



PINE VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL District News



Pine Valley Central School District Newsletter

Volume 47, Issue 3 • May 2025

Budget Edition — 2025-2026 Budget Vote & Board of Education Election

Board of Education Candidates



Josh Howard (2025)

A life-long district resident, Josh is a 2005 graduate of Pine Valley. Josh and his wife Victoria live in South Dayton with their sons JaKobe and Jasper. He is the Director of Talent Development at Seneca Gaming Corporation, as well as the Chairman of the Board of Directors for the Seneca Nation of Indians Economic Development Company. He has Master’s degree in Organizational Leadership from Medaille College, is an Executive Coach through the University at Buffalo, and holds a Black Belt in Lean Six Sigma also from UB. Josh says his greatest accomplishment is watching his boys strive at Pine Valley. Professionally, his greatest accomplishment was being named a “40 Under 40” by *Buffalo Business First* in 2022. He has been serving on the Pine Valley Board of Education since 2018, most recently as the current Vice President.

William Pekrul (2025)

I live in Cherry Creek with my wife Alissa and my son William, who is in 4th grade at Pine Valley Elementary School. We moved from our home state of Florida in May of 2020 to manage our family’s lodging and event rental businesses, The Cabins at Farrington Hollow and The Barn at Farrington Hollow. My career is in the insurance and risk management industry, and I am currently a Property & Casualty Consultant for USI Insurance Services in Buffalo and Jamestown. I served as the 2022 chairperson for the Buffalo CPCU Society’s charity golf tournament benefiting Read to Succeed Buffalo, and I am involved with the United Way of Northern Chautauqua County, Rotary Club of Dunkirk-Fredonia, and Northern Chautauqua Young Professionals. I come from a family of educators, and I am a product of public education, so I understand and appreciate the value of public schools and the role they play in our community. I decided to run for the school board because I want to support and promote Pine Valley’s continued role as a safe and inspiring place for our community’s children to learn and grow.



Lawrence (Larry) Zollinger (2025)

I have been a district resident for most of my life and am proud to be a Pine Valley Central School graduate. My wife Melanie and I reside in South Dayton and are the parents of Colette, Erika, Jason and Ehrich and have five grand girls. I am a retired Lab Technician from Buffalo Color Corporation and currently drive part-time for CHQ Transit (CARTS). I currently serve as a Pine Valley Board Member. I am a Life Member of the South Dayton Fire Department, a former village board member, and former Mayor of South Dayton. I wish to continue to serve and support the students, parents, and residents of our school district.

Brianne Russo (2025)

Brianne Russo and her family moved to South Dayton in April of 2020; she has two children in school at Pine Valley. She started attending PTO (Parent Teacher Organization) meetings and volunteering at the events a few years ago and has since become the Vice President. She volunteers at the local library and has coached tee ball. Brianne likes to be active with the community and do what she can, where she can, to offer any help possible.

Brianne states “I’m running for the Board of Education because I live here, my family, friends and neighbors live here, it’s home. Ultimately my goal is to be a part of the team that collectively chooses what we believe is most beneficial for our kids and community.”

Superintendent of Schools 2025-2026 Proposed Budget

Dear Pine Valley Families and Community:

This budget newsletter gives information regarding the proposition on the ballot for voter approval on May 20, 2025. In addition to these pages, the full details of this year's budget, as presented on May 8, 2025, at the Public Hearing, are available on our website at www.pval.org. We have worked to develop a budget that is both fiscally responsible to our community and supportive of our student's educational programming.

Highlights of this year's proposed budget include re-opening the pool for community use and implementing a district-wide equipment replacement cycle for classroom furniture, musical instruments, Fitness Center equipment, and a new tractor. If approved, this budget will continue to fund the Washington DC trip for our eighth-grade students, provide a significant amount of supplies for our elementary students, and provide professional opportunities for staff. Also included is the continuation of our full-time/district-wide School Resource Officer, 3PK program, and summer programming. As a result of our leadership team and our board's diligent work this budget season, our expenditures from 2024-25 to 2025-26 have increased by 0.21% or \$41,610.

The first proposition is for our proposed 2025-26 school year budget, which includes a local tax levy increase of 1% or \$35,822, which is below the tax cap of 5.8% for Pine Valley Central School District. Pine Valley plans to add \$575,000 to our capital reserve for 2025-2026, and we are also utilizing the fund balance to reduce the impact on our taxpayers this year.

