PINE BUSH CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
NOMINATING PETITION & INFORMATIONAL MATERIAL

☐ **Nominating Petition Form***:* MUST BE TURNED INTO THE OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT CLERK BY **5 p.m. on MONDAY, APRIL 20, 2026.** *(This petition requires a minimum of 25 signatures)*

☐ **On Tuesday, April 21, 2026,** there will be a drawing in the district office at approximately 3 p.m. to determine the order of candidates on the May 19, 2026 ballot. *You are invited to attend.*
Our communications coordinator will be in attendance to take your photo for the budget newsletter. You are welcome to submit your favorite photo if you prefer.

☐ **Policies/Board Member Qualifications***:* A packet of board policies is included that provides general information regarding membership on a board of education. Also included is information from the 40th School Law Edition pertaining to board member qualifications.

☐ Included is a copy of the board policy regarding the requirements for board candidates, **Reporting of Expenditures and Contribution,** as well as documentation to assist in submitting this information.

☐ **Campaigning on School Property/Distributing Flyers**: Campaigning on school property is prohibited. District policy indicates that campaigning and/or distribution of flyers by employees is not permitted on school property.

☐ **Candidate profile information for inclusion in the district's budget newsletter is requested.** Please provide that information at https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2TZQW86 . For your information, a sample from a previous budget newsletter is included, as well as the questionnaire that you will complete on the website. You may also contact Linda Smith, Communications Coordinator, at linda.smith @pinebushschools.org. **The questionnaire MUST be completed online no later than April 20, 2026, earlier if possible.**

☐ **FYI IMPORTANT**: Budget calendar with important dates. There is a "star" placed in front of two dates. The first is the date the **petitions must be turned in**, and the second is the date of the **budget hearing**. Any individual who has submitted a petition for candidacy by the deadline as indicated, is invited to attend this meeting to be introduced to the public. At the budget hearing, prior to the presentation of the budget to the public, each board candidate will be introduced and given the opportunity to speak for approximately three (3) minutes regarding his/her candidacy.

If you should have any questions, require additional information, or if I can be of any further assistance, please feel free to contact me. Thank you for your interest in serving on the Pine Bush CSD Board of Education.

Maria Wise, District Clerk
(845) 744-4023 maria.wise@pinebushschools.org

☐ **Poll Watchers***:* Please be advised that you have the right under the Education Law to appoint poll watchers. **We suggest that you appoint no more than two poll watchers per polling place**. These poll watchers may observe the election, but may not hinder the voting process, nor may they engage in electioneering within 100 feet of the polling place. Poll watchers will be permitted to sit within a reasonable proximity to the election inspectors' table, but may not hover over the election inspectors' table, nor may they stand next to the voting machines. In addition, as is the right of any resident of the district, poll watchers may be present during the canvassing of the ballots. Included is a Poll Watching Certificate for submission if you wish to appoint a poll watcher.

☐ **Upcoming workshops:**

Workshop for Prospective Board Members: Workshop offered through Orange County School Boards Association for individuals interested in serving on a school board. This workshop is offered in in person on Saturday, March 21, 2026, 9 – 11 a.m. at OUBoces or virtually on Tuesday, March 24, 2026, 7 - 9 p.m.. To register, email: karyn.meier@ocsba.com. Flyer enclosed.

Mandated Training for NEW School Board Members - June 9, 2026 and June 11, 2026
There are two mandated trainings for new board members: "School District Governance "
will be held in two parts at O-U BOCES, 6 – 9 p.m. Flyer enclosed with registration instructions. The other mandated training is offered through New York State School Board Association (NYSSBA), see information enclosed.

TO: DISTRICT CLERK
PINE BUSH CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

We, the undersigned, hereby NOMINATE_____as a candidate for the position of member of the PINE BUSH CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION.

For your information: Board members are elected at large. It is anticipated that two board members are to be elected at the May 19, 2026 Annual Budget Vote/Election. The terms of office for the two (2) available seats will be as follows: two (2) seats for a three-year term (July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2029). The terms of office for the two (2) seats that will be available as of July 1, 2026 are due to the expiration of the terms of office of Kristi Kheiralla and Cara Robertson, expiring as of June 30, 2026.

CANDIDATE:_____

STREET ADDRESS: _____

CITY:_____ **STATE:**_____ **ZIP:**_____

TOWN:_____ **COUNTY:**_____

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PETITIONS MUST BE RETURNED TO P.B.C.S.D. OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT CLERK BY MONDAY, APRIL 20, 2026, 5:00 PM
A MINIMUM OF 25 SIGNATURES OF QUALIFIED VOTERS ARE REQUIRED

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BOARD POLICIES
For your information

Policy 1120: Board of Education Members: Qualifications, Numbers and Terms of Office

Policy 1210: Board of Education Members: Nomination and Election

Policy 1220: Reporting of Expenditures and Contributions

Policy 1310: Powers and Duties of the Board

Policy 3272: Advertising in Schools

POLICY

2020 1120

Bylaws

SUBJECT: BOARD OF EDUCATION: QUALIFICATIONS, NUMBERS AND TERMS OF OFFICE

A Board member of the District must meet the following qualifications:

a) A citizen of the United States;

b) Eighteen years of age or older;

c) Able to read and write;

d) A legal resident of the District for a continuous and uninterrupted period of at least one year prior to the election;

e) Cannot be an employee of the District;

f) The only member of his or her family (that is, cannot be a member of the same household) on the District Board;

g) May not simultaneously hold another incompatible public office, including, but not limited to Superintendent, clerk, tax collector, treasurer or librarian, or an employee of the Board. In union free and central school districts, however, a Board member may be appointed clerk of the Board and of the District.

h) Must not have been removed from a school district office within one year preceding the date of appointment or election to the Board.

