

INFORMATION, NEWS AND SUPPORT SPEAK OUT! PITTSFORD DISTRICT TEACHERS ASSOCIATION



Election Edition Stephanie Warchol, President

As a union of educators representing teachers, mental health providers, school related professionals, nurses, tutors, and auxiliary staff, PDTA is strongly devoted to engaging in interests that directly impact our members. That is why we strive to identify PCSD Board of Education candidates that are prepared to lead the District in a manner that best represents and serves the needs of our students, schools, staff, and community. Our Association implements an extensive endorsement process, which has proven to be a reliable means for eliciting the characteristics and attributes deemed to be associated with successful Board service. We simultaneously initiate a comprehensive background study to gather relevant information to inform our decisions.

I am pleased to share that your PDTA Representative Assembly has voted to endorse first-time Board of Education candidate, John Pizzutelli and previously endorsed BOE member, Robin Scott, for the two open seats on the PCSD Board of Education. John and Robin each demonstrate a deep

understanding of the most pertinent topics impacting our schools and expressed a commitment to working collaboratively with our unit to address these. In addition to the BOE candidates, the PDTA Representative Assembly voted to endorse the 2026-2027 PCSD school budget and the four propositions, which will also be on the ballot on May 19. To learn more about the budget, propositions, and candidates, please continue to read this special election edition of Speak Out!.

As a respected PDTA member, we acknowledge that your vote is a personal decision, yet we request that you consider the endorsements of the PDTA, or your local district's union, when voting on Tuesday, May 19. We also ask that you share these endorsements with friends, family and colleagues in the Pittsford community. It is quite simple to share our social media posts. If you are not already engaged with the PDTA's [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), and [X](#) accounts, please do, as we use these platforms to communicate information not typically shared through district email. We consistently strive to maintain a social

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media presence that is professional, respectful, relevant, and unifying around shared educational interests.

In accordance with all legal and fiscal responsibilities, no member dues funds are expended on the endorsement of the Board candidates nor school budget. The money for these activities is generated through the voluntary and generous contributions of our members through VOTE-COPE. If you are interested in contributing, or increasing your contribution, please talk to your building Political Action [volunteer](#) today! We look forward to seeing you at the polls, or at the PDTA Chicken BBQ fundraiser, both held at Calkins Road Middle School on Tuesday, May 19.

PDTA ENDORSED BOE CANDIDATES



JOHN
PIZZUTELLI



ROBIN
SCOTT



Kim Chesko

Executive Vice President

As Executive Vice President, one of my duties is to act as liaison to the Board of Education (BOE). As such I attend all BOE meetings, including the recent budget workshops in February and March. Here's some information about the budget:

A Collaborative Process

The PDTA budget was developed through a collaborative process led by the District Planning Team (DPT), with active input from all stakeholder groups, including multiple representatives from the Pittsford District Teachers' Association (PDTA). The goal throughout the process was to create a responsible, transparent budget that supports students and staff while navigating significant financial constraints.

Budget Development Factors

A recurring theme throughout the budget creation process is how many budget factors remain outside the district's control. Rising costs, contractual obligations, and external mandates all place pressure on local finances, limiting flexibility despite best efforts to plan conservatively.

Another important theme throughout budget workshops is that only a small portion of district revenue comes from state aid. As a result, Pittsford is heavily reliant on the tax levy to support our student-centered budget.

Budget Fast Facts

- Closed a 1.5 million dollar budget gap through staff reductions without job loss; added revenue from interest earnings/expenditure driven aids
- Used fund balances (savings) responsibly to further reduce margins
- Remains within the tax cap
- Has a levy increase of 2.69%

Propositions

Residents will be voting on four propositions in this year's ballot:

1. Authorizing the purchase of up to two 36 passenger diesel buses, not to exceed \$339,387; and up to seven 66 passenger diesel buses, not to exceed \$1,295,855
2. Authorizing the purchase of up to two 66 passenger electric school buses and needed charging stations, not to exceed \$941,222
3. Authorize the withdrawal of \$850,000 from the Capital Instructional Technology Reserve to support our ongoing 1:1 tech initiative
4. Authorize the increase in scope of the capital project to include new signage.

These propositions will NOT result in any increase in the proposed tax levy.

Board of Education Candidates

In addition to the budget and propositions, voters will also be choosing their Board of Education representatives. This year we have three candidates running for two open seats. PDTA conducted its formal endorsement process and the Representative Assembly voted to endorse new candidate John Pizzutelli and incumbent Board Member Robin Scott. You can find more information about the candidates later in this edition of Speak Out.

