Pittsford
School District News

Summer 2026

A publication for the residents of Pittsford Central School District

Collaborative Community Event Helps Shape Pittsford Schools' Future

On Saturday, May 30, 2026, Pittsford Central School District parents, staff, and community members gathered at Calkins Road Middle School for the District's "I Am Pittsford Schools: Shaping the Future" collaborative event centered on strategic planning and the future of Pittsford Schools. From 9 a.m. to noon, more than 80 participants reviewed focus group findings, exchanged ideas, and identified priorities that will help guide the District's direction in the years ahead.

Discussions focused on student success, community engagement, and long-term planning, with attendees actively contributing perspectives that reflect the values and needs of the Pittsford community. A light breakfast provided by the PTSA and Campus Construction, and childcare provided by the high school Interact Club helped make the event accessible for families.

The District's strategic planning work is centered on creating a clearer, more consistent Pittsford experience for every student through four key commitments:

Goal 1: I Am Supported.
A Clear and Connected K-12 System of Student Support Across Pittsford.

The focus is on the student support system, timely help, follow-through, and transitions.

By 2031, PCSD will strengthen a clear and connected K-12 system of academic, behavioral, social-emotional, and transition supports so every student's needs are recognized early, responded to consistently, and connected to the right adults, resources, and next steps across schools and grade levels.

(Continued on page 3)

2026-27 School Budget Passes, Board of Education Election Results

The Pittsford Central School District 2026-27 School Budget Passed. Thank you to the PCSD community for your support!

The results are as follows:

- **Yes: 2,251**
- **No: 617**

Budget: $176,522,427, within the NYS Tax Cap
Number of Voters: 2,912

Proposition 1: Purchase of Buses

Purchase up to two (2) 36-passenger diesel school buses and up to seven (7) 66-passenger diesel school buses for the purpose of providing student transportation and ancillary educational purposes, including original equipment and incidental expenses for the foregoing purpose, which shall be funded by the Capital Reserve Fund – Purchase of Buses (savings account) and/or any available state aid.

Yes: 2,286

No: 577

Proposition 2: Purchase of Electric Buses

Purchase up to two (2) 66-passenger electric school buses for the purpose of providing student transportation and ancillary educational purposes, including charging stations, original equipment and incidental expenses for the foregoing purpose which shall be funded by the Capital Reserve Fund – Purchase of Buses (savings account) and/or any available state aid.

Yes: 1,792

No: 1,074

Proposition 3: Instructional Technology Reserve

Withdraw from the "Capital Instructional Technology Reserve" (savings account) for the purchase of technology equipment and laptops to support the 1:1 device program.

Yes: 2,375

No: 489

Proposition 4: Capital Improvement Project - Wayfinding Signage System

Broaden the scope of a construction project that voters approved on March 28, 2023. The added work would improve outdoor signs for safety purposes and add new signs to help emergency vehicles find their way around various District campuses. The total cost of the project will not increase, and there will be no additional taxes raised.

Yes: 2,236

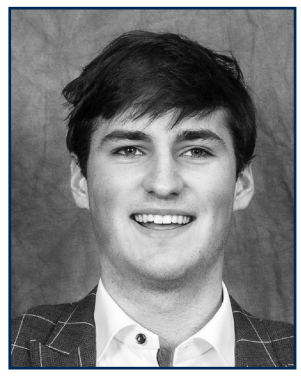
No: 622

Board of Education: Two Seats, Three Candidates

- John Pizzutelli: 1,825
- Robin Scott: 2,074
- Anwar Upal: 1,296

Pittsford Seniors Honored Among Monroe County's Best

Congratulations to Pittsford's Class of 2026 Outstanding Seniors, Kevin Curran of Mendon High School and Paulina Stefanos of Sutherland High School!



Kevin Curran



Paulina Stefanos

The students were honored on May 14 at the Monroe County Council of School Superintendents (MCCOSS) Michael C. O'Laughlin Outstanding Senior Recognition Dinner, a one-of-a-kind event that celebrates exceptional seniors from every Monroe County and Rochester city high school together in one evening.

Students are selected for this distinguished recognition based on their scholarship, leadership, service and character. Kevin and Paulina received congratulatory gifts from Monroe One BOCES District Superintendent Dr. Cathy Hauber, Monroe 2-Orleans BOCES District Superintendent Dr. Tom Putnam, and Superintendent Shana Cutaia in recognition of their outstanding achievements and contributions to their school communities.

