

Pine Plains Central School District
Regular Meeting Minutes
September 2, 2025

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Amie Fredericks, President
Fred Couse, Jr. , Vice President
Claire Copley-Eisenberg
James Griffin
Heidi Johnson
Joseph Kiernan
Jean Stapf

ALSO PRESENT:

Brian Timm, Superintendent of Schools
Laura Rafferty, Business Manager
Julia W. Tomaine, District Clerk
Hailey Lamping, Student BOE Member

OPEN MEETING

The regular meeting was called to order at 6:30 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.

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 6:34 pm.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously. (Motion #2025/26-55)

Mrs. Stapf moved and Mr. Griffin seconded a motion to return to public session at 7:09 pm.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously. (Motion #2025/26-56)

Mr. Couse left the room at 7:09 pm.

Mr. Couse returned at 7:11 pm.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS WISHING TO SPEAK

None

REPORT OF BOARD AND STANDING COMMITTEES

The Policy Committee met and discussed a variety of policies. The policies will be brought to the BOE for a first reading at the next meeting.

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Audit – Financial Planning Committee met to discuss future collective bargaining items and the establishment of a few stipend positions.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Dr. Timm discussed the following with the Board of Education:

1. Capital Project Update
 - a. The website is updated with the Capital Project flyer and other promotional materials.
2. Discussion on the STG Lighting and Sound extra-curricular advisor position.

STUDENT BOARD MEMBER REPORT

Hailey Lamping is the Board’s new Student BOE member. She was welcomed by the Board.

OLD BUSINESS

None

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Kiernan moved and Ms. Copley-Eisenberg seconded a motion to approve consent items 2-4:

2. To approve minutes from the August 5, 2025 Board of Education Meeting.
3. To approve financial Reports - Claim Auditor’s Reports and Cash Disbursements;
4. 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.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously. (Motion #2025/26-57)

NEW BUSINESS – OTHER

Mrs. Stapf moved and Mr. Griffin seconded a motion to approve the 2025-26 Board of Education Goals:

1. Goal: To provide a safe and engaging environment that promotes academic excellence
The Pine Plains Board of Education will:
 - a. Have administrators present on the changes in graduation requirements as adopted by the NYS Education Department
 - b. Review and monitor state test scores in grades 3-12 with the goal of being above the state average for the number of students scoring in the proficient range.
 - c. Devote an agenda item twice a year to discuss the financial macros of the district based on the 5-year financial outlook
2. Goal: Pine Plains students will be provided opportunities to enhance their student experience. The Pine Plains Board of Education will:

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- a. Promote authentic learning opportunities that are developed through elective classes (Winner's Circle Project, Broadcasting, Graphic Design, etc.)
 - b. Update academic eligibility policies regarding participation in extracurricular activities and athletics.
- 3. Goal: Community Connections will be encouraged among all stakeholders within the district. The Pine Plains Board of Education will:
 - a. Be present at multiple school and community events throughout the school year
 - b. Create opportunities for community members to share in conversation and contribute to the district (i.e. forums, coffee with board members, attend town meetings, attend Grange meetings, Board newsletter, etc.)
 - c. Raise awareness of the date of the budget and capital improvement project votes

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously. (Motion #2025/26-58)

Mr. Couse moved and Mr. Griffin seconded a motion to discard textbooks and printer per the memorandum from Kristen Fischetti, Cold Spring Principal.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously. (Motion #2025/26-59)

Mrs. Stapf moved and Mr. Griffin seconded a motion to walk-on the creation of a new extra-curricular club motion.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously. (Motion #2025/26-60)

Mrs. Stapf moved and Mr. Couse seconded a motion to create the following club: Stissing Performing Arts Club for Students (SPACS) - Stissing (Tier 2)

Yea: Copley, Couse, Fredericks, Kiernan, Johnson, Stapf; Abstain: Griffin

VOTE: Motion passed. (Motion #2025/26-61)

NEW BUSINESS- PERSONNEL

Mr. Griffin moved and Mr. Kiernan seconded a motion to appoint the following mentors for the 2025-26 school year per the memorandum from Gian Starr, Director of Curriculum and

Instruction:

Laura Rosato

Maureen Carney

Allison Beaudet

Kim Lyman

Jessica Wisniewski

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously. (Motion #2025/26-62)

to appoint the following individuals to the position of 504 Coordinator for the 2025-26 school year, per the memorandum from Janine Babcock, Director of Pupil Personnel Services:

