

APPROVED BY THE PITTSFIELD SCHOOL BOARD

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

MINUTES

Pittsfield School Board Meeting
June 2, 2022
Pittsfield Middle High School

I. CALL TO ORDER

Members Present: Adam Gauthier, Chairperson
Sandra Adams, Vice Chairperson
Sarah Duval
Molly Goggin

Others Present: Bryan Lane, Interim Superintendent
Melissa Brown, Assistant Principal, PMHS
Derek Hamilton, Principal, PMHS
Kathy LeMay, Assistant Principal, PES
Mike Wiley, Principal, PES
Members of the Public

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

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The pledge of allegiance was led by Mr. Gauthier.

III. DRAKE FIELD DISCUSSION WITH SELECT BOARD AND POLICE DEPARTMENT

Mr. Lane explained that the issue of student behavior at Drake Field has been a discussion at the Board for the last few meetings. Consequently, it was decided to invite representatives from the Pittsfield Police Department and Pittsfield Select Board.

Mr. Gauthier and Ms. Goggin related two personal experiences involving being subjected to negative behavior from youth.

Sargeant DiGeorge explained that the Pittsfield Police Department occasionally receives complaints from community members about negative behavior at Drake Field. He said that usually by the time the police arrive, the situation has subsided. Sargeant DiGeorge

suggested that people continue to call the police to report incidents and that they would be addressed.

In the last month, Sergeant DiGeorge said they have a record of being at Drake Field thirty (30) times in the last month. He said that sometimes it's officers playing basketball with youth and sometimes it's to do general checks. He said that they base the visits on their available time.

Ms. Duval stated that her desire is to think broadly about the issue and consider ways in which the culture at Drake Field can be improved. Discussion ensued regarding ways in which there might be a collaborative effort in making positive changes at Drake Field. Ms. Goggin reiterated the desire of the Board is to not place blame, but invite people to work together to improve the situation. Ms. Adams suggested the addition of Drake Field behavior to the PMHS handbook.

Carl Anderson, representing the Select Board, stated that the problem is rooted in lack of parent support. He suggested figuring out how to talk to parents about their responsibility relative to managing their children's behavior.

Mr. Lane stated the issue of juvenile behavior is an enduring problem. He agreed with Sergeant DiGeorge that building relationships with the youth is a good step in beginning to control behavior.

Dawn Mistler, a member of the public and employee of the district, explained the strategies she uses when dealing with reports of misbehavior at Drake Field.

Clayton Wood stated his opinion regarding the seriousness of the incidents being described of behavior at Drake Field. He stated his concern about the seriousness of the issue and how strongly he feels about dealing with the issue and educating the public. Ms. Adams reassured Mr. Wood that the Board agrees there is a problem. Sergeant DiGeorge stated that there is very little crime being committed at Drake Field and that the inappropriate language is not criminal and therefore, cannot be addressed. He encouraged people to call the police, however, when there is behavior that is concerning.

Mr. Lane and the members of the Board thanked Sergeant DiGeorge and Mr. Anderson for attending the meeting and participating in the conversation.

IV. DISCUSSION WITH DAN SCHROTH PIERMAROCCHI

Mr. Lane distributed a packet of information prepared by Mr. Schroth-Piermarocchi regarding the issue of crystal methamphetamine.

Mr. Schroth Piermarocchi stated his concern about the problem of crystal methamphetamine and his desire to provide accurate information to the students at Pittsfield Middle High School. He has created a packet of information for each student, grades nine through twelve, and would like the school to distribute the information.

Ms. Duval expressed her opinion that she did not see any harm in distributing the information. Ms. Goggin opined that there was no likely harm in the information but wondered about the method of distribution; would there be a class in which the materials could be used to educate students.

Mr. Lane, based on a suggestion by Mr. Hamilton, suggested sending a message to parents about the offer of Mr. Schroth-Piermarocchi to provide information on this topic. Parents would then be able to opt in on receiving this information.

On a motion made by Mr. Gauthier and seconded by Ms. Goggin, the Board voted unanimously to approve the dissemination of Mr. Schroth-Piermarocchi's materials to students whose parents agree.

