

APPROVED BY THE PITTSFIELD SCHOOL BOARD

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

MINUTES

Pittsfield School Board Meeting
February 3, 2022
Pittsfield Middle High School

I. CALL TO ORDER

Members Present: Adam Gauthier, Chairperson
Justin Clough, Vice Chairperson
Sandra Adams
Molly Goggin
Diane Rider

Others Present: Bryan Lane, Interim Superintendent
Derek Hamilton, Principal, PMHS Principal
Mike Wyley, Principal, PES
Members of the Public

Chair Gauthier opened the meeting at 5:30 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The pledge of allegiance was led by Mr. Gauthier.

III. AGENDA REVIEW

The following items were added:

- March 3, 2022 Meeting (Mr. Gauthier)
- Dress Code JICA (Ms. Adams)
- Warrant Article Assignments (Ms. Adams)
- Policy JLCD (Ms. Adams)
- Nomination (Mr. Lane)
- Budget Presentation (Mr. Lane)

IV. ACTION ON AMENDED AGENDA

On a made by Mr. Clough and seconded by Ms. Adams, the Board unanimously approved the amended agenda.

V. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

The minutes of the January 20, 2022 meeting were considered. The following changes were made: page two, paragraph three, line eleven, change “designed” to “designated”; beginning on page three, change Roman numeration to be consecutive; on page five, paragraph four, change “Adam” to “Adams”; on page five, paragraph seven, change to “Ms. Rider and Ms. Adams attended the Winter Showcase; they...”; and on page six, paragraph three, change spelling to “Schiferle” in two places. On a motion made by Mr. Clough and seconded by Ms. Rider, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes as amended.

VI. PUBLIC INPUT

Jaime Koladish stated that she believes someone who is not a certified educator will provide a broader perspective to the anticipated curriculum advisory committee. She thinks that the committee needs to have people represented from the curriculum.

Lea Adams stated that she thought community representatives should be included on the curriculum advisory committee to ensure transparency.

VII. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Matthew Swenson thanked the School Board for the feedback that was provided at the last School Board meeting. He and Dalton Swenson will be bringing the information forward Tuesday, February 8, 2022 to the Site Council.

VIII. PES PRINCIPAL

A. Staffing Update

Mr. Wiley stated that PES is currently advertising for a Library Media / Technology position and four paraprofessionals.

B. Professional Development

Mr. Wiley reviewed the professional development plan for February. He provided an executive skill questionnaire form the book *Smart But Scattered*, which is being read by faculty.

C. SWIS Data

Mr. Wiley provided behavioral data that was requested at a previous Board meeting. There were a total of 288 referrals from August 30, 2021 to January 13, 2022. Mr. Gauthier asked for a breakdown of infractions that are mask-related. Mr. Clough asked if it would be possible to see data in comparison with a like period of time in a previous year; this data would help provide a reference point. Ms. Rider stated that she is aware that Responsive Classroom and Restorative Justice is used and wondered if the program, Reality Discipline has been considered. She also asked if the administration has heard about the Department of Education's sponsored program, Regulatory Classroom. Ms. Goggin asked that the topic be referred to as behavior management, rather than discipline systems.

D. Calendar of Upcoming Events

Mr. Wiley provided the Board with a calendar of upcoming events.

IX. PMHS PRINCIPAL

A. Health Services Update

Mr. Hamilton announced that on-site COVID-19 testing is now available at both PES and PMHS for people who are symptomatic during the school day. Home testing kits are also available when requested.

B. Professional Learning Activities

Mr. Hamilton provided an overview of topics and objectives for professional learning over the month of January.

C. Winter Showcase

Mr. Hamilton stated that the January 19th Winter Showcase will be used as a building block for the spring Exhibition of Learning. Mr. Hamilton provided the Board with copies of two Learning Studio publications: The Panther Politic and Looseleaf Magazine. Mr. Gauthier asked about having these publications at local places for the community to access; Mr. Hamilton said he would do so.

D. Good to Great Team

Ms. Adams asked if the Good to Great Team was open to the public. Mr. Hamilton explained that the purpose of the Good to Great Team is to review current programs and develop recommendations for improvement. He said that the meetings are open to the public. The program being reviewed currently is the

Flex Program. Ms. Chassie was asked to provide additional information about the Good to Great Team.

X. INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOL

A. Weather Alert

Mr. Lane announced that school was canceled tonight for tomorrow, February 4, 2022, due to weather.

B. COVID-19

Mr. Lane reviewed the statistics relative to COVID-19. Currently, criteria require masks but that would likely change given the current trends.

C. Deliberative Session

Mr. Lane acknowledged Sara Zinn and Eric Anthony for their help in preparing for the Deliberative Session. A draft of the presentation to be given to the voters was shared. Mr. Lane provided the board with a draft script from which the Board members could begin their discussion of the warrant articles.

D. Assessment

Mr. Lane provided an overview of assessment practices used in the district. He explained that the assessments used at the beginning of the year are used to assist in measuring student progress.

E. Professional Growth and Evaluation Committee

Mr. Lane stated that he is meeting with the teachers who are finishing their three-year certification cycle. He is using the opportunity to talk with teachers about what is working and what is not working relative to professional development. Mr. Lane explained that the evaluation system is going to be reviewed under his direction.

F. Nomination

Mr. Lane recommended Payne Gould for a position of special education teacher for PES; he would be hired at Bachelor's Step 0, an annual salary of \$32,794 which will be prorated for the remainder of the year beginning on February 21, 2022. On a motion made by Mr. Gauthier and seconded by Mr. Clough the Board voted unanimously to approve hiring Mr. Gould as a special educator. Mr. Lane stated that he will be hired under Alternative IV, a program that allows a non-certified person to work over the next three years to become certified.

