity and inclusion across the district. His accomplishments encompassed policy revision, forging stronger ties with the community, and orchestrating opportunities for faculty and staff to engage in professional development among other responsibilities.

He has also coached girls volleyball, boys and girls soccer, was advisor to student council and the Gay Straight Alliance, served as president for the Brockport Teachers Association, and worked with migrant families as ESOL Team Teacher with Brockport Migrant Education, and as Family Assistant Community Affairs Coordinator/Education Coordinator with Red Creek A.B.C.D.

Benzan earned a bachelor’s degree in Secondary Education from State University of New York at Oswego, a Master of Arts degree in Liberal Studies from State University of New York at Brockport, and completed post-graduate studies for School Building Leader and School District Leader at Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts.



Theresa McDonald has been hired as Committee on Special Education (CSE) Coordinator with a start date of September 18, 2023.

McDonald comes to Pittsford Schools from Geneseo Central School District having served as Special Education Coordinator since 2019 in addition to nine years as an Elementary School Psychologist. She also previously worked at Wayland-Cohocton Central School District as CSE/CPSE Chairperson and High School Psychologist, as well as Preschool Evaluation Team Psychologist and Intern School Psychologist at Genesee Valley BOCES.

“We are happy to welcome Ms. McDonald to Pittsford Schools. She brings an impressive amount of experience in special education coordination which will greatly benefit our students,” said Superintendent Michael Pero.

McDonald earned a bachelor’s degree in Psychology from Coastal Carolina University, a master of education degree in Educational Psychology, and advanced graduate degree in School Psychology (Ed.S) from Edinboro University of Pennsylvania, and an advanced graduate certificate in Educational Leadership from Stony Brook University.

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New School Year Sees Safety Upgrades to Building Access Control Systems Cont'd.

To improve camera monitoring and recording capabilities, a new infrastructure and software system was installed that significantly increases capabilities to view cameras and to retrieve and save video as needed. The new software interface is one that is used extensively by school districts throughout Monroe County. To reduce the potential for camera failures, new servers were also installed over the summer.

Door replacements and intruder lock installations for areas of large assembly are also underway, and plans for building more secure entryway vestibules have been submitted to New York State for approval.

Students, families and staff members support these safety measures by being alert and using the “See Something, Say Something” protocol to report suspicious activity or potential threats to a school principal or trusted adult, calling 911 for imminent threats/immediate emergency response, or by calling the Safe School Helpline at (1-800) 418-6423 ext. 359 to report dangerous situations or access a live mental health counselor. The Safe School Helpline is anonymous.



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Let us know ANONYMOUSLY when you know of anything that threatens the safety of our school.

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abuse • fights • threats • thoughts of suicide • drugs • weapons • intimidation • bullies • violence • threats

Healthy Air in Schools

The health and safety of our students and staff is always our number one priority. One important aspect necessary for good health is indoor air quality. In the effort to continually improve on this goal, Pittsford CSD works through a long range planning process.

The living document that drives this planning is a five-year survey called the Building Condition Report. In it, architects, engineers and construction experts provide a summary of necessary improvements needed in the facilities. Utilizing this document as a driving force, all the indoor air handling equipment in the District has been upgraded over the last 20 years to meet or exceed industry standards. This active interval of upgrades continues as the Building Condition Report is amended.

Industry Standards

PCSD functions above industry standards and will continue to make improvements through upgraded equipment and increasing air filtration. Minimum Efficiency Reporting Value (MERV) is a measurement scale designed in 1987 by the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) to report the effectiveness of air filters. Experiments indicate that less obstructive, medium-efficiency filters of MERV 7 to 13 are very effective at removing allergens and ultra-fine particles.

New York State Education Department (NYSED) guidance requires air to be continuously moving but falls short of specifying filtration requirements. However, District equipment provides high filtration at industry standards with MERV 8 and MERV 13 filters. What’s more, some equipment hosts both a MERV 8 prefilter and MERV 13 final filter (when mechanically possible) and some filter up to MERV 15.

The current long-range goal is to continue upgrading equipment to MERV 13 and MERV 15 as a best practice through capital improvement projects as these types of projects would not fit within a regular school year budget.

Testing

Air quality testing is routinely conducted as prescribed by the NYSED. The testing is conducted by maintenance staff, HVAC and environmental air quality hygiene professionals. These professionals conduct several tests using calibrated instruments and following standardized procedures. Test results routinely show that air quality is always well within standards and guidelines set by ASHRAE and OSHA.

We’re proud of the history of healthy indoor air quality that our Building Condition Report has driven for over 20 years and continues today. As industry standards and best practices improve, so do the District’s. Through the Building Condition Report this progress is recorded and established for future years.

