

Pine Plains Central School District
Regular Meeting Minutes
March 17, 2026

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Amie Fredericks, President
Fred Couse, Jr. , Vice President
Claire Copley-Eisenberg, absent
James Griffin
Heidi Johnson
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 6:33 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 acknowledged the School Social Workers and Athletic Trainer for Social Worker and Athletic Trainer month. She also recognized our Maintenance Department for Maintenance Worker Appreciation Day March 6th.

DUTCHESS COUNTY BOCES STUDENT RECOGNITION

Melissa Murphy, Principal of the Salt Point Center (SPC) at Dutchess BOCES presented Michael Perez, 8th grade Student of Distinction a certificate for his work ethic at the Salt Point Center. Congratulations to Michael and his family for this achievement.

DUTCHESS COUNTY BOCES BUDGET PRESENTATION

Mike Skerritt, Assistant Supt for Business & Operations and Dr. Jodi DeLucia, Superintendent of DC BOCES presented the 2026-27 Dutchess County BOCES Budget.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS WISHING TO SPEAK

Mark Fleischhauer, Rhinebeck Central School District BOE Trustee, requested the Board of Education's support for a nomination to serve on the Dutchess County BOCES Board of Education.

BUDGET WORKSHOP

Pine Plains Central School District
Regular Meeting Minutes
March 17, 2026

Mr. Gian Starr, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, presented information on the Curriculum budget, student data and an informative presentation on the Portrait of a Graduate. New York State Portrait of a Graduate is a new vision establishing core skills and competencies for students to succeed in life beyond high school, becoming a statewide requirement for students entering Grade 9 in 2029–30. It focuses on fostering a variety of attributes including being a critical thinker, communicator, and global citizen—rooted in Culturally Responsive-Sustaining education.

Mr. Lester Funk, Athletic Director, shared with the Board the budget that will be presented for the 2026-27 school year which is fairly flat, with an increase of \$2,310 for new purchases to include football equipment, a scoreboard possession indicator, and a treadmill for cardio training.

The Board questioned how the school mergers work between two districts.

Mrs. Janine Babcock, Director of Pupil Personnel Services presented an overview of her department. She described how Pine Plains Central School District serves a diverse group of students with different learning needs, including those with disabilities, students learning English, and students who need extra support in the classroom and how each of these groups impact the 2026-27 budget with an increase of \$164,305.

Mr. Richard Harlin, Director of Technology, presented an overview of his department. He described how his mighty department of four manages all the technology needs for the district. The proposed IT budget for 2026-2027 is \$343,200, with no changes from the previous year.

Mrs. Laura Rafferty, Business Official, conducted a Budget Workshop. She discussed key budget pressures include rising insurance costs, a national school bus driver shortage, and increased special education transportation needs. The district's tax levy is projected to increase by 3.4% under the tax cap limit, but would require a 6.64% increase if the district needs to override the cap to meet all budget needs.

Dr. Timm shared that he plans to submit a waiver to the state to push back the looming requirement to replace current buses with electric buses.

REPORT OF BOARD AND STANDING COMMITTEES

Dr. Timm shared the meeting minutes from the March 12, 2026 Building Utilization Committee meeting.

Mr. Griffin left the room 8:56 pm

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

1. Dr. Timm discussed the BOCES nomination process.

Pine Plains Central School District
Regular Meeting Minutes
March 17, 2026

Mrs. Fredericks moved and Mr. Couse seconded a motion to nominate Mark Fleischhauer and Judy Moran to serve on the Dutchess BOCES Board.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously. (Motion #2025/26-209) (Mr. Griffin was not in the room)

STUDENT BOARD MEMBER REPORT

Ms. Hailey Lamping shared the following information:

1. Senior to Senior Breakfast this Friday
2. Shrek was a success, sold out for all three showings
3. Jarrod Campbell performed at Seymour
4. Athletic dinner held for winter sports, planning to host another one for spring
5. Two students made it to the New Balance nationals
6. Read Across America hosted in each of the elementary buildings
7. Elementary students had spirit week

Mr. Griffin returned to the meeting at 8:58 pm.

Hailey was excused from the meeting after her report was completed.

