

Pine Plains Central School District
Regular Meeting Minutes
February 3, 2026

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Amie Fredericks, President
Fred Couse, Jr. , Vice President
Claire Copley-Eisenberg, arrived 6:55 pm
James Griffin, absent
Heidi Johnson, arrived 6:39 pm
Joseph Kiernan, arrived 6:32 pm
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 6:32 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.

REPORT OF BOARD AND STANDING COMMITTEES

None

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS WISHING TO SPEAK

Community members commented on thoughts concerning the closure of an elementary school.

BUDGET WORKSHOP

Mrs. Laura Rafferty, Business Official, conducted a Budget Workshop to present a comprehensive overview of the district's budget development process for the 2026-27 fiscal year. The workshop outlined the timeline, revenue sources, expense projections, and tax cap implications that guide the district's financial planning.

BUDGET WORKSHOP

Kristen Fischetti, Cold Spring Principal, Julie Roberts, Seymour Principal and Chris Boyd, Stissing Principal presented the status of their buildings as it related to the three priority areas. Laura Rafferty, Business Official reviewed the budgets for the instructional budgets for the 2026-27 school year.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Pine Plains Central School District
Regular Meeting Minutes
February 3, 2026

1. Dr. Timm discussed the nominating petitions for the upcoming BOCES vote.
2. Dr. Timm reviewed a few punchline items for the upcoming Capital Project. It was the consensus of the Board to repair the floors at Seymour Smith.

STUDENT BOARD MEMBER REPORT

Hailey Lamping shared the following information:

OLD BUSINESS

None

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Couse moved and Mrs. Stapf seconded a motion to approve consent items 1-6:

1. 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.
2. To approve the following overnight field trips:
-Cocoa Beach Softball, Cocoa Beach, FL, Funk
3. To approve the following overnight field trips:
-5th Grade Ashokan Trip, Olivebridge, NY, Berardo and Washington
4. To approve the following overnight field trips:
-FCCLA State Convention, Callicoon, NY, Blackburn
5. To approve the attached Arlington Central School District's contract for health and welfare services for twelve (12) resident students attending non-public schools at a rate of \$1,126.22 per student, for a total of \$13,514.64 for the 2025-2026 school year
6. To surplus weight room equipment per the memorandum from Lester Funk, Athletic Director.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously. (Motion #2025/26-178)

NEW BUSINESS- OTHER

Mr. Kiernan moved and Mr. Couse seconded a motion to approve the following resolution to Establish an Advisory Committee on School Building Utilization Pursuant to Education Law Section 402-A:

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the Pine Plains Central School District (the "Board") is considering the potential closing of a school building and consolidation of buildings; and WHEREAS, New York State Education Law Section 402-A authorizes and recommends that, at least six (6) months in advance of a proposed school closing, a Board of Education establish an advisory committee on school building utilization to investigate the educational impact of such a closing and to prepare a written educational impact statement; and WHEREAS, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board desires to

Pine Plains Central School District
Regular Meeting Minutes
February 3, 2026

undertake the advisory committee process contemplated by Education Law Section 402-A to promote transparency, informed decision-making, and meaningful stakeholder input; NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby establishes an advisory committee pursuant to Education Law Section 402-A for the purpose of ascertaining potential school building utilization and educational impact of a potential school closing and subsequent school consolidation, and shall prepare a report to the Board of Education for its review and consideration; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Committee shall consider the criteria set forth in Education Law Section 402-A(2) and is to be comprised of school district authorities, teaching and nonteaching personnel, parents of pupils attending district public schools, other district residents and representative from business, labor, and local government, and other members as determined to be appropriate by the Board President; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board President is hereby authorized, consistent with Board Policy 2250, to determine the specific membership of said advisory committee with the necessary members as required by Education Law Section 402-A, and is further authorized to fill vacancies on the advisory committee, if any may arise prior to the committee effectuating its purpose; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Committee is hereby directed to submit its educational impact statement and written recommendation to the Board by no later than September 30, 2026, in order to allow the Board to undertake with fidelity the processes contemplated by Education Law Section 402-A; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Board of Education hereby reaffirms its non-delegable responsibility to render a final determination on any school building closure and/or consolidation.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously. (Motion #2025/26-179)

