

Pine Plains Central School District  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
January 8, 2026

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Amie Fredericks, President  
Fred Couse, Jr. , Vice President  
Claire Copley-Eisenberg, arrived at 6:39 pm.  
James Griffin, virtual  
*Heidi Johnson, absent*  
*Joseph Kiernan, absent*  
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.

**RECOGNITION OF VISITORS WISHING TO SPEAK**

Ms. Brooke Brown, Town of Stanford resident, spoke in regards to the Right-Sizing Plan of the district.

**REPORT OF BOARD AND STANDING COMMITTEES**

None

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Mr. Richard Harlin, Director of Technology, presented on the technological security of the district. (*Claire Copley-Eisenberg arrived at 6:39 pm.*)

**BUDGET WORKSHOP**

Mrs. Laura Rafferty, Business Official, presented the first budget workshop for the 2026-27 school year. She highlighted the annual budget development timeline, revenue sources, major expense categories and tax implications. All budget information can be found on the district website under 'Budget Transparency'.

Pine Plains Central School District  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
January 8, 2026

**STUDENT BOARD MEMBER REPORT**

Hailey Lamping shared the following information:

1. Seymour Happenings:
  - a. Students rehearsing for the upcoming musical Shrek
  - b. Students trying out for the Math Bowl Team
  - c. Bomber Youth Hoops are active
2. Cold Spring Happenings:
  - a. Students experienced the Project Based Learning events in December and the beginning of January
  - b. Cold Spring is preparing for their annual Cub Café on February 4<sup>th</sup>.

**OLD BUSINESS**

None

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Mr. Couse moved and Mrs. Stapf seconded a motion to approve consent items 1-7:

1. To approve minutes from the December 16, 2025 Board of Education Meeting.
2. To approve financial Reports:
  - a. Claims Auditor's Reports and Cash Disbursements – Warrants
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 2025-26 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.
5. To amend the 2025-26 Board of Education Meeting Calendar to add April 28, 2026 as a meeting date per the attached calendar.
6. To approve Brian Timm's request to attend the following conference:  
-NYSCOSS Winter Institute and Lobby Day in Albany – March 1-3, 2026

**VOTE: Motion passed unanimously. (Motion #2025/26-163)**

**NEW BUSINESS – OTHER**

None

Pine Plains Central School District  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
January 8, 2026

**NEW BUSINESS- PERSONNEL**

Mrs. Stapf moved and Ms. Copley-Eisenberg seconded a motion to grant the request from employee #2025-6 for a FMLA leave to be effective on or about March 15, 2026.

**VOTE: Motion passed unanimously. (Motion #2025/26-164)**

Mr. Couse moved and Mr. Griffin seconded a motion to appoint the following individual(s) to the substitute list for the 2025-26 school year, pending completion of all requirements:

-Amy Medick, Teacher, Teaching Assistant

-Jennifer Williams, Nurse

**VOTE: Motion passed unanimously. (Motion #2025/26-165)**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**BOARD COMMENT**

Mrs. Fredericks commented on the upcoming important dates:  
January 19, 2026 - Buildings Closed - Martin Luther King Day  
January 20, 2026 - Board of Education Meeting, Stissing  
February 3, 2026 - Board of Education Meeting, Stissing

**WORKSHOP: FUTURE READY FORUM DISCUSSION**

Dr. Timm reviewed the timeline of the discussions regarding right-sizing the district, starting with the first presentation in 2024. All of this information can be found on the district website, (<https://www.ppcsd.org/info-center/future-ready-organization>) this includes the timeline of events with presentations and video available for the public to review.

Two key highlights that emerged from the community, staff and individual surveys:

1. Integrity of the elementary student experience
2. Safety concerns regarding transporting grades Pre-K – 12 on the same bus.

The short-term option is to consolidate Cold Spring into Seymour. Dr. Timm will be asking the Board to formally vote on this topic at the next meeting on January 20, 2026.

The Board of Education questioned / commented the following items:

1. Small number of individuals responding (78 out of 6000 district residents);
2. Super majority of voters to pierce the tax cap;
3. Cost savings of building closure and transportation costs
4. Status of the closed building (sell / rent)
5. Current contract negotiations

**ADJOURN**

Pine Plains Central School District  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
January 8, 2026

Mrs. Stapf moved and Ms. Copley-Eisenberg seconded a motion to adjourn at 7:53 pm.

**VOTE: Motion passed unanimously. (Motion #2025/26-166)**

Respectfully submitted,

Julia W. Tomaine,  
District Clerk