

APPROVED BY THE PITTSFIELD SCHOOL BOARD

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

MINUTES

Pittsfield School Board Meeting
October 6, 2022
Pittsfield Middle High School

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

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

Vice Chairperson Adams opened the meeting at 5:30 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The pledge of allegiance was led by Ms. Adams.

III. AGENDA REVIEW

The following items were added to the agenda:

- VLACS Status (Mr. Cote)
- Proposal for Revenue (Mr. Lane)
- Letter from Dan Schroth (Mr. Lane)
- Status of Curriculum Review Notice to Community Members (Ms. Adams)
- Non-Public for Personnel Issue (Ms. Adams)

IV. ACTION ON AMENDED AGENDA

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

V. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

The minutes of the September 15, 2022 meeting were considered.

Changes include: document wide correction of Scroth to Schroth, page one, I, change Vice Chairperson Gauthier to Chairperson Gauthier; II, add a period after Mr. Gauthier; page two, VI, fifth paragraph, change was to were; page five, XIII, paragraph seven, change thanks to thanked, paragraph twelve, add to between back and the.

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

VI. PUBLIC INPUT

Sally Kelly introduced herself as a member of the community running for a New Hampshire State Representative position. Ms. Kelly thanked the Board for all that they do, as a previous member of the Chichester School Board herself.

Sabrina Smith spoke to the Board regarding the Town website and the information available to the public. Ms. Smith asked Superintendent Lane to look into adding the schools' important dates onto the Pittsfield town calendar.

Clayton Wood spoke to the Board regarding Policy, JBAB, Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming Students, in regard to the policy that the Gilford School Board has created. Mr. Wood provided a copy of the policy as well as the most recent publication from the NH School Board Association in regard to Policy JBAB to Mr. Lane for review.

Jaime Koladish inquired to the status of the curriculum review as well as the status of the COVID-19 protocols within the District.

Mr. Lane informed Ms. Koladish that these are topics of discussion for later in the meeting.

Ms. Koladish spoke on Policy, JBAB and the need to educate our district's students regarding their bodies and development. Ms. Koladish voiced her desire to continue to support the students that would fall under Policy, JBAB, without a policy of this nature in place.

Diane Rider asked the Board to instruct Mr. Lane to update the District calendar to reflect the same calendar that is suggested by the NHDOE. Ms. Rider would like to see Indigenous Peoples' Day replaced with Columbus Day.

Ms. Rider spoke to the Board regarding comments that were made during previous board meeting regarding religious stance. Ms. Rider recalls commentary that she deemed inappropriate to have been exchanged during the meeting and asked the Board to better manage behaviors of that nature in the future should they occur.

Ms. Rider voiced her concern regarding the selection of the homecoming king to the middle high school principals, as there was discussion that the gender of the student selected did not match the expected gender.

Lorrie O'Neill brought up the issue of religion in the school atmosphere. Ms. O'Neill stated that

they have no issue with an afterschool club being formed for students who share the desire to do so, but religion should not be in federally funded, public schools.

Lisa DePriest spoke as a mother of a student that is non-gender conforming. Ms. DePriest stated her main concern is that her child is able to obtain the same level of education as their peers, and that discussions of religion, gender, and sex do not come into play and inhibit their ability to learn.

VII. PES PRINCIPAL

- A. Mr. Wiley conveyed to the Board the types of behaviors he has been handling and the supports for them that he has implemented since the start of school.
- B. Mr. Wiley spoke regarding our Reading Specialist, Nicole Davis, and all of the hard work he has observed with her taking ownership of her role, her workspace and her work with the students.
- C. Mr. Wiley showed examples of the 9/11 Lessons and Constitution Day work that was done by the students at PES.

VIII. PMHS PRINCIPAL

- A. Mr. Hamilton summarized the manner of which the students at the middle high school celebrated 9/11 as well as Constitution Day.
- B. Mr. Hamilton informed the Board that a banner will be presented by the NHIAA for sportsmanship to the Pittsfield Middle High School.
Mr. Lane congratulated Mr. Hamilton on this accomplishment as it is the most prestigious award that he believes a school can receive from the NHIAA.
- C. Mr. Hamilton provided the upcoming dates for the PSAT/NMSQT testing for the district.
- D. Mr. Hamilton provided details for the Staff Workshop Day that is scheduled for Friday, October 7, 2022.
- E. Mr. Hamilton provided the Board with the outcome of the Site Council Elections.
- F. Mr. Hamilton provided the Board with a detailed overview of the Student Conduct Policies and Procedures that he has been working on with the students. Mr. Hamilton spoke regarding their behavioral expectations, the levels of incidents and the process in which they are handled and why.
Ms. Duval and Mr. Cote both thanked Principal Hamilton for his work on the behaviors as they have, along with other community members and students, seen improvement on them since the start of school from the previous year.
- G. Mr. Hamilton provided the Board details on Student-centered Learning and how that involves Dual Enrollment Courses.
Mr. Cote asked Mr. Hamilton if we would be able to add additional Dual Enrollment

opportunities in the future for the students.

Mr. Hamilton explained the requirements for these classes to be offered and the number of staff that we currently have that are qualified to do so.

IX. SUPERINTENDENT

- A. Mr. Lane provided his observations on behaviors and the improvement of such throughout the district.
- B. Mr. Lane provided the Board with a staffing update.
- C. Mr. Lane gave a brief synopsis of the status of the budget.
- D. Mr. Lane stated that we are following the COVID protocols that were suggested by the CDC.

