

**Saranac Lake Central School District
Board of Education Meeting
High School Library
Tuesday, April 21, 2026 • 5:30 p.m.**

Minutes

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

Others in Attendance: Gina Pollock, Nikki Sears, Diane Fox, Elliott Strack, Melissa Butler, Erika Bezio, Katie Laba, Aaron Marbone.

1. Call to Order - Pledge of Allegiance

2. Acceptance of Agenda - Motion by tori, second by Mike. **Approved 5/0/0.**

3. Consent Agenda - Resolution No. 075-2025 approving the items on the consent agenda. Motion by Mike, second by Joe. **Approved as amended. 5/0/0.** (*error on date in Joseph Waters Probation end date*)

a. Minutes

- i. Acceptance of the minutes of the 04/15/2026 Board of Education Meeting.

b. Instructional

- i. 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.
 - 1. **Teresa Troy** - Teacher, TA, 21st Century
 - 2. **Lynda Peer** - Dean of Students

c. Non-Instructional

- i. Probationary appointment of **Joseph Waters** to the position of full-time Bus Monitor, effective 4/21/2026, with probation beginning 4/20/2026 and anticipated to continue until 4/19/2027. Salary for the 2025-26 school year is \$17.76/hr.
- ii. Termination of **Jeffrey Galusha**, Cleaner, effective close of business on April 24, 2026.

d. Athletics

- i. Appointment of the following 2025-26 Volunteers:
 - 1. **Marla McGinnis** - Varsity Softball
 - 2. **Tyler Lesser** - Track and Field
 - 3. **Connor Coventry** - JV Baseball
 - 4. **Tammy Morgan** - Flag Football
- e. *Authorizing student placements recommended by the Committee on Special Education at its meeting on the following dates: CPSE: 3/27/26 CSE:4/13/26, 4/14/26, 4/15/26*
- f. District Budget Vote and Election Officials - authorizing the appointment of the following election workers and any substitutes as needed for the 5/19/2026 district budget vote and Board election:
 - Sue Dwyer - Clerk
 - Barb Martin - Clerk
 - Beryl Szwed- Clerk
 - Elle Finocan - Clerk
 - Christine Fransen - Clerk
 - Doug Fransen - Clerk
 - Marty Lawthers - Clerk
 - Ed Mazdzer - Chief Inspector

~~4. Lobby Day Recap~~ - Moved to a future meeting.

5. Public Comments

Chris Caldwell addresses the board.

6. Financial Report

a. Accounting Reports

- i. Budget Status Report
- ii. Budgetary Transfer Report and Approval of Budgetary Transfers
- iii. **Resolution No. 076-2025** Approving the current Budgetary Transfer Report as presented by the School Business Executive. Motion by Joe, second by Mike. **Approved 5/0/0.**
- iv. **Resolution No. 077-2025** Approving the Extra Pay Schedule (Updated 4/21/2026) Approving the updated 2025-26 Extra Pay & Substitute Rates Schedule. Motion by Mike, second by Zac. **Approved 5/0/0.**

7. Old Business

a. Capital Project Update (*BOE Goal*)

- i. Rest of ground work to start the first week of May.

b. District Facilities Planning

- i. **Resolution No. 078-2025** Approving the use of up to \$100,000 of the funds available in the Repair Reserve for creating a business office/district office space at Petrova. Motion by Mike, second by Joe. **Approved 5/0/0.**
 1. **Resolution No. 079-2025** Approving a contract by and between the Saranac Lake Central School District and Next Era Contracting in the amount of \$34,750 for wall patching, priming and painting, and the addition of drop ceilings. Motion by Tori, second by Zac. **Approved 5/0/0.**
 2. **Resolution No. 080-2025** Approving a contract by and between the Saranac Lake Central School District and Next Era Contracting in the amount of \$33,500 for required electrical upgrades. Motion by Mike, second by Joe. **Approved 5/0/0.**

8. New Business

a. **Resolution No. 081-2025** Resolution for Approval of the FEH BOCES Administrative Budget: Motion by Mike, second by Joe. **Approved 5/0/0.**

- i. BE IT RESOLVED that the Saranac Lake Central School District Board of Education **approves/disapproves** the 2026-2027 Franklin-Essex-Hamilton BOCES Board of Cooperative Education Services Administrative Budget in the amount of \$3,650,181.

b. **Resolution No. 082-2025** Resolution for Board Membership Motion by Zac, second by Tori. Each of the below **Approved 5/0/0.**

- i. BE IT RESOLVED that the Saranac Lake Central School District Board of Education cast one ballot for each of the following candidates for membership on the Franklin-Essex-Hamilton BOCES Board of Cooperative Educational Services: (*Check mark placed beside the name of the nominations for candidates that the Board of Education has cast a vote for*)

1. ☒ Jill Bujold - Tupper Lake
2. ☒ Nicholas Cicchinelli - St. Regis Falls
3. ☒ Maryellen Cooke - Salmon River
4. ☒ Lori Green - Chateaugay
5. ☒ Joanne Williams - Lake Placid

c. Draw Lots for the placement of school board candidates.

- i. 1st name on ballot - Scott Gibson
- ii. 2nd name on ballot - Joe Henderson
- iii. 3rd name on ballot - Mike Martin

d. Possible cancellation of the Board of Education Meeting currently scheduled for April 29, 2026. Motion by Tori, second by Joe. **Approved 5/0/0. April 29 2026 Meeting is cancelled.**

9. Reports

a. Superintendent

- i. May 27, 2026 Board Retreat proposed. Possible topics - Northville Superintendent, and NYSSBA Resolutions.
 - ii. Diane would like to request an executive session.
- b. Administrators/Supervisors
 - i. Melissa - Cycle 4 of Curriculum professional development focuses on examining Next Ready Classrooms and our own learning spaces through a DEI lens, and considering the implications of equity depending on which classrooms our students walk into, culminating in commitments to concrete shifts we can each make to uphold district-wide accountability.
 - ii. Erika - awarded 2026 empire state summer service core member alum of SL and will be joining the community school team. Thursday August 27 from 4-7pm is Ready for School.
 - iii. Katie - Last Friday, we celebrated Earth Day at Bloomingdale with a presentation by the Franklin County Soil and Water Conservation program. The students planted trees and were given a sapling to plant at home as well. Tomorrow starts our annual Walk to School program. On Wednesdays students can walk to school with school staff from the Bloomingdale Fire Department as part of our 21st Century programming. This highlights the importance of physical activity and movement for our students. On Thursday, we will be giving family tours of Petrova for our current Bloomingdale families. We currently have 71 people signed up to tour. On May 8th, we will be having an Alphabet Fashion show for families to attend. June 2nd is the Bloomingdale Community Open House 5-6:30 p.m. All community members are welcome to attend to tour the building, look at old yearbooks and share memories.
- c. Student Reps
 - i. Elliott - Athletic photos are tomorrow.
- d. Committee/Liaison
 - i. Joe - CSEA negotiation committee met with the board labor committee and were very productive.
 - ii. Tori - Wayne Rogers is not re-running for his position as Area 6 Director. Tori is interested in running for it. It would be in addition to the SLCSO BOE.
 - iii. Mike - negotiations went fantastic.

10. Adjournment to Executive Session - Motion by Mike, second by Zac. Approved 5/0/0. Reason F. at 6:10pm.

11. Returned to regular session at 7:44pm. Motion by Joe, second by Mike. Approved 5/0/0.

12. Adjourned at 7:44pm. Motion by Mike, second by Joe. Approved 5/0/0.

Respectfully Submitted by: Gina Pollock 4/22/2026