G. Presentation for Deliberative Session

Mr. Lane asked the Board for their feedback regarding the draft presentation. He will post the presentation on the website in advance of the meeting, providing the community the opportunity to plan questions they may want to ask at the meeting. Ms. Rider appreciated the level of detail that the presentation provided. The Board agreed to posting the presentation before the meeting. Ms. Rider asked if the presentation could be put in other locations, such as FaceBook for people that do not visit the website, to which Mr. Lane agreed.

H. Team Design Harriman

According to Mr. Lane, the cost for a feasibility study to determine if the elementary school students could be housed at PMHS is \$26,500. Ms. Adams asked if the District should go out to bid. Mr. Lane said that there are no other vendors available in the area and this company is familiar with the building from previous work completed.

I. Policies

Mr. Lane presented Policy JIC, Student Conduct; Policy JICD, Student Discipline and Due Process; Policy JICD-R, Memorandum of Understanding. These policies will be voted on by the Board at the next meeting.

XI. SCHOOL BOARD

A. Policies

Mr. Lane presented Policy JKAA, Use of Restraints and Seclusion. A spelling error was noted and no modifications were suggested. He presented Policy JLCD-R, Administering Medication to Students and no modifications were suggested. Mr. Lane presented Policy CA, Administration Goal. A grammatical error was noted and no modifications were suggested. He presented Policy DAF, Administration of Federal Grant Funds. A spelling error was noted and no modifications were suggested. Policy JFABD, Admission of Homeless Students was presented with no modifications warranted.

B. Team Design Harriman

Mr. Lane, upon request from Mr. Gauthier, determined where the money would come from if the Board decided to follow through with asking Team Design Harriman to do the study of viability to move students from PES to PMHS. He stated that the work would take approximately sixty days to complete. Mr. Gauthier stated that he thought the study was necessary to provide the Board with the information they need to make an informed

decision. On a motion made by Mr. Gauthier and seconded by Ms. Adams, the Board voted to hire Harriman for \$26,500 to conduct a viability study, with Ms. Adams, Mr. Clough, Mr. Gauthier, and Ms. Goggin voting in the affirmative and Ms. Rider abstaining from the vote.

C. Warrant Article Assignments

Mr. Gauthier reviewed the process previously used by the Board to present the warrant articles at the Deliberative Session and asked if changes were required. It was determined that a Board member would move the article, another would second the article, and the member moving the article would provide explanation. If there are questions that Mr. Lane should answer, he will be asked by the Board to respond. Assignments were made as follows: Warrant Article #1 - Gauthier / Clough; Warrant Article#2 - Goggin / Gauthier; Warrant Article #3 - Goggin / Gauthier; Goggin; Warrant Article #4 - Clough / Adams; Warrant Article #5 - Rider / Clough; Warrant Article #6 - Adams / Rider; and Warrant Article #7 - Gauthier / Goggin.

Mr. Gauthier requested that the Board have a work session at 5:30 prior to the Deliberative Session to which the Board agreed.

D. Community Curriculum Review Committee Proposal

Ms. Rider reviewed a proposal for a Community Curriculum Review Committee. She proposed that this would be a non-voting, advisory committee with the intent of bringing in members of the community who are interested in providing feedback regarding programs and materials. Discussion ensued regarding the value of incorporating community voice in the curriculum process whether as a separate committee or as part of the standing Universal Design for Learning (UDL) teams. Further discussion ensued regarding the pros and cons of having a community curriculum review committee. Mr. Lane summarized the role of a community member if they were to become a part of the UDL teams at PES and PMHS. Discussion ensued regarding the committee's role relative to curriculum vs. materials. Ms. Adams asked Ms. Rider if she would be willing to consider the discussion and make some changes to the proposal for a future decision, to which she agreed.

XII. COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

- A. Budget Committee Representative - Mr. Clough
- B. Drake Field and Facilities - Mr. Gauthier
- C. Negotiating Team - Ms. Goggin & Mr. Gauthier
- D. Foss Family Scholarship - Ms. Rider

XIII. NEXT MEETING

The Deliberative Session is scheduled for Thursday, February 10, 2022 at 6:30. A work session will be scheduled for 5:30.

The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for Thursday, February 17, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. in the Pittsfield Middle High School Media Center.

Mr. Gauthier is unable to attend the March 3, 2022 meeting; it is during vacation week. On a motion made by Mr. Clough and seconded by Ms. Goggin the Board voted to cancel the March 3, 2022 meeting with Ms. Adams, Mr. Clough, Ms. Goggin, and Ms. Rider voting in the affirmative and Mr. Gauthier abstaining from the vote.

XIV. PUBLIC INPUT

Clayton Wood stated his concern about the discussion regarding a curriculum advisory committee. He stated that Ms. Rider is asking the Board for what parents want - they want to know what curriculum is being implemented and what materials are being used. Mr. Wood said that the information on the website is not easily accessed by parents or community members. He reiterated that parents do not want to tell the teachers what to teach, they just want to know what is being taught and what materials are being used. He said there are avenues available for parents to “opt out” of curriculum and materials but they don’t know what those are and cannot make “opt out” decisions accordingly. According to Mr. Wood, people that want to help don’t want to tell the school what to do but want to meaningfully engage in their children’s education.

Ms. Koladish stated that she wants to know what her children are doing in school so she can have conversations with them. She wants to help and feels that there is no way in which she can do that. She does not feel that the school wants to hear or have the help from the community.

Lea Adams stated that she is concerned that after many years there is still a lack of information about the materials being used. She feels that there is a lack of information between the school and families.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Clough and seconded by Ms. Rider to adjourn the meeting. The Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tobi Gray Chassie
Recording Secretary