Number of Members

The Board of the District will consist of seven members elected by the qualified voters of the District at the annual election as prescribed by law.

Terms of Office

Members of the Board will serve for three years beginning July 1 following their election and each term will expire on the 30th day of June of the third year.

Education Law §§ 1602, 1702(1), 1804(1), 1950(9), 2101, 2102, 2103, 2103-a, 2130(1), 2105, and 2502
Public Officers Law § 3
Town Law § 23(1)

Adopted: 8/24/11
Revised: 9/22/20

POLICY

2020 1210

Bylaws

SUBJECT: BOARD MEMBERS: NOMINATION AND ELECTION

a) Candidates for the office of member of the Board must be nominated by a petition directed to the District Clerk which is signed by at least 25 qualified voters of the District, or by 2% of the number of voters who voted in the previous annual election, whichever is greater. Petitions must state the residence of each signer and the name and residence of each candidate.

b) The notice of the Annual District Meeting must state that petitions nominating candidates for the Board must be filed with the Clerk of the District no later than 30 days before the Annual or Special District Meeting at which the school board election will occur, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

c) Voting will be by machine or paper ballot, and provision will be made for the election by "write-in-vote" of any candidate not previously nominated. The position of candidates on ballots will be determined by lot at a drawing conducted by the District Clerk on the day after the last filing. Candidates or their proxies may be present for the drawing.

d) The hours of voting will be as indicated by Board resolution.

e) The candidates receiving the largest number of votes will be declared elected in accordance with Education Law.

f) At least ten days prior to the election, the Board will appoint at least two inspectors of election for each voting machine or ballot box, and set their salary.

g) The District Clerk will oversee the election. The Clerk will also give notice immediately to each person declared elected to the Board, informing him or her of the election and his or her term of office.

h) Only qualified voters, as determined by Education Law Section 2012, may vote at any District meeting or election.

i) No electioneering will be allowed within 100 feet of the polling place.

j) When a term of office expires at the end of a school year and the office has become vacant at the time of election, the person elected to fill the new full term vacancy also fills the remaining days of the previous term, beginning his or her term of office immediately upon election and the taking and filing of the oath of office.

Education Law §§ 2004, 2012, 2018, 2025, 2029, 2031-a, 2032, 2034, 2105(14), 2121, 2502, 2602, 2608(1), and 2610

Adopted: 8/24/11
Revised: 9/22/20

SUBJECT: REPORTING OF EXPENDITURES AND CONTRIBUTIONS

Each candidate for the position of member of the Board whose expenses and/or contributions received exceed $500 must file a statement accounting for his or her campaign expenditures and contributions with the District Clerk and an additional statement with the Commissioner of Education. In the event the expenses do not exceed $500 and the aggregate amount of all contributions made to the candidate do not exceed $500, then a sworn statement to that effect must only be filed with the District Clerk.

Required contribution statements must include:

a) The dollar amount and/or fair market value of any receipt, contribution, or transfer which is other than money;

b) The name and address of the transferor, contributor, or person from whom received;

c) If that transferor, contributor or person is a political committee as defined in Election Law Section 14-100;

d) The name and political unit represented by the committee;

e) The date of receipt;

f) The dollar amount of every expenditure;

g) The name and address of the person to whom the expenditure was made, or the name of and political unit represented by the committee to which it was made; and

h) The date of the expenditure.

The times for filing the statements are as follows:

a) The first statement on or before the thirtieth day preceding the election to which it relates;

b) A second statement on or before the fifth day before the election;

c) A third statement within 20 days after the election.

Any contribution or loan in excess of $1000 received after the close of the period covered in the last statement filed before the election (b above) but before the election itself must be reported within 24 hours after receipt.

All statements must be sworn before a notary public, a commissioner of deeds, a lawyer or a public official authorized by New York State law to administer oaths.

(Continued)

SUBJECT: REPORTING OF EXPENDITURES AND CONTRIBUTIONS (Cont'd.)

Education Law §§ 1528 and 1529
Election Law § 14-100(1)

Adopted: 3/15/05
Revised: 8/24/11; 9/22/20

POLICY

2020 1310

Bylaws

SUBJECT: POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE BOARD

As a Central School District, the Board has the powers and duties set forth in New York State Education Law, principally Articles 33, 35, and 37, and other applicable federal and state laws and regulations. The Board has, in all respects, the superintendence, management, and control of the educational affairs of the District, and, therefore, has all the powers reasonably necessary to exercise powers granted expressly or by implication, and to discharge duties imposed expressly or by implication, by the laws of New York State and the Commissioner of Education.

Education Law §§ 1604, 1709, 1804, and 2503

NOTE: Refer also to Policy #6540 -- Defense and Indemnification of Board Members and Employees

Adopted: 8/24/11
Revised: 9/22/20

POLICY

2024 3272

Community Relations

SUBJECT: ADVERTISING IN THE SCHOOLS

District facilities, staff, and students will not be used or employed in any manner for advertising or otherwise promoting the interests of any commercial, political, or other non-school agency, individual, or organization, except that:

a) Schools may cooperate in furthering the work of any non-profit, community-wide, social service agency, provided that their cooperation does not restrict or impair the educational program of the schools or conflict with the Rules of the Board of Regents;

b) The schools may use films or other educational materials bearing only simple mention of the producing firm;

c) The Superintendent may, at his or her discretion, announce or authorize to be announced, any lecture or other community activity of particular educational merit;

d) The schools may, upon approval of the Superintendent, cooperate with any agency in promoting activities in the general public interest that are non-partisan and non-controversial, and that promote the education and other best interests of the students.

No materials of a commercial nature will be distributed through District students except as authorized by law or the Commissioner's regulations. The District reserves the right to refuse to distribute flyers for events that are held at locations that encourage activities that conflict with the *Code of Conduct*.

