

Piseco Common School District

1722 Route 8, P. O. Box 7
Piseco, NY 12139
(518) 548-7555 fax (518) 548-5310
www.pisecoschool.com

April 20, 2026

Dear friends,

The bad news—the black flies are anxious for spring, too. The good news—your school taxes are not increasing. (This letter is beginning to sound like a Geico commercial.)

Piseco School's proposed spending plan for the 2026/27 school year amounts to \$905,406. This represents a slight increase over the prior year's budget due to the same reasons that our personal expenses have increased. Costs have risen. But these increases in expenditures will be taken from the district's fund balance. Subsequently, there will be no increase in the tax levy.

For a second straight year, we will purchase a school bus. This is the last opportunity to purchase a bus powered by gasoline. Pursuant to NYS law, all school buses purchased after 2027 must be electric-powered. The two buses we have purchased this year and next will last several years. By the time we need to replace them, the technology in electric vehicles should have significantly improved. Hopefully, they will be able to better withstand our long distances and cold weather. The purchase of this vehicle will be funded from our fund balance. Thus, while it will increase our expenditures, it will not affect our revenues(taxes).

A big concern for next year is heating oil. We heat with fuel oil and the recent increase will affect our expenditures. We have planned accordingly.

Piseco is one of 15 school districts that use a shared business office in the Otsego Northern Catskill BOCES. This cooperative venture performs many office functions such as payroll, accounting, bills, reporting, etc. with the economy of scale that we could not otherwise realize. It also provides a system of checks and balances for small districts with only a few employees.

While the tax levy is not established until August, your taxes will not increase. Your taxes have not increased since the 2012/13 school year. In fact, school taxes in Piseco have decreased over 50 percent since then. While this trend won't continue forever, I do not foresee anything in the near future that will change our fiscal stability.

We have 19 students in our district. Students in grades pre-K through grade 8 attend Lake Pleasant School. Students in high school attend Wells Central School or Broadalbin/Perth Central School. I work closely with the administrators in each of these schools and can assure you that our children are receiving a good education comparable to their peers throughout the State.

Sue Casey is running for re-election to a three-year term on the Board of Education.

Board of Education
Christine Michienzi, President
Sue Casey, Vice President
Jaime Parslow

Richard G. Rose, Superintendent of Schools
Victoria Orr, District Clerk
Jennifer Phelan, Treasurer
Marie Buanno, Tax Collector

The vote on the budget will be held on Tuesday, May 19th, from noon until 8 pm at the school. This year, any qualified voter may vote early with a mail-in ballot. Mail-in ballots are available beginning April 20th and may be obtained by completing a written application available on the district's website (pisecoschool.com), or at the district's office, or by calling the school at (518)548-7555. If you leave a message, please leave your name, phone number, and mailing address. To be eligible to vote, one must be at least 18 years of age, a resident of the district for the 30 days prior to the vote (Piseco must be your primary residence), and a U. S. citizen.

A public hearing will be held at the school on Thursday, May 7th, at 6 p.m. when the expenditures in the 2026/27 budget will be reviewed in depth. There are no secrets about a school budget. Whatever question you ask will get a forthright and accurate response. If I don't have the answer on that night, I will get back to you soon thereafter. If you cannot attend the hearing and have questions about the budget, feel free to call me at (518)548-7555 on Thursday, May 7th. You can also reach me by email at risec@pisecoschool.com. I will answer your questions promptly.

Enclosed is summary of the proposed budget. A more detailed version of the proposed budget can be found on the district's website www.pisecoschool.com.

Best regards,



Richard G. Rose, Superintendent of Schools