This budget includes the purchase of a large diesel bus, a small gas bus, and a diesel wheelchair bus. While NYS is still under legislation that requires that by 2027, districts are no longer able to purchase diesel buses, our position in purchasing power has changed. Initially, our plan for our bus replacement cycle was one for one each year, meaning we would purchase one electric bus and one diesel bus. Because we have secured funding that allows Pine Valley to meet the 2035 electrification mandate from outside funding streams, we can utilize district funds to purchase diesel and gas vehicles at a faster rate than anticipated. That is the rationale behind purchasing three this year while we are still able to do so.

The election of three Board of Education members will also be on this year's ballot. We urge you to read the following pages carefully prior to voting on Tuesday, May 20, from 12:00 pm - 9:00 pm at the JR/SR High School in the new gymnasium foyer. Please join us for the district art show beginning at 5:00 pm, followed by the Jr./Sr. High School Chorus and Band Concert at 7:00 pm in the Jr./Sr. High School Auditorium.

Thank you in advance for your time and thoughtful consideration.

Respectfully,

Shanda DuClon, Superintendent

And the Pine Valley Board of Education

Angelica Astry
Jeff Chase, President
Raymond Hadley

Joshua Howard, Vice President
Terry Howe
Rose Kruszka

Christie Lokietek
William Pekrul
Larry Zollinger



2025-2026 Budget Proposition

You will be asked to consider the following proposition:

Proposition No. 1: Basic Budget \$19,627,347.00

Shall the following resolution be adopted?

Shall the budget for the year 2025-2026 as approved by the Board of Education be adopted and the required funds therefor be raised by a tax on the taxable property of the school district?

Who Can Vote?

You are entitled to vote if you are a U.S. citizen, 18 years or older, and have been a district resident for at least 30 days prior to the vote. No pre-registration is required.

Optical Scan Voting System

We use the Optical Scan Voting System utilizing the services of the Chautauqua County Board of Elections.

Absentee Voting/ Early Mail Voting

You may vote by an absentee or early-mail voting ballot if you cannot appear at the polling place on May 20, 2025. To receive an absentee or early-mail voting ballot, voters must obtain an application from the district office. The application must be returned to the district office at least seven (7) days before the election if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter or at least one day before the election if the ballot is to be picked up personally by the voter at the district office from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. Absentee and early-mail voting ballots will be counted only if they are returned no later than 5:00 pm on election day. For more information, call Kristie Ling, District Clerk, at 988-3293 ext. 3010.

PLEASE VOTE ON MAY 20, 2025

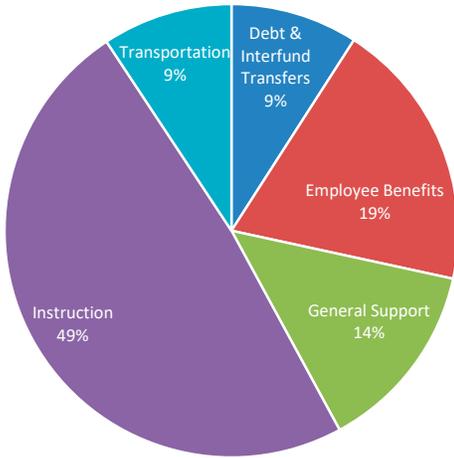
Budget Vote & Board of Education Election

Tuesday, May 20, 2025 | 12:00 noon to 9:00 pm

*Junior/Senior High School, New Gym Lobby
Pine Valley Central School,
7755 NY-83, South Dayton, NY 14138*



2025-2026 Proposed Budget



	2024-25 Adopted Budget	2025-26 Proposed Budget	Dollar Change
Debt & Interfund Transfers	\$ 1,722,244.00	\$ 1,783,419.00	\$ 61,175.00
Employee Benefits	\$ 3,687,454.00	\$ 3,790,356.00	\$ 102,902.00
General Support	\$ 2,620,587.00	\$ 2,685,722.00	\$ 65,135.00
Instruction	\$ 9,883,646.00	\$ 9,544,794.00	\$ (373,909.00)
Transportation	\$ 1,671,806.00	\$ 1,823,056.00	\$ 151,250.00
Total Expenditures	\$ 19,585,737.00	\$ 19,627,347.00	\$ 6,553.00

Instruction

The Instructional Program is the largest budget category and the focal point of our educational system. All services that provide or directly affect instruction of students are budgeted in this area. The following are included in this category: regular school, special education, summer school, school libraries, health, psychological and social work services, curriculum coordination and supervision, curriculum development, BOCES instructional programs, interscholastic athletics, and co-curricular activities.

Transportation

Includes transportation services to students for regular transportation within and outside of district boundaries for instructional purposes, co-curricular, and interscholastic athletic activities.