New York State Constitution Article VIII, Section 1
8 NYCRR Section 19.6

Adopted: 8/24/11
Revised: 11/12/13; 9/22/20; 7/23/24

NYS School Law Book – 40th Edition
Public School Goverance : 6. School Board Members
Qualifications

6:1. What are the qualifications for membership on a school board?

To qualify for membership on a school board in a common, union free, central, central high school, or small city school district, an individual:

- Must be able to read and write (§ 2102).
- Must be a qualified voter of the district; that is, a citizen of the United States, at least 18 years of age or older, and not adjudged to be an incompetent (§§ 2102, 2012, 2502(7); Elec. Law § 5-106(6)). (Note: a convicted felon is barred from running for a seat on a school board while he or she is incarcerated for such felony (Elec. Law § 5-106(2)–(4)).
- Must be and have been a resident (but need not be a taxpayer) of the district for a continuous and uninterrupted period of at least one year (30 days in the city of Rensselaer (§ 2502(9-a)(d)) immediately before the election (§§ 2102, 2502(7), (9)(d); *Appeal of Baleno*, 30 Ed Dept Rep 358 (1991); see *Appeal of Crawford*, 59 Ed Dept Rep, Dec. No. 17,785 (2019)).
- May not have been removed from any school district office within the preceding year (§ 2103(2); *Application of Montante*, 57 Ed Dept Rep, Dec. No. 17,148 (2017)).
- May not reside with another member of the same school board as a member of the same family (§ 2103(3); *Rosenstock v. Scaringe*, 40 N.Y.2d 563 (1976)).
- May not be a current employee of the school board (§ 2103(4); see **6:3**, **6:11**).
- May not simultaneously hold another incompatible public office (*Matter of Schoch*, 21 Ed Dept Rep 300 (1981); see also **6:6–11**).

In large city school districts, different rules of law and/or exceptions to the above rules may govern membership on the school board (see §§ 2553(1), 2590-b(1)(a), (7)(d)).

6:2. May a school district impose additional requirements for school board membership?

No. A school district may not require candidates for a school board position to meet eligibility requirements in addition to those imposed by statute (*Application of Grinnell*, 37 Ed Dept Rep 504 (1998); *Matter of Guilderland CSD*, 23 Ed Dept Rep 262 (1984)).

In one case, the commissioner of education invalidated a "gentlemen's agreement" observed by a school district for more than 60 years, under which seats of elected school board members were allocated among the communities comprising the district (*Appeal of Gravink*, 37 Ed Dept Rep 393 (1998)).

6:3. May a former employee of the school district serve on the school board?

Yes, even where the school board could address a matter directly pertaining to the former employee's personal interests, such as continuing retiree health insurance benefits, because contracts with a teachers' union, which is a voluntary non-profit association, are exempt from the provisions of the conflict of interest law (*Appeal of Budich*, 48 Ed Dept Rep 383 (2009); *Application of Casazza*, 32 Ed Dept Rep 462 (1993); see Gen. Mun. Law § 802(1)(f); see also **12:6–13**, for more information on conflicts of interest).

6:4. May an individual be a school board member if that person's spouse is employed by the district?

Yes. There is no prohibition against the employment of spouses, children, or other relatives of board members to positions in the district. Nor are board members prohibited from being elected or appointed to the board if that person's spouse, child or other relative is employed by the district.

Furthermore, due to a specific statutory exception, a "contract of employment" between the district and a board member's relative does not create a prohibited conflicting interest for the board member (Gen. Mun. Law § 800(3)(a); *Appeal of Pulizzi*, 57 Ed Dept Rep, Dec. No. 17,249 (2017); *Appeal of Budich*, 48 Ed Dept Rep 383 (2009); *Appeal of Behuniak & Lattimore*, 30 Ed Dept Rep 236 (1991); see **12:6–7**, **12:11**).

6:4 continued

The Education Law, however, requires a two-thirds vote by the board to employ a teacher who is related to a board member by blood or by marriage (§ 3016; *Application of Kozak*, 40 Ed Dept Rep 195 (2000)). The two-thirds vote requirement does not apply and has no effect on the continued employment of a tenured teacher who is initially hired before his or her relative is elected or appointed to the school board (*Appeal of Heizman*, 31 Ed Dept Rep 387 (1992)).

The commissioner of education has determined that the two-thirds vote requirement applies to the appointment of school social workers and supervisory staff (*Appeal of McNamara*, 30 Ed Dept Rep 272 (1991); *Appeal of Levine*, 76 St. Dept. Rep. 41 (1955)).

6:5. May a member of the clergy seek office as a member of a school board?

Yes. The U.S. Supreme Court declared unconstitutional any ban on the eligibility of members of the clergy to run for public office, provided they meet all the statutory qualifications (*McDaniel v. Paty*, 435 U.S. 618 (1978)).

Incompatibility of Office

6:6. May a school board member run for or hold an additional public office?

There is no general prohibition against holding two or more public offices at the same time (Opn. Att'y Gen. I 82-1). However, there may be situations in which two public offices or positions of employment may be in conflict with each other. In such an instance, a school board member would be precluded from holding two such offices or positions simultaneously (*People ex rel. Ryan v. Green*, 58 N.Y. 295 (1874); see **6:7–9**).

6:7. What makes two public offices or positions of employment incompatible with one another?

Two public offices or employment positions may be incompatible with each other if a statute or the common law doctrine of compatibility precludes school board members, district officers or employees from holding such positions simultaneously. For example, one person cannot simultaneously hold two public offices or positions of employment if one office is subordinate to the other, such that the person would essentially be his or her own boss, or if the functions of the two positions are inherently inconsistent with each other, such as serving simultaneously as the district's finance officer and as the auditor responsible for the integrity of the district's finances (see *O'Malley v. Macejka*, 44 N.Y.2d 530 (1978); Opn. Att'y Gen. I 92-13). There must be a great likelihood of a division of loyalties or a conflict of duties between the offices, not merely a possibility that such complications may arise on occasion.