Administrative Changes



Elizabeth Woods and Lindsay Ali, Ed.D.

New Assistant Superintendent for Pupil Services Position Builds on a Strong Foundation as Elizabeth Woods Retires and Lindsay Ali Begins a New Chapter

To strengthen coordination and support for students, families, and schools, Pittsford Schools has established a new Assistant Superintendent for Pupil Services position, bringing special education and student services together under one department and one leader.

The creation of the new position came as the District prepared for the retirement of Director of Special Education Elizabeth Woods at the conclusion of the 2025-26 school year. "Ms. Wood's leadership, advocacy, and commitment to students and families have helped shape the strong systems and programs that exist today, and we are grateful for her many contributions to Pittsford Schools," said Superintendent Cutaia.

Lindsay Ali, Ed.D. was appointed by the Board of Education to serve as Pittsford's first Assistant Superintendent for Pupil Services, beginning July 1, 2026. Dr. Ali has served as Director of Student Services since 2025 and brings extensive experience in special education, student services, and educational leadership.

"Dr. Ali's role reflects the District's commitment to providing seamless, student-centered support as student needs continue to become increasingly interconnected," said Superintendent Cutaia. By aligning services such as special education, mental health supports, intervention services, health services, and other student-centered programs under a unified structure, the District aims to enhance collaboration, accountability, and consistency across its systems of support.

Prior to serving as Director of Student Services, Dr. Ali was Principal of Park Road Elementary School and held several leadership roles in the Honeoye Falls-Lima Central School District, including Director of Pupil Personnel Services.



Karl Dubash

Karl Dubash Appointed Assistant Superintendent for Business for Pittsford Schools

On May 12, 2026, the Pittsford Schools Board of Education appointed Karl Dubash as Assistant Superintendent for Business, effective July 1, 2026.

"Mr. Dubash brings a deep and diverse background to this position. He has more than 20 years of experience in secondary education and school business administration," said Superintendent of Schools Shana Cutaia.

Most recently, Dubash served as School Business Administrator for the Phelps-Clifton Springs Central School District, where he oversaw the business office, human resources, facilities, transportation, and food services.

Prior to this role, he served as assistant principal at Victor Senior High School and Oliver Middle School in Brockport, and earlier in his career, he was a mathematics teacher in the Rush-Henrietta Central School District.

Dubash earned a bachelor's degree in computer information systems from SUNY Brockport and a master's degree in mathematics education from St. John Fisher University. He also holds a Certificate of Advanced Study in School District Business Leadership from The College of Saint Rose and a Certificate of Advanced Study in Educational Leadership from SUNY Oswego.



Danielle Cota

Danielle Cota Appointed as Assistant Principal of Sutherland High School

Pittsford Schools Board of Education appointed Danielle Cota as Assistant Principal of Sutherland High School at the June 16, 2026, Board of Education Meeting, with a start date of July 6, 2026.

"We are excited to welcome Danielle Cota to the Pittsford Schools leadership team," said Superintendent Shana Cutaia. "Ms. Cota brings a wealth of experience in instructional leadership, student support, and school culture, along with a strong commitment to fostering academic excellence and belonging for all students. Her background in educational leadership, restorative practices, and collaborative problem-solving will be a tremendous asset to Sutherland High School. We look forward to the positive impact she will have on our students, staff, and school community."

With over 14 years of experience in education, Cota served as Vice Principal of Cleveland High School in Portland, OR, since 2021 where she was a core member of the executive leadership team for more than 1,400 students. In this role, Cota employed data-driven strategies to align curriculum with International Baccalaureate standards and steered disciplinary protocols in accordance with district guidelines to integrate restorative justice practices and manage behavior.

Cota holds a Master of Arts in Secondary Education, Biology 7-12 from Hunter College; a Master of Arts in Forensic Mental Health Counseling from John Jay College of Criminal Justice; and a Bachelor of Arts in Biology from University at Buffalo. She also has her Initial Administrator License from Portland State University.

Pittsford CSD Maintains Strong Financial Stability with Aa1 Credit Rating

Fiscal responsibility and stability are top priorities for Pittsford Central School District, reflecting its ongoing commitment to Pittsford taxpayers. The District's strong financial management was again recognized with an Aa1 credit rating from Moody's Investors Service, a rating Pittsford CSD has proudly maintained for 25 consecutive years.

