

**APPROVED BY THE PITTSFIELD SCHOOL BOARD**

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

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**MINUTES**

Pittsfield School Board Meeting  
August 18, 2022  
Pittsfield Middle High School

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Members Present: Adam Gauthier, Chairperson  
Sandra Adams, Vice Chairperson  
Molly Goggin  
Adam Cote  
Sarah Duval (joined remotely at 6:45 p.m.)

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

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

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The pledge of allegiance was led by Mr. Gauthier

**III. AGENDA REVIEW**

The following items were added to the agenda:

- Work Session (Mr. Gauthier)
- Teacher Nomination (Mr. Lane)
- Paraeducator Salary Schedule (Mr. Lane)

**IV. ACTION ON AMENDED AGENDA**

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

## V. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

The minutes of the August 4, 2022 meeting were considered.

Changes include: on page five roman numeral XIII, update the policy to be reviewed as “JBAB”; on page three spell out NHRS.

On a motion made by Ms. Adams and seconded by Mr. Cote, the Board vote 3-0-1 to approve the amended minutes with Ms. Duval not present to vote.

## VI. PUBLIC INPUT

Mr. Clayton Wood stated his concerns regarding the Policy JBAB, Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming Students.

Mr. Dan Scroth-Piermarroci reiterated his desire to have a School Environmental Impact Committee and/or study done in regard to the continued discussions surrounding the tuitioning out of our high school students.

Danny Creamer thanked Mr. Schroth-Piermarroci for his concern regarding the environment and the impact that the community has on it. Danny voiced concerns regarding the revision or removal of the Policy JBAB. As a member of the LGBTQ+ community, they stated that this type of policy protects the individuals who may not be “out” with their sexuality for their own safety. Danny asked the Board to keep the safety of the students; physically, emotionally and mentally at the forefront of their minds when making decisions regarding the revision of this policy.

## VII. PES PRINCIPAL

A. Mr. Wiley summarized the changes to the handbooks that he would like to see done.

Ms. Adams stated that she would like to see better formatting regarding the listing of the policies.

Mr. Cote stated that he would also like to see Policy JICK, Bullying, reviewed at the next meeting.

## VIII. PMHS PRINCIPAL

A. Mr. Hamilton listed the revisions of the handbook that he would like to see made:

- Graduation Requirements will require the addition of the Naturalization Test that will become mandatory as of July 1, 2023.
- Middle School Promotion requirements should include that course competency in the four major subjects of English, Mathematics, Social Studies and Science has been met.
- Athletic Eligibility section of the handbook that includes Ineligibility would benefit from the addition of a two-week probationary period rather than the

reporting period of ineligibility.

- B. Mr. Hamilton spoke on School Norms, a mantra that is currently in place at the Middle High School. Mr. Hamilton touched on the Pittsfield Pledge that Ms. Adams would like to see instituted and how they cross over. Mr. Hamilton outlined that they are not considered rules, so much as an expectation.
- C. Mr. Hamilton spoke regarding the Vision of the Graduate statements as they tie back into the Vision of the Learner. Mr. Hamilton believes it to be an ever evolving, working document that can be utilized to collect and showcase the learning in our student body.
- D. Mr. Hamilton made a presentation regarding Student Centered Learning.

Weston Martin inquired to Mr. Hamilton as to how he could become involved in the Student Centered Learning.

Diane Rider asked Mr. Hamilton about the various proficiencies that were reported.

#### IX. SUPERINTENDENT

- A. Mr. Lane provided the Board with an update on the status of the grants.
- B. Mr. Lane provided the Board with a staffing update.
- C. Mr. Lane requested that the Board accept the resignation of Mr. Brandon Balser as the physical education teacher for PES.
- D. The tile flooring at PES has been installed.
- E. Driveway repair should be completed during the upcoming weekend by Merrill Construction.
- F. Mr. Lane has submitted the grant requests for the Drake Field repairs
- G. Mr. Lane wanted to again pay respect to the maintenance team here at the District.
- H. Mr. Lane distributed a spreadsheet outlining his wishes for an increase in the salaries for our paraeducators. Currently the base salary is \$12.00 per hour for a paraeducator.

