

PINE PLAINS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

2829 CHURCH STREET • PINE PLAINS, NEW YORK 12567-5504

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WWW.PPCSD.ORG

May 5, 2020

Dear Members of the Pine Plains School District Community:

I am writing to give you the latest information on how the current health crisis is affecting the Pine Plains Central School District.

As I am sure you know, the Governor has closed the school buildings in the State for the remainder of this school year. Online instruction, childcare for emergency workers and food distribution will continue. The Governor's team announced that at the end of May we will know if we will be permitted to offer summer school as we usually do to our students. I believe that as the spring progresses and the COVID situation evolves we will have a clearer picture of what the fall will bring, including whether we can have a traditional opening of school and fall sports. A great deal will depend on the status of the health emergency at that time.

The school budget for the 2020-2021 school year has been adopted by the Board of Education. The budget contains a 1.81% budget increase and a 2.43% tax levy increase. The tax levy increase is within the state imposed tax cap.

Voting on the school budget will be different this year. The vote will be conducted by absentee ballot on June 9th. The state has required that we send to all school district residents a number of documents.

- First, you will receive a postcard that has absentee ballot information and a description of a qualified voter.
- Next, you will receive a budget newsletter explaining the budget, the voter propositions and the candidates running for the Board seats.
- Finally, every registered voter will receive an absentee ballot and a postage paid envelope to return the ballot.
- The ballots must be returned by 5 p.m. on June 9th. Due to the current restrictions there will be no in-person voting.

Any qualified resident who wishes to be a candidate for the Board of Education must file with the district not later than 30 days before the vote deadline. Information on how to file can be secured from Mrs. Julia W. Tomaine, District Clerk at 518-398-7181 ext. 1408.

I realize that this school election is more complicated than in the past. What is being done is being mandated by Executive Order of the Governor in order to continue safe physical distancing and preventative measures.

I will be sending a letter to parents later this week with information pertaining to their students.

The principals are also sending communications with procedures specific to their schools given the news that school buildings will not reopen.

Recognizing that these are difficult times for everyone, we are working to provide you with the most current information possible. If you have any questions please feel free to email me at m.handler@ppcsd.org or call the office at 518-398-7181 ext. 1401.

Stay safe and well.

Dr. Martin D. Handler
Superintendent

TOWNS: PINE PLAINS, MILAN STANFORD, NORTHEAST, CLINTON, DUTCHESS COUNTY:
GALLATIN, ANCRAM, LIVINGSTON, CLERMONT, COLUMBIA COUNTY