

APPROVED BY THE PITTSFIELD SCHOOL BOARD

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

MINUTES

Pittsfield School Board Meeting
November 15, 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
Tobi Chassie, Director of Student Services
Derek Hamilton, Dean of Operations
Kathy LeMay, Director of Intervention & Title I Manager
Members of the Public

Chairperson Wolfe called the meeting to order at 4:38 p.m.

II. FY19 BUDGET

Dr. Freeman provided the School Board with the 2018-2019 proposed budget. He called attention to the fact that two out-of-district placements have been added to the budget. Dr. Freeman offered the Board the opportunity to talk to Ms. Chassie about these additions in a non-public session.

Dr. Freeman distributed a copy of the estimated Revenue Summary for 2018-2019. He stated due to average daily membership in the schools (students enrolled and who are in attendance), the amount of the Adequacy Grant is not as low as we had expected. He suggested the work of Mr. Hamilton to increase attendance, as well as Pittsfield's relatively steady enrollment numbers, has had a positive effect on the grant.

Finally, Dr. Freeman distributed document entitled, Default Budget Calculation. He provided an explanation of the calculations. The difference between the proposed budget (\$10,640,424) and the default budget (\$10,202,519), which is a difference of \$437,905.

Ms. Douglas asked about the special education reserve fund. Dr. Freeman stated there is approximately \$250,000 in the account. Ms. Chassie confirmed that the fund may need to be accessed for two unexpected costs beginning in the current year.

Discussion ensued regarding the areas that may be considered to be decreased or eliminated. Dr. Freeman identified technology as an area that has been historically decreased. Ms. Douglas stated the importance of technology in current educational practices. Mr. Hamilton stated the iPads being used by the juniors and seniors are five to six years old and need to be replaced. When it was determined the district would become a one-to-one district, a four-year cycle of replacement was recommended. We have been unable, due to budget cuts, to maintain the replacement schedule. If the technology is not kept up to date, many of the programs used by educators cannot be sustained.

Ross Morse raised the issue of the opportunity students have to purchase their iPads upon graduation. He suggested this program be modified to allow students to make a yearly payment with the intent to own at the end of their high school career.

Ms. Douglas suggested the Board support the proposed budget. Mr. Mitchell stated his concern about the citizens supporting the budget as proposed. Discussion ensued.

On a motion made by Ms. Douglas and seconded by Mr. Mitchell, the Board voted unanimously to propose the budget in the amount of \$10,640,424. This amount equates to an approximate \$1.57/thousand tax increase.

Helen Schifft raised the issue of transportation. She suggested considering options such as charging a cost for daily bus transportation to the families. Also suggested was the elimination of late start Wednesday, which would reduce one run per week. This would save approximately \$18,000.

Mr. Morse stated the effect of the decrease in the Stabilization Grant has doubled. The total effect is \$172,000 for the proposed budget, which is half of the deficit.

III. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion made by Mr. Mitchell and seconded by Ms. Douglas, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 5:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tobi Gray Chassie
Recording Secretary