

APPROVED BY THE PITTSFIELD SCHOOL BOARD

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

MINUTES

Pittsfield School Board Meeting
September 15, 2022
Pittsfield Middle High School

I. CALL TO ORDER

Members Present: Adam Gauthier, Chairperson
Sandra Adams, Vice Chairperson
Adam Cote
Sarah Duval
Molly Goggin (arrived at 6:34pm)

Others Present: Bryan Lane, Interim Superintendent
Derek Hamilton, PMHS Principal
Michael Wiley, PES Principal
Charlene Vary, Director of Student Services
Members of the Public

Chairperson 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 to the agenda:

- Budget Committee Assignment Conflict (Mr. Gauthier)
- Capital Improvement Program (Mr. Gauthier)
- Non-Public Superintendent Evaluation (Ms. Adams)
- Pittsfield Pledge & Behavior Issues (Ms. Duval)

IV. ACTION ON AMENDED AGENDA

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

V. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

The minutes of the September 1, 2022 meeting were considered.

Changes include: correct running footer date; page three, IX, A., correct first sentence to reflect “Ms. Adams notified the Board”; C, correct the sentence to read “which needs to be updated”; page four, XII, paragraph one, correct spelling of discipline; paragraph seven, correct “New Hampshire allows children to make”.

On a motion made by Ms. Adams and seconded by Mr. Cote, the Board unanimously approved the amended minutes.

VI. PUBLIC INPUT

Clayton Wood thanked the Board for their continuous work on the Policy review for School Board Policy JBAB, Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming Students.

Mr. Wood inquired about the policy around public use of the bathrooms during the election that was held at the Pittsfield Middle High School on Tuesday, September 12, 2022, as there were reports of refusal to the public.

Bryan Lane stated that he would look into this for the next meeting.

Katie Nikas paid appreciation to the Board regarding the use of the Middle High School during the election. When Ms. Nikas was first notified about the use of the gym she was concerned about the political exposure to children surrounding the election, but was pleased with the way the district handled it, while keeping the kids in school while most other districts were closed.

Dan Schroth stated that he continues to request an environmental impact committee be formed in regard to the prospect of tuitioning our students out to other districts. Mr. Schroth stated he felt four members of the public and at least one school board member would be a good start to the creation of the committee.

Diane Rider inquired on how the district honored the anniversary of 9/11.

Mr. Lane stated that information would be included in the Principal’s monthly report.

VII. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Annalissa Marcotte updated the Board as to the status on the selection of new committee members.

Derek Hamilton asked Ms. Marcotte to expand on the process of the election process at the middle high school.

Ms. Marcotte provided the Board with a timeline and overview of how the process works. Ms. Marcotte stated there are currently seven students running in the election.

VIII. DIRECTOR OF STUDENT SERVICE

- A. Ms. Vary explained how the Flex Programs work within the district. Ms. Vary stated that it is used as an intervention for students with or without an IEP or 504 plan. The program is used to keep at risk students on track for a successful educational career and graduation.
- B. Ms. Vary updated the Board on the staffing needs for the special education positions at both buildings.

IX. SUPERINTENDENT

- A. Mr. Lane provided an overview of his observations within the buildings since the start of school. The students have exhibited great behaviors and positive attitudes.
- B. Mr. Lane summarized the current staffing needs for the district.
- C. Mr. Lane spoke on the status of the preparation of the budget.

The MS25 was due August 21st, and the district had requested and was granted an extension for this.

Mr. Cote asked Mr. Lane if he has begun the bid process for different utilities as we move forward with the budget preparation.

Mr. Lane stated he will be posting the bids on October 1st.

Mr. Cote inquired as to whether the district had been affected by the increases in cost of electricity rates.

Mr. Lane confirmed that the district will incur a rate increase.

- D. Mr. Lane stated that he would like to see School Board Policy, GD, Support Staff reviewed by the Board as he moves forward with the preparation of the budget.
- E. Mr. Lane conveyed to the Board that he will have a presentation for the Tuition Study meeting with community members that is scheduled for October 6, 2022.
- F. Mr. Lane updated the Board on the number of applications that have been submitted for the Free & Reduced Lunch Program. As of September 15, 2022 the District has approved 262 Free and 27 Reduced students for lunch.

