

Pine Plains Central School District  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
January 22, 2025

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Amie Fredericks, President  
Joseph Kiernan, Vice President, arrived at 6:33 pm  
Claire Copley-Eisenberg, arrived at 6:43 pm.  
Fred Couse, Jr.  
James Griffin  
Heidi Johnson, arrived at 6:35 pm  
*Jean Stapf, absent*

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Brian Timm, Superintendent of Schools  
Laura Rafferty, Business Manager  
Julia W. Tomaine, District Clerk  
Madison Rego, BOE Student Representative

**OPEN MEETING**

The regular meeting was called to order at 6:33 pm by Mrs. Amie Fredericks, Board President. She then led the Pledge of Allegiance. She read the Mission and Vision Statements:

**Mission Statement:**

We develop the whole child to be a lifelong learner and a productive member of the global community.

**Vision Statement:**

We are a district of choice offering exceptional opportunities to engage and excite our entire school community.

Mrs. Fredericks, on behalf of the Board of Education and Administration, passed along her condolences to the Bay family for the passing of Barbara Bay, retiree of the District.

**RECOGNITION OF VISITORS WISHING TO SPEAK**

None

**REPORT OF BOARD AND STANDING COMMITTEES**

The Policy met tonight, they will be bringing two policies for a first reading at the next Board of Education meeting.

**BUDGET WORKSHOP**

Mrs. Laura Rafferty presented two presentations. Her first presentation was on “Monthly Reports”. This presentation highlighted the common reports the Board of Education approves under financial documents. Her second presentation continued her previous presentation on building the budget.

Dr. Timm spoke regarding the following topics that will impact the budget:

1. Creating a new Capital Reserve
2. Formula for Foundation Aid

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3. Increasing premiums for health insurance

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

1. Mr. Gian Starr, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, reported on the current data on student achievements and gave an overview on the direction of his department. He then presented his budget for the 2025-26 school year.
2. Dr. Timm gave the Board the opportunity to comment on the submitted Administrators' Board Reports. Questions and Comments followed on the Revenue Status Report.
3. Dr. Timm asked the Board for their consensus on the direction of the Food Service Department as Mr. Anthony is retiring at the end of the school year. It was the consensus of the Board to hire our own Food Service Director.

### **STUDENT BOARD MEMBER REPORT**

Ms. Rego shared information on the following topics:

1. Discussed that it was the end of the quarter
2. Upcoming FCCLA Pet Adoption Clinic
3. Winter sports teams are super competitive
4. The spring play is up and running!

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Mr. Griffin moved and Mr. Couse seconded a motion to approve the Consent Agenda 1-4:

1. To accept the minutes from the January 8, 2025 meeting.
2. To approve the following financial documents:
  - a. 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 approve the following resolution: BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education President is hereby authorized, along with the Superintendent of Schools, to sign the Certification Form for the submission of the 2024-25 school year Undue Burden Independent Evaluator Hardship Waiver Application for the District's Section 3012-d APPR Plan to the State Education Department. A copy of said application shall be incorporated by reference within the minutes of this meeting.

**VOTE: Motion passed unanimously. (Motion #2024/25-217)**

### **NEW BUSINESS - OTHER**

Mr. Kiernan moved and Mr. Couse seconded a motion to accept the following policies as a first reading, as recommended by the Policy Committee:

Policy #1120 – School District Records

Policy #5695 – Students and Personal Electronic Devices

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**VOTE: Motion passed unanimously. (Motion #2024/25-218)**

Mr. Couse moved and Mr. Griffin seconded a motion to accept the following bids for BOE approved surplus buses per the memorandum from Laura Rafferty, Business Official:

Vehicle	Year Built	Model	Current Mileage	VIN Number	Reason	Bid
#214	2013	Bluebird – Diesel 48/72 comp	157,406	1BABHCPA8EF295221	High mileage, fuel tank issues, body rust	\$3,800
#218	2013	Bluebird – Diesel 48/72	176,874	1BABJCPA2EF303284	High mileage, body rust, broken right side mirror	\$5,200
#219	2013	Bluebird – Diesel 48/72	162,948	1BABJCPA4EF303285	Body rust, high mileage	\$5,000

**VOTE: Motion passed unanimously. (Motion #2024/25-219)**

**NEW BUSINESS- PERSONNEL**

Mr. Griffin moved and Mr. Couse seconded a motion to accept the resignation from Janet Roque from the position of elementary teacher for the purpose of retirement, effective on the close of June 30, 2025.

**VOTE: Motion passed unanimously. (Motion #2024/25-220)**

The Board publicly thanked Ms. Roque for her many years of service and wishes her well in her retirement.

Mr. Griffin moved and Mr. Couse seconded a motion to accept the resignation of Steven Sandman from the position of secondary science teacher, effective February 7, 2025.

**VOTE: Motion passed unanimously. (Motion #2024/25-221)**

Mr. Kiernan moved and Mr. Griffin seconded a motion to amend the following motion to add one additional coaching recommendation.

