

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

**Saranac Lake Central School District
Board of Education Meeting
High School Library
Wednesday, November 12, 2025 • 5:15 p.m.**

**Public Hearing
Minutes**

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

Others in Attendance: Gina Pollock, Diane Fox, Nikki Sears, Seth Putnam, Josh Dann, Suzanne Nicholas, Ciara Rivers.

- 1. Call to Order** - Public Hearing called to order at 5:15pm
- 2. Discussion of Title I Funding** - Seth Putnam, Title Grant Coordinator
- 3. Adjournment** - Meeting adjourned at 5:25pm.

**Saranac Lake Central School District
Board of Education Meeting
High School Library
Wednesday, November 12, 2025 • 5:30 p.m.**

Minutes

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

Others in Attendance: Gina Pollock, Diane Fox, Nikki Sears, Seth Putnam, Suzanne Nicholas, Josh Dann, Ciara Rivers.

- 1. Call to Order - Pledge of Allegiance** - Meeting called to order at 5:31pm
- 2. Acceptance of Agenda** Motion by Mike, second by Justin. **Approved 6/o/o.**
- 3. Consent Agenda - Resolution No. 030-2025** approving the items on the consent agenda. Motion by Nancy, second by Mike, **Approved 6/o/o.**
 - a. Minutes
 - i. Acceptance of the minutes of the 10/22/2025 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 mentors for the 2025-26 school year. Stipend per the SLTA contract.

- i. **Diane Delahant** - Physical Therapist (JC)
- b. It is the recommendation of the Superintendent that the following individuals be appointed to Substitute Teaching Positions. Salary per the 2025-26 Extra Pay and Substitute Rates Schedule:
 - i. **Jemell Ellis-Branch** - Teacher & Teaching Assistant
 - ii. **Hannah Gochenaur** - Teacher & Teaching Assistant
 - iii. **Logan Baker** - Teacher & Teaching Assistant
 - iv. **Chayse Delosh** - Teacher & Teaching Assistant

2. Non-Instructional

- a. Acknowledgment of Intent to Retire of **Randy Williams**, Custodian, effective close of business January 31, 2026. Randy has been a member of our SLCSD family since 2007.
- b. Acknowledgment of Intent to Retire of **Lisa Gallo**, Senior Typist, effective close of business June 30, 2026. Lisa has been a member of our school family for the past 10 years.
- a. Appointment of **Cayden Swinyer-Churchill** to the position of Work-Study in the Building and Grounds Department. Salary for the 2025-26 school year is \$16.50/hr (minimum wage plus \$1).
- c. It is the recommendation of the Superintendent that the following individuals be appointed to Substitute Non-Instructional Positions. Salary per the 2025-26 Extra Pay and Substitute Rates Schedule.
 - i. **Mitchell Ellsworth** - Aide & Monitor
 - ii. **Azamina Cecunjanin** - Aide & Monitor

3. Athletics

- a. Appointment of the following 2025-26 Volunteers for Athletics:
 - i. **Tristan LaDue** - Varsity Girls Basketball
 - ii. **Frank Strack** - Varsity Girls Hockey
- a. Appointment of the following 2025-26 High School Athletic Positions. Salary per the SLTA contract.
 - i. **Stephanie DeMars** - Assistant Coach, Varsity Girls Ice Hockey
- c. Authorizing student placements recommended by the Committee on Preschool Special Education (CPSE) at its meetings on 10/30/2025 and the Committee on Special Education (CSE) at its meetings on 10/30/2025.
- d. Approval of a contract by and between **Kaylea Harrick**, PT/DPT, and the Saranac Lake Central School District to provide Physical Therapy services for School Year 2025-26 at a rate of \$80.00 per hour.
- e. Approval of a contract by and between **Franklin County Community Services** and the Saranac Lake Central School District to allow Franklin County Community Services to provide reimbursement for a 1:1 Aide for a UPK student at the rate of \$19 per hour for the 2025-26 school year (9/1/2025 -6/30/2026).
- f. Approval of a contract by and between **Franklin County**, acting by and through the County Manager, and the Saranac Lake Central School District for the provision of services to preschool children with disabilities pursuant to section 4410 of New York State Education Law.
- g. Board of Education **Resolution No. 031-2025** - Acceptance of Donation:

WHEREAS, the Saranac Lake Central School District has received a generous donation from Mr. Stuart Kaufman, residing at 12 Sylvan Avenue, Queensbury, New York 12804, in honor of his late father, Mr. Robert Kaufman; and

WHEREAS, the donation consists of a collection of minerals mined regionally and across New York State, as well as rare gems, fossils, and rock specimens, which will serve as a valuable educational resource for the District's science programs and student learning; and

WHEREAS, although it is difficult to assign a precise monetary value to the collection, it is estimated that its total value could be as much as two thousand dollars (\$2,000) if sold;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Saranac Lake Central School District hereby gratefully accepts this donation and extends its sincere appreciation to Mr. Stuart Kaufman for his generosity and support of the District's educational mission; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the collection shall be housed in the Saranac Lake High School Science Department to enhance hands-on learning and to inspire continued interest in earth science among students.

