

Mohonasen Central School District

Minutes of Meeting of the Board of Education

Monday, January 5, 2026

Center for Technology/Mohonasen Main Campus

Call to Order

The Board meeting was called to order by the President, Mrs. Montagino, at 6:03 PM

Roll Call

Board Members Present: *Danielle Ciampino, Chad McFarland, Ted Perretta, Heather Lanaro, Nick Giardono and Ericka Montagino*

Board Members Absent: *Pat Ryan*

Administrators Present: *Shannon Shine, Laurel Logan-King and Chris Ruberti*

Others in Attendance: *Tom O'Connor and Daniella DeLuca*

Executive Session

Executive Session for the purpose of tenure portfolio review

MOTION made by Mrs. Ciampino, seconded by Mr. McFarland, that an executive session be convened at 6:03 PM for the purpose of tenure portfolio review.

Return to Public Session

MOTION made by Mrs. Ciampino, seconded by Mr. Perretta, that the executive session be adjourned at 6:30 PM. The motion was passed unanimously, six members present and voting.

Call to Order

The Board meeting was called to order by the President, Mrs. Montagino, at 6:34 PM

Roll Call

Board Members Present: *Danielle Ciampino, Ted Perretta, Nick Giardono, Heather Lanaro, Ericka Montagino, Chad McFarland and Vanessa Palleschi*

Board Members Absent: *Patrick Ryan*

Administrators Present: *Shannon Shine, Laurel Logan-King and Chris Ruberti*

Others in Attendance: *Mr. Thompson, Mr. Ronca, Mrs. Lutz, Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Kavanaugh, Mr. March, Mrs. Callender, Mrs. Nikles, Mrs. Eckl, Mrs. Christy, Mr. Parker, Mr. O'Connor, Ms. DeLuca, Mr. Karandy, Mrs. Lossi, Mrs. Lutz, Mrs. Kavanaugh, student representatives Madelyn Day, Anthony Crisafulli, Lucas Avery, Laurel Karp, Isabella DiPietro and Kelsie Fitzgerald, and 10 members of the community*

Communications - Superintendent

Student Representatives - Madelyn Day, Anthony Crisafulli, Lucas Avery, Laurel Karp, Isabella DiPietro and Kelsie Fitzgerald

Student representatives, Madelyn Day, Anthony Crisafulli, Lucas Avery, Laurel Karp, Isabella DiPietro and Kelsie Fitzgerald gave the Board an update on events at each of the District schools. At the High School, students and staff participated in a Polar Plunge to raise money for the Special Olympics, and the semi-formal dance sold out; at Draper Middle School, students participated in a winter concert, held a holiday spirit week with students guessing the theme; Pinewood also hosted a winter concert, held a Boggle Challenge with Ms. Stapleton, and gave students a hands-on experience by making their own butter for Thanksgiving; Bradt students sold 300 stars to support the Make-A-Wish Foundation, participated in Holiday Spirit Week, and celebrated with a holiday sing-along highlighted by a special visit from Santa.

Multiyear Financial Plan

The multi-year financial plan reviews recent fiscal performance, showing operating surpluses in prior years driven largely by significant increases in Foundation Aid, while expenses—especially transportation, staffing, pensions, and health insurance—remain volatile. Projections indicate a relatively balanced 2025–26 budget, followed by growing operational deficits beginning in 2027–28 as expenses increase faster than revenues. Major cost drivers include salaries and benefits, health insurance, retirement systems, and transportation, while key revenues remain the tax levy and state aid. The District's expenses have significantly increased in the area of transportation over the past 5 years. The current trajectory for expenses is unsustainable. The district's long-term strategy focuses on careful use of reserves, maintaining manageable class sizes, linking contracts to revenue growth, and advocating for predictable state aid and tax cap calculations.

Public Privilege of the Floor

No one wished to address the Board.

Communications - Board of Education

Mrs. Montagino welcomed everyone back from the holiday break and said she was looking forward to finishing the year strong.