The Aa1 rating is the second-highest rating a school district can achieve and demonstrates Pittsford Schools' strong financial operations, supported by conservative budgeting practices. Similar to a personal credit score, this rating reflects the District's financial health and stability. It also allows Pittsford Schools to secure favorable borrowing terms, including lower interest rates, when voters approve debt for potential capital projects.

Highlights from Moody's February 2026 credit analysis include:

- Very strong credit position: Pittsford Schools' Aa1 rating is above the median for U.S. school districts.
- Key credit strengths: A strong local economy, a healthy reserve position and very modest fixed costs contributed to the rating.

This recognition underscores the District's commitment to prudent financial management while continuing to provide quality education to the Pittsford community.



The Apple of Their Eyes: Mrs. Leshley Wins Golden Apple Award

Congratulations to Melissa Leshley, second grade teacher at Jefferson Road Elementary School who was presented with a WROC TV-8 Golden Apple Award on April 27, 2026 after being nominated by her entire class for outstanding work in the classroom! View the story at *https://www.rochesterfirst.com/video/golden-apple-award-congratulations-mrs-leshley/11743191/*



Capital Improvement Project Construction Update

Construction and renovation work continues across the District as part of the 2023 Capital Improvement Project, with several major milestones already completed and numerous projects progressing on schedule for the 2026–27 school year and beyond.

Mendon High School

The new addition at Mendon High School continues to take shape as construction progresses through the summer and fall. Interior spaces are scheduled to open in January 2027.

Several additional projects are also moving forward at Mendon:

- Athletic entrance upgrades, including new flooring, finishes, and a vestibule near the large gymnasium, will be completed before the start of school in the fall. These improvements are designed to enhance both appearance and student safety.
- Renovations to the Guidance Suite remain on schedule, with finishing work continuing through the summer and occupancy planned for the beginning of the school year.
- Construction of the exterior stadium restroom facility will continue through the summer and is expected to be completed before the start of the late-summer athletic season.
- Drainage improvements at the baseball field have been completed and the field has been returned for use.
- Construction of the new tennis court facility will accelerate in mid-June and continue through the summer and fall. The courts are expected to be available for the 2027 spring tennis season.

Sutherland High School

Several athletic facility projects are underway or recently completed at Sutherland High School.

The new tennis courts have been completed and turned over for use. In addition, the existing tennis courts will receive new surfacing, fencing, and line striping to support both tennis and pickleball activities.

Drainage improvements at the baseball field are scheduled to begin in mid-August and continue through the fall. The field is expected to reopen for the 2027 spring baseball season.

The softball field drainage project has also been completed and returned to use.

Barker Road Middle School

Significant progress continues at Barker Road Middle School. Interior renovation work remains underway, with the new technology classrooms, kitchen and serving area, large group instruction space, band and orchestra areas, and newly constructed corridors all scheduled to open at the start of the 2026–27 school year.

This summer, construction activities will transition into the existing technology classroom wing. Planned upgrades include renovations to current learning spaces and the addition of a new classroom. This phase of work is expected to continue through December 2026.

In addition, improvements to the Barker Road Commons area will begin this summer and continue through Summer 2027, creating an enhanced gathering and learning space for students and staff.

Calkins Road Middle School

Kitchen upgrades at Calkins Road Middle School are scheduled to take place over the summer, enhancing food service operations and supporting the student dining experience.

Allen Creek Elementary School

Interior renovations continue at Allen Creek Elementary School to support the creation of a new Mental Health Suite. Construction will continue through the summer, with the space expected to be ready for students and staff when school resumes in the fall.

Jefferson Road Elementary School

Renovation work will begin this summer at Jefferson Road Elementary School. Projects include the development of an updated Mental Health Suite as well as new flooring and windows in the cafeteria. The cafeteria improvements are scheduled to be completed before the start of school this fall, while Mental Health Suite renovations are expected to be finished and available for use in January 2027.

Transportation and Maintenance Facility

Major progress has been made on the new fuel tank project at the Transportation and Maintenance Facility. Work will continue throughout the summer, with the system expected to be fully operational by the start of the 2026–27 school year.

