

Pine Plains Central School District
Regular Meeting Minutes
October 6, 2026

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Amie Fredericks, President
Fred Couse, Jr. , Vice President
Amie Buehler
James Griffin
Heidi Johnson
Joseph Kiernan
Jean Stapf

ALSO PRESENT:

Brian Timm, Superintendent of Schools
Laura Rafferty, Business Manager
Julia W. Tomaine, District Clerk

OPEN MEETING

The regular meeting was called to order at 6:00 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.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Griffin moved and Mr. Kiernan seconded a motion to enter into executive session at 6:04 pm to discuss the employment history of particular individual.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously. (Motion #2026/27-101)

Mr. Couse moved and Mr. Kiernan seconded a motion to return to public session at 6:10 pm.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously. (Motion #2026/27-102)

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS WISHING TO SPEAK

Mrs. Fredericks acknowledged the receipt of multiple emails today from members of the community related to the potential closure of Cold Spring.

REPORT OF SECIAL COMMITTEES

None

REPORT OF BOARD AND STANDING COMMITTEES

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SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

1. Mrs. Laura Rafferty, Business Official, reviewed the District's reserve fund balances and made recommendations for each reserve. This will be presented at the next Board of Education meeting. Dr. Timm polled the Audit – Financial Planning Committee for their availability for a meeting. The meeting will be scheduled on October 20, 2026 at 5:00 pm to discuss the year end audit.
2. Julie Shaw, Esq (School District Attorney) gave a recap of the purpose of the BUAC committee, along with the responsibilities of the Board of Education when considering closing a building.
3. Dr. Timm reviewed the Financial Savings of Consolidation document and highlighted the savings of closing Cold Spring. He also indicated that if the buildings were to consolidate and the district continued to own the building the state aid would also continue to be received.
4. Dr. Timm shared the Administrators' Monthly Reports.

Board questions and comments followed.

OLD BUSINESS

none

CONSENT AGENDA

Mrs. Stapf moved and Mr. Griffin seconded a motion to approve consent items 2-4:

2. To accept minutes from the September 15, 2026 regular meeting;
3. To accept financial documents –
 - a. Treasurer's Report (June 2026)
 - b. Cafeteria Report (June 2026)
 - c. Appropriations Report (June 2026)
 - d. Revenue Status Report (June 2026)
 - e. Budget Transfer in the amount of \$1,080,521.41
 - f. Extra-Classroom (June 2026)
 - g. Claims Auditor's Reports and Cash Disbursements - Warrants
4. 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.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously. (Motion #2026/27-103)

NEW BUSINESS – OTHER

Mrs. Stapf moved and Mr. Couse seconded a motion to approve the revised Agreement between the district and the County of Dutchess and the Sheriff of Dutchess County for the placement of a School Resource Officer at a rate of \$109,000 for the 2026-27 school year.

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VOTE: Motion passed unanimously. (Motion #2026/27-104)

Mr. Griffin moved and Mr. Kiernan seconded a motion to approve the attached agreement between Flourishing Minds Applied Behavioral Analyst, P.C. and the District for the purpose of providing functional behavior analysis and behavior intervention plans at a rate of \$85.00 per hour for the 2026-27 school year.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously. (Motion #2026/27-105)

Mr. Couse moved and Mrs. Stapf seconded a motion to approve the following extra-curricular club by-laws for the 2026-27 school year:

- Class of 2027
- Class of 2028
- Class of 2030
- Class of 2031
- Class of 2032
- Bombernation Buddies
- Digital Photography Club
- EF Travel Club
- FCCLA
- Literary Magazine Club
- Mathematics Honor Society
- Mock Trial
- National Honor Society
- Peer and Community Connections Club
- SADD
- Stissing Mtn. Racers
- Student Council (Junior / Senior)
- Varsity Club

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously. (Motion #2026/27-106)

Mr. Griffin moved and Mr. Couse seconded a motion to approve the following resolution: BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby creates the following position:

- One (1) full-time position of Auto Mechanic / Dispatcher, civil service position in the competitive class

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously. (Motion #2026/27-107)

Mr. Griffin moved and Mrs. Stapf seconded a motion to approve the following resolution: BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education revise the established Standard Work Day for Pine Plains Central School District employees whose titles are reported to Employees' Retirement System (ERS), as required by the NYS and Local Retirement System, effective July 1, 2026:

8.0 Hr/Day Positions
Account Clerk

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Head Automotive Mechanic
Automotive Mechanic
*Automotive Mechanic / Dispatcher
Bus Driver - Auto Mechanic Helper
Business Official (Manager I)
Clerk 12 Month
Custodial Worker
Custodial Worker - Summer
Custodian
Director of Facilities II
Dispatcher - Office Assistant
Head Bus Driver
Head Custodian
Maintenance Worker
Head Maintenance Mechanic
Microcomputer Network Specialist
Microcomputer System Director
Payroll Clerk
Personnel Administrator
School Courier/Custodial Worker
School Food Service Director I
Secretary to the Superintendent
Assistant Supervisor of Transportation
Typist 10 Month
Typist 12 Month
*Cook
*Assistant Cook
*Senior Food Service Helper (FT)
Subs

7.0 Hr/Day Positions

Athletic Trainer

RN

Subs

6.5 Hr/Day Position

School Monitor (Cold Spring)

6.0 Hr/Day Positions

Bus Driver

Bus Driver/Custodial Worker

Bus Driver Summer

Food Service Helper

Health Aide

LPN

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School Monitor
School Monitor Summer
Senior Food Service Helper (PT)
Teacher Aide
Teacher Aide - Summer
Subs

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously. (Motion #2026/27-108)

Mr. Griffin moved and Mr. Couse seconded a motion to excess 6th grade ELA resources that are no longer in use per the memorandum from Gian Starr, Director of Curriculum.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously. (Motion #2026/27-109)

Mr. Griffin moved and Mr. Kiernan seconded a motion to accept the bids for the excessed buses per the memorandum from Laura Rafferty, Business Official, as presented at this meeting.

Vehicle	Year Built	Model	Current Mileage	VIN Number	Reason	Bid
#221	2014	Dodge Grand Caravan	160,948	2C4RDGBG2ER170677	Age, High Mileage, Fair Condition	\$1,375
#227	2016	Bluebird Vision – Diesel	152,476	1BAKDCPA4GF319917	Age, High Mileage, Fair Condition	\$5,700
#228	2016	Bluebird Vision – Diesel	172,984	1BAKDCPA6GF319918	Age, High Mileage, Fair Condition	\$5,300
#232	2016	Chevy MicroBird – Gas	184,998	1GB3G3BG5F1277514	Age, High Mileage, Fair Condition	\$4,800
#235	2016	Ford MicroBird - Gas	155,388	1FDEE4FL4GDC24189	Age, High Mileage, Fair Condition	\$5,700
#236	2016	Ford MicroBird - Gas	165,237	1FDEE4FL0GDC24190	Age, High Mileage, Fair Condition	\$5,900

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously. (Motion #2026/27-110)

Mr. Couse moved and Mr. Griffin seconded a motion to approve an overnight field trip:
-Ag Day Camp Out, S. Rhoades

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously. (Motion #2026/27-111)

Mr. Griffin moved and Mr. Kiernan seconded a motion to accept the following policies as a second reading and adoption, as recommended by the Policy Committee:

2120.2 – Voting Procedures

5280 – Interscholastic Athletics

8113 – Extreme Heat Conditions

8635 – Information and Data Privacy, Security, Breach and Notification

8635 R – Information and Data Privacy, Security, Breach and Notification

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously. (Motion #2026/27-112)

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

WHEREAS, the Pine Plains Central School District has experienced a significant declination in student enrollment over the past two decades, and the Board of Education and its Superintendent of Schools began the process in July of 2024 of analyzing short-term and long-term needs in

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order to maintain district programs in a manner consistent with their fiduciary duties and the educational needs of the students; and

WHEREAS, these matters have been publicly discussed and deliberated at numerous meetings since the summer of 2024, and the public has had the opportunity to be heard at open meetings of the Pine Plains Central School District, at Town Board meetings, and at community and staff forums that pre-dated the formation of an advisory committee under Education Law § 402-a; and

WHEREAS, on February 3, 2026, the Board of Education, pursuant to New York State Education Law § 402-a, established a Building Utilization Advisory Committee (“BUAC”) for the purpose of evaluating the educational impact of potentially closing the Cold Spring Early Learning Center (“Cold Spring”) and consolidating students into the Seymour Smith Intermediate Learning Center (“Seymour Smith”) effective commencing with the 2027-28 school year; and

WHEREAS, the BUAC met seven times, conducted facility tours, reviewed enrollment projections, analyzed instructional and operational needs, evaluated multiple grade band configurations, and developed an Educational Impact Statement (“EIS”) addressing all factors required under Education Law § 402-a(2), including enrollment, community impact, fiscal effects, building characteristics, personnel impact, capacity of the receiving school, and alternative uses of Cold Spring, as well as the impact of keeping all three buildings open; and WHEREAS, the EIS was finalized during the summer of 2026, and presented to the Board of Education in August 2026; and

