

**Saranac Lake Central School District
Board of Education Meeting
High School Library
Wednesday, May 20, 2026 • 5:30 p.m.**

Minutes

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

Others in Attendance: Gina Pollock, Diane Fox, Sadie Kaltenbach, Erika Bezio, Katie Laba, Jerri Johnson, Bryan Munn, Amy Spicer, Kathy Latour, Eric Bennett, Karen Miemis, Aaron Cerbone.

1. Call to Order - Pledge of Allegiance

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

3. Consent Agenda - Resolution No. 086-2025 approving the items on the consent agenda. Motion by Mike, second by Nancy. **Approved 5/0/0.**

a. Minutes

- i. Acceptance of the minutes of the 05/06/2026 Public Hearing and Board of Education Meeting.

b. Instructional

- i. Acknowledgment of the Intent to Retire of **Diane Fox**, Superintendent, effective close of business August 31, 2026. Diane has been a part of the SLCSD family for 13 years.
- ii. Acknowledgment of the Intent to Retire of **Jennifer Moore**, Art Teacher, effective close of business September 30, 2026. Jennifer has been part of the SLCSD family for 31 years.
- iii. Accept the Resignation of **Kristin Hutchins**, Middle School Teacher, effective close of business May 22, 2026.
- iv. Accept the Resignation of **Kaitrin Maidelis**, Middle School Teacher, effective close of business June 30, 2026.
- v. 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. **Abigail Clemmons** - Teacher & Teaching Assistant
 - 2. **Abigail Gavin** - Teacher & Teaching Assistant
 - 3. **Cayla Teig** - Teaching Assistant
 - 4. **Sarah Drake** - Teacher & Teaching Assistant
- vi. It is the recommendation of the Superintendent that the following individuals be appointed to Substitute Positions. Salary per the 2026-27 Extra Pay and Substitute Rates Schedule.
 - 1. **Tyler Chase** - Teacher & Teaching Assistant

c. Non-Instructional

- i. Accept the Resignation of **Monica Schmidt**, Senior Typist, effective close of business June 30, 2026.
- ii. Accept the Resignation of **James Callaghan**, School Monitor, effective close of business May 15, 2026.
- iii. Accept the Resignation of **Stephen Miller**, Custodian, effective close of business on June 7, 2026, contingent upon the appointment to Head Custodian.
- iv. Probationary appointment of **Stephen Miller** to the position of full-time Head Custodian, effective 6/8/2026, with probation beginning 6/8/2026 and anticipated to continue until 6/7/2027. Salary for the 2025-26 and 2026-2027 school year is **\$49,000/year.**

- v. It is the recommendation of the Superintendent that the following individuals be appointed to Substitute Non- Instructional Positions. Salary per the 2026-27 Extra Pay and Substitute Rates Schedule.
 - 1. **Christine Fransen** - Senior Typist
 - 2. **Cayla Teig** - Aide and Monitor
- d. **Athletics**
 - i. Appointment of the following 2026-27 High School Athletic Positions. Salary per the SLTA contract.
 - 1. **Dale Hayes** - Event Staff
- e. Authorizing student placements recommended by the Committee on Special Education at its meetings on the following dates: 3/11/26, 4/24/26, 4/29/26, 4/30/26, 5/4/26, 5/11/26, and the CPSE meeting on 4/29/26.

4. Public Comments - No comments.

5. Financial Report

- a. Accounting Reports
 - i. Budget Status Report - in the drive.
 - ii. Budgetary Transfer Report and Approval of Budgetary Transfers
Resolution No.087-2025 Approving the current Budgetary Transfer Report as presented by the School Business Executive. Motion by Joe, second by Tori. Approved 5/0/0.

6. Old Business

- a. Capital Project Update (*BOE Goal*) here today smoothing out area for new sidewalk. Doing a little work at Petrova, and will be finishing up. Tennis/Pickleball courts are going to be blacktopped, getting ready for our concession stand.
- b. District Facilities Planning this week we sent out a tentative petrova building map and tentative roommate assignments for the junion/senior high school. New desks will be coming for those that are sharing rooms. 7 and 8 grades will start across from the gym and then will go to the edge of where the offices start. Music and Art will be together, as the district offices are going to Petrova. Nancy asks where will the budget vote will take place and Diane responds that that is to be determined. Classroom might be turned into a board room, and if so it would bring an ease of physical setup and technology can remain set up as well. Elementary still building schedule, but coming to the final phases. On hold with the high school, as all the prior work has been done, will need to be run through when schedule is completed this summer.

7. New Business

- a. CSEA Contract
Resolution No. 088-2026Ratifying the collective bargaining agreement by and between the CSEA. Inc., Local 1000, AFSCME, AFL-CIO, and the Saranac Lake Central School District for the period of 07/01/2026 to 06/30/2030. Motion by Mike, second by Nancy. **Approved 5/0/0.**
- b. 2026 Farm to School Award - Sadie Kaltenbach - 30% of SLCSO food is from local farms.
 - i. *"This award highlights exemplary farm to school initiatives across NYS that demonstrate innovation, impact, and strong partnerships. Your project reflects meaningful collaboration with local farms, creative approaches to integrating local foods and a commitment to strengthening connections between schools and their communities. The work you and your team have led is making a measurable difference for the students you serve. On behalf of the selection committee, we commend your leadership and dedication to advancing farm to school efforts. Your project serves as a model for other districts and exemplifies the power of partnerships in supporting child nutrition and local agriculture."*
- c. 2026-27 Administrative Staffing Configuration
 - i. Diane hands out two documents with information regarding the administrative possibilities for the 2026-27 school year. (*Gina to upload to drive*)
 - 1. Anticipated student count at Petrova for 2026-27 = 443. J/S high school student count for 2026-27 = 522.

