

**SARANAC LAKE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**Saranac Lake Central School District
Board of Education Public Hearing
High School Auditorium
Wednesday, May 7, 2025 • 5:00 p.m.**

Public Hearing

Board of Education Members in Attendance: Mark Farmer, Joe Henderson, Zac Randolph, Nancy Bernstein, Mike Martin, Tori Thurston arrived at 5:31pm. Excused: Mike Martin

Others in Attendance: Gina Pollock, Diane Fox, Seth Putnam, Caroleigh Meserole, Ellen Yousey, Aaron Marbone, Katie Laba, Melissa Butler, Amy Spicer, Greg Claus, Bruce VanWeelden, Karen Miemis, Eric Bennett, Megan Zander, Joe Thill, Bryan Munn, Zuleyka Oliveras, Muna Kujabi, Suzanne Nicholas

1. **Call to Order** - Called to order at 5:01pm.
2. **2025-26 Saranac Lake Central School Budget Hearing - Diane Fox presents the 2025-26 budget.** This presentation can be viewed via livestream link: <https://youtube.com/live/5VTODx9sCHK?feature=share> and powerpoint is available on the drive.
3. **Public Comments:**
 - a. Ellen Yousey addresses Diane Fox with questions about the budget vote.
4. **Adjournment.** Public Hearing adjourned at 5:45pm.

**Saranac Lake Central School District
Board of Education Public Meeting
High School Auditorium
Wednesday, May 7, 2025 • 5:30 p.m.**

Minutes, BOE Meeting

Board of Education Members in Attendance: Mark Farmer, Tori Thurston, Joe Henderson, Zac Randolph, Nancy Bernstein, Tori Thurston. Excused: Mike Martin

Others in Attendance: Gina Pollock, Diane Fox, Seth Putnam, Caroleigh Meserole, Ellen Yousey, Aaron Marbone, Katie Laba, Melissa Butler, Amy Spicer, Greg Claus, Bruce VanWeelden, Karen Miemis, Eric Bennett, Megan Zander, Joe Thill, Bryan Munn, Zuleyka Oliveras, Muna Kujabi, Suzanne Nicholas

1. **Call to Order - Pledge of Allegiance Meeting called to order at 5:55pm.**
2. **Acceptance of Agenda - Motion by Nancy, second Tori. Approved 6/0/0.**
3. **Consent Agenda - Resolution No. 105-2024** approving the items on the consent agenda. Motion by Justin, second by Joe. **Approved 6/0/0.**
 - a. Minutes
 - i. Acceptance of the minutes of the 4/29/2025 Board of Education Meeting.

b. Resolutions Recommended by the Superintendent:

i. **Personnel**

By recommendation of the Superintendent, authorizing appointments and changes to positions in school district service.

1. **Instructional**

- a. Acknowledgment of the Resignation of **Meghan Wolter**, Registered Nurse, contingent upon appointment to School Nurse Teacher, effective close of business on 10/09/2024.
- b. It is the recommendation of the Superintendent that **Meghan Wolter**, who has permanent certification as a School Nurse Teacher, be appointed to the position of School Nurse Teacher in the school nurse teacher tenure area for a probationary period commencing on 10/10/2024, and anticipated to end 10/09/2028. Salary for the 2024-25 school year is step 7 of the SLTA contract (\$59,128) plus 5%, and \$81 per master's credit hour.
- c. It is the recommendation of the Superintendent that the following individuals be appointed to Substitute Positions. Salary per the 2024-25 Extra Pay and Substitute Rates Schedule.
 - i. **Cayla Teig** - Teacher, Teaching Assistant
 - ii. **Gabriella Weiland** - Teaching Assistant
 - iii. **Vanessa Lang** - Nurse

2. **Non-Instructional**

- a. Acknowledge the resignation of **Ariah Brown**, Aide, effective close of business 05/16/2025.
- b. It is the recommendation of the Superintendent that the following individuals be appointed to Substitute Positions. Salary per the 2024-25 Extra Pay and Substitute Rates Schedule.
 - i. **Cayla Teig** - Monitor, Classroom Aide

3. **Athletics**

- a. Acknowledgment of the resignation of **Brad Varner**, Modified Cross Country Coach, effective May 2, 2025.
- b. Appointment of the following Volunteers for the 2025-26 school year:
 - i. **Brad Varner** - Modified Cross Country

- c. Authorizing student placements recommended by the Committee on Special Education at its meeting on the following dates: 4/11/25, 4/28/25, and 4/29/25.

