

APPROVED BY THE PITTSFIELD SCHOOL BOARD

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

MINUTES

Pittsfield School Board Meeting
August 4, 2022
Pittsfield Middle High School

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

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

Chairperson Gauthier opened the meeting at 5:30 p.m.. Mr. Gauthier introduced the newest member of the Board, Mr. Adam Cote to the audience.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The pledge of allegiance was led by Mr. Gauthier

III. AGENDA REVIEW

The following items were added to the agenda:

- School Ids (Mr. Gauthier)
- Senior Portraits (Mr. Gauthier)
- Parking Lot Banners (Mr. Gauthier)
- Pittsfield Pledge (Ms. Adams)
- Superintendent Evaluation (Ms. Adams)
- Advertisement in the Pittsfield Post for Student Centered Learning Presentation (Ms. Adams)
- Homeland Security Grant Money Availability (Ms. Adams)
- Non-public (Mr. Lane)

IV. ACTION ON AMENDED AGENDA

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

V. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

The minutes of the July 7, 2022 meeting were considered.

Page two, paragraph four “the Board”. Page two, P 7, A “different types of coding” E, “life skills”. Page five, pa 10, d, “Ms. Adams would like to see the instituted. “emphasizes respect, not emphasis”. Page 6 p 13, change form to forms.

On a motion made by Ms. Adams and seconded by Ms. Duval, the Board vote 3-0-1 to approve the amended minutes with Mr. Cote abstaining.

VI. PUBLIC INPUT

Dan Scroth-Piermarrochi stated that he continues to oppose the closing of the middle high school. Mr. Scroth-Piermarrochi handed out literature to the Board regarding the potential closing of the high school in regard to the carbon footprint that will be affected by this if it was to happen. He additionally stated the he would like to see a reduction of 50% from the current carbon footprint with changes such as solar panels.

Mr. Scroth-Piermarrochi paid accolades to Principal Hamilton for taking the time to meet with him to discuss his concerns.

Clayton Wood would like to see Policy JEAB, Transgender, reviewed and updated.

VII. PES PRINCIPAL

- A. Mr. Wiley advised that Summer School has come to an end and reports are being worked on by staff to be distributed to families.
- B. Mr. Wiley stated that there were thirty participants for this summer’s KCAMP that was held at the elementary school.
- C. Mr. Wiley gave a summary of the Title 1 program and different learning kits that were distributed to the students.
- D. Mr. Wiley advised the Board that on the week of August 8th, Kathy Collins and Mike Anderson will be at the elementary school hosting a readers and writers workshop.

VIII. PMHS PRINCIPAL

- A. Mr. Hamilton wanted to pass on his appreciation for our Athletic Director, Jason Darrah for his participation with the Rotary Club. Mr. Darrah ensured that the Drake Field property was in great shape for this weekend’s festivities.

- B. Mr. Hamilton presented the list of honor roll students for the 2021-22 school year.
- C. The School Year Calendar for 2022-23 had been distributed to the students' households and has been made available to the community members.
- D. Mr. Hamilton gave an overview of the Summer Academy activities.

IX. SUPERINTENDENT

- A. Staffing nominations will be presented in a non-public session. The current positions open within the district are as follows and are considered areas of critical need:
 - a. PMHS needs to hire: three special education position; 9/10 Math; 7/8 Science.
 - b. PES needs to hire a Title 1 Teacher.
- B. The dumpsters have arrived and have been set-up. Mr. Lane thanked the staff at the transfer station for coordinating the removal of the old dumpsters and delivery and set up of the new dumpsters. Without their skills and equipment, it would not have been possible.
- C. Driveway repair for the turnaround at the elementary school is scheduled to be completed by Merrill Construction prior to the start of the school year.
- D. The tile flooring for PES has been completed.
- E. Mr. Lane attended a meeting with Marston Transportation to discuss their service for the upcoming school year. Marston is looking to modify the routes due to a driver shortage. These changes would positively impact the budget with a decrease due to the changes in service provided. The updated bus routes will be submitted to the Pittsfield Post to ensure that student's families are aware of the changes in times and stops.
- F. New Hampshire Retirement System 2023-2024 rates will decrease for the district by 1.83% for teaching staff and 1.53% for support staff.
- G. Unexpended Funds Balance. ESSER Grant has approximately \$245,000 that is unspent. We only have until September 30 to expend these funds, or we will forfeit them. Mr. Lane stated the he believes these funds would be best used for the walkway repairs at Drake Field as well as portable AC units for the middle high school. Due to the temperatures in the building, there were multiple days of instruction that could not take place for the ESY program. The installation of such equipment would allow seamless instruction to occur during the summer months.

X. SCHOOL BOARD

- A. The Feasibility Study from Harriman Design Team has commenced. Mr. Lane stated that there would need to be major staffing changes as well as modifications to the building in order for this transition to be feasible.

