

APPROVED BY THE PITTSFIELD SCHOOL BOARD

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

MINUTES

Pittsfield School Board Meeting
February 17, 2022
Pittsfield Middle High School

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

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

Chair Gauthier opened the meeting at 5:31 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The pledge of allegiance was led by Mr. Gauthier.

III. AGENDA REVIEW

The following items were added:

- Revision of Agenda (Ms. Adams)
- Dress Code (Ms. Adams)
- Mask Policy (Mr. Gauthier)
- District Website (Mr. Clough)
- Warrant Article Explainer (Mr. Clough)
- Non-Public Session (Mr. Lane)

IV. ACTION ON AMENDED AGENDA

On a motion 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 February 3, 2022 meeting were considered. It was agreed that Ms. Chassie would work with Ms. Zinn to make sure the policies on page five were listed correctly. The approval of the minutes was deferred to the next meeting.

VI. PUBLIC INPUT

Jaime Koladish stated that in the last few weeks she has been receiving information about curriculum through a newly introduced technology platform. She expressed her appreciation to the Grade Five team.

VII. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Matthew Swenson explained that the Site Council reviewed the School Board's questions and considerations. A letter was presented to the School Board outlining questions of the Site Council. Discussion ensued regarding specific items of clothing that are and are not allowed.

VIII. DIRECTOR OF STUDENT SERVICES

A. Compliance

Ms. Bickford explained that the NH Department of Education has been working this past year to overhaul the way in which districts are monitored for special education compliance. She indicated that the most significant change is that districts will be reviewed based on the amount of risk they demonstrate annually as measured by an established rubric, which Ms. Bickford shared.

IX. INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOL

A. COVID-19

Mr. Lane reviewed the statistics that are used to determine Covid protocol. The COVID numbers are declining in school and the community numbers are the biggest concern at this time. The mask requirement has been lifted as of February 17, 2022, based on the data points dictated by the protocol.

B. Team Design - Harriman

Arrangements have been made with Team Design - Harriman to visit during the first week of March to determine if it is feasible for the elementary school students to move into the PMHS building. Mr. Lane explained the multiple steps that would need to occur before students can be tuitioned to another district(s).

C. PES Ventilation

Mr. Lane stated that he has met with EEI Services who is contracted with the District to look into the renovation of the ventilation system at PES. He explained that \$1,540,000 of the \$2,200,000 of the ARP ESSR grant and \$500,000 from the ESSER II grant would be used to complete this work. Mr. Lane stated that if PES is going to continue to be used, work on the ventilation system needs to be done and the grants would mean not using property tax revenue.

D. Warrant Articles

Mr. Lane explained how he will be informing the public about the Warrant Articles. Once text is finalized, he will submit them to the Concord Monitor.

E. Professional Certification

Mr. Lane has currently met with thirteen of the nineteen staff whose certification will need to be renewed by June 30, 2022. He is working with the Professional Growth and Evaluation Team to consider changes.

F. Student Information System

Mr. Lane stated that the district is considering replacing PowerSchool with another student information system. Conversations are taking place with ALMA, a company that provides an alternative program. Ms. Goggin cautioned that ALMA does not interface with Google Classroom. Mr. Lane stated that the NH Department of Education reports that are required are difficult to manage with PowerSchool, creating a motivator for this change.

G. Policies

Mr. Lane presented for the first reading Policy BEDB, Agenda Preparation and Dissemination; Policy EBCE, School Closings; Policy JH, Attendance, Absenteeism, and Truancy; Policy JHC, Student Early Release Precautions; Policy JIA, Student Due Process Rights; Policy JI, Student Rights and Responsibilities; Policy JIAA, Eighteen Year Old Students; and Policy JICC, Student Conduct on School Buses. A second reading of these policies will take place at the next meeting.

X. SCHOOL BOARD

A. Default Budget

Mr. Lane stated that the Default Budget that was previously approved by the School Board was \$10,441,003. It was determined that there were items that should have been removed from the Default Budget as one time expenditures that was not were not in the original dollar figure. The accurate Default Budget amount, according to Mr. Lane is \$10,246,271, as reported to the public at the Deliberative Session held on February 10, 2022.

On a motion made by Mr. Gauthier and seconded by Ms. Adams, the Board unanimously approved changing the Default Budget to \$10,246,271 for the 2022-2023 School District Budget.