Completed Projects and Milestones

Several projects have recently reached completion, marking important milestones in the District's capital improvement efforts.

Construction has been completed at Thornell Road Elementary School. The new Mental Health Suite has been officially turned over for use and is now available to support students and staff.

At the Lomb Building, historical restoration work has been successfully completed, preserving the building's character while supporting its long-term future.

Renovations at the District Office have also been completed, including parking lot improvements and related site upgrades.

Looking Ahead

As construction activity continues across the District, these investments are enhancing learning environments, improving student support services, modernizing facilities, and strengthening athletic and operational infrastructure. District leaders remain committed to delivering projects safely and efficiently while minimizing disruption to students and staff.

Additional updates will be shared as projects reach new milestones throughout the coming school year.

Winter and Spring Sports Wrap-up

Pittsford varsity athletes demonstrated exceptional skill and teamwork throughout the Winter and Spring seasons, capturing numerous state and sectional team titles as well as several individual titles and honors across a variety of sports. Congratulations to our student athletes!

SPRING SPORTS

Individual State Champions
SHS Boys Outdoor Track & Field: Beckham Taylor

Sectional Team Champion
MHS Boys Tennis, MHS Boys Outdoor Track & Field, MHS Girls Outdoor Track & Field, SHS Baseball, SHS Boys Golf, SHS Softball

Sectional Individual Champions
MHS Boys Tennis: Ari Roland
MHS Boys Outdoor Track & Field: Nathan Mucha, Graham Hughes, Ryan Mehan, Nolan Rae; MHS Girls Outdoor Track & Field: Rania Gallo; SHS Boys Golf: Brady Clifford; SHS Boys Tennis: Cormac Sullivan, Alex Aguilar
SHS Boys Outdoor Track & Field: Zine Kantari, Micah Ignatovich, Lukas Maley, Collin Fallon, Beckham Taylor; SHS Girls Outdoor Track & Field: Ivy Ortiz, Maisy Bates, Mallory Howe, Elizabeth Riley, Vivian Williams

WINTER SPORTS

State Team Champion
Pittsford Girls Alpine: Jackie Cook, Sydney Harff, Kirsten Matzky

Individual State Champions
Pittsford Girls Alpine: Kirsten Matzky; Pittsford Wrestling: Samson McKissick Staley; Pittsford Boys Swimming: Michael Kusch, Kosta Oluic, Bill Sanderson, Kieran Savage, Elliott Cunniffe; MHS Girls Indoor Track & Field: Avery Brunner, Rania Gallo; SHS Boys Nordic: Alexander Grimm; and SHS Girls Nordic: Mallory Howe

Sectional Team Champions
Pittsford Girls Alpine; Pittsford Boys Alpine; Pittsford Boys Swimming and Diving; and MHS Boys Basketball

Sectional Individual Champions
Pittsford Boys Swimming: Michael Kusch, Bill Sanderson, Kosta Oluic, Kieran Savage, Rigo Cunningham, Elliott Cunniffe, Peiheng Liu; Pittsford Girls Alpine: Kirsten Matzky; Pittsford Wrestling: Samson McKissick Staley, Ben Burrows, Kris Mihalitsas; MHS Boys Indoor Track & Field: Nathan Mucha; and MHS Girls Indoor Track & Field: Avery Brunner, Evelyn Shea, Katherine Warne, Rania Gallo



SHS Softball Sectional Champs


MHS Boys Tennis Sectional Champs


Pittsford Girls Alpine State Champs

Board of Education Honors Pittsford Pride Recipients

Nine students received the Pittsford Pride Citizenship Recognition Award during the May 12, 2026, Board of Education Meeting for demonstrating excellent citizenship and positive leadership.
Congratulations to the following students:

- **Alana Dostman,** Grad 5, Thornell Road Elementary School
- **Giuliana Gordon,** Grade 5, Park Road Elementary School
- **Matthew Irving,** Grade 12, Mendon High School
- **Rosie Kim,** Grade 5, Jefferson Road Elementary School
- **Griffin Nerone,** Grade 12, Sutherland High School
- **Ella Pasley,** Grade 5, Mendon Center Elementary School
- **Nico Pisanelli,** Grade 8, Calkins Road Middle School
- **Nora Sanderson,** Grade 8, Barker Road Middle School
- **Charvika Thirumal,** Grade 3, Allen Creek Elementary School



Shaping Pittsford Schools' Future - Continued from page 1

Goal 2: I Am Well and Connected.
Well-Being, Belonging, and Safety are Priorities for Learning.