“to appoint the following individuals as spring coaches for the 2024-25 school year, pending completion of all requirements:

Varsity Tennis- Alec Sisco

Varsity Girls Golf- John Schoonmaker

Varsity Track- Head Coach- Mike Cooper

Varsity Track- Assistant- Madison Michetti

Softball-Varsity Head Coach- Les Funk

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Softball-Assistant (JV Head Coach)- Jon Barrett  
Softball-Assistant (Modified) Sarah Beam/ Jenn Lydon- Co Coach  
Softball-Volunteer Assistant- Alex McKenzie  
Baseball- Varsity Head Coach- Rich Lamping  
Baseball-Assistant (JV Head Coach)- Brian Walsh  
**Baseball-Assistant (Modified) - John Blackburn (addition)\***  
Unified Basketball- Christa Brenner”

**VOTE: Motion passed unanimously. (Motion #2024/25-222)**

Mr. Couse moved and Ms. Copley-Eisenburg seconded a motion to appoint the following individuals as spring coaches for the 2024-25 school year, pending completion of all requirements:

Varsity Tennis- Alec Sisco  
Varsity Girls Golf- John Schoonmaker  
Varsity Track- Head Coach- Mike Cooper  
Varsity Track- Assistant- Madison Michetti  
Softball-Varsity Head Coach- Les Funk  
Softball-Assistant (JV Head Coach)- Jon Barrett  
Softball-Assistant (Modified) Sarah Beam/ Jenn Lydon- Co Coach  
Softball-Volunteer Assistant- Alex McKenzie  
Baseball- Varsity Head Coach- Rich Lamping  
Baseball-Assistant (JV Head Coach)- Brian Walsh  
Baseball-Assistant (Modified) - John Blackburn  
Unified Basketball- Christa Brenner

**VOTE: Motion passed unanimously. (Motion #2024/25-223)**

Mr. Griffin moved and Mr. Couse seconded a motion to appoint the following substitutes for the 2024-25 school year, pending completion of all requirements:

-Christina Sanseverino, School Monitor

**VOTE: Motion passed unanimously. (Motion #2024/25-224)**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**BOARD COMMENT**

Mr. Kiernan commented on the tradition of senior night for the sports teams. He thought it was a great tradition.

Mrs. Fredericks led a conversation on the status of the 2024-25 Board of Education Goals:

**Goal: To provide a safe and engaging environment that promotes academic excellence.**

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The Pine Plains Board of Education will:

1. Promote a positive school climate through comprehensive, systematic and collaborative efforts. ✓ **on target**
2. Use the 5-year financial outlook presentation to make data driven, fiscally responsible decisions and devote an agenda item twice a year to discuss the financial macros of the district. ✓ **on target**
3. Explore the financial impact of adding AC units to the buildings. – ☒ **Not a sustainable goal. There was a conversation on the pros and cons of air-conditioning in the buildings.**

**Goal: Pine Plains students will be provided opportunities to enhance their student experience.**

The Pine Plains Board of Education will:

1. Provide opportunities for the student voice to be heard. ✓ **on target**
2. Discuss alternate means of achieving CTE credit through in-house programs. ✓ **on target**
3. Present new information that is given by NYSED regarding the Blue Ribbon Commission on Graduation Measures. ✓ **on target**

**Goal: Community Connections will be encouraged among all stakeholders within the Pine Plains district.**

The Pine Plains Board of Education will:

1. Develop opportunities for the community to partner with the district. **Ongoing goal. Mr. Kiernan wanted to know how the buildings are being utilized by the community. Dr. Timm talked about an electronic archival memory box, revitalizing the “Hall of Fame”. He will be discussing these items in the Community Connection Committee meeting.**
2. Allow forums for conversations between the board members and the public. **Ongoing goal.**
3. Increase the district’s presence at community events. **Ongoing goal.**

It was the consensus of the Board that they were hitting all of their goals. Ms. Copley-Eisenberg wanted to how information is conveyed to the public. Website, Brian’s newsletters, and Blackboard Connection.

Mrs. Fredericks discussed the upcoming important dates:

January 29, 2025 - Recess Day, Lunar New Year

February 5, 2025 - BOE Meeting, Stissing, 6:30 pm, Stissing Library

February 17, 2025 - Buildings Closed - Presidents Day

February 19, 2025 - BOE Meeting, 6:30 pm, Stissing Library

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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Mr. Couse moved and Mr. Griffin seconded a motion to enter into executive session to discuss the employment of a particular person at 9:04 pm.

**VOTE: Motion passed unanimously. (Motion #2024/25-225)**

Mrs. Stapf moved and Mr. Griffin seconded a motion to return to public session at 9:30 pm.

**VOTE: Motion passed unanimously. (Motion #2024/25-226)**

**ADJOURN**

Mr. Couse moved and Mr. Griffin seconded a motion to adjourn at 9:31 pm.

**VOTE: Motion passed unanimously. (Motion #2024/25-227)**

Respectfully submitted,

Amie Fredericks, Clerk Pro Tem