Mr. Lane would like to see this raised to \$14.50 per hour as we struggle to get and retain the individuals we need for these positions.

Motion made by Mr. Gauthier and seconded by Ms. Goggin, to raise the base pay for paraeducators to \$14.50 per hour. (Mr. Gauthier, yes; Ms. Adams, yes; Ms. Duval, yes; Mr. Cote, yes). 5-0

- I. Mr. Lane provided the Board with a staffing update.

Mr. Lane requested that the Board accept the resignation of Brandon Balser as the physical education teacher for PES.

Motion made by Mr. Gauthier and seconded by Ms. Adams, to accept the resignation of Mr. Balsler. (Mr. Gauthier, yes; Ms. Adams, yes; Ms. Goggin, yes; Ms. Duval, yes; Mr. Cote, yes). 5-0

#### X. DIRECTOR OF STUDENT SERVICES

- A. Ms. Vary presented the information to the Board about the offering and attendees of the Extended School Year program.
- B. Ms. Vary gave an overview of the current staffing situation for the special education department.

#### XI. SCHOOL BOARD

##### A. Policies – First Reading

- Policy JBAB, Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming Students,
- Policy IHAK, Character and Citizenship Education
- Policy IIB, Class Size
- Policy JLCC, Communicable Diseases

##### B. Policies – Second Reading

- Policy ECA, Buildings and Grounds Security, approved as written (Mr. Gauthier, yes; Ms. Adams, yes; Ms. Goggin, yes; Ms. Duval, yes; Mr. Cote, yes). 5-0
- Policy JCA, Change of School of Assignment, approved as written (Mr. Gauthier, yes; Ms. Adams, yes; Ms. Goggin, yes; Ms. Duval, yes; Mr. Cote, yes). 5-0
- Policy JEC, Change of School or Assignment – Manifest Educational Hardship, approved as written (Mr. Gauthier, yes; Ms. Adams, yes; Ms. Goggin, yes; Ms. Duval, yes; Mr. Cote, yes). 5-0
- Policy IKAD, Changing Student Grades, policy will be tabled until next week.

#### XII. COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

- A. Budget Committee Representative – Mr. Gauthier motioned to nominate Mr. Cote Cote, with Ms. Adams as back up, the motion was seconded by Ms. Goggin, (Mr. Gauthier, yes; Ms. Adams, yes; Ms. Goggin, yes; Ms. Duval, yes; Mr. Cote, yes). 5-0
- B. Drake Field and Facilities – Ms. Adams nominated Mr. Gauthier, the motion was seconded by Ms. Goggin, (Mr. Gauthier, yes; Ms. Adams, yes; Ms. Goggin, yes; Ms. Duval, yes; Mr. Cote, yes). 5-0
- C. Negotiating Team -
- D. Foss Family Scholarship – Sarah Duval

#### XIII. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for Wednesday, August 24, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. in the Pittsfield Middle High School Media Center.

XIV. PUBLIC INPUT

Diane Rider spoke regarding Policy JBAB, Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming Students. Ms. Rider asked the Board to address this in a broader fashion as students are not the only ones affected by the implementation of this policy. Ms. Rider provided the Board with statistics regarding transgender students and relation to mental health issues. Ms. Rider shared her concerns regarding shared bathrooms and athletics between cis gendered athletes and transgender athletes as the Board considers changes to this policy.

Mr. Wood reiterated that he does not support this policy.

Danny Creamer spoke as a representative of the LGBTQ+ in regard to the level of bullying that they observed during their years as a high school student in regard to transgender and gender non-conforming students.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Gauthier and seconded by Ms. Adams to adjourn the meeting. The Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sara Zinn  
Recording Secretary