Voting will take place at the Calkins Road Middle School from 7 AM to 9 PM on Tuesday, May 19. Residents seeking an absentee ballot must obtain an application and submit it to the PCSD District Clerk; for more information visit the [District's website!](#)

2026-2027 PCSD Budget : Endorsed by PDTA

Capital Reserve Fund – Purchase of Diesel and Electric Buses : Endorsed by PDTA

Capital Reserve Fund – Instructional Technology (savings account) : Endorsed by PDTA

Capital Improvement Project – Wayfinding Signage: Endorsed by PDTA

BOE Candidates Pizzutelli and Scott : Endorsed by PDTA



Board of Education Candidate

John Pizzutelli



1. Why do you wish to serve on the PCSD BOE?

Almost 10 years ago, my wife and I made a decision that shaped our family's path: I would stay home with our children while she focused on her career. We agreed this role meant I would be actively involved in their lives and their education.

That began with simple steps when they were young, like organizing meetups at the library or a park. As they entered school, my involvement grew—starting as a PTSA room parent, then taking the lead on PTSA programs and events, becoming a long-term substitute science teacher, and co-chairing the PTSA at both MCE and BRMS buildings.

I have developed a deep appreciation for our schools, our educators, and the needs of our students. I am seeking to serve on the Board of Education to continue that work on a broader level—supporting strong schools, making thoughtful decisions, and helping ensure every student has the opportunity to succeed.

2. What are our school district's greatest strengths and opportunities for improvement?

Our district's greatest strengths are its top-tier teachers and staff, strong community involvement, a shared commitment to high achievement, and a focus on providing a well-rounded education. Families are engaged, and students benefit from a wide range of academic, extracurricular, and enrichment opportunities that support both achievement and personal growth.

There are always opportunities for continued improvement. As student, teacher, and district needs evolve, it is important to maintain a balance between academic rigor and social-emotional support. I hope to serve on the Board to help set and monitor clear goals that align with the district's mission and vision, while remaining thoughtful and responsive in an ever-changing landscape.

3. What do you see as the major challenges facing public education and our school district in the next few years?

A major challenge facing our district is delivering high achievement and a well-rounded education for all students within a constrained budget. Our community includes thousands of families with diverse and often competing needs. District policies and programs must be designed to ensure equitable opportunities for every student to succeed.

Two priorities consistently raised by families are: (1) expanding meaningful, creative opportunities for higher-achieving students, and (2) strengthening responsive support for students with additional needs. Addressing both growing needs—while maintaining strong outcomes

for students in the middle—requires close collaboration with the Superintendent, educators, and families to design effective programs and curriculum.

4. In this role, how will you address the current fiscal realities while continuing our commitment to excellence?

Addressing current fiscal realities requires disciplined and adaptable short- and long-term planning. With CPI increasing well above the NYS Foundation Aid increases of 1–2%, we must close the gap by finding efficiencies with responsible budgeting, while preserving our programs and offering competitive compensation to attract and retain top-quality staff.

Healthcare costs are another significant pressure. Having spent significant time in the schools, I've seen how much our employees care about our district. They go above and beyond to support each other and our students every day. We could help them by providing clear information and resources to help make informed healthcare decisions—without sacrificing quality of care—that support both their well-being and the district's financial sustainability.

5. What else would you like our members to know about you?

I have a wonderful life: an incredibly supportive and loving wife, two happy and healthy children that still find ways to amaze me every day (some days they “amaze” me differently than others), and parents and in-laws in town to help us through our journey. 10 years ago, I had no idea what I agreed to or where it would lead me. Going through the process of becoming a member of the Board of Education has been a great opportunity (that I probably wouldn't have otherwise taken) to reflect on my life, and my family's lives, and appreciate how lucky we all are to be here, now.

I am grateful to everyone that has supported me along the way. Remember to always keep the message positive and know that even the shortest “we got you” notes help me push me forward every day. Finally, thank you to the PD TA for your endorsement.

6. Where can we learn more about you?

I'm always happy to hear from or meet with anyone from the PD TA. Call or text me at 585-474-2721, email john.pizzutelli@gmail.com, or reach out to me on my personal Facebook page. FYI, [my Facebook page](#) is mostly pictures of my wife, kids, and dogs. Some Sabres and Bills mixed in there, too. You could also ask any of your friends or co-workers for a few stories. When you hear these stories, keep in mind this light-hearted advice from one of my favorite PCSD teachers: “I promise I will only believe 50% of what your child tells me about your home, if you promise you will only believe 50% of what they tell you about my classroom.” I still laugh from time to time thinking about how true those words are, in school and in life.

