

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

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Amie Fredericks, President  
*Joseph Kiernan, Vice President, absent*  
Claire Copley-Eisenberg  
Fred Couse, Jr.  
James Griffin, arrived at 4:34 pm  
*Heidi Johnson, absent*  
Jean Stapf

**ALSO PRESENT:**

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

**OPEN MEETING**

The regular meeting was called to order at 4:30 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.

**RECOGNITION OF VISITORS WISHING TO SPEAK**

None

**REPORT OF BOARD AND STANDING COMMITTEES**

The Compensation Committee requested a meeting. It was the consensus of the committee to meet on May 7, 2025 before the Public Hearing on the Budget.

Mr. Griffin arrived at 4:34 pm.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

1. Mrs. Laura Rafferty, Business Official, presented the 2025-26 budget. Mrs. Rafferty shared the complexities of this budget as the Governor still has not passed a budget for New York State.
2. Dr. Brian Timm, Superintendent, discussed the Winners Circle program.
3. Dr. Timm shared the Administrators' monthly reports to the Board
4. Dr. Timm informed the Board that the "Call to Action" Event With Senator Mayer was cancelled due the ongoing New York State budget negotiations continuing to take place in Albany.

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Mrs. Stapf moved and Mr. Griffin made a motion to participate in the Winners Circle for the 2025-26 school year.

**VOTE: Motion passed unanimously. (Motion #2024/25-305)**

**STUDENT BOARD MEMBER REPORT**

1. None – extended spring break!

**BOCES BUDGET AND ELECTION**

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

**BE IT RESOLVED**, the Board of Education of the Pine Plains Central School District casts its one vote to approve the Board of Cooperative Educational Services' Administrative Budget in the amount of \$6,858,000 and further authorizes the District Clerk to certify that a Board resolution has been adopted and to complete the Ballot by placing an "X" next to the approval indicating how the vote has been cast and by completing the certification contained on the ballot.

**VOTE: Motion passed unanimously. (Motion #2024/25-306)**

Mrs. Stapf moved and Mr. Couse seconded a motion to cast a vote for the following individuals to serve on the Dutchess County Board of Cooperative Education Services:

1. Ralph Chiumento (Spackenkill)
2. Mark Fleischhauer (Rhinebeck)
3. Judy Moran (Webutuck)

**VOTE: Motion passed unanimously. (Motion #2024/25-307)**

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Mr. Griffin moved and Mr. Couse seconded a motion to approve the Consent Agenda 1-6:

1. To accept the minutes from April 9, 2025.
2. To Approve the attached Financial Reports:
  - a. Claims Auditor's Reports and Cash Disbursements – Warrants
  - b. Treasurer's Report (March 2025)
  - c. Appropriations and Revenue Status Report (March 2025)
  - d. Extra-Classroom Report (March 2025)
  - e. Cafeteria Report (March 2025)
  - f. Acknowledge Budget transfer in the amount of \$56,952.03
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 2025-26 District Calendar
5. To discard art equipment per the memorandum from Christopher Boyd, Stissing Principal
6. To discard overhead projectors per the memorandum from Kristen Fischetti, Cold Spring Principal

**VOTE: Motion passed unanimously. (Motion #2024/25-308)**

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**NEW BUSINESS – OTHER**

Mr. Griffin moved and Mrs. Stapf seconded a motion to adopt the 2025-26 School District Budget in the amount of \$38,712,336 an increase of \$1,022,592 or 2.71%, to be presented to the voters on May 20, 2025.

**VOTE: Motion passed unanimously. (Motion #2024/25-309)**

Mr. Couse congratulated Mrs. Rafferty for presenting a comprehensive budget.

Mr. Couse moved and Mr. Griffin seconded a motion to approve the following resolution: BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the 2025-2026 Property Tax Report Card as presented to the Board at this meeting. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Business Official is directed to submit the Property Tax Report Card to the State Education Department by the end of the next business day following this approval.

**VOTE: Motion passed unanimously. (Motion #2024/25-310)**

Mr. Griffin moved and Mrs. Stapf seconded a motion to accept the following policies as a second reading and adoption at the recommendation of the Policy Committee:

2245: Ex Officio Student Member of The Board

1120-R: School District Records Regulation

8414.6: Idling Prohibition for Buses and Other School Vehicles

**VOTE: Motion passed unanimously. (Motion #2024/25-311)**

Mrs. Stapf moved and Mr. Couse seconded a motion to approve an overnight field trip:

-Oswegatchie Camp, Croghan, NY - S. Rhoades

**VOTE: Motion passed unanimously. (Motion #2024/25-312)**

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorizes its attorneys, Shaw, Perelson, May & Lambert, LLP to execute a Consent Order & Judgment in a tax certiorari proceeding captioned Liv & Tom's Ranch LLC v. Town of Ancram & Pine Plains Central School District; AND IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board authorizes the refund of taxes as required by the terms of the Consent Order & Judgment.