The focus is on mental health, belonging, safety, and shared responsibility.

By 2031, PCSD will strengthen a districtwide culture of well-being, belonging, and safety by expanding access to mental health supports, improving prevention and early response, addressing bullying and peer conflict, and clarifying the shared roles of students, families, staff, and community partners.

Goal 3: I Am Challenged and Included.
Every Student Experiences Rigorous and Inclusive Learning Across Pittsford.

The focus is on classroom experience, rigor, inclusion, and access to learning.

By 2031, PCSD will ensure every student is challenged by rigorous learning and included through classroom experiences that remove barriers, value student strengths, and support meaningful growth across grade levels and schools.

Goal 4: I Am Ready for My Future.
Every Student Builds a Path to Success After Graduation.

The focus is on future readiness, pathways, and broader definitions of success.

By 2031, PCSD will ensure every student can explore, define, and pursue what success means for them through varied and rigorous courses, experiences, and guidance that prepare them for life after graduation, including advanced coursework, acceleration, dual credit, CTE, career-connected learning, skilled trades, military service, workforce entry, and two- and four-year college options.

PTSA Honors Exceptional Service to Pittsford Youth

Congratulations to the following members of the Pittsford community who were honored by the Pittsford Central PTSA with 2026 New York State PTA Life Membership Awards: Melissa Althouse, Liz Bartolotta, Bridget Bauman, Ingrid Ferrara, Eucelia Hill, Annemarie Inzana, Amanda Kirkebye, Sarah Nazarian, Kristin O'Dell, Carey Sisson and Sandy Stewart.

These awards acknowledge members of the community who have gone above and beyond normal job or volunteer expectations in serving Pittsford youth.



Middle School Students Take Home 5th Place Win at Odyssey of the Mind World Finals



A team of Pittsford Middle School students earned a remarkable 5th place finish at the Odyssey of the Mind World Finals in Iowa where they competed against students from around the globe, May 27–30, 2026. Their balsa wood structure, weighing less than 18 grams, held a monumental 810 pounds! Congratulations to Barker Road Middle School students William Haldeman, Lakshayaa Kaza, Anjali Man, Vanmayee Mudgundi, Rithvik Pagadala, Rishi Talamanchi; Calkins Road Middle School student Damianos Tzogas; and Coach Niketha Devireddy.

These students were among five other Pittsford teams who qualified for world finals after advancing through a highly competitive season that began with the regional tournament on March 7 and the New York State tournament on March 21.

World Finals Results:

5th Place: Pittsford Middle School Team B
BRMS students William Haldeman, Lakshayaa Kaza, Anjali Man, Vanmayee Mudgundi, Rithvik Pagadala, Rishi Talamanchi; CRMS student Damianos Tzogas; Coach Niketha Devireddy

9th Place: Mendon Center Elementary Team
Spriha Dhakal, Jason Duan, Ayaan Garg, Christian Haldemen, Saira Iyer, Jamie Kay, Riya Talamanchi; Coaches Niketha Devireddy, Emily Kay, Yunping Shao

13th Place: Pittsford Middle School Team A
CRMS students Nathan Bylund, Keerit Devgun, Whit Engel, James Grace, Riley Hutchins, Aidan Murray, Kepler Piper; Coaches Emily Bylund, Kevin Bylund

31st Place: Thornell Road Elementary Team
Felicity Irwin, Tanvi Madanmohan, Eunice Maeng, Stella Mannava, Isabelle Monaco, Reilly Newhall, Emma Yelverton; Coaches Kathleen Mannava, Cindy Monaco, Amy Ord

33rd Place: Park Road Elementary Team
Phoenix Alexander, Zev Godder, Owen Ketch, Allen Meeks, Miles Schoeck, Jack Scott, Blake Tepper; Coach Steven Ketch

Congratulations also to a team of Park Road students who qualified for the World Finals but were unable to attend: Harold Knapp, Thomas O'Neal, Mason Peters, Hudson Sauer, Gurbaj Singh, Luka Tadin

Pittsford's Winning Rhythm: 21 Years as a Best Community for Music Education

For the 21st time, Pittsford Central School District has been recognized by the NAMM Foundation (National Association of Music Merchants) as one of the nation's Best Communities for Music Education.