District Communication Recognized with Local and National Awards

Each year, the Communications Office supports Pittsford’s nine schools by telling the story of Pittsford Central School District in a myriad of ways. Whether it is celebrating student accolades and achievements, building the annual calendar, sharing District updates or posting timely news to the website, Facebook, Twitter or LinkedIn, the Communications team works tirelessly to ensure our community is informed and excited about all that happens in Pittsford Schools. Year after year, Pittsford’s communication campaigns, videos, and publications are recognized at the local, state and national level.

Recently, the District’s communication efforts were recognized by the National School Public Relations Association (NSPRA) and the Public Relations Society of America (PRSA). In addition to Awards of Excellence and Merit for the Annual Calendar of Schedules and Events and an Award of Merit and for the printed District Newsletter, PCSD received the highest honors of the Golden Achievement Award (NSPRA) and the PRism Award (PRSA) for the “I Am Pittsford Schools” video campaign.

Visit the Pittsford Central School District YouTube channel to view the “I Am Pittsford Schools” video and hear from our students about what makes Pittsford Schools a great place to learn and grow.



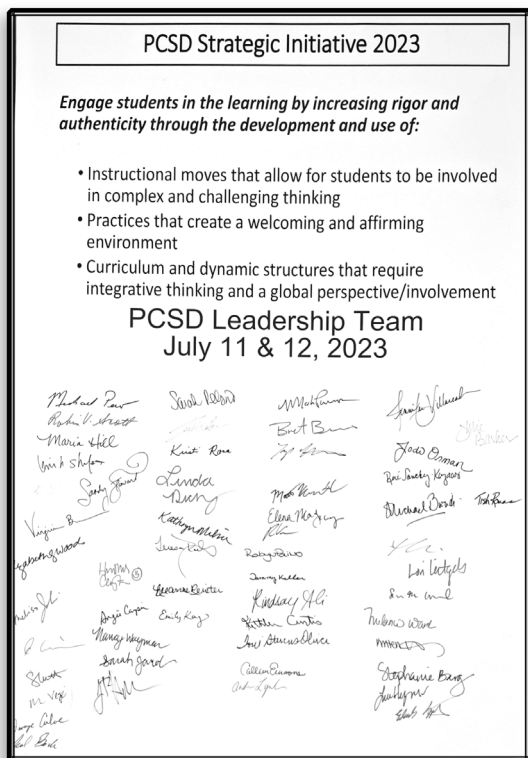
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Strategic Initiative is Focus of Leadership Workshop Cont'd.

Leadership Team members were excited to shift their attention back to the Strategic Initiative after it was put on hold for the last few years due to COVID-19 and related factors that were more urgent in nature. Coming out of a period of time characterized by high stress and disrupted learning, a primary goal of the Strategic Initiative for 2023 is to be intentional in providing authentic experiences for students that reflect increased rigor and student engagement. An emphasis was also placed on the goal to continue to heighten practices that create a welcoming and affirming environment for all.

Leadership Team members discussed ways to meet these expectations and the increased demands placed on educators by working smarter while being cognizant of the pacing of this multi-year initiative and the importance of utilizing current structures such as All-staff Opening Day, Superintendent Conference Days, and building- and District-level meeting times to collaborate with and learn from each other.

The official roll-out of the revised Strategic Initiative took place on All-staff Opening Day on September 5. Focus on the Strategic Initiative roll-out will help determine the sequence, pacing, and timing of collective learning among teachers and staff throughout the year.



Pittsford Partnership for Community Education

The Pittsford Central School District, Pittsford Parents Teacher Student Association (PTSA), Pittsford Youth Services (PYS), and Town of Pittsford have come together to create the Pittsford Partnership for Community Education. This partnership is designed to engage in collaborative efforts to develop, implement, and cross-promote educational and community-wide events for the Pittsford community.

“Individually, these organizations are all doing great work in the community. We realized we can make a larger impact for our students and families by working together towards a common goal,” said Shana Cutaia, Director of Student Services.

Events are open to the public. Join us!

Upcoming events:

- **September 9 – Pittsford Food Truck and Music Fest** (presented by the Town of Pittsford), Noon to 9 p.m.
- **October 22 – Family Halloween Fest** (presented by the Town of Pittsford), 2-5 p.m. Spiegel Pittsford Community Center.
- **October 24 – Pittsford Power Hour** (presented by Pittsford Schools), 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. Calkins Road Middle School Commons.
- **October – Youth Summitt** (presented by PYS).
- **December – Pittsford Celebrates Inclusion** (presented by Pittsford SEPTA).
- **December 5 – Candlelight Night** (presented by the Pittsford Chamber of Commerce), 5-8 p.m. Village of Pittsford, Schoen Place, and Northfield Common.
- **January 4 - Pittsford Power Hour** (presented by Pittsford Schools), 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. Calkins Road Middle School Commons.
- **March 5 - Pittsford Power Hour** (presented by Pittsford Schools), 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. Calkins Road Middle School Commons.
- **May 7 - Pittsford Power Hour** (presented by Pittsford Schools), 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. Calkins Road Middle School Commons.



