



# Pine Plains

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

## 2026-2027 Budget Newsletter

Dear Pine Plains CSD Community,

At Pine Plains Central School District, we strive to ensure that all that we do aligns with the mission, vision, core values, and three priority areas of our Strategic Plan. The three priority areas of our Strategic Plan include: **Academic Excellence • Student Experience • Community Connection.**

I hope you take a moment to appreciate the collage of photos featured in this newsletter that illustrate some of our students' successes and achievements in these areas.

A variety of factors have made the creation of this budget especially challenging. The skyrocketing cost of healthcare, increasing expenses, and uncertainty in State Aid are just a few of the considerations that contributed to the budget process.

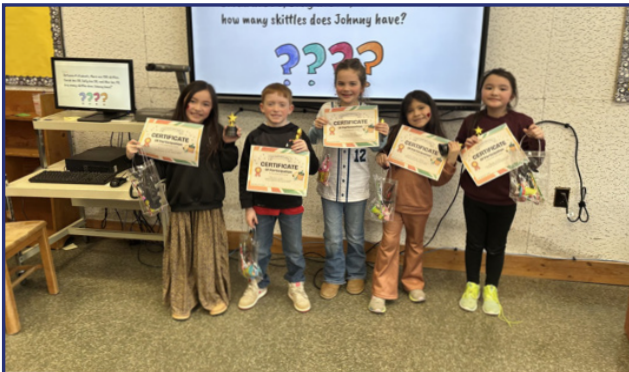
It is noteworthy to mention that in February, the Board of Education formally established a Building Utilization Advisory Committee to study declining enrollment and building utilization related to the potential rightsizing of the district. Based upon its findings, the Committee will prepare an educational impact statement to be presented to the Board of Education by September 2026.

The proposed budget you will find in this newsletter allows PPCSD to continue providing top-notch opportunities for our students with minimal impact to programs and without consolidating school buildings.

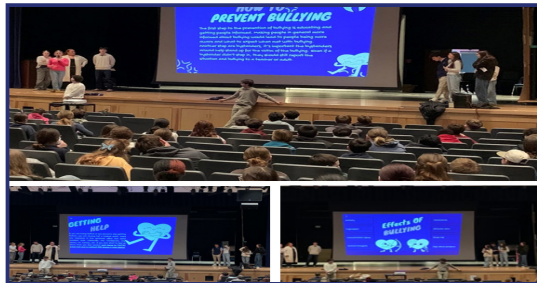
I extend my sincere appreciation to you, our school district community, for your careful consideration of the 2026-27 Budget and for your continued support of our schools.

Dr. Brian Timm  
Superintendent of Schools

### ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE



Members of the Stissing Mountain Math Honor Society shared their love and enthusiasm for math with the students from Seymour Smith ILC during this year's Math Bowl.



Students in DCC Social Problems Class delivered a bullying presentation to our 6th- 8th graders emphasizing strategies to prevent bullying and encouraging students to take an active role as upstanders.



Students at Cold Spring ELC enjoyed a morning of Project Based Learning fun. Students participated in a learning adventure of their choice. Activities included: designing a gingerbread home for the entire family, designing a new toy for children to play with during the holidays, marketing a hot chocolate shop so it is inviting to customers, and how to survive the harsh temperatures of the Arctic!

2026-2027 Proposed  
Budget Increase  
**5.34%**

2026-2027 Proposed  
Tax Levy Increase\*  
**4.43%**  
\*Exceeds the 2026-27 Tax Cap

- BUDGET VOTE
- BUS PURCHASES
- ELECT TWO (2) BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS

**VOTE**  
May 19, 2026  
7:00 am - 8:00 pm

ONE Voting Location: Stissing Mt Jr/Sr HS

## VOTE • MAY 19, 2026 • 7:00 AM - 8:00 PM • VOTE

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting, Election and Vote on Propositions of the Pine Plains Central School District will be held on Tuesday, May 19, 2026 at the following location and time, when the polls will be open for the purpose of voting by voting machine:

All district residents vote at the Stissing Mountain Junior/Senior High School, 2829 Church Street, Pine Plains, New York from 7:00am to 8:00pm

### THE VOTERS SHALL VOTE ON THE FOLLOWING:

#### PROPOSITION 1: 2026 – 2027 SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET

SHALL the Board of Education of the Pine Plains Central School District be authorized to expend the sum of \$40,778,791 for school district purposes for the 2026-2027 school year, and to levy the necessary tax therefor? This budget requires a tax levy increase of 4.43% which exceeds the statutory tax levy increase limit of 3.4% for this school fiscal year and therefore exceeds the state tax cap and must be approved by 60 percent of the qualified voters present and voting.

#### PROPOSITION 2: BUS PURCHASE

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?

### BOARD OF EDUCATION ELECTION

To elect two (2) members of the Board of Education for three-year terms commencing July 1, 2026 and ending on June 30, 2029. The combination of votes and/or write-ins must be no more than two votes.

#### Three Candidates:

James Griffin

Amie Buehler

Brooke Brown

### STUDENT EXPERIENCE



The annual Cold Spring ELC Cub Café is a celebration of Heart Health Month where all students enjoy a healthy breakfast together prepared by our Food Service Department and are reminded that healthy choices make healthy bodies!



The Winners Circle Project is an exciting new STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and math) program offered at Stissing Mtn. High School that is rooted in the world of auto racing. The program emphasizes project-based learning, while preparing students for a variety of careers in everything from engineering to public relations.



Senior class athletes from the Varsity Club visited Seymour Smith ILC to coach the 5th graders on sportsmanship, teamwork, academic success and the importance of making healthy choices.



# Pine Plains CSD Budget Notice

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2025-26 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2026-27 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2026-27 School Year *
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$ 38,712,336	\$40,778,791	\$39,948,694
Increase/Decrease for the 2026-27 School Year		\$2,066,455	\$1,236,358
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		5.34 %	3.19%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		2.63 %	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$27,885,802	\$29,122,160	
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable	0	0	
C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable **	0	0	
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy	0	0	
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D)	\$27,885,802	\$29,122,160	\$27,885,802
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	0	0	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$27,956,016	\$28,831,591	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, Excluding Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	\$27,885,802	\$29,122,160	
I. Difference: G - H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$70,214	(\$290,569)	
Administrative Component	\$3,819,690	\$4,063,953	\$4,063,593
Program Component	\$31,193,790	\$32,911,895	\$32,081,798
Capital Component	\$3,698,856	\$3,802,943	\$3,802,943

**\* Statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2026-27 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated:**

Over \$850,000 in additional reductions. Elimination of all equipment purchases except for those necessary for health and safety, with board approval. Elimination of free public use of school buildings. Elimination of annual transfer to capital for state-aided projects. Possible cutbacks/program elimination of interscholastic athletics. Possible elimination of field trips and extra-curricular activities. Potential personnel reduction in regular and special subject elementary teachers, teacher aids; junior/senior high school science, social studies, family and consumer sciences, guidance; high school elective in science, art, foreign language, social studies, agriculture, mathematics and/or health.

**\*\* List Separate Propositions that are not included in the Total Budgeted Amount:**

(Tax Levy associated with educational or transportation services propositions are not eligible for exclusion and may affect voter approval requirements)

Description	Amount
Bus Purchases	\$750,276.55

	Under the Budget Proposed for the 2026-27 School Year
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings <sup>1</sup>	\$409