The doctrine of compatibility of office does not prohibit an individual from being a candidate for election to a second office where that office is incompatible with the first, if he or she intends to resign from the first office if elected to the second. However, if there is a specific provision of law that makes two offices or positions incompatible, such a provision of law may expressly disqualify a person from even being a candidate for a second incompatible office or position (Opn. Att'y Gen. I 89-62; see **6:8**). The failure of an individual to resign from a statutorily incompatible office prior to election as a school board member would require a school district to nullify the election of such individual to its school board (*Appeal of Fries*, 50 Ed Dept Rep, Dec. No. 16,182 (2010)).

Once elected and upon accepting the second office, an individual vacates the first office automatically (Opn. Att'y Gen. I 89-62; *People ex rel. Ryan v. Green*, 58 N.Y. 295 (1874)).

Even where two public offices or positions of employment are compatible, a situation may arise in which holding both offices creates a conflict of interest. If this occurs, the conflict can be avoided by declining to participate in the conflicted matter (Opn. Att'y Gen. I 92-13).

CAMPAIGN EXPENDITURE AND CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS FOR CANDIDATES FOR MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION PINE BUSH CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT May 19, 2026 ELECTION

- In accordance with Sections 1528 and 1529 of the Education Law, all candidates for member of the Board of Education must file three campaign expenditure and contribution statements.

  1. The first statement is due on or before the 30th day before the election (April 20, 2026)
  2. The second statement is due on or before the 5th day before the election (May 14, 2026);
  3. The third statement is due within 20 days after the election (by June 8, 2026).

- The campaign expenditure and contribution statements must be completed, signed by the Board candidate and notarized by a notary public.

- If a Board candidate expends and/or others expend on his/her behalf less than $500, and the aggregate amount of contributions to the candidate does not exceed $500, a sworn statement to that effect must be filed with the District Clerk.

- If a Board candidate expends more that $500 or receives more that $500 in contributions or loans, a sworn statement must be filed with both the **District Clerk and the Commissioner of Education.**

- If the expenditures and/or contributions are more that $500, the expenditure and contribution statements must include the following information:

  - Dollar amount of any contribution or transfer or the fair market value of any item which is other than money;
  - The name and address of the transferor, contributor or person from whom received;
  - If the transferor or contributor is a political committee, the date of receipt, the dollar amount of every expenditure, and the name and address of the person to whom it was made;
  - The date of the expenditure(s) and a description of the expenditure(s).

- Any contribution or loan that exceeds $1,000 received after the close of the period covered in the last statement before the election must be reported within 24 hours after receipt. That statement must be completed, signed by the candidate and notarized.

- Includes payments for travel expenses, writing, printing and transmission costs of any letter, circular or other publication containing a statement of position or views of the candidate or other person upon public or other questions, including stationery, and postage, telegraph, telephone and public messenger service.

PINE BUSH CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
EXPENDITURE AND CONTRIBUTION STATEMENT
FOR CANDIDATES FOR MEMBER OF
THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

The following statement (including attachment, if necessary) shall be completed, signed, notarized and filed with the District Clerk of the **Pine Bush CSD,** PO Box 700, Pine Bush, New York. If total expenditures, including those incurred by others on my behalf, with my approval, exceed $500 or the aggregate amount of contributions to my campaign exceed $500, this statement must also be filed with the Commissioner of Education, NYS Education Department, State Education Building, 89 Washington Avenue, Albany, New York 12234. **Filing with NYSED is the responsibility of the candidate.**

THREE (3) STATEMENTS MUST BE FILED BY THE FOLLOWING DATES:

1. The first statement is due on or before the 30th day before the election (April 20, 2026)
2. The second statement is due on or before the 5th day before the election (May 14, 2026);
3. The third statement is due within 20 days after the election (by June 8, 2026).

I, _____, am a candidate for member of the Board of Education of the PINE BUSH CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT, PINE BUSH, NY, at an election to be held on May 19, 2026.

COMPLETE THIS SECTION IF LESS THAN $500 HAS BEEN EXPENDED OR RECEIVED IN CONTRIBUTIONS DURING THE PARTICULAR REPORTING PERIOD:

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT:

_____ as of _____, 2026, I have expended and/or others have expended on my behalf, with my approval, less that $500 on my campaign in support of my candidacy for this office; and

_____ as of _____, 2026, the aggregate amount of contributions received by my campaign does not exceed $500.

COMPLETE THIS SECTION IF MORE THAN $500 HAS BEEN EXPENDED OR RECEIVED IN CONTRIBUTIONS DURING THE PARTICULAR REPORTING PERIOD:

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT:

_____ as of _____, 2026, I have expended and/or others have expended on my behalf, with my approval, a total of $_____ to my campaign in support of my candidacy for this office. **If you checked this, you must complete the attached sheet.**

_____ as of _____, 2026, the aggregate amount of contributions made by others on my behalf, with my approval, was $_____. **If you checked this, you must complete the attached sheet.**

_____
Signature of Candidate

Sworn to before me this
_____day of _____, 2026

_____
Notary Public

NOTE: IF YOU RECEIVE A CONTRIBUTION OR LOAN OF MORE THAN $1,000 AFTER THE FILING OF THE SECOND STATEMENT, YOU MUST REPORT IT, IN A NOTARIZED WRITING, TO BOTH THE DISTRICT CLERK AND COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION WITHIN 24 HOURS OF RECEIPT.

ATTACHMENT TO EXPENDITURE AND CONTRIBUTION STATEMENT

THIS FORM MUST BE COMPLETED IF YOU (AND/OR OTHERS) EXPEND MORE THAN $500 ON YOUR CAMPAIGN DURING ANY REPORTING PERIOD OR IF YOU RECEIVE MORE THAN $500 IN CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS DURING ANY REPORTING PERIOD.

