

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT #51
PITTSFIELD SCHOOL BOARD**

MINUTES

Pittsfield School Board Meeting
December 21, 2017
Pittsfield Middle High School

I. CALL TO ORDER

Members Present: Michael Wolfe, Chairperson
Bea Douglas
Linda Freese
Ted Mitchell
Ralph Odell

Others Present: John Freeman, Superintendent of Schools
Melissa Brown, Director of College and Career Readiness
Tobi Chassie, Director of Student Services
Derek Hamilton, Dean of Operations
Danielle Harvey, Dean of Instruction
Kathy LeMay, Director of Intervention & Title I Manager
Member of the Faculty

Chairperson Wolfe called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

II. AGENDA REVIEW

The following items were added to the agenda:

- School District Warrant (Dr. Freeman)
- Collective Bargaining Agreement (Dr. Freeman)
- State Financial Data (Dr. Freeman)
- Sports (Mr. Wolfe)

III. ACTION ON AGENDA

On a motion made by Ms. Douglas and seconded by Ms. Freese, the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda, as amended.

IV. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

A motion was made by Ms. Freese and seconded by Mr. Mitchell to approve minutes of the December 7, 2017, meeting. Change Section II to read:

The following items were added to the agenda:

- Behavior Management (Mr. Hamilton)
- Ski and Snowboard Club (Mr. Hamilton)
- Default Budget (Dr. Freeman)
- Leave Request (Dr. Freeman)
- Request for Release of Contract (Dr. Freeman)

The minutes were approved unanimously with the change in Section II.

V. PUBLIC INPUT – None

VI. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Colby Wolfe stated the Site Council reviewed orientation for new members and confirmed the nomination of Serena Biemer as faculty representative.

VII. DEAN OF INSTRUCTION

A. Social Media Communications

Ms. Harvey highlighted the increased efforts at updating the community by using Facebook. She showed the Board several posts and encouraged them to follow the page on Facebook.

VIII. DEAN OF OPERATIONS

A. School District Newsletter

Mr. Hamilton provided the Board with the latest copy of the School District Newsletter. This month's edition highlighted PES and PMHS food pantries, the Senior Financial Aid Night, and the PHS Alumni Association's donation of senior t-shirts.

B. PES Attendance Report

The District Attendance Team meets regularly to monitor student attendance. At the end of the first quarter, twenty-four students were identified and will be monitored. Average daily attendance is 94.9%, which is slightly down from 95.9% recorded during the first quarter last year, but slightly better than last year's overall rate of 94.2%. There were 112 students with perfect attendance.

C. PMHS Attendance Report

Student focus groups were organized at PMHS to learn more about the barriers to regular attendance. Students' responses included academic struggles, personal challenges, school structure and environment, parent and family challenges, and transportation.

At PMHS, the average daily attendance is 91.2%, which is down from 93.1% during the first quarter last year, compared to an overall average last year of 91.2%. There were 50 students with perfect attendance.

D. PES Discipline Report

Mr. Hamilton reviewed discipline data for PES. An average of 8.4 referrals per day have been made to the behavior support center. Defiance and non-compliance are the common reported behavior. Seventeen students have ten or more behavioral referrals, which equates to 88% of the total referrals being attributed to the seventeen students.

E. PMHS Discipline Report

According to Mr. Hamilton, there has been an average of 4.1 referrals per day at PMHS. Out of area is the most common type of problem behavior. Five students have nine or more referrals.

IX. DIRECTOR OF COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS

A. New Hampshire Scholars

Ms. Brown provided the Board with information regarding New Hampshire Scholars. She pointed out that in school year 2015-2016, the requirement of three years of math changed to four years. Ms. Brown reviewed the New Hampshire Scholars implementation history at PMHS and provided data to show the Board the number of students from 2012 to 2018 who took four years of math.