Board of Education Candidate

Robin Scott



1. Why do you wish to serve on the PCSD BOE?

My professional, volunteer and life experiences have prepared me to serve a third term on the Pittsford Schools Board of Education (BOE). I am the BOE Immediate Past President and a current Board member.

These experiences afforded me the opportunity for engagement with the District Audit Oversight committee, Community Engagement committee, and the Town, Village and School committee. For our partnership with Monroe County School Boards Association (MCSBA), I have served on the Executive, Board Leadership, Information Exchange, Legislative and District Operations committees.

Board experiences include my familiarity with board packet preparation, business meetings, Executive sessions, building visits, teacher and staff interactions, Power hours and myriad school community activities. Additionally, my past community involvement included service on PCSD committees like our District Planning team that advises our Superintendent, the Generation Ready Equity and Inclusion training, the Code of Conduct Review committee, and the Inclusivity Advisory Committee, just to name a few. Because of my continued commitment to our school district, I am qualified and seek a third term on the Pittsford School Board.

2. What are our school district's greatest strengths and opportunities for improvement?

Our school district's greatest strength included in our PCSD mission and tagline. "Excellence today and tomorrow," and "our community works collaboratively to inspire and prepare students to be their best, do their best and make a difference in the lives of others." Additional strengths are collaboration and succession planning. I am proud to be a part of a district that includes all stakeholders on key planning committees. At the table are administrators, teachers, staff, parents, and community members. The District Planning Team (DPT) The committee is just one committee that exemplifies our school district's commitment to collaboration. Recent examples of succession planning are our current Superintendent observed and learned from our Immediate Past Superintendent in an intentional and organized manner. Our current Director of Student Services (DSS) worked with our Immediate Past DSS prior to her assuming her new role in our District. Finally, our BOE Vice President attends meetings with our BOE President to train and prepare for future leadership.

Our opportunities for improvement include ensuring that our students are culturally proficient and have awareness that allows them to function as global citizens. We recently adopted a K-5 Amplify Math curriculum that establishes consistent learning across all five PCSD elementary schools/ We strive to improve consistency of experience across schools, grade levels, and student groups.

3. What do you see as the major challenges facing public education and our school district in the next few years?

The major challenge facing our school district is foundation aid and unfunded state mandates. We strongly advocate legislatively for a foundation aid formula as initially presented. Examples of unfunded state mandates are 100% electric and buses by 2035 and heat mitigation for the "seasoned" and primarily unairconditioned buildings in our district. If re-elected, I would continue to advocate for new and dedicated funding streams for electric bus, air conditioning conversion, and infrastructure purchases.

4. In this role, how will you address the current fiscal realities while continuing our commitment to excellence?

Our 2026-27 school budget is one that is fiscally prudent, student-centered and meets established guidelines. In my board tenure, we were fortunate to have a community that supported our March 2023 and 2026 Capital Projects that allowed for increased building safety, necessary building experience improvements, and infrastructure updates. Additionally, our Aa1 bond rating and contingent reserves place us in a budgetary position that sustains us and sets us apart from neighboring districts. As a school board member, I will work as a team to adopt a fiscally sound budget that adjusts to annual and varying circumstances.

5. What else would you like our members to know about you?

Experience. Commitment. Impact. Three words that describe what I bring to Pittsford Schools, the effort I am willing to exert and the intent to effect and maintain excellence in education within our school district.

6. Where can we learn more about you?

My contact information is Robin Scott, (810) 513-0600 and my email contact is Robin_Scott@pittsford.monroe.edu. I also have a Facebook page entitled [Elect Robin Scott, Pittsford School Board](#).



PD TA offered all BOE Candidates, not just those endorsed, the opportunity to contribute to Speak Out.



SRP Newslink

Connie Maust

With the end of the school year approaching, please keep the following in

mind:

- You should receive your completed Para Evaluation by June 1 from your designated building administrator. Your building administrator should schedule an in-person evaluation meeting if it has been three years since your last in-person evaluation. Remember the current form does not require a self-evaluation but there is an optional comment/suggestion for you to provide additional information to your administrator.
- You should receive a copy of the SRP Summer Day of Work form from your building administrator. It needs to be completed and returned by Friday, June 12th for approval. If you need a copy, click [HERE](#) for a quick link.
- Open SRP position postings for school year 2026-2027 will be starting by May 15. Human Resources will send emails with open paraprofessional positions. This process is especially important for our “undesigned paras”. It is important to express interest in all paraprofessional positions, including the role you currently hold, in order of preference. Placements are made based on the assigned unit and each member’s seniority. There will be multiple rounds of postings so it could be a few weeks before you are settled

in a position. You can, and should, continue posting until you obtain your most desired assignment.