This prestigious honor celebrates school districts that demonstrate exceptional commitment to providing students with access to high-quality music education. In 2026, Pittsford is among just 1,000 school districts nationwide to receive the distinction.

The award recognizes the collective efforts of teachers, administrators, families, students, and community members who help make music education a valued part of the Pittsford experience.

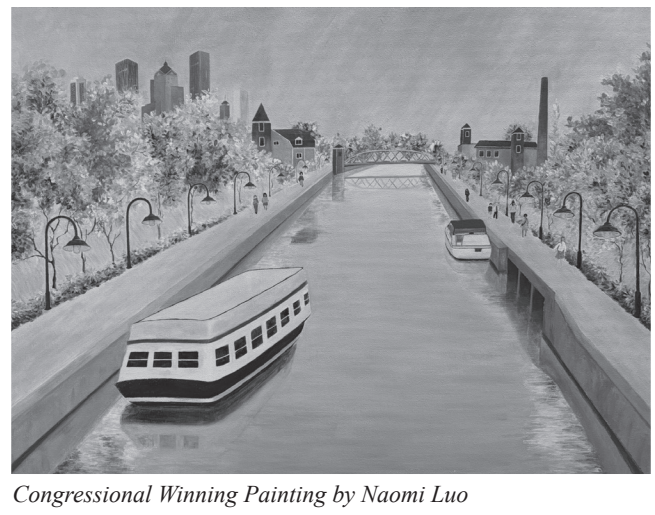
Recipients are selected through a rigorous application and review process that examines key factors such as funding, instructional time, student participation, facilities, and community support.

Sutherland Student Earns Top Prize in Congressional Art Competition

Congratulations to Sutherland High School student Naomi Luo, winner of the Congressional Art Competition for New York's 25th District, represented by Joseph Morelle. As part of this honor, Luo traveled to Washington, D.C., for the national winners' celebration on June 25, 2026.

Presented each spring by the Congressional Institute, the nationwide Artistic Discovery competition celebrates the creativity and talent of high school students across the country. Since its launch in 1982, more than 650,000 students have participated.

Students submit their artwork to their congressional representative's office, where panels of local artists select the winning pieces. Winners are celebrated both in their home districts and at an annual ceremony in Washington, D.C., and their artwork is displayed for one year in the U.S. Capitol.



Congressional Winning Painting by Naomi Luo

2026 class of

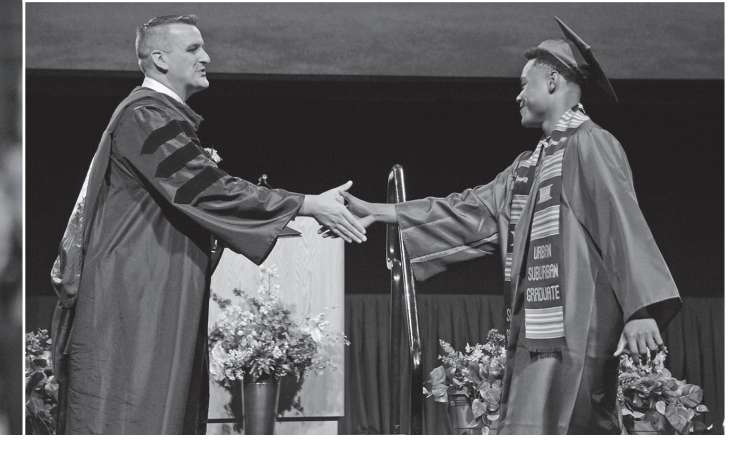
Congratulations Graduates!











The Pittsford Central School District does not discriminate in access, admission, employment, or treatment of participants in any of its programs and activities on the basis of race, religion, age, sex, color, handicapping condition, or ethnic or national origin. This is in compliance with Title IX, OCR Guidelines, and other applicable federal and state laws and regulations. Inquiries regarding compliance issues may be addressed to: Shawn Clark, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, Administration Building, Pittsford Central Schools, 75 Barker Road, Pittsford, New York 14534.

State and National Award Winning Publication

NSPRA National School Public Relations Association

PRSA Public Relations Society of America

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Pittsford

School District News

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