X. DIRECTOR OF INTERVENTIONS AND TITLE I MANAGER

A. Reading Intervention Plans

A meeting was held with teachers from the 3/4 classroom to discuss students struggling in reading. Ms. Harvey and Ms. LeMay worked with two classroom teachers and one special education teacher to create reading intervention plans for each student. The plan is to repeat this process with all grade levels to ensure students who are struggling with reading are provided a comprehensive plan for instruction.

XI. SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

A. School District Warrant

Dr. Freeman asked the School Board if they wanted to prepare a school district warrant to request a special school district meeting in the event the teacher contract warrant is defeated. Ms. Douglas wondered what benefit would come from another meeting if the contract is not approved. The special district

meeting is an extra expense to the district so if not beneficial, then the warrant article would be unnecessary. The Board was in consensus and will not draft a warrant article to request a special meeting.

B. State Financial Data

Dr. Freeman distributed a document from the New Hampshire Department of Education on cost per pupil by district in 2016-2017. The Board agreed Pittsfield is in the same vicinity as other towns with similar demographics, which was about \$1,000 greater than the state average.

Also distributed was a document from the New Hampshire Department of Education on equalized valuation per pupil in 2016-2017. Pittsfield, at \$433,316, was significantly lower than most other towns.

XII. SCHOOL BOARD – None

XIII. COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

A. Budget

Mr. Odell reviewed the deliberations of the Budget Committee have been in process. There will be three items that will inevitably come up during the public hearing. First, the expenditure for technology, such as iPads, SmartBoards, and computers; second, the position of community liaison; and finally, the salaries of administrators. The general consensus of the Budget Committee, according to Mr. Odell, is that the budget does not include any “fluff” and is fundamentally reasonable.

Mr. Wolfe stated that he did not want to support the elimination of any educational programs and would need to consider the elimination of extra-curricular activities. Ms. Douglas stated the community needs to understand the steps the Board will need to take to reduce the budget further if not approved.

Ms. Freese asked why the Budget Committee has a problem with the position of community liaison. Mr. Odell stated he thought it was because members of the committee did not understand or value the role of the position.

Dr. Freeman stated he is feeling that the Budget Committee does not trust the district or the superintendent. He discussed his concern that there is a difference of values that is dividing the goals of the Budget Committee versus the School Board’s goals. Mr. Wolfe reminded the committee that the district will hear from the public on January 10, 2017, at 7:00 p.m. in the PMHS Lecture Hall.

B. Drake Field & Facilities - None

C. Negotiations – None

D. Foss Foundation – None

XIV. PUBLIC INPUT (Second Session)

Ross Morse stated he would be willing to speak to the community about the position of community liaison. He stated he would be willing to explain the benefits of the position; it provides the community with a powerful voice in decisions that are being made. In referencing the previous discussion on school funding, Mr. Morse stated that he believes that the “voucher bill” currently being considered by the legislature would disadvantage “sending districts” as opposed to “receiving districts.”

XV. NON-PUBLIC SESSION

At 6:35 p.m. a motion was made by Ms. Douglas and seconded by Mr. Mitchell to enter into non-public session to discuss negotiations with the EAP under the authority of RSA 91-A:3, II (a). The Board was polled and voted unanimously (Ms. Douglas, yes; Ms. Freese, yes; Mr. Mitchell, yes; Mr. Odell, yes; Mr. Wolfe, yes).

No action was taken in non-public session.

At 6:40 p.m. a motion was made by Ms. Douglas and seconded by Ms. Freese to exit from non-public session and to re-enter into open session. The Board was polled and voted unanimously (Ms. Douglas, yes; Ms. Freese, yes; Mr. Mitchell, yes; Mr. Odell, yes; Mr. Wolfe, yes).

XVI. COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT

On a motion by Ms. Freese and seconded by Mr. Odell, the Board voted unanimously to accept the terms of the tentative agreement reached between the Board and the Education Association of Pittsfield.

XVII. PLAN AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING

The next School Board meeting is scheduled for January 4, 2017, at 5:30 p.m. at the Pittsfield Middle High School.

XVIII. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion made by Mr. Mitchell and seconded by Ms. Freese the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tobi Gray Chassie
Recording Secretary