General Support

The General Support section of the budget covers the areas that support the educational program through central administration, business operations, human resources, community relations, maintenance and repair of all district grounds and facilities, printing, mailing, district meetings, Board of Education, and legal services.

Employee Benefits

This category consists of various employee benefits, including contributions to the New York State Teachers' Retirement System, New York State Employee Retirement System, Social Security, Workers' Compensation, Unemployment Insurance, and Health Insurance benefits.

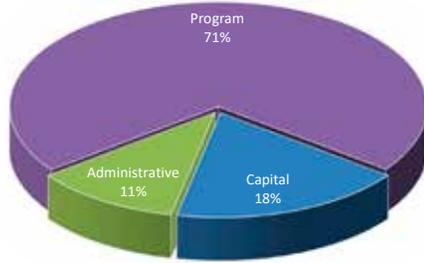
Debt & Interfund Transfers

This category includes short and long term debt payments (funded by Building Aid) and transfers to other funds.

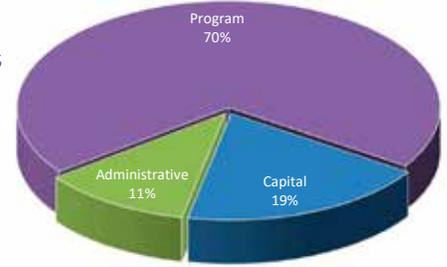


Pine Valley Central School District 2025-2026 Component Budget

2024-2025
Adopted Budget



2025-2026
Proposed Budget



Program Component:

Provides funding for instruction and educational support services for the district's students including athletics, co-curricular, and student transportation.

	2024-25 Adopted Budget	2025-26 Proposed Budget	\$ Change	% Change
Instructional Media	\$693,385.00	\$671,965.00	-\$21,420.00	-3.09%
Pupil Personnel Services	\$799,998.00	\$787,719.00	-\$12,279.00	-1.53%
Teaching	\$7,837,496.00	\$7,491,514.00	-\$345,982.00	-4.41%
Training	\$105,897.00	\$137,308.00	\$31,411.00	29.66%
Transfer to School Lunch	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Transfer to Special Aid	\$17,000.00	\$35,469.00	\$18,469.00	108.64%
Transportation	\$1,267,129.00	\$1,365,056.00	\$97,927.00	7.73%
Employee Benefits	\$3,063,002.00	\$3,135,598.00	\$72,596.00	2.37%
Total Program Budget	\$13,808,907.00	\$13,649,629.00	(\$159,278.00)	-1.15%

Capital Component:

Includes debt service for all facilities financed by bonds and notes of the district as well as all expenses associated with building custodial and maintenance, utilities, school bus purchases, and the School Resource Officer.

	2024-25 Adopted Budget	2025-26 Proposed Budget	\$ Change	% Change
Bus Purchases	\$404,677.00	\$458,000.00	\$53,323.00	13.18%
Central Services	\$1,197,228.00	\$1,271,195.00	\$73,967.00	6.18%
Debt Services	\$1,455,244.00	\$1,457,950.00	\$2,706.00	0.19%
Transfer to Capital	\$225,000.00	\$265,000.00	\$40,000.00	17.78%
Employee Benefits	\$271,923.00	\$279,288.00	\$7,365.00	2.71%
Total Capital Budget	\$3,554,072.00	\$3,731,433.00	\$177,361.00	4.99%

Administrative Component:

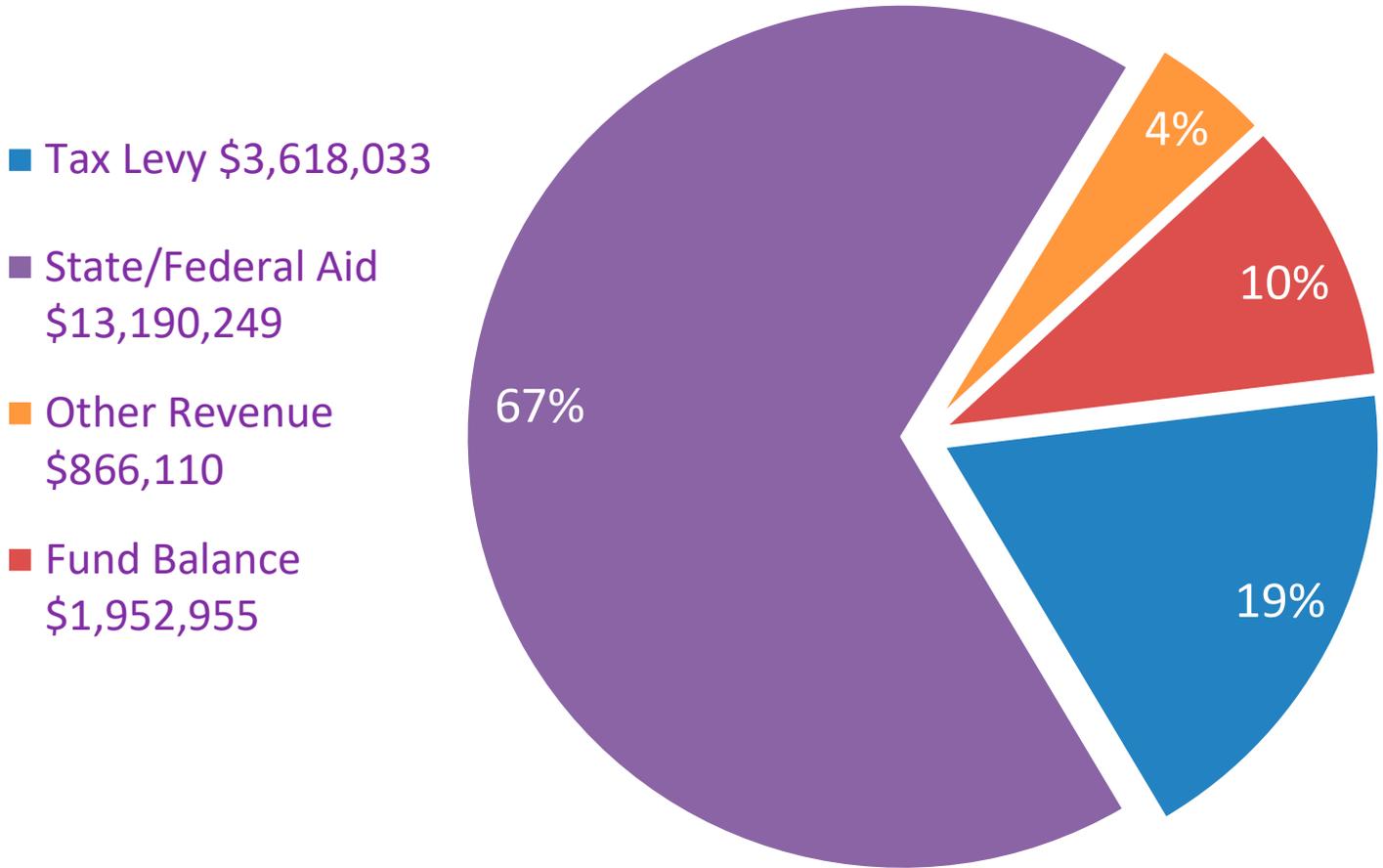
Provides funding for overall general support and management activities, including business office operations, payroll, purchasing, general administration, personnel, legal and auditing services.

	2024-25 Adopted Budget	2025-26 Proposed Budget	\$ Change	% Change
Board of Education	\$34,095.00	\$25,135.00	-\$8,960.00	-26.28%
Central Administration	\$235,857.00	\$246,596.00	\$10,739.00	4.55%
Central Services	\$441,043.00	\$419,580.00	-\$21,463.00	-4.87%
Curriculum Development	\$46,443.00	\$47,619.00	\$1,176.00	2.53%
Finance	\$331,908.00	\$349,926.00	\$18,018.00	5.43%
Special Items	\$205,041.00	\$268,168.00	\$63,127.00	30.79%
Staff	\$175,415.00	\$105,122.00	-\$70,293.00	-40.07%
Supervision	\$400,427.00	\$408,669.00	\$8,242.00	2.06%
Employee Benefits	\$352,529.00	\$375,470.00	\$22,941.00	6.51%
Total Administrative Budget	\$2,222,758.00	\$2,246,285.00	\$23,527.00	1.06%

Total Budget	\$19,585,737.00	\$19,627,347.00	\$41,610.00	0.21%
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2025-2026 Estimated Revenue



A modest property tax increase of 1% is included in the proposed budget. This equates to an approximate tax increase of \$8.51/yr for a homeowner receiving a basic STAR exemption and property with a taxable assessed value of \$100,000. The proposed increase is well below the allowable calculated tax cap of 5.8%

PLEASE VOTE

MAY 20, 2025

12:00 NOON - 9:00 PM

JUNIOR/SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL, NEW GYM LOBBY
PINE VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL,
7755 NY-83, SOUTH DAYTON, NY 14138