V. RECESS

Mr. Gauthier announced that the Board would recess until 7:00 for a tribute to the 2022 retirees.

At 7:16 Mr. Gauthier reconvened the meeting.

VI. AGENDA REVIEW

The following items were added:

- School Board Vacancy (Ms. Adams)
- Non- Public Session (Mr. Lane)
- Bus Company Request (Mr. Lane)

VII. ACTION ON AMENDED AGENDA

On a motion made by Ms. Duval and seconded by Ms. Goggin, the Board unanimously approved the amended agenda.

VIII. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

The minutes of the May 19, 2022 public meeting were considered. Changes include on page one, omit Sandra Adams' name from members present; on page three, correct the spelling of Mr. Wiley's name; and on page three change Roman numerals to be in sequence. On a motion made by Ms. Goggin and seconded by Ms. Duval, the minutes were unanimously approved as amended with Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Adams, Ms. Duval voting in the affirmative and Ms. Adams abstaining from the vote.

The minutes of the May 19, 2022 non-public meeting were considered. On a motion made by Mr. Gauthier and seconded by Ms. Goggin, the Board voted and unanimously approved the minutes, as written.

IX. PUBLIC INPUT

Mr. Schroth-Piermarocchi distributed some campaign materials and announced he would be running for NH State Legislation.

Louis Houle stated that he had asked to be put on the agenda. Mr. Lane stated that the topic of the School Board vacancy is on the agenda. Mr. Gauthier asked Mr. Houle if he had anything to say about the School Board vacancy. Mr. Houle stated that he was very disappointed about the process that was used to determine an appointee for the vacancy. Mr. Houle relayed the steps in the process based on his perception. He made clear his strong desire to volunteer to be an appointee to the School Board until the election in the spring of 2023.

X. PES PRINCIPAL

A. Information

Mr. Wiley stated that PES students are beginning to wrap up NHSAS and NWEA assessments.

He said that the 3,000 book challenge was met and that the PTO celebrated with students with refreshments.

The interviewing process for vacant positions continues, according to Mr. Wiley.

B. Professional Development

According to Mr. Wiley, Kathy Collins has wrapped up the book group with fourteen attendees. Staff and faculty are busy with end of the year tasks.

C. Calendar of Events

Mr. Wiley provided a list of upcoming events in his report.

XI. PMHS PRINCIPAL

Facilities Usage Request

Mr. Hamilton presented a request from the Old Home Day Committee on Saturday, July 23, 2022 for Drake Field. On a motion made by Ms. Adams and seconded by Ms. Duval, the Board voted unanimously to approve the use of Drake Field.

A. Calendar of Events

Mr. Hamilton provided a list of events for the month of June.

B. Commencement Ceremony

Mr. Hamilton reviewed with the Board the program of events for Awards Night and Graduation. Mr. Hamilton asked for Board members to participate in specific parts of the commencement activities. Mr. Gauthier will speak at graduation representing the school board.

C. Exhibition Schedule

Mr. Hamilton provided a schedule for Exhibition Night.

D. Family Information Nights

Two Family Information Nights were held for students transitioning from fifth to sixth grade and eighth to ninth grade. On Tuesday, May 24, 2022, there were more than seventy students and family members in attendance at the fifth to sixth grade Family Information Night, which was one of the largest turnouts in recent memory.

E. Statewide Assessment System

Students in grades six through eight and eleven participated in the NH Statewide Assessment System (SAS) through the month of May. Grades six through eight took English language arts and math assessments and grades eight and eleven participated in science assessments. Results will be shared at a future meeting.

F. Vision of the Learner Forum

The District Leadership Team and the PMHS Vision of the Learner Focus Group held a community forum on Saturday, May 14, 2022. During the Exhibition Night on June 9, 2022, there will be yet another opportunity to provide feedback. The goal is to have a proposal of the vision statement by the second meeting in August.