Connect with us on LinkedIn to stay up to date on job openings, alumni news and current events! While you’re there, be sure to update your work/education experience to include Pittsford Central School District if you have worked for Pittsford Schools or are an alum.

Visit our official LinkedIn page at:
[linkedin.com/company/pittsford-central-school-district](https://www.linkedin.com/company/pittsford-central-school-district)



Free and Reduced-Priced Meals Forms Due

New applications for free and reduced-priced meals are required for each school year. Applications for the 2023-2024 school year are available on the Food Service page of the District’s website, as well as in the District calendar. Please send completed applications, along with an original copy of a direct certification letter or income verification, to PCSD Food Service Department, 100 Mendon Center Road, Pittsford, NY 14534.

Comparability of Services

The District shall ensure equivalence among the schools in the District of the same grade span and levels of instruction with regard to teachers, administrators and auxiliary personnel as well as equivalence in the provision of curriculum materials and instructional supplies to schools receiving Title I Targeted Assistance.

Complaint Resolution Process for Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Funded Programs

The New York State Department of Education (NYSED) has a complaint resolution process for Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Funded Programs. To access the process outlined by NYSED to file complaints and allow for the timely resolution of such complaints, visit <http://www.nysed.gov/essa/new-york-state-essa-funded-programs-complaint-procedures>. The procedures meet the requirements of ESSA Section 8304(a)(3)(C) and 34 CFR Part 299, Subpart F - Complaint Procedures.

Annual Notification of Rights under FERPA

Pittsford Schools complies with The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) (20 U.S.C. § 1232g; 34 CFR Part 99), a Federal law that protects the privacy of student education records.

FERPA provides parents certain rights with respect to their children's education records. These rights transfer to the student when the student reaches the age of 18 or attends a school beyond the high school level. Students to whom the rights have transferred are "eligible students."

- Parents or eligible students have the right to inspect and review the student's education records maintained by the school.
- Parents or eligible students have the right to request that a school correct records which they believe to be inaccurate or misleading. Complete information and definitions can be found in the Board of Education Policy 7240, which was updated in 2022.

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Homecoming Week October 2-7

• Oct. 6 Football Game - 7 p.m. at SHS

• Oct. 7 Parade - 9 a.m. in the Village of Pittsford

The week of October 2-7 will be all about school spirit as students and staff celebrate Homecoming 2023. We invite you to join us at the Homecoming Football game on Friday, October 6 at 7 p.m. under the lights at Sutherland High School as the Pittsford Panthers take on the East High School Eagles. Then, grab some coffee and line up with us along Main Street in Pittsford for the annual Homecoming Parade, beginning at 9 a.m. on Saturday, October 7.

Join the Pittsford PTSA and Mark Your Calendar for the 60th Annual Super Sale on October 17-19

The Pittsford Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA) invites parents and staff to register for membership at pittsfordptsa.net and support the important work carried out during the school year! Members have the opportunity to work on special events, after school clubs and activities, instructional materials and community service programs. The Pittsford PTSA membership drive and annual Super Sale are two of PTSA’s major fundraisers.

60th
Annual PTSA
Super
Sale

Opens to the Public
October 17-19
MHS Gym

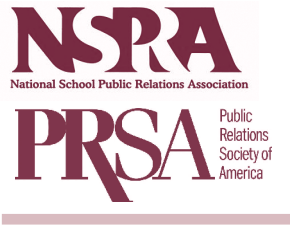
Profits go to all nine schools and make up nearly 60% of the PTSA budget. All unsold items will be donated to local charitable organizations after the sale. Feel good about donating, volunteering, and shopping for a great cause!



pittsfordptsa.net/super-sale

The Pittsford Central School District does not discriminate in access, admission, employment, or treatment of participants in any of its programs and activities on the basis of race, religion, age, sex, color, handicapping condition, or ethnic or national origin. This is in compliance with Title IX, OCR Guidelines, and other applicable federal and state laws and regulations. Inquiries regarding compliance issues may be addressed to: Shawn Clark, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, Administration Building, Pittsford Central Schools, 75 Barker Road, Pittsford, New York 14534.

State and National Award
Winning Publication



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Pittsford

School District News

Fall 2023

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- PCSD Welcomes Three New Administrators
- Safety Upgrades for New School Year
- Strategic Initiative is Focus of Leadership Workshop
- Summer Construction Projects
- Homecoming 2023
- PTSA Super Sale