

**APPROVED BY THE PITTSFIELD SCHOOL BOARD**

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

---

**MINUTES**

Pittsfield School Board Meeting  
November 4, 2021  
Pittsfield Middle High School

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Members Present: Adam Gauthier, Chairperson  
Justin Clough, Vice Chairperson  
Molly Goggin (entered the meeting at 6:28 p.m.)  
Diane Rider

Others Present: Bryan Lane, Interim Superintendent  
Jessica Bickford, Director of Student Services  
Members of the Public

Chairperson Gauthier opened the meeting at 5:32 p.m. Mr. Gauthier asked people to be respectful of others' opinions and to maintain civility.

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The pledge of allegiance was led by Mr. Gauthier.

**III. AGENDA REVIEW**

The following items were added to the agenda:

- Approval of expenditure (Mr. Lane)
- History (Ms. Rider)
- English (Ms. Rider)
- Charter School (Ms. Rider)
- Vision of the Graduate Community Forum (Mr. Hamilton)

**IV. ACTION ON AMENDED AGENDA**

On a motion made by Mr. Clough and seconded by Ms. Rider, the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda as amended.

## V. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

The August 19, 2021 minutes were considered by the Board. Mr. Gauthier asked that the minutes be tabled until the minutes of the Rotary Hearing could be located. On a motion made by Mr. Clough and seconded by Ms. Rider the Board unanimously approved the tabling of the minutes from August 19, 2021.

The October 21, 2021 minutes were considered by the Board. Changes include: page four, paragraph seven, change to Sarah Duval; on page five, paragraph three, change to Elisha Griffin; on page five, paragraph seven, change to Jamie Koladish; on page six, paragraph one, change to Sarah Duval; and on page seven, paragraph four, change to \$138,981.46. The Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes as amended.

## VI. PUBLIC INPUT

Dan Schroth asked if he could have time on the next agenda to discuss several publications which he has authored and would like to share with students. Mr. Schroth also stated his opinion regarding the carbon footprint created by transportation required to send our student to another district. He also stated his opinion that some rights need to be surrendered for the benefit of society and offered the mandate to have students wear masks as an example of such.

Jodi Cunningham suggested that when a survey is required by students, higher participation could be realized if the survey was done during advisories.

Ryan Rafferty stated that Mr. Lane's letter to the parents explaining the changes in COVID-19 protocol discounted the student survey due to lack of participation. Mr. Lane stated that there were sixty-five high school responses and fifty-four middle school responses, which he did not find to be significant.

## VII. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Matthew Swenson explained that the proposal relative to missing work was rescinded and a dress code proposal has initiated further investigation by teachers and students.

## VIII. PES PRINCIPAL

### A. Movie Request

Mr. Wiley stated that the 3 / 4 team has asked to watch the movie Matilda to coincide with the reading of the book. Ms. Rider reviewed the results of research she did on the movie; discussion ensued. On a motion made by Mr. Clough and

seconded by Mr. Gauthier, the Board voted with Mr. Clough and Mr. Gauthier voting in the affirmative and Ms. Rider abstaining from the vote.

#### B. Adequacy Funding Approval

Mr. Wiley provided the Board with a chart outlining the requests for expenditure of adequacy funding. The items included a backpack vacuum, string trimmer and battery, slab roller, tables, consumable and non-consumable classroom supplies, all totaling \$20,316.65. Mr. Gauthier questioned the purchase of the string trimmer and battery and asked if a gas-powered version would be more cost effective. Discussion ensued regarding the pros and cons of the two options. Mr. Gauthier asked if bidding is required for the coding program, which is \$6,200.96. Mr. Lane explained that because this purchase is actually for more than one item, bidding is unnecessary. On a motion made by Ms. Rider and seconded by Mr. Clough, the Board voted unanimously to approve the purchase of items for the cost of \$20,316.65.

#### C. Staffing Update

Mr. Wiley reported that PES is currently advertising for a Library Media / Technology Specialist, three regular education paraeducators, and substitute teachers.

#### D. Professional Development

Mr. Wiley reviewed the schedule for professional development for teachers and staff at PES to include the topics of homelessness, report card commenting, team building, and a presentation by consultant, Mike Anderson.

Mr. Clough asked for clarification regarding the report card reporting topic. Mr. Wiley stated that teachers are being assisted in writing effective comments and using data to support the grades and comments.

Ms. Rider asked if parent training is something that is done in other districts. Mr. Wiley provided an example, as did Mr. Lane.