- a. New administration, new students at the Junior/Senior High School. Diane feels as though 2 administrators and a dean would be most effective.
 - b. Diane suggests Petrova should have an administrator, a vice principal (would be a 10 month position) and a dean.
2. Joe Henderson puts motion on the table with the recommendation of 1 principal, 1 vice principal, and 1 dean at Petrova, and 2 principals and 1 dean at junior/senior high school and Mark agrees. Seconded by Mike. Approved 5/0/0.

8. Reports

a. Superintendent

- i. Thanks everyone for coming out and voting, decent turn out. Thanks Scott Gibson for running for the board and hope that he stays connected.
- ii. Forrest and Diane met with Lake Placid about our merged and combined teams. Concerned about our soccer program and the feasibility of it in the next few years which lead into a larger conversation about when do we combine teams and right now we have a gentleman's agreement which we do not do per athlete costs, so a feasibility study was proposed with a 3 year look. Russ Bartlet is doing it for us. The \$6200 cost will be divided between Saranac Lake and Lake Placid, and will include athletic participation analysis, district size analysis, NYSPHAA and sectional considerations, costs, community and organizational impact, youth athletic opportunities, and strategic options. How do we talk about reducing sports should it come to that. 8-12 weeks we will have results.

b. Administrators/Supervisors

- i. Josh had our prom and after prom on May 9 and 10, 175 students attended prom. Evergreen Auto and the Elks donated a car that was raffled off and won by Lily Zander. Just finished up 6 AP exams, played Unified basketball game against Beekmantown on May 14 that had a packed house for attendance and the students had a great time. Yesterday the seniors visited the Essex County Courthouse in Elizabethtown. They have a new commissioner of jurors that is very encouraging of school groups to visit. Marching will be in the Memorial day parade on Monday.
- ii. Amy - 4th Annual Career Day yesterday. We had representatives from over 15 local businesses and organizations, giving our students a valuable opportunity to explore a wide range of careers and connect with professionals from our own community. They tried out boxing, read an x-ray in Dr. Bentley's Paws and Claws mobile vet lab, learned about a dog sled business out of Bloomingdale, and interacted with law enforcement from the SLPD, NYS Troopers and the DEC, to name a few. 3rd annual Freshman Orientation today. Our 8th graders were given a warm welcome by the HS Specials teachers in the auditorium where they learned about the electives they will be able to take next year. They then toured the high school, participated in a PE class and learned about the high school academic expectations from four seniors, Mr. Dann, Mrs. Braun and Mrs. Cassidy. Freshman Open House on June 4th for Freshman and their families, tours for our rising 7th and 8th graders on Friday, June 12th, and an Open House for our Rising 7 and 8th graders and their families on Monday, June 22nd.
- iii. Bryan - outdoor classroom day was today that Temnit Muldowney put together. Dance Sanctuary, State Police, DEC and others attended. End of year Benchmark assessments taking place and leading to end of the year data meetings, with 504 meetings coming up. Field days start next week.
- iv. Erika - was invited to attend a Franklin County meeting with Rachel Karp and Jeremy Evans - who put together a study on workforce constraints of daycare on employees. People around the table were the large employers in the area - Adirondack Health, NCCC, The Wild Center etc. It was interesting to hear that the source of the problem is mostly us - for example snow days, half days, etc. It was wonderful to be able to say that while the school does create this problem, Community Schools is able to assist, with community partners such as the YMCA covering both snow days tomorrow and Friday.
- v. Katie Laba - Today we started our day with our 21st Century Walk to School Program and then K-2 attended the Outdoor Classroom Day at Petrova. Thank you to Temnit Muldowney for organizing and inviting us to attend. Students were also able to

experience the cafeteria, playground and classrooms. We are in the midst of our end of the year assessments and we will have our data meetings on May 28th. Next week our K staff will be meeting with current UPK providers to discuss our incoming K students to help guide their transition.

c. Committee/Liaison

- i. Joe - DEI Committee met last week, the last one of the year. Attended great spring concerts lately. *Joe left at 6:30pm.*
- ii. Nancy - Electric School Bus Mandate moved to potentially 2032 (5 year delay). The new one bus run Fleet electrification plan will be sent to National Grid, and will discuss with CLL in July. Clean Green Schools Initiative - over 5 million dollars in grant money available per building. Nancy looked into it to see if it could be used to improve the possibility of transitioning to electric bussing in the future, waiting to hear back. NYSSBA DEI committee met and discussed policy.
- iii. Tori - Waiting to hear about the state budget and what the results are. This is the latest budget since 2010.
- iv. Mike - appreciates the Essex County Courthouse fieldtrip, had a major impact on the students that he teaches at AEC.

9. Executive Session, 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. And Reason D, “Discussions regarding proposed, pending or current litigation. **Adjourned to the exec session at 6:41pm.** Motion by Tori, second by Mike. **Approved 4/o/o**

10. A Reconvened to Public Session at 7:05pm, motion by Mike, second by Tori. **Approved 4/o/o.**

11. Adjourned at 7:06pm, motion by Nancy, second by Tori. **Approved 4/o/o**