X. SCHOOL BOARD

- A. Policies – First Reading
 - i. Policy IKAD, Changing Student Grades
 - ii. Policy JRB, Confidential Student Information
 - iii. Policy AC-E, Contact Information for Human Rights Officer, Title IX Coordinator and Civil Rights Agencies
 - iv. Policy EGAD, Copyright Compliance

B. Policies – Second Reading

- i. Policy JICK, Student Safety and Violence Protection, exchange dean of operations with principal in entire document, page two, III, change “may face” to “shall face”, page 3, 4), correct “measures”, VI, correct the RSA to “RSA 193-F:4, II(e)”, page 5, page 7, second bullet, correct identify to “identity”, 8) add “or expulsion” after suspension, on a motion made by Mr. Gauthier, and seconded by Ms. Adams, the motion passed 5-0.
- ii. Policy JEA, Compulsory Attendance Age, approved as written.
- iii. Policy EHAA, Computer Security, E-Mail and Internet Communications, page one, 4., correct re considered to “are considered”, correct “messages that contain”, on a motion made by Mr. Cote, and seconded by Ms. Adams, the motion passed 5-0.
- iv. Policy JLCJ, Concussions and Head Injuries, approved as written.

C. Policies – Third Reading

- i. Policy JBAB, Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming Students, was tabled by the Board until further notice.
- D. CPI – Mr. Gauthier inquired as to what there were for repairs and projects that would be projected over the next five to ten years within the district.
- E. Mr. Gauthier stated that there was a conflict in the appointment of the Budget Committee Representative. Mr. Cote stated that the Budget Committee is set to meet on set Wednesdays and he has a conflict in scheduling. Mr. Cote asked if Ms. Adams would like to take over primary representation for the budget committee, placing himself as a backup. Ms. Adams agreed to take over the position.
- F. Ms. Duval inquired to the Board as to what the status was with the implementation of a Pittsfield Pledge and what types of incidents have occurred since the beginning of school.

Mr. Hamilton summarized the incidents and behaviors since the beginning of school, stating there have been no major incidents at the middle high school.

Mr. Gauthier asked whether or not the student-athletes were also being conveyed the expectation that the School Norm be followed in regard to expectations.

Mr. Hamilton stated that the student-athletes are given a code of conduct/contract that they must sign to participate in the athletics programs.

XI. COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

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

XII. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for Thursday, October 6, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. in the Pittsfield Middle High School Media Center.

XIII. PUBLIC INPUT

Ms. Nikas expressed her disappointment that the Policy JBAB, Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming Students will not be further discussed today.

Ms. Nikas further inquired about applying for additional grants to add more programs for the district's students.

Ms. Nikas inquired as to the increase in the age-out limit of twenty-one years of age to twenty-two years of age and how this will impact the budget, as well as if we would get additional funds because of this.

Kaylee Brooks stated she works as a behavior specialist for another district and that her position is Medicaid funded. She inquired as to if this was the norm.

Mr. Lane stated that to be true.

Mr. Schroth stated he believes all students should receive free breakfast and would like to see this worked into the future budget.

Mr. Schroth opined that we should have spent \$26,000 for a carbon footprint evaluation of our schools, and not on a feasibility study to tuition out students out.

Ms. Rider thanked Ms. Duval for staying on top of the behaviors and expectations around them within the schools. Ms. Rider inquired as to the status of the grades 1-5 reading program that was in the works.

Mr. Lane stated that it is being implemented.

Ms. Nikas questioned the legality around the incident reporting for statistics.

Harmony Defruscio inquired with the Board as to what is available for mental health and emotional support for students.

Mr. Lane conveyed to Ms. Defruscio that we have a Social Worker, Guidance Coordinator as well as a School Psychologist available to our student body.

Ms. Rider asked if there was still an option for half day kindergarten as previously offered.

Mr. Lane advised Ms. Rider that if families have an educational plan in place, that arrangements for a shorter day can be made.

Ms. Duval asked the board to circle back to the bullying issue presented by Ms. Defruscio as her child isn't feeling safe and it's affecting his desire to be in attendance for school, and she didn't feel the response for such was sufficient.

Mr. Lane explained the process of discipline in regards to the consequences, expectations, and how re-entry meetings are conducted after the punishment has been served.

Sabrina Smith asked about grant funding to create some kind of club or community to support these kids and their social and emotional needs.

Ms. Nikas stated that she believes any student or staff found to be harassing or bullying any student for expressing their LGBTQ+ alliance, should be terminated immediately.

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).

Non-public personnel issue discussed, no action taken.

At 7:48 p.m. a motion was made by Ms. Duval and seconded by Mr. Cote 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. Goggin and seconded by Mr. Cote to adjourn the meeting. The Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sara Zinn
Recording Secretary