XII. INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT

A. Staffing

Mr. Lane reviewed the staffing status for 2022-2023. The following vacancies exist: Director of Student Support Services, PES Assistant Principal, Reading Specialist, Grade Level Teacher, Music Teacher, Special Education Teacher, Middle School English Teacher, PMHS Math Teacher, and three Special Education Teachers

Ms. LeMay provided her opinion relative to the change made to eliminate Title I teachers and hire Title I tutors, instead. She spoke of the disadvantages that come with hiring tutors instead of teachers and advocated for them remaining in teacher positions.

B. Team Design Harriman

A final presentation will be made by Team Design Harriman during the next

Board meeting.

C. Dumpsters

Mr. Lane is in the process of purchasing two dumpsters.

XIII. SCHOOL BOARD

A. Policies - First Reading

Policy EFA, Availability and Distribution of Healthy Foods; Policy IKG, Awards and Scholarships; Policy GBCD, Background Investigation and Criminal Records Check; and Policy JLDBA, Behavior Management and Intervention were presented for the first reading.

B. Nomination

Mr. Lane nominated Bailey Hildreth for the position of third grade teacher. On a motion made by Ms. Goggin and seconded by Ms. Adams, the Board voted unanimously to approve the hiring of Ms. Hildreth.

C. Policies - Second Reading

The following policies were reviewed for a second reading:

- Policy DRF, District Reserve Fund Administration - On a motion made by Mr. Gauthier and seconded by Ms. Adams, the amendment was unanimously approved as amended.
- Policy DIE, Audits - approved as written.
- Policy DGA, Authorized Signatures - approved as written.
- Policy EDC, Authorized Use of School-Owned Materials and Equipment - approved as written.

D. Board Vacancy

Mr. Gauthier explained his perception of the process used to appoint a person for the vacant Board position. Discussion ensued regarding the process and the disagreement that followed the actions at the last meeting.

A motion was made by Ms. Goggin and seconded by Ms. Duval to appoint Louie Houle to the School Board. The motion failed with Ms. Duval and Ms. Goggin voting in the affirmative and Ms. Adams and Mr. Gauthier voting to oppose.

Discussion ensued regarding the RSA that governs the process. It was made clear by Mr. Lane that because the Board cannot come to a decision about the appointment, the decision will need to be made by the Select Board. Mr. Lane suggested that Mr. Gauthier contact the chair of the Select Board to follow a process in appointing a member of the School Board.

E. Bus Company Request

Mr. Lane read a letter from the H.A. Marston, Inc. transportation company requesting \$29,150.00 additional payment for the bussing contract. He explained that it was a request and that the Board is not required to meet the request. He further provided suggestions on how the request could be met in the budget.

On a motion made by Mr. Gauthier and seconded by Ms. Goggin, the Board voted to approve the request of \$29,150.00 to meet the request of the H.A. Marston, Inc. with Mr. Gauthier and Ms. Goggin voting in the affirmative and Ms. Adams and Ms. Duval abstaining from the vote.

XIV. COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

- A. Budget Committee Representative
- B. Drake Field and Facilities
- C. Negotiating Team
- D. Foss Family Scholarship

XII. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for Thursday, June 16, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. in the Pittsfield Middle High School Media Center.

XIII. PUBLIC INPUT

Tobi Chassie thanked the School Board for the opportunity to be the recording secretary for the past eleven years. She expressed her appreciation for the chance to serve the Pittsfield School District and offered assistance if the new recording secretary needed a back-up.

XIV. NON-PUBLIC

At 8:36 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Gauthier and seconded by Ms. Duval to enter into a non-public session under the authority of RSA 91-A:3 (c) to discuss personnel. The Board was polled and voted unanimously to enter into a non-public session (Ms. Adams, yes; Ms. Duval, yes; Mr. Gauthier, yes; Ms. Goggin, yes).

Personnel matters were discussed; no action was taken.

At 9:02 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Gauthier and seconded by Mrs. Adams to exit from a non-public session. The Board was polled and voted unanimously to exit the non-public session (Ms. Adams, yes; Ms. Duval, yes; Mr. Gauthier, yes; Ms. Goggin, yes).

XV. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Gauthier and seconded by Mrs. Goggin to adjourn the meeting. The Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tobi Gray Chassie
Recording Secretary