

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

**Saranac Lake Central School District
Board of Education Meeting
High School Library
Wednesday, September 10, 2025 • 5:30 p.m.**

Minutes

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

Others in Attendance: Gina Pollock, Diane Fox, Katie Laba, Max Karp, Alliseya Susice, Josh Dann, Erika Bezio, Bryan Munn.

- 1. Call to Order - Pledge of Allegiance** Meeting called to order at 5:30pm.
- 2. Acceptance of Agenda.** Motion by Tori, second by Mike. **Approved 4/o/o.**
- 3. Consent Agenda - Resolution No. 019-2025** approving the items on the consent agenda. Motion by Mike, second by Nancy. **Approved 4/o/o.**
 - a. Minutes
 - i. Acceptance of the minutes of the 08/27/2025 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. It is the recommendation of the Superintendent that the following individuals be appointed to 21st Century Learning Center positions for the 2025-26 school year. Stipends are grant-funded.
 - i. **Redia Spada** - Program Director (\$27,150)
 - b. It is the recommendation of the Superintendent that the following individuals share the ADK Connect Project Coordinator position for the 2025-26 school year, with each receiving \$5,000 (grant-funded).
 - i. **Josh Dann**
 - ii. **Erika Bezio**
 - c. It is the recommendation of the Superintendent that the following individuals be appointed to Substitute Positions. Salary per the 2025-26 Extra Pay and Substitute Rates Schedule.
 - i. **Kathleen Keck** - Teacher & Teaching Assistant
 - ii. **Ezra Webster** - Teacher & Teaching Assistant
 - iii. **Stephen Greis** - Teacher & Teaching Assistant
 - iv. **Alayna Hester** - 21st Century
 - 2. Non-Instructional**
 - a. 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. **Stephen Greis** - Monitor & Aide
 - b. Probationary appointment of **Amber Wilcox** to the position of part-time Food Service Helper, effective 09/05/2025, with probation beginning 09/05/2025 and anticipated to continue until 09/04/2026. Salary for the 2025-26 school year is \$16.91/hr.

- c. Acknowledgment of Intent to Retire of **Timothy Goff**, Custodian-In-Charge, effective close of business October 31, 2025. Tim has been a part of the SLCSB family for 6 years.

3. Athletics

- a. Appointment of the following 2025-26 Volunteers for Athletics:
 - i. **Nate Webb** - Football
- b. Appointment of the following 2025-26 Event Staff. Salary per the SLTA contract:
 - i. **Keegan Muldowney**
 - ii. **Joe Merrihew**
- a. Approval of a shared services contract by and between **Tupper Lake Central School District**, and the Saranac Lake Central School District for orientation and mobility services and/or Teacher of the Visually Impaired services for a student as required for the 2025-26 school year. Saranac Lake School District would be responsible for .375 FTE, which equals \$31,588.13.
- b. Acceptance of a contract by and between **Katelyn Jansen**, Social Worker, and the Saranac Lake Central School District to provide Social Work services for the 2025-26 school year at a rate of \$80.00 per hour.
- c. Authorizing student placements recommended by the Committee on Preschool Special Education (CPSE) at its meeting on CPSE date is: 8/29/25, CSE dates are: 8/25/25 and 9/4/25

4. Public Comments - None.

5. Financial Report

- a. Accounting Reports
 - i. Budget Status Report
 - ii. Budgetary Transfer Report and Approval of Budgetary Transfers
Resolution No. 020-2025 Approving the current Budgetary Transfer Report as presented by the School Business Executive. Motion by Mike, second by Tori. **Approved 4/o/o.**

6. Old Business

- a. Capital Project Update (*BOE Goal*)
 - i. Moving along and almost done at Petrova with Univents.
 - ii. Continuing work on the track. Games last week on Thursday and Friday, very well attended. Clean up being finalized around the track area, and sod to be laid down. Work on sidewalks to continue.
- b. District Facilities Planning Committee (*BOE Goal*)
 - i. Mark has reached out to the ad hoc members of the sub committee and will meet at 5:30pm on September 17th in the HS Library. Mark asks the committee to please bring topics that should be researched and represented at the committee throughout the other meetings.
 - 1. Mike suggests that this group meets at Bloomingdale school for the next meeting.
 - 2. Gina will put the minutes from these meetings on the Board of education section of the website.