- The PCSD Budget Vote & School Board Election is May 19, 2026 (7:00 am – 9:00 pm) at CRMS. PDTA will be having the popular BBQ Chicken Fundraiser to benefit the Barb Shapiro Student Scholarship Fund from 3:00 – 6:30 pm. Presale meal tickets are available until May 8th for \$16 from your building PR rep. There will also be onsite meals available for purchase for \$20. We are proud to partner with Pittsford Youth Services on this event. If you would like to donate your meal to a family in need, you can simply indicate that with your order. Please see your PR rep (see below) for more details.
- The celebration for the retiree Class of 2026 and 20-year recognition is June 3. It will be at Ravenwood Golf Club at 4:30 pm. It will be a sit-down meal, and tickets will be sold if you would like to be part of the celebration. Don’t forget your Derby hat to go along with this year’s Kentucky Derby theme.
- PDTA Active Member Meeting is June 8, 3:30 at SHS LGI.
- Graduation June 20 at RIT Gordon Field House; MHS @ 10:00 am and SHS @ 2:00 pm

PDTA CHICKEN BBQ FUNDRAISER

PRESALE UNTIL MAY 8!

TICKETS \$16

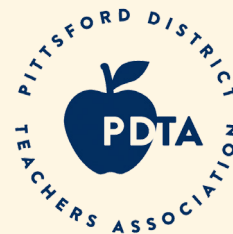


DINNER INCLUDES:

- 1/2 BBQ CHICKEN
- MACARONI SALAD
- SALT POTATOES
- DINNER ROLL & BUTTER

EVENT INFO:

TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2026
PICKUP FROM 3-6:30 PM
CALKINS ROAD MIDDLE SCHOOL



SEE YOUR PR REP TO PURCHASE TICKETS!

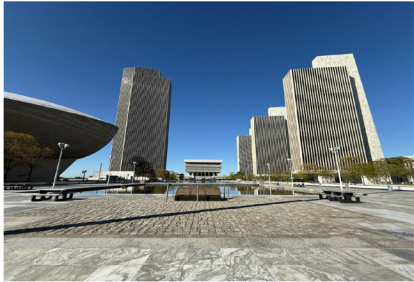
- AC - KARA MILLER
- JR - JEN TRENZI
- MC - KRIS FERNANDEZ
- PR - SUZANNE MCDONOUGH
- TR - JENI CONNORS
- BRMS - JENNIFER BIRDSONG-NG
- CRMS - CHRISTINE JOHNSON
- MHS - RACHEL BONANO
- SHS - CORINNE WARNER

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE BARB SHAPIRO STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP FUND!

2026 NYSUT RA

ALBANY, NY

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Link will always be open - make purchases whenever and as often as you like.

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pdta.logosoftware.com

Important Information and Dates:

- 5/19: Budget Vote and Chicken BBQ Fundraiser at CRMS
- 5/31: Deadline to complete Professional Development hours for Certificated Staff
- 6/3: Retirement Party at Ravenwood Golf Club
- 6/8: PDTA Active Member Meeting, SHS LGI @ 3:30
- 6/20: Graduation at RIT Gordon Field House



Speak Out! is edited and compiled by Murie Gillett. Feel free to contact me with any questions at murie_gillett@pittsford.monroe.edu.

SPEAK OUT! Ads

You and your family members are invited to place ads in future issues of SPEAK OUT!
Rates for members and family (price is for one issue):

1/8 Page: \$12.50 ¼ Page: \$25.00 ½ Page: \$50.00 Full Page: \$100.00

Above rates are for copy ready advertising. If additional design or set-up is required, an additional fee of \$25 will be assessed. Space for ads is limited per issue. Checks should be made out to PDTA and mailed to the PDTA Office. Ad proceeds will support PDTA charitable efforts.

Send copy and questions directly to murie_gillett@pittsford.monroe.edu.

Your PDTA Representative Assembly 2025-2026:

President: Stephanie Warchol * (CRMS)

Executive Vice President: Kim Chesko * (JRES)

Vice President for Negotiations: Dennise Zobel * (BRE)

Secretary: Alyson Jacobs * (ACE)

Treasurer: Ryan Domina * (SHS)

Resolution Specialist (non-voting): Jennifer Villareale * (MCE)

Allen Creek Elementary

Michele Riedl, Building Representative *

Emily Odhiambo, Assistant Building Representative

Susan Benson, Assistant SRP Representative

Jefferson Road Elementary

Bret Burrows, Building Representative *

Patty Steeley, Assistant Building Rep.