NEW BUSINESS- PERSONNEL

Mrs. Stapf moved and Mr. Couse seconded a motion to accept the resignation from Josephine Washington from the position of elementary teacher for the purpose of retirement, effective at the close of business on June 30, 2026.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously. (Motion #2025/26-180)

Mrs. Stapf moved and Mr. Kiernan seconded a motion to appoint Courtney Reichelt as a mentor for the 2025-26 school year, pro-rated for time of service.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously. (Motion #2025/26-181)

Mrs. Stapf moved and Mr. Couse seconded a motion to appoint Alessandra Maucieri to the position of long-term substitute for the position of Speech Teacher, effective on or about March 9, 2026 at Step A1 of the PPF 2025-26 Salary schedule, prorated for time of service.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously. (Motion #2025/26-182)

Mrs. Stapf moved and Ms. Copley-Eisenberg seconded a motion to accept the resignation from Tanya Mayhew from the position of bus driver for the purpose of retirement effective at the close of business on February 27, 2026.

Pine Plains Central School District
Regular Meeting Minutes
February 3, 2026

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously. (Motion #2025/26-183)

Mr. Couse moved and Mrs. Stapf seconded a motion to accept the resignation of Robert Mahoney from the position of school monitor effective February 12, 2026.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously. (Motion #2025/26-184)

Ms. Copley-Eisenberg moved and Mr. Kiernan seconded a motion to appoint Nancy Merriam to the position of School Monitor, effective February 13, 2026 at Step 4.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously. (Motion #2025/26-185)

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

-Madison Rego, Teacher, Teaching Assistant, Teacher Aide

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously. (Motion #2025/26-186)

PUBLIC COMMENT

A member of the public requested how the members of the new elementary committee was going to be selected.

Dr. Timm discussed the process that will set up the committee. The plan was to reach out to the nine towns and request either someone from the town board or a representative from the town, three union presidents, the school district attorney, Laura Rafferty, Business Official, Julia Tomaine, District Clerk / Personnel Administrator, Audit – Financial Committee members.

BOE comments and questions followed.

BOARD COMMENT

Amie Fredericks led the review of the current BOE Goals:

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

The Pine Plains Board of Education will:

1. Have administrators present on the changes in graduation requirements as adopted by the NYS Education Department.
2. 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.
3. Devote an agenda item twice a year to discuss the financial macros of the district based on the 5-year financial outlook.

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

The Pine Plains Board of Education will:

Pine Plains Central School District
Regular Meeting Minutes
February 3, 2026

1. Promote authentic learning opportunities that are developed through elective classes (Winner's Circle Project, Broadcasting, Graphic Design, etc.).
2. Update academic eligibility policies regarding participation in extracurricular activities and athletics.

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

The Pine Plains Board of Education will:

1. Be present at multiple school and community events throughout the school year.
2. 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.).
3. Raise awareness of the date of the budget and capital improvement project votes.

Dr. Timm notified the public and the BOE that the Policy and the Audit – Financial Planning Committees need to meet. It was determined they would meet on 2/17/26.

Audit – 12:30 pm

Policy – 5:00 pm

Mrs. Fredericks reviewed the upcoming dates:

February 17, 2026 - Recess Day - Lunar New Year

February 17, 2026 - BOE Meeting

March 3, 2026 - BOE Meeting

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Couse moved and Mrs. Stapf seconded a motion to enter into executive session to discuss the employment of a particular person and Collective Negotiations for PPF and SRP at 8:05 pm.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously. (Motion #2025/26-187)

Mr. Kiernan moved and Mrs. Stapf seconded a motion to return to public session at 8:45 pm.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously. (Motion #2025/26-188)

ADJOURN

Mr. Kiernan moved and Mrs. Stapf seconded a motion to adjourn at 8:46 pm.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously. (Motion #2025/26-189)

Respectfully submitted,

Pine Plains Central School District
Regular Meeting Minutes
February 3, 2026

Julia W. Tomaine,
District Clerk