New Business - Instructional

Approval and Arrangement for the Committee on Special Education Recommendations and Student Placements, Committee on Pre-School Special Education and Section 504 Committee

Request made by Mrs. Montagino to approve all items on a consent agenda

MOTION made by Mr. Perretta, seconded by Mr. Giardono, that the Board of Education approve items New Business - Instructional on a consent agenda.

The motion was passed unanimously, six members present and voting.

*Approval for
Mohonasen/Draper/Pin
ewood Winter Color
Guard and Indoor
Percussion to Participate
in Various Competitions*

*Approval for the Boys'
and Girls' Varsity and
Junior Varsity Bowling
Teams to Participate in
Out of Area Trips*

Approved Minutes

MOTION made by Mrs. Ciampino, seconded by Mr. McFarland, that the Board of Education approve the minutes of December 8, 2025. The motion was passed unanimously, six members present and voting.

Financial Reports

MOTION made by Mr. Perretta, seconded by Mr. Giardono, that the Board of Education approve the financial reports. The motion was passed unanimously, six members present and voting.

Personnel

MOTION made by Mrs. Ciampino, seconded by Mr. McFarland, that the Board of Education approve the following personnel recommendations. The motion was passed unanimously, six members present and voting.

Appointments

Savannah Russell
Appointment: Long Term Substitute
Location: Pinewood Intermediate School
Assignment: Elementary Teacher
Date of Commencement: September 1, 2025
Expiration Date: March 1, 2026
Salary: Step 2 plus Graduate Credits

Moriah Schellenger
Appointment: Long Term Substitute
Location: Bradt Elementary School
Assignment: Elementary Teacher
Date of Commencement: December 8, 2025
Expiration Date: February 13, 2026
Salary: Step 1 plus Graduate Credits

Linda Kovel
Appointment: Long Term Substitute
Location: Bradt Elementary School
Assignment: Elementary Teacher
Date of Commencement: December 9, 2025
Expiration Date: February 23, 2026

Salary: Step 2 plus Graduate Credits

Sara Hartshorne (*amended from the August 13, 2025 meeting*)

Appointment: Teaching Assistant

Location: Bradt Elementary School

Assignment: P/T Teaching Assistant (6 hours)

Date of Commencement: September 1, 2025

Salary: Step 4

Corey Clark

Assignment: Security Monitor

Location: Districtwide

Effective Date: January 5, 2026

Salary: \$28,293

Craig Alesio

Assignment: Maintenance Helper

Location: Districtwide

Effective Date: December 29, 2025

Salary: \$34,231

Melisa Ponce

Assignment: Cleaner

Location: Pinewood Intermediate School

Effective Date: December 29, 2025

Salary: \$33,408 plus 6% shift differential

Alec Flansburg

Assignment: Substitute Cleaner

Location: Districtwide

Effective Date: December 22, 2025

Salary: \$16.00 per hour

2025-2026 Intramurals

Name	Building
Kate Murnane	Pinewood Intermediate School
Marc Vachon	Pinewood Intermediate School

Resignations

Bianca Zeny

Appointment: School Counselor

Effective Date: Close of business March 3, 2026

Leave of Absence

Brittany Heermance

Appointment: Special Education Teacher

Effective Dates: January 14, 2025 – February 12, 2026

Reason: Unpaid Leave of Absence

Adjournment

MOTION made by Mrs. Ciampino, seconded by Mr. Perretta, that an executive session be convened at 7:12 PM for the purpose of discussing a Superintendent appeal.

MOTION made by Mrs. Ciampino, seconded by Mr. Giardono, that the executive session be adjourned at 7:45 PM. The motion was passed unanimously, six members present and voting.

MOTION made by Mrs. Ciampino, seconded by Mr. Giardono, that the Board of Education meeting be adjourned at 7:45 PM. The motion passed unanimously, six members present and voting.

Christopher Ruberti

Clerk - Board of Education

Assistant Superintendent for Business