Heather White, Assistant SRP Representative

Mendon Center Elementary

Nina Dezio, Building Representative *

Erin Ciccone, Assistant Building Representative

Erin Cregan, Assistant Building Representative

Deborah Ricketts, Assistant SRP Representative

Rebecca Tan, Assistant SRP Representative

Park Road Elementary

Jackie Bowser, Building Representative *

Kelly Jordan, Assistant Building Representative

Thornell Road Elementary

Greg Bischooping, Building Representative *

Lindsay Stephens, Assistant Building Representative

Radhika Ramesh, Assistant SRP Representative

Barker Road Middle School

Kristen Dolan, Building Representative *

Jennifer Robinson, Assistant Building Representative

Ellen Fox, Assistant Building Representative

Karen Grace, Assistant Building Representative

Connie Maust, SRP Representative *

Calkins Road Middle School

Jessica Wojcik, Building Representative *

Jaelyn Anderson, Assistant Building Representative

Jessica Bonadio, Assistant Building Representative

Farida Patrawala, Assistant SRP Representative

Mendon High School

Samantha Hyde, Building Representative *

Brandon Mauks, Assistant Building Representative

Erin Moses, Assistant Building Representative

Jake Thompson, Assistant Building Representative

LaShanda Clark McCadney, Assistant SRP Representative

Sutherland High School

Amanda Marshall, Building Representative *

Marc Hellems, Assistant Building Representative

Brian Shafer, Assistant Building Representative

Jeff Wing, Assistant Building Representative

Kelly Nanavati, Assistant SRP Representative

Non-voting:

Irene Hopp, Retiree Representative & Whitney Sienkiewicz, Ancillary Representative

Standing Committee Chairs:

Communications: Murie Gillett, SHS

Extracurricular: Katie Shea, SHS

Membership: Paul LeVan, SHS

Political Action: Karen Grace, BRMS

Professional Advancement: Dennise Zobel, BRE

Professional Growth: Nicole Barry, BRE

Public Relations: Kelly Jordan, PRE

Safety and Wellness: Robyn Paino, PRE

Special Events: Erica Bonin, MHS

Delegates:

1. Stephanie Warchol

2. Kimberly Chesko

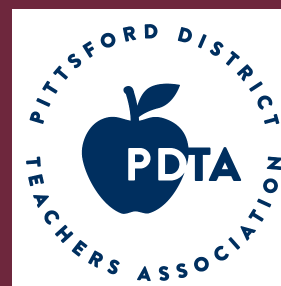
3. Katie Shea

4. Karen Grace

5. Alyson Jacobs

6. Jennifer Simons

7. Jennifer Birdsong-ng



*Indicates Executive Committee Member

Member Benefits covers all your summer needs!



May/June 2026

No matter what your upcoming plans include, NYSUT Member Benefits can help turn this summer into one that you'll always remember.

If you're seeking excitement, look no further than the Grand Circle Travel & Overseas Adventure Travel program. NYSUT members enjoy reduced pricing (at least a \$150 savings per trip along with many other discount opportunities) on a variety of international and domestic tours, including new "Immersion" adventures (8-12 days in length) designed for travelers seeking a more active style of adventure. "Immersion" tours combine iconic destinations, authentic cultural experiences, and dynamic outdoor activities.

Transform your indoor or outdoor

living space with a variety of options from **Purchasing Power**. Eligible NYSUT members can browse from thousands of items and pay over 12 months through payroll deduction or Automated Clearing House (ACH) withdrawals. Save 20% on your first order and at least 10% on all subsequent purchases. While not a discount program, Purchasing Power offers the benefits of no credit check, no hidden fees, and fixed payments.

Thinking about upgrading your home with new appliances, countertops, or kitchen cabinets? The **Buyer's Edge, Inc.** buying service program can be

used to purchase these items and many others such as new or used vehicles, televisions, furniture, mattresses, desktop and laptop computers, home security systems, and more (all backed by a low price guarantee). With Buyer's Edge, you have the option of purchasing online, by phone, or in-person (in certain benefit categories and geographic regions).

LEARN MORE ABOUT THESE BENEFITS AND MANY OTHERS



Scan the QR code, visit mb-nysut.org/summerplanning, or call 800-626-8101.

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