*Pine Valley
Budget &
Board of
Education
Election*



2025-26 Pine Valley Central School District Budget Notice

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2024-25 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2025-26 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2025-26 School Year *										
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$ 19,585,737	\$ 19,627,347	\$ 18,711,602										
Increase/Decrease for the 2024-25 School Year		\$ 41,610	\$ (874,135)										
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		0.21%	-4.46%										
Change in the Consumer Price Index		2.95%											
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$ 3,582,211	\$ 3,618,033											
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable	\$ -	\$ -											
C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable **	\$ -	\$ -											
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy	\$ -	\$ -											
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D)	\$ 3,582,211	\$ 3,618,033	\$ 3,582,211										
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$ 293,210	\$ 364,568											
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$ 3,324,122	\$ 3,427,109											
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E – B – F + D)	\$ 3,289,001	\$ 3,253,465											
I. Difference: G – H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval – See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$ 35,121	\$ 173,644											
Administrative Component	\$ 2,222,758	\$ 2,246,285	\$ 2,218,972										
Program Component	\$ 13,808,907	\$ 13,649,629	\$ 13,515,299										
Capital Component	\$ 3,554,072	\$ 3,731,433	\$ 2,977,332										
<p>The contingent budget includes legal obligation expenditures specifically authorized by statute, and other items necessary to maintain educational programs, preserve property, and ensure the health and safety of the students and staff. The contingent budget does not include the purchase of new equipment, including the purchase of school buses, public use of school building and/or grounds, and nonessential maintenance.</p> <p>** List Separate Propositions that are not included in the Total Budgeted Amount: (Tax Levy associated with educational or transportation services propositions are not eligible for exclusion and may affect voter approval requirements)</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 70%;">Description</th> <th style="width: 30%;">Amount</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td> </td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>				Description	Amount		\$		\$		\$		\$
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*NOTE TO SCHOOL DISTRICT BUSINESS OFFICIALS: Please submit an electronic version (Word or PDF) of this completed form to: emscmats@nysed.gov

Under the Budget Proposed for the 2025-26 School Year

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings ¹	\$ 404
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The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2025-26 by the qualified voters of the Pine Valley Central School District, Chautauqua County, New York, will be held at the Pine Valley High School in said district on Tuesday, May 21, 2024, between the hours of 12:00 pm and 9:00 pm, prevailing time in the Pine Valley High School, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

Districts should include information according to Executive Orders and as advised by legal counsel.

1. The basic school tax relief (STAR) exemption is authorized by section 425 of the Real Property Tax Law.



Pine Valley Central School District
South Dayton, NY 14138

PV Junior/ Senior High School: 988-3276, PV Elementary: 988-3291
 Website: www.pval.org/

Non-Profit Organization
 U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No.. 83
 Fredonia, NY

ADMINISTRATION

Shanda DuClon, *Superintendent*
 Paige Cobb, *Director of Sp. Ed. and Curriculum*
 Nicole McCracken, *Business Executive*
 Kourtney Almeida, *Jr./Sr. High School Principal*
 Brandi Meacham, *Elementary Principal*

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Angelica Astry
 Jeffrey Chase, *President*
 Ray Hadley
 Josh Howard, *Vice President*
 Terry Howe
 Rose Kruszka
 Christie Lokietek
 William Pekrul
 Lawrence Zollinger

BOXHOLDER
Cherry Creek, NY 14723
BOXHOLDER
Conewango Valley, NY 14726
BOXHOLDER
South Dayton, NY 14138

May 6	May 7	May 8	May 11-14	May 13
Grade 8 Science State Assessment	ES Spring Band and Chorus Concert 6 pm	Budget/Public Hearing BOE Meeting 7 pm	8th grade Washington DC Trip	Grade 5 Science State Assessment
May 17	May 20	May 20	May 21	May 26
Prom	Budget Vote and Board Member Election 12 pm - 9 pm	District Art Show 5 pm Jr/Sr HS Chorus & Band Concert 7 pm	UPK Roundup	No School - Memorial Day
June 6	June 10	June 10,11, 17, 18, 20-25	June 12	June 13
Tractor Day & Ap Art Show 3:30-5:30 pm	Class Night 6 pm	Regents Exams	BOE Meeting 7 pm	ES - Field Day
June 16	June 17	June 18	June 19	June 20
HS - Last day of classes ES - Field Day rain date	Kindergarten Program 6 pm	6th grade Recognition 6:30 pm	No School - Juneteenth	UPK Program & Picnic 9:30 am
June 24	June 25	June 26	June 26-27	June 29
Early Release 11 am	Last Day ES Students Early Release 11 am	Graduation Rehearsal 8 am	Rating Days	Graduation 2 pm