7. New Business

- a. Review of NYSSBAs proposed resolutions -Tori
 - i. Came out on the 8th.
 - 1. Gina to assist Tori with putting them into a spreadsheet, and the Board will vote on them at the September 25 meeting.
- b. Selection of the NYSSBA voting delegate
 - i. Nomination comes in from Mark for Tori Thurston to be the NYSSBA voting delegate. Nancy seconds. **Approved 4/o/o.**
Resolution No. 021-2025 Appointing **Tori Thurston** as the NYSSBA voting delegate for the 2025-26 school year.

- c. Federal Advocacy Update - and Meeting with Congressional Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries -
Tori
 - i. Aware that the rural districts are going to fair worse than larger districts.
- d. NYSSBA Superintendent Evaluation Webinar - Tori
 - i. Superintendent Evaluation instrument is supposed to be on our website by end of September. NYSCOSS and NYSSBA evaluation instruments are used by 90% of districts. Helps establish the timeline for the year.
 - ii. Talked about goal setting with the BOE and Superintendent.
 - iii. Tori will share the webinar and the slides tomorrow for the Boards review.

8. Reports

- a. Superintendent
 - i. Started 2025 -26 school year. Had a very productive first two days. Dr. Joe Martin gave professional development seminar on how every person that works at a school district is important for kids.
 - ii. Encouraged Teachers and others that work in their classroom to work together and get to know one another before students arrived.
- b. Administrators/Supervisors
 - i. Katie - Open house- 94% attendance. Friday had PBIS meeting. Started fastbridge and the Dial assessments. Next Monday 21st century programming begins with 32 programs running. Elementary movie night for both Petrova and Bloomingdale at Bloomingdale school on September 17.
 - ii. Erika - Mrs. Fox will be repelling from a building in Plattsburgh on Saturday for the United Way. Four students, Erika and Diane are repelling. Redia Spada is joining 21st century team as Director of Programming.
 - iii. Bryan - smooth start to the school year. 50+ new students at Petrova (mostly from Bloomingdale) started fastbridge testing yesterday. Teachers will start grades 3-5 next week. Behavioral expectations training with the students - pulled out the 2012 videos on youtube and showed them in the auditorium.
 - iv. Josh - freshmen have settled in nicely. Freshmen class elections next week. Student council met today and yesterday. Senior sunrise on Friday. Had an August graduate today. 3 new board reps. Alliseya Susice, Elliott Strack, Ciera Rivers, Max Karp. Senior couriers will work in all the offices and try to eliminate announcements, errands for the offices. Video announcements will be live and coming soon.
- c. Student reports
 - i. Max Karp - fall sports are well under way - the students are really liking the new turf.
 - ii. Alliseya - club fair yesterday, opening day was good and students liked it. Did a game of family feud.
- d. Committee/Liaison
 - i. Mike - loves the turf field. Happy to have many great reports from happy families.

9. Executive Session, Adjourned to executive session at 6:25pm. Motion by Nancy, second by Mike. Approved 4/o/o. For reasons: D, Discussions regarding proposed, pending or current litigation; E, Collective negotiations pursuant to Article 14 of the Civil Service Law (The Taylor Law); 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;

10. Motion to reconvene to Public Session at 7:53pm by Mike, second by Nancy. Approved 4/o/o.

11. Motion to Adjourn by Nancy, second by Mike. Approved 4/o/o.

Respectfully submitted by: Gina Pollock, District Clerk. 9/15/2025