B. Policies

Mr. Lane presented for third reading: Policy JLCD-R, Administering Medication to Students; no modifications were made by the Board. He presented Policy CA, Administrative Goals; no modifications were made. Policy DAF, Administration of Federal Grant Funds was presented; no modifications were made. Policy JFABD, Admission of Homeless Students was presented; no modifications were made.

C. Warrant Article Explainer

Mr. Clough stated appreciation for the work Mr. Lane will do to inform the public about the warrant articles. He asked if there might be additional information that would provide voters with the consequences of their vote. Mr. Clough also stated there needs to be information provided about what would happen if the Default Budget prevails.

D. District Website

Mr. Clough stated that the logo is illegible on the website and asked if it could be reworked. He also asked if the curriculum information could have its own link. Mr. Clough asked if there could be included on the website a question box that would go directly to the principal of the appropriate building. Ms. Goggin suggested having the classroom links (i.e. Class DoJo) could be included on the website

E. Mask Proposal

Mr. Gauthier read a proposal he has written relative to masks. He suggested repealing the current COVID policies and replace it with:

- Make masks recommended but not required district-wide.
- Support the school/community members who choose to wear masks; continue to supply masks.
- Continue the mask protocol for our buses required by the CDC order set to expire on March 18, 2022. Discontinue required masks if the CDC order is revoked.
- Continue to follow the isolation and exclusion protocols that are presently in place for those who are symptomatic or test positive. Continue to emphasize that people who are sick should stay home. Those coming off exclusion would be required to follow the mask protocols presently in place per NH Department Health and Human Services.
- Continue in school rapid testing.
- Continue to emphasize and support vaccination.
- Remove all cohorting and separating. Move breakfast and lunch back to cafeterias.
- Implement targeted masks in classrooms. If there are three or more positive cases per classroom, masks will be required for ten days following the latest positive case. If a student or staff member returns before the ten-day isolation period, then a mask will be required for five days.

Discussion ensued regarding this proposal. Suggestions were made to reword the final bullet; wording was provided to Mr. Lane by Mr. Gauthier.

Mr. Gauthier made a motion to repeal the current COVID policies and replace it with making masks recommended but not required district-wide; supporting the school/community members who choose to wear masks; continue to supply masks; continuing the mask protocol for our buses required by the CDC order set to expire on March 18, 2022; discontinuing required masks if the CDC order is revoked; continuing to follow the isolation and exclusion protocols that are presently in place for those who are symptomatic or test positive; continuing to emphasize that people who are sick should stay home, for those coming off exclusion requiring to follow the mask protocols presently in place per NH Department Health and Human Services; continuing in school rapid testing; continuing to emphasize and support vaccination; removing all cohorting and separating; moving breakfast and lunch back to cafeterias; and if there is an active cluster, as defined by the NH Department of Health and Human Services, in a classroom or grade level, then targeted masking will be required for fourteen days for both students and staff. The motion was seconded by Ms. Adams and passed unanimously by the Board.

XI. 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

XII. NEXT MEETING

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

XIII. PUBLIC INPUT

Robert Schiferle stated that the work on the COVID plan is commendable. He suggested that the Board consider keeping the policies in place for future

Clayton Wood stated that the policies should be eliminated. He stated his opposition to the fourteen-day isolation period. He stated that in his opinion, there is no evidence to back up the practices that have been in place. He recommended not planning on this happening again.

Sarah Marston Duval asked where the money is coming from for the \$26,000 to pay for the feasibility study expenses by Team Design - Harriman. Mr. Lane stated it was from money from vacant positions.

XIV. NON-PUBLIC SESSION

At 7:04 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Gauthier and seconded by Mr. Clough to enter into a non-public session under the authority of RSA 91-A:3 (a) to discuss personnel. The Board was polled and voted unanimously to enter into a non-public session (Ms. Adams, yes; Mr. Clough, yes; Mr. Gauthier, yes; Ms. Goggin, yes).

At 7:32 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Clough and seconded by Ms. Goggin to exit from a non-public session. The Board was polled and voted unanimously to exit the non-public session (Ms. Adams, yes; Mr. Clough, yes; Mr. Gauthier, yes; Ms. Goggin, yes).

XV. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Clough and seconded by Ms. Goggin to adjourn the meeting. The Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tobi Gray Chassie
Recording Secretary