4. **Old Business**

- a. Capital Project Update (*BOE Goal*)
 - i. Working on air handling units. Turf project - continues to work with the APA.
- b. 25-26 Elementary Staffing Configuration Options - references handout given, Gina to upload to drive. Current enrollment does not match what class size limits are. Our goal is to preserve student programming.
 1. Option 1 - Some students from grades 3,4,5 would go to Bloomingdale Elementary.
 2. Option 2 - Pre k, 1 section of K, 1, and 2 would remain at Bloomingdale, and grades 3,4,5 move from Bloomingdale to Petrova Elementary.
 3. Option 3 - A combination of the two.
- ii. Diane suggests a letter to staff and families to see what their input is regarding this.
- iii. May 21, 2025 BOE meeting at Bloomingdale Elementary, with a question and answer session to start at 5:30pm.
- iv. Decision needs to be made by Early June 2025.
- v. Justin asks about Financial implications of the choices would be beneficial.
- vi. *Gina to update website and invites to reflect that the next board meeting on May 21 will be in Bloomingdale.*

5. Reports

a. Administrators/Supervisors

- i. Amy - Middle School music students at this year's NYSSMA Solo Festival last weekend. NYSSMA's annual solo festival provides an opportunity for our most dedicated student musicians to perform a solo piece on their instrument for evaluation. This year, we had an impressive 26 students participate in this event. Every single one of these students achieved scores within the two highest ranking categories. Three of our students earned perfect scores! This success is a testament to the hard work and dedication each student invested in preparing their solos, as well as their bravery and confidence in performing for a judge. Thank you to Mr. Vanier for his work in guiding and preparing these students for this important event. 8th grade science state test last week and finished our Math State Tests today. Both tests went smoothly. We have two field tests coming up in May, and World Language exams, Regents Exams and all of our local final exams and projects in June. Third annual Saranac Lake Middle School Career Day, taking place on May 21st. 25 local businesses and organizations attending, giving students a valuable opportunity to explore a wide range of careers and connect with professionals from their own community. Career Day is part of the middle school's ongoing effort to inspire students and help them start thinking about their futures with curiosity and confidence. If you are in the area, please stop by the bus circle between 9:00 and 11 am to check it out. Thank you Mrs. McHugh, Mrs. McCormick, and Mr. Hanson for organizing this important event for our SLMS community.
- ii. Bryan - 4th graders going to Heart Lake, science and math testing went well.
- iii. Melissa - NYSED came out with best instructional practices and our primary teachers have been digging into that work. Teachers willingness to adapt has been excellent.
- iv. Suzanne - Franklin Co. Early intervention and public health employee - coming out with children and youth with special healthcare needs. Franklin co. can help students get set up and point them in the right direction for care that they need.
- v. Katie - This week was our 4th episode of Tucked in Tuesday where staff read a bedtime story to students via Parent Square and a video. Walk and bike to school program through 21st Century Programming this morning. On May 8th, 2nd grade going to the Olympic Museum for a field trip. On Friday, awards assembly. On May 13th 3-5 concert and our Bloomingdale Spring Family Night. We have activities and projects throughout the building for our families. It will be from 6-7:30 p.m. and all are welcome to join. We have a family movie night on May 15th. May 16th Moody Tree Farm is having an assembly about trees and will be gifting all students a seedling. On May 21st, having Memorial Day assembly and we will be having area veterans in attendance. The students are collecting coins to help with the Honor Flight Program—and someone from Honor Flight will be in attendance to accept the donation from the students. State Ed visited about 21st century and our grant evaluator said that we were in full compliance and are going to use some of our work as examples for other districts.

b. Student Reps

- i. Zuleyka/Muna - AP exams started this week, teacher appreciation week is this week, breakfast awards today, drivers ed made PSAs about distracted driving.

c. Committee/Liaison

- i. Justin - kids are happy to not have to bring snow pants, staff did crisis prevention training through CPI lots of positive feedback from staff.
- ii. Joe - policy committee met this past week and will be coming to the board at the next couple of meetings. Tomorrow is one of the final DEI committee meeting where they are looking at the updated code of conduct.
- iii. Zac - shouts out to Melissa about curriculum mapping and all the good work that has been done.
- iv. Tori - last week went to Washington DC through the Healthy Heart Association flew her and 17 others to attend 30 meetings for advocacy of healthy school meals and what free school meals have done for our students. Got meetings with Schumer's office and Stefanik's office. The NYS program is federally funded and being threatened.

- 6. Executive Session** - adjourned to Executive Session at 6:38pm, **Approved 6/o/o.**
Reason F. “ The medical, financial, credit or employment history of a particular person or corporation, or matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person or corporation.”
Motion by: Zac, second by Joe. **Approved 6/o/o.**
Reconvened to regular session at 7:04 pm Motion by Tori, second by Joe. **Approved 6/o/o.**
- 7. Adjournment at 7:05pm.** Motion by Nancy, second by Justin. **Approved 6/o/o.**

Respectfully submitted by:
Gina Pollock
District Clerk