CAMPAIGN EXPENSES:

EXPENSE	DATE	AMOUNT

CONTRIBUTIONS:

NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR	ADDRESS	AMOUNT/FAIR MARKET VALUE

NOTE: If Contributor is a Political Committee, include Political Unit Represented, date of receipt, dollar amount of every expenditure and name and address of the person to whom it is made.

PINE BUSH CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT, PINE BUSH, NY
CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION STATEMENT
FOR CONTRIBUTIONS OF MORE THAN $1,000 RECEIVED
AFTER FILING OF SECOND EXPENDITURE AND CONTRIBUTION STATEMENT

I, _____, am a candidate for members of the Board of Education of the Pine Bush CSD at an election to be held on May 19, 2026.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT:

The following contribution(s) made by others, on my behalf, with my approval, exceeded $1,000 and was received after the filing of the second statement. This report is being made within 24 hours of receipt of the contribution.

NAME AND ADDRESS OF CONTRIBUTOR	DATE RECEIVED	AMOUNT/FAIR MARKET VALUE

_____
Signature of Candidate

Sworn to before me this
_____ day of _____, 2026

_____
Notary Public

NOTE: **If Contributor is a Political Committee, include Political Unit Represented, date of receipt, dollar amount of every expenditure and name and address of the person to whom it is made.**

PINE BUSH CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
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FOR CANDIDATES FOR MEMBER OF
THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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Signature of Candidate

Sworn to before me this
_____day of _____, 2026

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Notary Public

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CONTRIBUTIONS:

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PINE BUSH CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT, PINE BUSH, NY
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FOR CONTRIBUTIONS OF MORE THAN $1,000 RECEIVED
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Signature of Candidate

Sworn to before me this
_____ day of _____, 2026

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Notary Public

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CONTRIBUTIONS:

NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR	ADDRESS	AMOUNT/FAIR MARKET VALUE

NOTE: If Contributor is a Political Committee, include Political Unit Represented, date of receipt, dollar amount of every expenditure and name and address of the person to whom it is made.

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FOR CONTRIBUTIONS OF MORE THAN $1,000 RECEIVED
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Signature of Candidate

Sworn to before me this
_____ day of _____, 2026

_____
Notary Public

NOTE: **If Contributor is a Political Committee, include Political Unit Represented, date of receipt, dollar amount of every expenditure and name and address of the person to whom it is made.**

EXAMPLE of questions:

Pine Bush Central School District 2026 Board of Education Candidate Questionnaire

1. Name and email

2. Town of residence and length of residency in the district

3. Occupation and/or employer. Add any other relevant employment/military service

4. Do you have children in the district? (You may provide grade and school building)

5. Did you and/or any of your children graduate from the district (You may provide graduation years for each)

6. List any degrees held and name of issuing schools/colleges

7. List any past school board experience (limited to number of years and positions held)

8. List any other community service, honors or awards

9. Phone numbers (home, work and/or mobile)

Done

To complete online go to: **https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2TZQW86**

SAMPLE

Meet the board of education candidates

Voters will elect three members to the Pine Bush Board of Education this year. Three incumbents are running for the seats, which are for three-year terms. .



ERIK BUCKLEY

Rockland BOCES employee

Lives in Wallkill

District resident for 14 years

Erik Buckley, a graduate of SUNY Orange, has worked at Rockland BOCES since 2002, where he supports students with emotional and behavioral disabilities, autism, and developmental disabilities. A lifelong resident of the area, Erik is grateful for the opportunity to give back to the community that shaped him. He and his wife have two children who attend Pine Bush schools, and he remains committed to doing his part to help all students succeed.



DORI JOHNSON

Teacher at Monroe-Woodbury School District

Lives in Wallkill

District resident for 21 years

Dori Johnson is completing her third term on the Pine Bush Board of Education. During her first term, she served as both vice president and acting president. She has been a member of the district's Audit Committee and was a member of the PTA. She also serves as the board's legislative liaison. Johnson is a graduate of SUNY New Paltz with both a Bachelor of Science degree in geology and a Master of Science degree in education. She has been a teacher at Monroe-Woodbury for the past 31 years. She is also an adjunct professor at SUNY Orange. Prior to her teaching career, Johnson was a geologist in the private sector. She has two children, both graduates of Pine Bush schools.



GRETCHEN R. MEIER

Physical Therapist

Owner of Pine Bush Physical Therapy

Lives in Town of Crawford

District resident for 31 years

Gretchen Meier has served 12 years on the Pine Bush Board of Education. She is currently president of the board, serving in that capacity for 6.5 years. She also served as vice president for 2.5 years. She is a member of the district's Audit Committee. In 2020, she received the Mid-Hudson School Study Council Award for Excellence in School Board Service. Meier received her Bachelor of Science degree in Physical Therapy from Quinnipiac University. Her husband of 33 years, Fritz Meier, is a proud Pine Bush graduate, as are her two children.

PERSONNEL CHANGES FOR 2025-2026

+1.0	FTE PBHS Business CTE Teacher
+1.0	FTE Elementary Special Education Teacher
+1.0	Committee on Preschool Special Education Itinerant Teacher
+1.0	Middle School Special Education Teacher
+1.0	Teaching Assistant
-1.0	ISS Teacher
-1.0	PBHS School Counselor

ELIGIBILITY TO VOTE

Qualified registered voters will be permitted to vote in the school district election on May 20, 2025. To be a qualified voter, a person must be:

- **A United States citizen**
- **18 years of age or older**
- **A Pine Bush School District resident for at least 30 days before the vote**
- **Registered to vote**

If you are registered to vote in general elections, you are also registered to vote in the school district election.