OLD BUSINESS

Mrs. Fredericks moved and Mr. Couse seconded a motion to nominate Mark Fleischhauer and Judy Moran to serve on the Dutchess BOCES Board.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously. (Motion #2025/26-210)

**Voted on a second time as Mr. Griffin was not present during the first motion.*

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Couse moved and Mr. Griffin seconded a motion to approve consent items 1-8:

1. To accept minutes from the January 20, 2026, February 3, 2026 and February 17, 2026 Board of Education meetings.
2. To approve the attached Financial Reports:
 - Treasurer's Report (February 2026)
 - Appropriations Report (February 2026)
 - Revenue Status Report (February 2026)
 - Extra-Classroom Report (February 2026)
 - Cafeteria Report (February 2026)
 - Claims Auditor's Reports and Cash Disbursements – Warrants
 - 2025-26 Tax Assessment Change log
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.

Pine Plains Central School District
Regular Meeting Minutes
March 17, 2026

4. To acknowledge a budget transfer in the amount of \$142,636.63
5. To excess physical education equipment per the memorandum from Thomas Giorgio, Physical Education Teacher.
6. To approve the attached Bedford Central School District's contract for health and welfare services for two (2) resident students attending non-public schools at a rate of \$1,965.12 per student, for a total of \$3,930.24 for the 2025-26 school year.
7. To approve the attached Kingston City School District's contract for health and welfare services for four (4) resident students attending non-public schools at a rate of \$1,615.00 per student, for a total of \$6,460.00 for the 2025-26 school year.
8. To approve the attached Taconic Hills Central School District's contract for health and welfare services for five (5) resident students attending non-public schools at a rate of \$761.96 per student, for a total of \$3,809.80 for the 2025-2026 school year.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously. (Motion #2025/26-211)

NEW BUSINESS – OTHER

Mr. Couse moved and Mr. Griffin seconded a motion to approve the following resolution:
BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE PINE PLAINS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT that the following proposition be placed on the ballot at the Annual Meeting of the qualified voters of the Pine Plains Central School District, Dutchess and Columbia Counties, New York, to be conducted on May 19, 2026:

SHALL the Board of Education of the Pine Plains Central School District, Dutchess and Columbia Counties, New York be authorized to purchase two (2) 71-passenger school buses, including cameras and necessary equipment, at a maximum estimated cost of \$194,525.66 each, for an aggregate maximum estimated cost of \$389,051.32 and three (3) 35-passenger school buses, at a maximum estimated cost of \$120,408.41 each, for an aggregate maximum estimated cost of \$361,225.23; and that the sum of \$750,276.55, or so much thereof as may be necessary is authorized to be expended from the District's "Bus Purchase Reserve Fund" approved by the voters on May 17, 2022, to pay for the cost of the bus purchases;
AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the School District Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to publish this proposition in the designated newspapers four (4) times prior to the Annual Meeting in accordance with Section 2004 of the Education Law.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously. (Motion #2025/26-212)

Mr. Griffin moved and Mr. Couse seconded a motion to amend motion #2025/26-140 to increase the contractual amount from \$4,500 to \$5,300 per the memorandum from Janine Babcock, Director of Pupil Personnel Services.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously. (Motion #2025/26-213)

Mrs. Stapf moved and Mr. Couse seconded a motion to accept as the first reading of the following policies based on the recommendation of the Policy Committee:

Policy #8130: School Safety Teams and Plans

Policy #8121.2: Automated External Defibrillators

Pine Plains Central School District
Regular Meeting Minutes
March 17, 2026

Policy #8505: Charging Meals and Other Food Items

Policy #8520: Free Meal Services

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously. (Motion #2025/26-214)

Mrs. Stapf moved and Mr. Griffin seconded a motion to authorize the Superintendent of Schools to sign a Supplemental Memorandum of Agreement with the Pine Plains Federation of Educators in regards to establishing a bank of donated sick leave.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously. (Motion #2025/26-215)

Mr. Couse moved and Mr. Griffin seconded a motion to authorize the Superintendent of Schools to sign a Supplemental Memorandum of Agreement with the Pine Plains School Related Professionals in regards to the Emergency Closure on February 23, 2026.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously. (Motion #2025/26-216)

Mr. Couse moved and Mrs. Stapf seconded a motion to approve the following overnight field trip(s):

- FFA Summer Camp, Croghan, NY: S. Rhoades

- FFA State Convention, Buffalo, NY: S. Rhoades

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously. (Motion #2025/26-217)