**VOTE: Motion passed unanimously. (Motion #2024/25-313)**

Mrs. Stapf moved and Mr. Griffin seconded a motion to approve the following resolution at the recommendation of legal counsel:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby certifies its compliance with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 in its decision making and policies, consistent with United States Supreme Court precedent set forth in the case of Students for Fair Admissions, Inc. v. President and Fellows of Harvard College, 600 U.S.181 (2023); and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board of Education hereby authorizes the Superintendent of Schools to execute whatever governmental certifications may be required.

**VOTE: Motion passed unanimously. (Motion #2024/25-314)**

Dr. Timm noted this resolution is to verify compliance that our admission processes and our hiring practices do not give preferential treatment to people based on protected traits.

Mrs. Stapf moved and Mr. Griffin seconded a motion to approve the following resolution: WHEREAS, New York General Municipal Law, Article 5-G, Section 119-o (Section 119-o) empowers municipal corporations [defined in Article 5-G, Section 119-n to include school districts, boards of cooperative educational services, counties, cities, towns and villages, and districts] to enter into, amend, cancel, and terminate agreements for the performance among themselves (or one for the other) of their respective functions, powers, and duties on a cooperative or contract basis;

WHEREAS the Pine Plains Central School District wishes to invest portions of its available investment funds in cooperation with other corporations and/or districts pursuant to the NYCLASS Municipal Cooperation Agreement Amended and Restated as of August 1, 2023; WHEREAS the Pine Plains Central School District wishes to satisfy the safety and liquidity needs of their funds;

Now, therefore, it is hereby resolved as follows:

That Laura Rafferty, Business Official of Pine Plains Central School District is hereby authorized to participate in the NYCLASS program under the terms of the NYCLASS Municipal Cooperation Agreement Amended and Restated as of August 1, 2023.

**VOTE: Motion passed unanimously. (Motion #2024/25-315)**

Mr. Griffin moved and Mrs. Stapf seconded a motion to amend the agenda to walk on the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby approves the terms of and authorizes its Superintendent of Schools to execute an Employment Related Agreement dated April 21, 2025, between the District and Employee Number 042225, as presented to the Board at this meeting.

**VOTE: Motion passed unanimously. (Motion #2024/25-316)**

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby approves the terms of and authorizes its Superintendent of Schools to execute an Employment Related Agreement dated April 21, 2025, between the District and Employee Number 042225, as presented to the Board at this meeting.

**VOTE: Motion passed unanimously. (Motion #2024/25-317)**

**NEW BUSINESS- PERSONNEL**

Mrs. Stapf moved and Mr. Griffin seconded a motion to appoint the following individuals as summer school principal for the 2025-26 school year:

-Julie Roberts

-Kristen Fischetti

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-Christopher Boyd  
-Sara Von Burg  
-Janine Babcock

**VOTE: Motion passed unanimously. (Motion #2024/25-318)**

Mr. Couse moved and Mrs. Stapf seconded a motion to approve a request for an extended sick leave from employee #XXX effective on or about May 2, 2025 per the documentation from a medical provider.

**VOTE: Motion passed unanimously. (Motion #2024/25-319)**

Mr. Griffin moved and Mr. Couse seconded a motion to appoint Ronald Ogden as a temporary custodial worker, a non-competitive class civil service position, effective April 23, 2025.

**VOTE: Motion passed unanimously. (Motion #2024/25-320)**

Mrs. Stapf moved and Mr. Couse seconded a motion to appoint the following individuals as substitutes for the 2024-25 school year:

-Sarah Griffin, Teaching Assistant  
-Leah Brody, Teacher  
-Kelsey Atkinson, Teaching Assistant and Teacher Aide

**VOTE: Motion passed. (Motion #2024/25-321)**

*Yes: Copley-Eisenberg, Couse, Fredericks, Stapf; Abstain: Griffin*

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

A member of the community commented when the presentation would be available to the public. Dr. Timm replied, tomorrow.

### **BOARD COMMENT**

Mrs. Fredericks discussed the upcoming important dates:

May 7, 2025 - Board of Education Meeting, Public Hearing on the Budget, 6:30 pm - Library  
May 20, 2025 - Superintendent's Conference Day  
May 20, 2025 - Budget Vote 7:00 am - 9:00 pm  
May 21, 2025 - Board of Education Meeting (4:30 pm)  
May 21, 2025 - Senior Award Night  
May 23, 2025 - Give Back Day, School Closed  
May 26, 2025 - Memorial Day, Buildings Closed  
May 27, 2025 - Give Back Day, School Closed

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mr. Couse moved and Mr. Griffin seconded a motion to enter into executive session to discuss the employment of a particular person at 5:12 pm.

**VOTE: Motion passed unanimously. (Motion #2024/25-322)**

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Mrs. Stapf moved and Mr. Griffin seconded a motion to return to public session at 5:30 pm.  
**VOTE: Motion passed unanimously. (Motion #2024/25-323)**

**ADJOURN**

Mr. Griffin moved and Mrs. Stapf seconded a motion to adjourn at 5:31 pm.  
**VOTE: Motion passed unanimously. (Motion #2024/25-324)**

Respectfully submitted,

Julia W. Tomaine,  
District Clerk