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. 032-2025 Approving the current Budgetary Transfer Report as presented by the School Business Executive. Motion by Zac, second by Joe. **Approved 6/o/o.**
- iii. **Resolution No. 033-2025** School Tax Relevy Motion by Justin, second by Nancy. **Approved 6/o/o.**

6. Old Business

a. Capital Project Update (*BOE Goal*)

- i. **Resolution No. 034-2025** Approving the awarding of a contract for the installation of Backflow Preventers (APN 2425.1) in various buildings to K&L Plumbing & Heating Inc., 7 Kaycee Loop Rd, Plattsburgh, NY 12901, with a base price of \$94,773.00 and a total price of \$94,773.00. Motion by Zac, second by Mike. **Approved 6/o/o.**
- ii. Paving and sidewalk work to resume in the spring. All other items are on the punch list and moving forward.

b. District Facilities Planning Committee Update (*BOE Goal*)

- i. Tours went on in Bloomingdale, Bus Garage, Petrova and High School. Mike feels as though the sub committee got a good understanding of how the buildings operate. Community members (that are on the sub-committee) really valued it as they do not normally have access. Principals of the corresponding buildings and Diane executed tours. Mark appreciated that there was talk of historical aspects such as what classrooms were used for in the past. Mark notes that there have been many major capital improvements re: heating, windows, etc. at Petrova.

c. Electric Bussing Update

- i. Topic has come up in the district facilities planning committee as a consideration that we need to look at.
- ii. Diane and Nancy are going to meet with National Grid to discuss how to upgrade the service to the bus garage to support electric bussing. Nancy has sent him the study that was created. Working on a quote from CPL to relook at transportation study to consider the one route.
- iii. NYSERDA - nancy to contact to see if we can file for an extension on the 2027 mandatory date and what the transition looks like.

7. New Business

a. Shared Space and Staffing Agreements with FEH BOCES

- i. **Resolution No. 035-2025** Approving an Intermunicipal Cooperation Agreement for shared educational services by and between the Franklin-Essex- Hamilton Board of Cooperative Educational Services ("FEHB") and the Saranac Lake Central School District

("SLCSD"), establishing SLCSD as a vendor providing CTE instructional services. Motion by Zac, second by Nancy. **Approved 6/o/o.**

- ii. **Resolution No. 036-2025** Approving a facility lease and rental agreement by and between the Franklin-Essex- Hamilton Board of Cooperative Educational Services ("FEHB") and the Saranac Lake Central School District ("SLCSD"), setting rates for renting of district facilities for CTE programming. Motion by Zac, second by Joe. **Approved 6/o/o.**

8. Reports

a. Superintendent

- i. Diane asks Nikki to look at the additional funds from the closeout of the school year and it is determined that there is an additional \$250k tucked into the transportation budget, \$272k tucked into the repair reserve (repair reserve is not specific to the bus garage, it is district wide) and \$608k tucked into the capital. It was anticipated that there would be money needed up front for bussing. Money was also put into the Maintenance budget as well for the set up of the charging stations for the electric buses that are being mandated come 2027. Mark commends Diane for the way the money has been saved and distributed.
 - 1. Note: The SLCSD voters have to authorize the bus reserve and the capital reserve, not repair reserves.
- ii. Diane - The next sub committee meeting will consist of a lot of information regarding budgeting. Nikki and Diane will do this presentation again for the board at the next BOE meeting.

b. Administrators/Supervisors

- i. Josh - attended sectional games for volleyball, football, and cross country. The teams all did well and should be proud.
- ii. Suzanne - Welcomes SLCSD's New Physical Therapist (Jaclyn Conklin) and Kaylea Harrick, who will be providing support via Occupational Therapy, serving our current preschool students.

c. Student Reps

- i. Ciara - Monday was winter sports meeting, NHS induction ceremony will be happening on Thursday at 7pm , breakfast awards tomorrow as well, winter sports start on Monday 11/17, musical auditions happening soon.

d. Committee/Liaison

- i. Nancy reads Katie Laba's report:
 - 1. Halloween was very exciting at Bdale– had approximately 20 families volunteer to help run center activities and ended with a parade.
 - 2. Last Friday was our monthly assembly, student of the month and effort awards. Focusing on education with the Big Red Matrix and each month focusing on teaching students on a letter of the matrix.
 - 3. Next week is 2nd round of data meetings, a family movie night on Thursday, and Family Academic conferences. Our goal is 100% attendance of at least one family member.
- ii. Joe reads report provided by Amy Spicer -
 - 1. 8th graders recently took part in an exciting field trip to SUNY Plattsburgh for the "I've Been Admitted to College" (IBAC) Day. Students experienced a taste of college life as they toured the campus, explored the dining hall, and visited several academic Departments. Highlights of the day included dusting for fingerprints in the Criminal Justice Department and reading from a teleprompter in front of a green screen in the Communications Department. Students also participated in engaging activities led by education major students, learning firsthand what it's like to be part of a college community. At the end of the day, each student was awarded a certificate that promises SUNY Plattsburgh

Admission upon meeting general application and admission requirements! We understand college is just one option for a successful student's future, and we will continue to work to expose students to alternative careers and post-high-school paths. Mrs. Jackson and Mrs. McHugh organized this annual field trip for our 8th-grade students.

2. Joe may be in the next OnBoard issue, for his work in Environmental Education.

9. Executive Session - Adjourned to Executive session at 6:05pm. 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 Mike, second by Justin. **Approved 6/o/o.**

10. Reconvened to Public Session at 7:18pm, Motion by Joe, second by Mike. **Approved 6/o/o.**

11. Motion to adjourn at 7:19pm by Nancy, second by Joe. **Approved 6/o/o.**

Respectfully submitted by Gina Pollock, District Clerk 11/24/2025.