Polling Sites in 2025

WHERE TO VOTE

There are two polling sites within the district. Qualified voters may cast their ballots at the following sites:

Election District/Location

- **District 1: Pine Bush High School** Residents of Gardiner, Shawangunk, Crawford and Montgomery
- **District 2: Circleville Elementary School** Residents of Mount Hope, Wallkill and Mamakating

PINE BUSH CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
2025-2026 BUDGET CALENDAR
FOR 2026-2027 School Year Budget

DATE	LOCATION	EVENT
January 27, 2026	CVMS	Demographic Study Update
February 10, 2026	HS	Demographic Study Update if needed Budget Presentations: 2026-2027 Building a Budget / Budget Rollover Projections Projected State Aid Tax cap Calculations
February 24, 2026	CVMS	Budget Presentations: - CAPITAL - Operations and Maintenance -PROGRAM - Technology - ADMINISTRATIVE - Management Staff and Classified Staff - PROGRAM - Transportation/ Extracurricular / Sports Activities
March 1, 2026	DISTRICT	Submit information to calculate Tax Levy Limit on OSC website
March 10, 2026	HS	Budget Presentations: 2026- 2027 Preliminary Budget Outline - PROGRAM - Instructional
March 24, 2026	CVMS	Budget Updates as needed
March 31, 2026-April 4, 2026	DISTRICT	Legal notice of vote - 4 times within 7 weeks, first time between 45 - 49 days prior to Annual Budget Vote date
April 14, 2026	HS	Budget Updates/ Budget approval (Pending NYS)
April 20, 2026	DISTRICT	Deadline submission of petitions of board candidates
April 21, 2026	CVMS	Tuesday - BOCES 2026-2027 Administration Budget Approval Presentation of Final Proposed 2025-2026 Budget Adoption of 2026-2027 Budget BOE Approval of Property Tax Report Card
April 24, 2026	DISTRICT	Deadline for submission of Property Tax Report Card to State Education Department. Transmittal must be made no later than 24 days prior to the May 19, 2026 vote. Report Card must also be transmitted to local newspapers and appended to copies of the proposed budget.
May 5, 2026	DISTRICT	Copies of budget/text of resolutions/Property Tax Report Card available for the public (during the 14 days prior to budget vote)
May 5, 2026	HS	School Budget Hearing on 2026-2027 Budget
May 7, 2026	DISTRICT	School Budget Notice mailed to all qualified voters
May 7, 2026	DISTRICT	Qualified voters may personally register at District Office 9 AM to 5 PM through 5/7. Also personal reg. will be held at Dist.Office [4-8 PM] LAST DAY FOR PERSONAL VOTER REGISTRATION
May 19, 2026	DISTRICT	Annual Budget Vote and Election - 6:00 AM to 9:00 PM

POLL WATCHING CERTIFICATE

I hereby appoint the following individual(s) as a POLL WATCHER to act on behalf of _____during the Pine Bush Central School District Budget Vote/Board of Education Member Election to be held on May 19, 2026:

_____

_____

_____

_____

I understand that electioneering or any other disruption or interruption of the budget vote/BOE election process is strictly prohibited and may result in removal from the premises.

I also certify that the individual appointed above is a resident of the Pine Bush Central School District and entitled to vote in this budget/BOE election.

Dated: _____ Candidate Signature _____

Orange County School Boards Association



Orange County School Boards Association invites anyone interested in serving on their local school board of education to attend this workshop and learn about the roles, responsibilities, and realities of school board service.

Agenda

- Legal and practical qualifications for serving on a school board
- Roles and responsibilities of a school board member
- Time commitment & types of decisions made by school boards

Reservations are required.

Virtual via Zoom
Tuesday, March 24, 2026
7:00 – 9:00 pm

RSVP by 3/20/26*

*Please RSVP by email to karyn.meier@ocsba.com

Orange County School Boards Association

In collaboration with Orange-Ulster BOCES, and
Thomas, Drohan, Waxman, Petigrow & Mayle, LLP

Announce

Mandated Training for New School Board Members

In

School District Governance

Chapter 388 of the Laws of 2010

Part 1 – Tuesday, June 9, 2026
5:30 pm – Registration/Sign-In/Light Supper
6:00 pm – 9:15 pm Training Program

Part 2 – Thursday, June 11, 2026
5:30 pm – Registration/Sign-In/Light Supper
6:00 pm – 9:15 pm Training Program

Location
Carl P. Onken Conference Center* at Orange-Ulster BOCES
53 Gibson Road in Goshen, NY 12533
** The Conference Center is located behind the Career & Technical Education Center (CTEC) Building.*

You must complete Part 1 and Part 2 (6 hours) to fulfill the legal mandate and receive a certificate of completion, a copy of which will be provided to your District Clerk for audit purposes. Payment must be received before a certificate is issued.

RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED

Please notify your District Clerk if you plan to attend. Your District Clerk will make your reservation, and you will receive confirmation from OCSBA.

ATTENTION DISTRICT CLERKS:
Reservations must be received by Wednesday, June 3, 2026

Please contact Karyn Meier to register your Board Trustee.

Register by email: **karyn.meier@ocsba.com**
Register by phone: **845-325-9244**

Fee: $120.00 per person, which includes:
6 hours training (Parts 1 & 2)
Registration Costs & Materials
Meals, Refreshments, Certificates

REFUNDS ARE NOT PERMITTED AFTER JUNE 3, 2026

OCSBA
Orange County School Boards Association

State-Mandated Training

New York State law requires newly-elected school board members to complete training within their first year of service. This training requires topics on the essentials of school board governance and a minimum of six hours in fiscal oversight, accountability and fiduciary responsibilities of a school board member.