Mr. Lane listed his concerns about tuitioning students outside the district. The move would affect our student athletes as well as other students in clubs such as drama,

athletics and additional support programs. Sending the students to another district could potentially limit their ability to participate in these extracurricular activities.

The Superintendent has brought transportation up as a concern as well. There are families within the community that would not have access to transportation for students who would need to stay later at school for additional help, programs and athletics.

Mr. Hamilton asked the Board to take into consideration what programs of study and opportunities each of the potential schools would offer when making a decision to tuition the students out to one of them.

B. Policies – First Reading

- Policy ECA, Buildings and Grounds Security
- Policy JCA, Change of School of Assignment
- Policy JEC, Change of School or Assignment – Manifest Educational Hardship
- Policy IKAD, Changing Student Grades

C. Policies – Second Reading

- Policy EBCC, Bomb Threats. Approved as written.
- Policy DBI, Budget Implementation. Approved as written.
- Policy CFB, Building Administrators Evaluation. Addition of Assistant Principal Mr. Gauthier motioned, seconded by Ms. Adams, the motion passed 3-0-1.
- Policy EC, Buildings and Grounds Maintenance Nomination. Modification of Dean to Principal. Ms. Duval motioned, seconded by Mr. Gauthier, the motion passed 3-0-1.

D. Mr. Gauthier inquired as to the process in the creation of school identification cards.

Mr. Lane responded that all staff and students within the district are issued ID badges.

Ms. Adams asked if the Board was able to obtain district identification as well.

Mr. Lane stated that would not be appropriate as Board Members are not employees of the district.

E. Mr. Gauthier discussed the condition of the banners in the middle high school parking lot. There are two out of the six missing and the remainder are faded and do not present well. Mr. Gauthier would like to get quotes to have these replaced.

F. Mr. Gauthier was able to meet with Jason Darrah about the behaviors at Drake Field. Mr. Darrah updated Mr. Gauthier about some different strategies that he's been using to improve this. Mr. Darrah conveyed that since the decision to shut the lights off after dark, that there had been an instance of vandalism.

G. Ms. Gauthier inquired as to what the status was surrounding senior pictures.

Mr. Hamilton stated that Strawbridge Studios has been contacted to have this done.

- H. Ms. Adams presented a draft of the Pittsfield Panther Daily Pledge that she created. Ms. Adams would like to see this instituted within the District as she believes that a daily pledge to respect our school, staff and students would bring a positive impact on student behavior.

Mr. Wiley opined that if the creation of a pledge for the district was to include the input of the staff and students during its creation, that they may be more committed to the concept of the pledge.

- I. Ms. Adams had requested a Superintendent Evaluation outline to conduct Mr. Lane's evaluation during the current month.
- J. Ms. Adams would like to ensure that there is a post made in the Pittsfield Post for the Student Centered Learning Presentation being conducted by Mr. Hamilton on August 18th, 2022.

Mr. Lane stated that would also be able to utilize our Student Information System to get this information out to the students' homes as well.

- K. Ms. Adams was made aware that grant money is available from homeland security for window and door replacement.

Mr. Lane let the Board know that William Carr, the District's IT Manager has been working on obtaining these funds.

XI. COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

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

XII. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for Thursday, August 18, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. in the Pittsfield Middle High School Media Center.

XIII. PUBLIC INPUT

Gerard Leduc stated that he observed three positives during the meeting. Mr. Leduc said the repair of the walkway at Drake Field was long overdue and he's glad it's being completed. Secondly, the transparency in presenting the full tuitioning agreements for the various districts will allow much more guidance in making the decision regarding the middle high school. Lastly, the delivery of the dumpsters to the school was observed and appreciated.

Clayton Wood thanked the Board for their time and consideration in the review of the Policy JBAB.

XIV. NON-PUBLIC

At 7:36 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Gauthier, seconded by Ms. Adams to enter into a non-public session under the authority of RSA 91-A:3 to discuss personnel. The Board polled and voted unanimously to enter into a non-public session. (Ms. Adams, yes; Ms. Duval, yes; Mr. Gauthier, yes; Mr. Cote, yes).

Motion to approve nominations of Mary Beth Burgess, MA+30, longevity of 20 years at a salary of \$81,346 by Ms. Duval, seconded by Ms. Adams. Vote 4-0.

Motion to approve nomination of Nicole Davis, as a Reading Specialist, at a salary of \$70,000, 50% Title 1 Grant Funds, 50% General Fund paid. Motion made by Ms. Duval, seconded by Ms. Adams. Vote 4-0.

Non-public personnel issue discussed, no action taken.

At 8:12 p.m. a motion was made by Ms. Adams and seconded by Ms. Duval to exit the non-public session under the authority of RSA 91-A:3 to discuss personnel. The Board polled and voted unanimously to exit into a non-public session. (Ms. Adams, yes; Ms. Duval, yes; Mr. Gauthier, yes; Mr. Cote yes).

XV. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Ms. Adams and seconded by Ms. Duval to adjourn the meeting. The Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sara Zinn
Recording Secretary