

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

MINUTES

Pittsfield School Board Meeting
January 25, 2018
Pittsfield Middle High School

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

Others Present: John Freeman, Superintendent of Schools
Tobi Chassie, Director of Student Services
Ross Morse, Community Liaison

Chairperson Wolfe called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

II. PUBLIC INPUT – None

III. 2018-2019 SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET

Dr. Freeman suggested the Board discuss the budget, given the recommendations made by the Budget Committee at a meeting earlier this week. The Budget Committee recommended a reduction to the proposed budget by \$92,500, which included recommended reductions of \$50,000 for technology, \$20,500 for furniture, and \$22,000 to decrease funding for the community liaison position.

A motion was made by Mr. Wolfe and seconded by Ms. Douglas to recommend the Budget Committee's recommendation.

Ms. Douglas asked Dr. Freeman for his opinion regarding for support of the Budget Committee's bottom-line number. Dr. Freeman suggested the Board support the recommendation of the Budget Committee. He said it shows good will to support another committee of the Town. He did say, however, he did not agree with items that were recommended for reduction. For example, he explained, some furniture is needed.

Discussion ensued regarding the wording of the warrant and if it illustrates the recommended decrease made by the Budget Committee. The amount of money listed on the MS27 should, according to Mr. Schiferle, be the amount of the original proposed budget, unless the Board alters its adopted number to accept the Budget Committee's number.

The Board unanimously approved the amended budget in the amount of \$10,530,724.00.

Dr. Freeman asked the Board if they supported the suggestion by a Budget Committee member to charge high school students for transportation. Board members indicated that they were not in favor.

Dr. Freeman asked the Board if they supported action recommended by a community member to explore the possibility of a challenge to the state's education funding scheme. Board members indicated interest and directed Dr. Freeman to make inquiries.

Dr. Freeman distributed a copy of the list of items the Board agreed to purchase using fund balance monies in June 2017.

Dr. Freeman stated a member of the Budget Committee has been making regular and frequent requests for information from the SAU. There were several requests for information that had not been calculated by the district; Dr. Freeman, with the Board's support, indicated that the district will provide documents and existing information as requested but will not provide information that requires calculations. Some information was previously provided and would be duplicated.

Discussion ensued regarding a newspaper article Dr. Freeman is planning to author for the Suncook Valley Sun. The Board made several recommendations. Dr. Freeman informed the Board he would edit his draft and submit to them for a final opportunity to make suggestions.

Ross Morse stated an SB2 Informational Night has been organized for Monday, January 29, 2018, at 6:00 p.m. in the PMHS Lecture Hall. He hopes this will provide the community an opportunity to ask questions about the process before the Deliberative Session.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion made by Ms. Douglas and seconded by Ms. Freese the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 5:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tobi Gray Chassie
Recording Secretary