During this training you will:

- Learn the roles and responsibilities of a board member
- Examine your legal duties and learn how laws and regulations impact the work of a school board
- Explore the role of policy and policy development
- Learn how to use data to drive student achievement
- Understand the board's role in district finances and the annual budget
- Learn the basics of school district fund accounting

You're eligible to sign up for in-person training, the live virtual academy or enroll in online training immediately following your election – even if you haven't taken office as a school board member yet.

New York State School Board Association -NYSSBA offers you three convenient ways to fulfill your training requirements:

In-person

- Get training locally, in your region
- Interact with presenters and other school board members
- Hear what other new members have encountered in their first year
- Complete your training in two days

Cost
$255 one-day, $440 two-day (Members)
$510 one-day, $880 two-day (Nonmembers)

Live Virtual

- Complete your training anywhere from a computer, tablet or mobile device
- Interact with presenters and other school board members
- Complete your training in three, half days (two days for fiscal, one for governance)

Cost
$130 one course, $260 both courses (Members)
$260 one course, $520 both courses (Nonmembers)

Online

- Access your training from a computer, tablet or mobile device
- Complete your training at your convenience during your first year of service – each course takes approximately 6 hours to complete
- Interact with other members and NYSSBA staff through online discussion boards
- Find helpful resources at your fingertips

Cost
$130 one course, $260 both courses (Members)
$260 one course, $520 both courses (Nonmembers)

In-person

Complete your training at our in-person New School Board Member Academy. During this two-day workshop, typically held on a Friday and Saturday, fulfill your training requirements, network with other board members, participate in discussions and ask questions about the roles of school board members.

- **Day 1: Essentials of School Board Governance** - On your first day of training, you will be led through an in-depth look at school board governance. You will learn about the purpose of school boards, how to navigate board meetings and how data supports good decision-making and student accountability. You'll also learn the legal do's and don'ts for school boards.

- **Day 2: Fiscal Oversight Fundamentals** - On your second day of training, the discussion will focus on the financial oversight and fiduciary responsibilities of school boards. You will learn how to assess and promote fiscal fitness of the district and how to protect your district's resources. The training will also cover fiscal planning and budget development.

  Schedule available on NYSSBA Website

Live Virtual

Fulfill your state-mandated requirements through a **live virtual academy** via **computer, tablet or mobile device.**

- **Day 1 and 2: Fiscal Oversight Fundamentals*** – On the first two days, the discussion will focus on the financial oversight and fiduciary responsibilities of school boards. You will learn how to assess and promote fiscal fitness of the district and how to protect your district's resources. The training will also cover fiscal planning and budget development.

**Attendance at both fiscal oversight dates is required. They must be taken consecutively to successfully complete the course.*

- **Day 3: Essentials of School Board Governance** - On the last day of training, you will be led through an in-depth look at school board governance. You will learn about the purpose of school boards, how to navigate board meetings and how data supports good decision-making and student accountability. You'll also learn the legal do's and don'ts for school boards.

Sorry, there are no live virtual events currently scheduled.

Online

Newly redesigned for 2021, NYSSBA's online New School Board Member Training can be completed online during your first year of board services, whenever it is convenient for you. Accessible via computer, tablet or mobile device, this online training covers all the content you would receive in the live trainings. Each module is designed to help you learn the content through readings, videos, real-world examples and supplemental materials. You will have access to the modules and supplemental materials throughout your first year of service.

Enrollment is now open and you can join the courses at any time throughout the year.

Courses Offered: (Successful completion of both courses is required to satisfy the training mandate).

- **Essentials of School Board Governance** - The objective of this course is to provide newly elected school board members with the fundamental knowledge necessary to meet their legal obligations as an elected school board member. Topics in the course include the board's role in student achievement, the dynamics of the board-superintendent relationship, the process of developing and using policy, key legal parameters such as the Open Meetings Law and the use of data to make decisions.

- **Fiscal Oversight Fundamentals** - This course explores a school board member's financial responsibilities. The course explains the basics of financial oversight including the roles, responsibilities and qualifications of key district finance officials in safeguarding, using, and accounting for district resources. The course provides specific details on where a school district's funds come from and how those funds can be spent. The course also covers the elements of financial reports, the process of preparing a budget, common types of fraud and policy actions the board can enact protect resources.

Register Now

Login credentials and additional information will be sent via email within one business day after you register.

Please Note: Access to your courses expires and the courses are closed at the end of your first year of service. No extensions are allowed. Incomplete grades are reported to the school district. Re-enrollment requires payment of another enrollment fee(s), permission from your school board, and a current purchase order. Any work completed in your previously-enrolled course is NOT transferred into the new course.

New York State School Boards Association

RUNNING FOR THE SCHOOL BOARD



What all prospective school board members should know





Commitment to Public Education

A school board member takes on one of the most important citizen responsibilities: overseeing the education of the community's youth. In these challenging times for public education, school boards are seeking men and women who find excitement and satisfaction in confronting tough challenges and working collegially to rise above them and help students in their communities succeed.

The board of education is a uniquely American institution. It oversees and manages the community's public school system. It ensures the public schools are flexible and responsive to the needs of the community.

School boards are comprised of volunteers within the community who dedicate their time to better public education. Except for those in Yonkers and New York City, board members are elected.

The size of a school board depends on the type of school district but generally ranges between three and nine members. With limited exceptions, school board members serve three-, four- or five-year terms. Terms are staggered so all board positions are never open at the same time. Voters have the power to change the size of the board as set forth within the law.

RUNNING FOR THE SCHOOL BOARD







Responsibilities of a board member

With schoolchildren always their ultimate focus, school board members act officially at the board table, working with other board members to serve students and accomplish the following:

- Create a shared vision for the future of education
- Set the direction of the school district to achieve the highest student performance
- Provide rigorous accountability for student achievement results
- Develop a budget and present it to the community, aligning district resources to improve achievement
- Support a healthy school district culture for work and learning
- Create strategic partnerships with the community stakeholders
- Build the district's progress through continuous improvement
- Adopt and maintain current policies
- Hire and evaluate the superintendent
- Ratify collective bargaining agreements
- Maintain strong ethical standards

Characteristics of a board member

Below are attributes that all effective board members should possess.