WHEREAS, the EIS concluded that Seymour Smith has sufficient capacity to house all Pre K through Grade 5 students, that consolidation would improve instructional alignment, enhance delivery of special education and support services, reduce transportation and staffing costs, and provide long term fiscal sustainability, while also identifying potential concerns and community impacts, which were all considered within the contours of the EIS; and

WHEREAS, of the BUAC members who voted on the EIS as developed by the BUAC sixteen (16) members supported the EIS as written, three (3) members opposed the EIS as written and one (1) member abstained from supporting or opposing the EIS; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education, by way of the District Clerk, undertook legal notices regarding the availability of the EIS and regarding the notice of a public hearing on the EIS by undertaking publications in newspapers of general circulation, postings in the district’s buildings and placing such legal notices on the District’s website; and

WHEREAS, the Board held a public hearing on September 2, 2026, in accordance with Education Law § 402-a, for the purpose of receiving public comment on the proposed closure, the EIS, and considering any alternatives presented; and

WHEREAS, at said public hearing, the Superintendent presented the history related to the proposed closure of Cold Spring, the development of the EIS, and the factors considered in the EIS, consistent with Education Law § 402-a(2)(a) through (f), and members of the public were afforded the opportunity to present their comment and feedback at such hearing; and

WHEREAS, the Board has reviewed and considered all comments and alternatives presented, the record of the public hearing including all public comments, the EIS and the recommendations of the BUAC;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Pine Plains Central School District hereby determines, pursuant to Education Law § 402-a, that it is in the

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best interests of the District to close the Cold Spring for the purposes of student attendance upon instruction, effective commencing with the 2027-28 school year; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board has considered the potential Environmental Impact of the school closing, and acknowledges that it is a Type II action under the New York State Environmental Quality Act (SEQRA) and its implementing regulations at Section 617.5(c)(10), and determines such closure is a Type II activity, and does not have an environmental impact; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that beginning with the 2027-28 school year, all students, currently assigned to the Cold Spring shall be reassigned to the Seymour Smith, which shall serve as the District's consolidated elementary school for all students in grades Pre-K through 5; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Superintendent of Schools is hereby directed to develop and implement a transition plan addressing staffing, transportation, facilities modifications, communication with families, and student programs, and to explore potential leasing of space in Cold Spring, consistent with considerations contained in the EIS and discussion that ensued at the September 15, 2026 Board workshop; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board expresses its appreciation to the members of the advisory committee for their time and to all community members who participated in this process.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously. (Motion #2026/27-113)

NEW BUSINESS- PERSONNEL

Mrs. Stapf moved and Mr. Griffin seconded a motion to approve EE#2026-4 request for 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 October 2, 2026 per the medical documentation.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously. (Motion #2026/27-114)

Mrs. Stapf moved and Mr. Kiernan seconded a motion to accept the resignation of Maryann Gunther from the position of Bus Driver, effective June 30, 2026.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously. (Motion #2026/27-115)

Mr. Griffin moved and Mr. Kiernan seconded a motion to approve the request from Employee #2026-3 for an extended sick leave per Section 14.2.2.1 of the SRP contract effective on or about October 19, 2026, per the medical documentation.

VOTE: Motion failed unanimously. (Motion #2026/27-116)

Mrs. Stapf moved and Mr. Griffin seconded a motion to appoint the following individuals to the substitute list for the 2026-27 school year, pending completion of all requirements:

- Benjamin Van Kleeck, Teacher
- Monica Hiserodt, Teaching Assistant
- Julian Lamb - School Monitor - Bus Trainee
- Sierra Kapple, Teacher

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VOTE: Motion passed unanimously. (Motion #2026/27-117)

PUBLIC COMMENT

A community member commented on the consolidation of Cold Spring and Seymour Smith.

BOARD COMMENT

Mr. Griffin reminded the BOE and community to see the Haunted Fortress in Standfordville.

Mrs. Fredericks reminded the Board of the following upcoming dates:

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Kiernan moved and Mr. Couse seconded a motion to enter into executive session at 6:59 pm to discuss the employment history of particular individuals.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously. (Motion #2026/27-118)

Mrs. Stapf moved and Mr. Couse seconded a motion to return to public session at 8:02 pm.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously. (Motion #2026/27-119)

ADJOURN

Mr. Kiernan moved and Mrs. Stapf seconded a motion to adjourn at 8:03 pm.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously. (Motion #2026/27-120)

Respectfully submitted,

Julia W. Tomaine,
District Clerk