#### E. NWEA Data

Mr. Wiley distributed a collection of data relative to the NWEA testing completed at PES. Ms. Rider asked if the NWEA data had been compared to the data recently published by the State of New Hampshire; Mr. Wiley answered that a comparison was not made. Mr. Clough asked if the data is used to look at grade level cohorts; Mr. Wiley stated this would be possible. Ms. Rider asked if the data she has requested relative to evacuation of classrooms due to behavior incidents has been prepared. Mr. Clough asked if evacuations are necessary at the middle high school level; Mr. Hamilton said it was very rare.

F. Calendar of Upcoming Events

Mr. Wiley provided the Board with a list of upcoming events during the month of November.

IX. PMHS PRINCIPAL

A. Browne Center

Mr. Hamilton stated that on November 1 and 2, 2021, ninth and tenth grade classes attended the UNH Browne Center with their advisors and grade level teachers. The program provides opportunities for participants to make positive choices, gain self-confidence, and learn skills that are critical to their development.

B. Foreign Exchange Student

Mr. Hamilton reported that PMHS has welcomed a foreign exchange student from Italy.

C. New Hampshire Interscholastic Athletic Association (NHIAA) Award of Excellence

The NHIAA recognized PMHS with the Award of Excellence at their annual meeting in September. PMHS was one of fifty schools that did not receive a game disqualification by a player or coach during the 2021-2021 school year.

D. Professional Learning

Mr. Hamilton reviewed the process used by faculty to plan the Winter Showcase and Spring Exhibition of Learning.

E. School Newsletter

Mr. Hamilton provided a copy of the November newsletter. He highlighted the New Hampshire Higher Education Assistance Foundation's (NHHEAF) *I Applied* event, upcoming student-led conferences, and the Vision of the Graduate Forum scheduled for November 20, 2021 at 10:30 at Joy Church. When asked by Mr. Gauthier why Joy Church, Mr. Hamilton explained that a previous event was held at the school and only one person participated. It was thought that if this event was held off-campus, more people might attend. Mr. Gauthier asked if the event could be advertised on FaceBook; Mr. Lane said he would do a parent notification and Mr. Hamilton said The Post would be used, as well.

Mr. Lane explained that the Vision of the Graduate should parallel the work the Board is going to do to create a new mission. The Vision event is connected to requirements of the accreditation process for the New England Association of Schools and Colleges.

Mr. Clough described some conflicts that are being experienced with the *I Apply* process. He stated that not all institutions of higher learning are using NHHEAF and it might create a stumbling block for some students in their application process.

F. Ski and Snowboard Club

Mr. Hamilton explained that the Ski and Snowboard Club will resume this year for students in grades four through twelve. The generous contribution of the Sanderson Trust allows for the school district to offer this program.

X. SCHOOL BOARD APPOINTMENT

Mr. Gauthier commenced with the process of interviewing five potential appointees for the vacant school board position.

XI. INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

A. COVID-19 Protocol

Mr. Lane explained that he is continuing to monitor COVID-19 information daily including daily absenteeism, regional transmission rates, positivity rates for PCR testing, in-school transmissions, in-school clusters, and new cases in Pittsfield.

B. Control Tech

Mr. Lane explained that he and Mr. Wiley met with Control Tech to discuss the options for a new ventilation system at PES. He reminded the Board that they had taken action on the contract with Control Tech previous to Mr. Lane becoming the interim superintendent.

C. Retrofitting PMHS

The architectural firm of Team Design Harriman has been contacted to provide a quote on what it would be cost to determine if the classes from PES could be brought to the middle/high school and if so, the cost to retrofit the building to create appropriate class spaces for elementary school classrooms at PMHS.

D. Teacher Negotiations

Teacher negotiations are in progress.

#### E. Budget

Mr. Lane stated that he has received no questions from the Board regarding the proposed budget.

Mr. Gauthier asked about the cost of masks for the bus drivers; Mr. Lane offered to contact the bus company to see if they needed more masks.

#### F. Approval of Expenditure

Mr. Lane recommended the expenditure of \$3,809 to upgrade technology for the SAU staff and \$19,522 for technology for students and staff. Mr. Clough questioned the caliber of the technology being requested; Mr. Lane confirmed the reasons for selection. On a motion made by Mr. Gauthier and seconded by Mr. Clough, the Board voted unanimously to approve the sum of \$23,331 for technology.

#### G. Vaccination Clinic

Mr. Gauthier asked if the district could sponsor a vaccination clinic. Mr. Lane suggested asking parents through a survey if they would take advantage of the service if provided. Mr. Hamilton stated that there may not be an opportunity for a school clinic, but the PMHS school nurse is researching the possibility.