- **Effective Communicator:** Can describe what he or she wants and describe what others want; a good listener
- **Consensus Builder:** Capable of working toward decisions that all can support and willing to compromise to achieve goals
- **Community Participant:** Enjoys meeting a variety of people, can identify the community's key communicators and reaches out to the community
- **Decision Maker:** Is comfortable making decisions and can support group decision-making
- **Information Processor:** Can organize priorities and schedules to handle large amounts of verbal and written information
- **Leader:** Willing to take risks, be supportive of board colleagues, district staff and community
- **Team Player:** Helps promote the board's vision and goals

New York State School Boards Association

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www.nyssba.org

Running for Your Local School Board

Once you have made the commitment to run for your local school board, there are requirements, deadlines, and processes that must be adhered to.



2026 Dates to Remember

April 20 – Petition must be filed for central, union free and common school districts

April 29 – Petition must be filed for all small city school districts

May 19 – Budget Vote & Election Day

Eligibility Requirements

Generally, school board candidates must be a U.S. citizen, at least 18 years old, qualified voters in the school district and able to read and write. They must be residents of their districts continuously for one year (as little as 30 days or as long as three years in some city school districts) before the election. They cannot be employed by the board on which they will serve or live in the same household with a family member who is also a member of the same school board.

Nominating Petitions

The requirements for filing nominating petitions for a school board vary depending upon the type of school district. Generally, candidates must submit a nominating petition to the school district clerk. The petition must be signed by at least 25 qualified district voters or two percent of the number of those who voted in the previous annual election, whichever number is greater. In small city school districts, nominating petitions must be signed by at least 100 qualified voters.

The petition must include the following:

- Candidate's name and residence
- Vacancy in question
- Incumbent's name (if any)
- Residences of the persons who signed the petition
- Length of the term of office for which the candidate is being nominated

Blank petitions are often available from the district clerk.

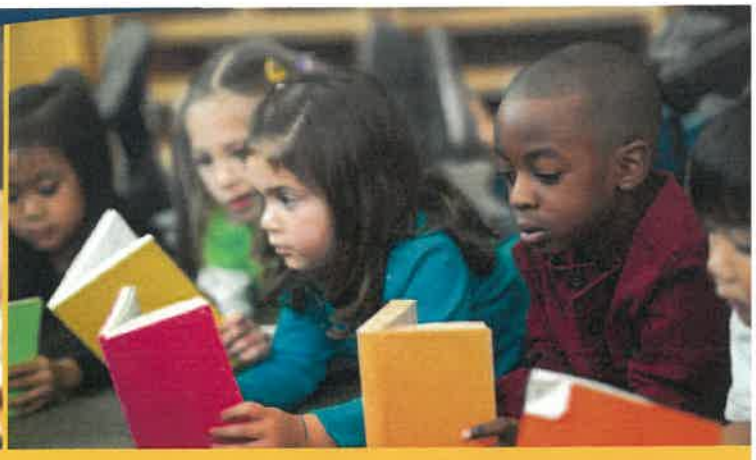
If a school district runs for seats "at large" such that each nominee is eligible for each vacancy, the nominating petition does not need to identify the specific incumbent's seat the nominee is seeking. This petition must be filed with the district clerk at least 30 days (20 days in small city districts) before the election, between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. In 2026 nominating petitions in small city school districts must be filed by April 29th, in other districts nominating petitions must be filed by April 20th.

Campaigning

Once the petition is filed, the next step is to gather support. State law requires all candidates for election to a board of education to file a sworn statement with the district clerk disclosing both their campaign expenses and contributions received. Statements must be filed at three different times during the election period. If contributions received or expenditures made by the candidate or by the candidate plus others on the candidate's behalf exceed $500, a statement also should be filed with the commissioner of education. Expenditures of not more than $25 may be made without the candidate's permission if the donor or donors file a sworn statement with the clerk and the commissioner stating that the candidate did not approve the expenditure.

The expenditure and contribution statement prepared for the Commissioner of Education should be mailed to:
Commissioner of Education
c/o Educational Management Services
89 Washington Avenue, 1075 EBA
Albany, NY 12234





Election By state law, school board and budget elections, in all districts except the Big 5 (Buffalo, New York City, Rochester, Syracuse and Yonkers), must be held on the third Tuesday in May. In 2026, the budget vote and election occurs on May 19th.

New York State School Boards Association

If you are elected, you don't need to face this new challenge alone. The New York State School Boards Association is here to help you!

The New York State School Boards Association (NYSSBA) was founded in 1896 in Utica, New York. With over 100 years of commitment, NYSSBA serves as the statewide voice of more than 650 boards of education.

The Association provides current information and advice on matters affecting school boards and works with other educational and related organizations in promoting excellence in public education. Consistent with our dedication to children, learning and the community, the Association provides advocacy, information, leadership development and custom services to public school boards.

Training

Once elected, you will be required by New York State law to fulfill mandatory training within your first year of service. This includes fiscal oversight training and governance skills training. NYSSBA provides convenient online courses and regional academies to fulfill these requirements and to further your knowledge of public education and your responsibilities as a board member.

NYSSBA is ready to assist you in your effort to serve your community. Good luck in your pursuit of school board service and thank you for your dedication to providing quality education for New York State public school children.

For more information on school board service training and support, visit The School Board Member Experience at www.nyssba.org/experience or contact The New York State School Boards Association at (518) 783-0200 or via email at info@nyssba.org.

New York State School Boards Association