1. The basic school tax relief (STAR) exemption is authorized by section 425 of the Real Property Tax Law.

## Three-Part Budget Summary

BUDGET SUMMARY	ADOPTED BUDGET	PROPOSED BUDGET		
<b>ADMINISTRATION</b>	<b>2025-2026</b>	<b>2026-2027</b>	<b>Increase/(Decrease)</b>	<b>Percent of Total Budget</b>
AMOUNT	\$3,819,690	\$4,063,953	6.39%	9.97%
INCLUDES: General Support, Building Administration and Employee Benefits				
<b>PROGRAM</b>	<b>2025-2026</b>	<b>2026-2027</b>	<b>Increase/(Decrease)</b>	<b>Percent of Total Budget</b>
AMOUNT	\$31,193,790	\$32,911,895	5.51%	80.71%
INCLUDES: Teaching, Regular School, Academic Intervention, Special Education, Occupational Education, Summer School, School Library, A/V, Computer Assisted Instruction, Pupil Services, Interscholastic Athletics and Co-curricular Activities, Pupil Transportation, Interfund Transfers, and Employee Benefits				
<b>CAPITAL</b>	<b>2025-2026</b>	<b>2026-2027</b>	<b>Increase/(Decrease)</b>	<b>Percent of Total Budget</b>
AMOUNT	\$3,698,856	\$3,802,943	2.81%	9.33%
INCLUDES: Operations and Maintenance, Judgments/Claims, Assessments, Tax Refunds, Interfund Transfers, Employee Benefits, and Debt Service				
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>2025-2026</b>	<b>2026-2027</b>	<b>Increase/(Decrease)</b>	
AMOUNT	\$38,712,336	\$40,778,791	5.34%	

## 2026-2027 Budget Factors

 Tax Cap Limit = 3.4%  
\*Proposed Tax Levy = 4.43%

 Consumer Price Index = 2.63%  
\*Proposed Budget Increase = 5.34%



# PINE PLAINS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

2829 Church Street  
Pine Plains, NY 12567

\*\*\* ECRWSSEDDM \*\*\*

Local Postal Patron



NON-PROFIT ORG  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
CRST.NET  
12550

# VOTE

7:00 am - 8:00 pm

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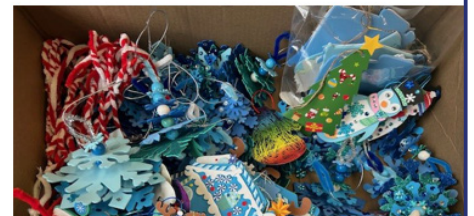
The QR code to the right will bring you to the Budget page for the Pine Plains Central School District. You will find the budget presentations from the Board of Education Budget Workshop meetings. Also, under Budget FAQs, there are descriptions of the propositions and the rationale behind presenting them to the voters of the district. Please scan the QR Code or call (518) 398-7181 ext. 1402 for information and questions you may have regarding the 2026-2027 budget.



FOR BUDGET FAQs

[WWW.PPCSD.ORG/DISTRICT1/BUDGET](http://WWW.PPCSD.ORG/DISTRICT1/BUDGET)

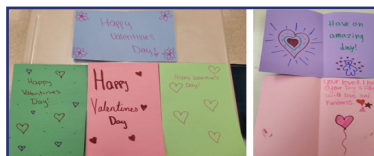
## COMMUNITY CONNECTION



Students from Cold Spring ELC and Seymour Smith ILC gathered together before the holidays to make ornaments that were donated to local organizations, such as the Pediatric Unit at Mid-Hudson Regional Hospital.



The Class of 2026 hosted the annual Senior to Senior Breakfast on March 20th. All senior citizens in the PPCSD community were welcomed to join the senior class for a delicious breakfast, as well as a performance by the Stissing Mountain acapella singers!



The Stissing Mtn. Jr./Sr. High School Student Council sponsored a schoolwide activity to make Valentine's Day cards for local senior citizens and veterans. This is the second year they participated in this initiative. The students made 150 Valentine's Day cards, breaking last year's record of 100 cards!



### BOARD of EDUCATION

- Mrs. Amie Fredericks, President
- Mr. Fred "Chip" Couse, Vice President
- Ms. Claire Copley-Eisenberg, Board Member
- Mr. Jim Griffin, Board Member
- Ms. Heidi Johnson, Board Member
- Mr. Joseph Kiernan, Board Member
- Mrs. Jean Stapf, Board Member

### SUPERINTENDENT of SCHOOLS

Dr. Brian Timm, x1401

### BUSINESS OFFICIAL

Laura Rafferty, x1402

### DISTRICT CLERK

Julia W. Tomaine, x1408