### XII. SCHOOL BOARD

#### A. Nominations

Mr. Lane nominated Allison Mollica for the position of Library Media Specialist for PMHS. On a motion made by Mr. Gauthier and seconded by Ms. Goggin, the Board voted unanimously to approve the hiring of Ms. Mollica.

Mr. Lane nominated Bryna Martin to fill the role of Special Education Teacher for PES. On a motion made by Mr. Gauthier and seconded by Mr. Clough, the Board voted unanimously to approve the hiring of Ms. Martin.

#### B. Charter School

Ms. Rider asked if Mr. Lane has been able to research the possibility of charter school transition. Mr. Lane explained that he has helped the parent who made the suggestion to find more information. Mr. Lane offered to provide the Board with information.

#### C. History

Ms. Rider asked if NH History Week or Constitution Day would be acknowledged. Also, she questioned if the district is in compliance with teaching certain topics in acknowledgement of Veteran's Day. Mr. Hamilton confirmed that Constitution Day had been celebrated.

D. English

Ms. Rider requested that the English teachers from PMHS provide a syllabus to the Board for English 9, 10, 11 and 12. Mr. Hamilton will provide that by the second meeting in December.

E. Universal Design for Learning

Ms. Rider asked for clarification on the work of the Universal Design for Learning (UDL) team. Mr. Hamilton explained that the work of the team is focused this year on using a protocol to assess student work as it relates to curriculum. Ms. Rider suggested a Board member sitting in on the work of the UDL team. Mr. Hamilton will provide Ms. Rider with a date and time as she volunteered to sit in on the meeting.

XIII. COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

A. Budget Committee Representative - Mr. Clough

Mr. Lane stated that the proposed budget was previously provided to the Board. Mr. Clough stated that the Budget Committee has expressed positive comments on the format of the proposed budget. Mr. Lane suggested the Board make a motion on the proposed budget which totals \$10,274,083.77. A motion was made by Mr. Gauthier and seconded by Mr. Clough to approve the budget in the amount of \$10,274,083.77. Mr. Lane stated that when a date and time is identified, he, Mr. Wiley, Mr. Hamilton, and Ms. Bickford would join him at the Budget Committee meeting. He would appreciate questions in advance to be sure he has the information requested. The motion was approved unanimously by the Board.

B. Drake Field and Facilities - Mr. Gauthier

C. Negotiating Team - Ms. Goggin & Mr. Gauthier

D. Foss Family Scholarship - Ms. Rider

XIV. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for Thursday, November 18, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. in the Pittsfield Middle High School Media Center. This meeting will include a work session on the vision and mission of the district.

## XV. PUBLIC INPUT

Sandra Adams asked if there was a response to the question of who owns PES. Mr. Lane said he has not gotten an answer but will.

Ryan Rafferty clarified the use of absentee rate rather than attendance rate when determining COVID-19 decisions.

Jill Gauthier asked for clarification on parent-teacher conferences. She said that some teachers are not offering Friday, November 12, 2021 as an option. Mr. Wiley stated that timing is an issue; the situation will be explained to parents.

Ms. Gauthier asked for more Board participation in PTO activities.

## XVI NON-PUBLIC SESSION

At 8:38 p.m. a motion was made by and seconded by to enter into a non-public session under the authority of RSA 91-A:3 (a) to discuss negotiations and school board appointment. The Board was polled and voted unanimously to enter into a non-public session (Mr. Clough, yes; Mr. Gauthier, yes; Ms. Goggin, yes; Ms. Rider, yes).

At 9:37p.m. a motion was made by Mr Gauthier and seconded by Mrs. Goggin to exit from a non-public session. The Board was polled and voted unanimously to exit the non-public session (Mr. Clough, yes; Mr. Gauthier, yes; Ms. Goggin, yes; Ms. Rider, yes).

## XVII PUBLIC SESSION

Mr. Gauthier makes a motion to approve Sandra Adams to fill the open position on the School Board, 2nd by Mrs. Goggin. The Board was polled and unanimously approved. (Mr. Clough, yes; Mr. Gauthier, yes; Ms. Goggin, yes; Ms. Rider, yes).

## XIV. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion made by Mr. Clough and seconded by Mrs. Rider to adjourn the meeting. The Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:40 p.m. (Mr. Clough, yes; Mr. Gauthier, yes; Ms. Goggin, yes; Ms. Rider, yes).

Respectfully submitted,

Tobi Gray Chassie  
Recording Secretary