Elizabeth Murray - Elementary 504 Coordinator

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Lindsey Lowry - Secondary 504 Co-Coordinator

Sara Von Burg - Secondary 504 Co-Coordinator

Yea: Copley, Kiernan, Johnson, Stapf; Nay: Couse, Fredericks

VOTE: Motion passed. (Motion #2025/26-63)

Mr. Griffin moved and Mrs. Stapf seconded a motion to amend motion #2025/26-27 to change the step from A1 to D1 of the 2025-26 PPFE Salary Schedule.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously. (Motion #2025/26-64)

Mr. Kiernan moved and Mr. Couse seconded a motion to approve the request from employee #2025-1 for an extended sick leave per Article XIV of the SRP agreement, effective September 16, 2025.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously. (Motion #2025/26-65)

Mr. Couse moved and Mrs. Stapf seconded a motion to change the employment status of Danica Reed from part-time to full-time Teacher Aide, effective September 1, 2025.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously. (Motion #2025/26-66)

Mrs. Stapf moved and Mr. Griffin seconded a motion to appoint Mindy Alford to the position of Teacher Aide, a non-competitive class civil service position, for a twenty-six week probationary period, effective September 2, 2025 at Step 11 per the 2025-26 salary schedule.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously. (Motion #2025/26-67)

Mr. Couse moved and Mr. Griffin seconded a motion to appoint Mechelle Burdick Kusko to the position of Health Aide, a non-competitive class civil service position, for a twenty-six week probationary period, effective September 2, 2025 at step 8 of the 2025-26 salary schedule.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously. (Motion #2025/26-68)

Mr. Griffin moved and Ms. Copley-Eisenberg seconded a motion to appoint Tami Austin to the position of School Monitor, a labor class civil service position, for a twenty-six week probationary period, effective September 2, 2025 at step x of the 2025-26 salary schedule.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously. (Motion #2025/26-69)

Mrs. Stapf moved and Mr. Griffin seconded a motion to appoint Megan O'Neil to the position of Teacher Aide (part-time), a non-competitive class civil service position, for a twenty-six week probationary period, effective September 2, 2025 at Step 3 per the 2025-26 salary schedule.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously. (Motion #2025/26-70)

Mr. Couse moved and Mr. Griffin seconded a motion to accept the resignation of Dominique Burdick from the position of Teacher Aide (part-time), effective August 27, 2025.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously. (Motion #2025/26-71)

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Mrs. Stapf moved and Mr. Couse seconded a motion to appoint Megan Staats to the position of Teacher Aide (part-time), a non-competitive class civil service position, for a twenty-six week probationary period, effective September 2, 2025 at Step 9 per the 2025-26 salary schedule.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously. (Motion #2025/26-72)

Mr. Griffin moved and Mr. Kiernan seconded a motion to approve the following resolutions:

1. To accept the resignation of Kristina Comesanas from the position of Food Service Helper pending her appointment to the position of Senior Food Service Helper (part-time), effective August 31, 2025.

2. To appoint Kristina Comesanas to the position of Senior Food Service Helper (pt), a non-competitive class civil service position, for a twenty-six week probationary period, effective September 1, 2025 at Step x of the 2025-26 SRP Salary schedule.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously. (Motion #2025/26-73)

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

BOARD COMMENT

Mrs. Fredericks commented on the upcoming important dates:

September 3, 2025: School Opens

September 11, 2025: CSELC Open House

September 15, 2025: Milan Town Hall, 7:00 pm

September 16, 2025: BOE Meeting

September 18, 2025: SM Jr./Sr. HS Open House

September 23, 2025: Recess Day - Rosh Hashanah

September 25, 2025: SSILC Open House

October 9, 2025: Stanford Town Hall, 7:00pm

October 16, 2025: Ancram, 7:00 pm

WORKSHOP

Dr. Timm gave a presentation that discussed the need for "right-sizing" due to declining enrollment and financial considerations, proposing consolidation as a potential solution without compromising educational quality.

ADJOURN

Mr. Griffin moved and Mr. Couse seconded a motion to adjourn at 7:49 pm.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously. (Motion #2025/26-74)

Respectfully submitted,

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Julia W. Tomaine,
District Clerk