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

WHEREAS, the District is in receipt of Bullet Aid grant in the amount of \$15,000 from the State for additional aid in support of general expenses, architect fees, and the 2025-2026 Budget must be amended to account for the additional revenue;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby accepts the Bullet Aid grant in the amount of \$15,000, amends the Budget for the 2025-2026 school year by increasing the revenue side of the Budget by \$15,000 in Other State Aid, Account Code A3289, thereby increasing the Budget by such amount, and appropriates such funds as additional aid in support of general expenses, \$15,000 Budget Code A 1621.427.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously. (Motion #2025/26-218)

NEW BUSINESS- PERSONNEL

Mr. Griffin moved and Mr. Couse seconded a motion to grant employee#2025-26-12, an extended sick leave, according to Article 6.1.2.2.1 - 6.1.2.2.5 of the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the District and the Pine Plains Federation of Educators, Inc. effective on or about February 18, 2026 pending documentation.

to appoint Elizabeth Smalley to the position of long-term leave replacement for the position of Elementary Teacher effective March 2, 2026 at a rate of A1 of the 2025-26 salary schedule.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously. (Motion #2025/26-219)

Mrs. Stapf moved and Mr. Couse seconded a motion to appoint Tanya Mayhew to the position of Bus Driver effective March 16, 2026 at Step 11 per the 2025-26 SRP Salary Schedule.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously. (Motion #2025/26-220)

Pine Plains Central School District
Regular Meeting Minutes
March 17, 2026

Mr. Couse moved and Mr. Griffin seconded a motion to change the employment status from probationary to permanent of the following employees after the completion of the twenty-six week probationary period:

-Jacqueline Brousseau, Food Service Helper

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously. (Motion #2025/26-221)

Mrs. Stapf moved and Mr. Couse seconded a motion to approve the following individuals as Spring Coaches for the 2025-26 school year, pending completion of all requirements:

Baseball Varsity Head Coach- Rich Lamping

Baseball Assistant Coach- JV Head Coach- Brian Walsh

Baseball Assistant Coach- Modified Head Coach- Adam Funk

Baseball Volunteer Assistant Coach- Robert Mielich

Softball Varsity Head Coach- Les Funk

Softball Assistant Coach- Modified Co Coach- Sarah Beam

Softball Assistant Coach- Modified Co Coach- Jenn Lydon

Softball Volunteer Assistant Coach- Alex McKenzie

Tennis Varsity Head Coach- Alec Sisco

Girls Golf Varsity Head Coach- John Schoonmaker

Track Varsity Head Coach- Mike Cooper

Track Assistant Coach- Madison Michetti

Unified Basketball Coach- Christa Brenner

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously. (Motion #2025/26-222)

Mr. Griffin moved and Mrs. Stapf seconded a motion to appoint the following individuals to the extra-curricular position for the 2025-26 school year and bylaws:

Jennifer Blackburn - Stissing Mtn Racers/Pine Plains Racing Co-Advisor

James Benincasa - Stissing Mtn Racers/Pine Plains Racing Co-Advisor

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously. (Motion #2025/26-223)

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

BOARD COMMENT

Mr. Griffin congratulated the cast and crew of Shrek for a job well done!

Mrs. Fredericks commented on the upcoming important dates:

March 26, 2026: Building Utilization Committee

March 27, 2026: 1/2 day of school

March 30 - April 3, 2026: Spring Break

April 3, 2026: Buildings Closed

April 7, 2026: Board of Education Meeting, 6:30 pm

Pine Plains Central School District
Regular Meeting Minutes
March 17, 2026

April 20, 2026: Nominating Petitions due by 5:00 pm
April 21, 2026: Board of Education Meeting, 6:30 pm
April 28, 2026: Board of Education Meeting, 7:30 am

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Kiernan moved and Mrs. Stapf seconded a motion to enter into executive session to discuss the employment of a particular person and collective bargaining SRP and PPFE at 9:11 pm.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously. (Motion #2025/26-224)

Mr. Kiernan moved and Mrs. Stapf seconded a motion to return to public session at 9:35 pm.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously. (Motion #2025/26-225)

ADJOURN

Mr. Kiernan moved and Mrs. Stapf seconded a motion to adjourn at 9:36 pm.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously. (Motion #2025/26-226)

Respectfully submitted,

Julia W. Tomaine,
District Clerk