X. SCHOOL BOARD

- A. Mr. Lane provided copies of the slides that he would like to present at the October 27th, 2022 meeting regarding the Feasibility Study that was performed by Team Harriman, for the Board to review.
- B. Mr. Cote inquired to Mr. Hamilton on the status of the VLACS classes that are currently being held at the middle high school.

Mr. Hamilton provided Mr. Cote with the statistics of the enrollment of our current student body in the courses offered by VLACS. Mr. Hamilton conveyed to the Board that there is another option to VLACS called APEX. APEX is a partnership with the district vs. VLACS, which is their own school.

C. Policies – First Reading

- i. Policy JKA, Corporal Punishment
- ii. Policy IGD, Curriculum Adoption
- iii. Policy KDF, Drake Field Use

D. Policies – Second Reading

- i. Policy IKAD, Changing Students Grades, approved as written.
- ii. Policy JRB, Confidential Student Information, insert “is”, in the second line between It and the, on a motion made by Mr. Cote, and seconded by Ms. Goggin, the motion passed 4-0.
- iii. Policy AC-E, Contact Information for Human Rights Officer, Title IX Coordinator and Civil Rights Agencies, tabled for revisions at the third reading.
- iv. Policy, EGAD, Copyright Compliance, exchange “dean of operations” for “administration” throughout the document, on a motion made by Ms. Adams and seconded by Mr. Cote, the motion passed 4-0.

E. Policies – Third Reading

- i. Policy JBAB, Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming Students. Mr. Cote read a passage from Policy JBAB, and voiced his concern regarding the students that do not recognize “transgender” as a gender. Mr. Cote believes that students should be allowed to respectfully decline addressing the transgender student by their new name/pronouns, without being in violation of the policy.

Ms. Duval expressed her concerns for these students that will have to work on projects together in the future and how that will affect the working relationship.

Ms. Goggin expressed that her main concern is the guidance that it will provide to the administration in the instance that an issue surrounding this policy could arise, in order to protect the students as well as the district.

Mr. Lane stated that a behavioral contract of respect could also be made part of this policy to further hold the students accountable and responsible for their behaviors.

Ms. Adams would like to state for the record that she believes that this policy is a violation of parental rights.

Ms. Goggin supported Ms. Adams' feelings on the matter as both a parent and educator. As an educator she believes in the power of rules and policies for equity.

Mr. Lane requested the Board submit any changes they come to an agreement on as well as questions, prior to Thursday, October 13, 2022, so that he may review and submit them to the district’s legal counsel, prior to the school board meeting on October 20, 2022.

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 20, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. in the Pittsfield Middle High School Media Center.

XIII. PUBLIC INPUT

Mr. Lane read a letter provided to him by Dan Schroth for the Board explaining his concerns regarding the environment as well as women’s rights.

Ms. O’Neil expressed her concerns regarding Policy JBAB, after listening to the discussion of the Board. She believes that this is a cultural matter, one of equality that brings us back fifty years by speaking of bathroom segregation in regard to this population of people. Ms. O’Neil states that these students deserve the same, equal treatment as every other student.

Ms. Rider wanted to touch on the subject of separation of Church and state again, as she felt at the last meeting, it was used as a bludgeon to not allow any conversation regarding the matter. Ms. Rider provided material to the Board that gave the parameters of which religion can be discussed within the schools, in a legal and respectful manner.

Ms. Smith wanted to state for the record that she is in fact a bi-sexual woman, who did not come into that from any kind of historical abuse or neglect from their parents.

Ms. Kelly paid accolades for the respect that she was able to observe between the Board members during the evening.

Mr. Wood stated that he believes that there is a simpler way to rectify the review of Policy JBAB. Mr. Wood stated the Board has been given months to work on the revision of this policy for the best interests of all involved.

Ms. DePriest spoke as the mother of a transgender student whom has gone through the process of the student choosing a new identity and the difficulties that come with that. Ms. DePriest continues to direct the Board to focus on the main concern that these kids get the same level of education as their peers.

Mr. Smith stated to the Board that every person has a right to their identity. Should a person choose to go by their middle name, or a name that doesn't match their outward appearance, that should be respected.

Ms. Smith stated to the Board that in the state of New Hampshire, a child as young as twelve years old is able to make choices for their reproductive system such as birth control. Ms. Smith spoke as a person who was raised with religion and how that affected her own sexuality and ability to come out as who she was.

Ms. Rider wanted it noted that she suggested a resource called sexchangeregrets.com be looked at by the Board.

Ms. Smith inquired to the Board as to when sexual education is introduced to the student body.

Ms. Adams stated that it happens in fifth grade.

XIV. NON-PUBLIC

At 8:04 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Lane, seconded by Mr. Cote 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.

At 9:25 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 9:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sara Zinn
Recording Secretary

9/28/22

TO THE GOOD CITIZENS
OF PITTSFIELD AND CHICHESTER

I AM DAN THE STONEMAN, RUNNING
FOR STATE REP DEMOCRATIC PARTY
THESE ARE MY MOTIVATING ISSUES
CLIMATE CHANGE, WOMANS RIGHTS
VOTING RIGHTS, PUBLIC SCHOOLS
THERE WAS A MAJOR SCIENCE
REPORT IN 2010, THAT SAID WE
WERE HEATING UP THE EARTH DUE
TO THE BURNING OF FOSSILE FUELS, AND
THAT IF WE DINT DO ANYTHING ABOUT
IT, WE WOULD EXPERIENCE, HOTTER
TEMPATURES, FIRES, AND FLOODS.

OK THAT HAPPENED.

NOW THE SCIENCE EXPERTS TELL
US TO GET READY FOR MASS MIGRATION
IT HAS ALREADY BEGAN.

THE REPUBLICANS WHO ARE RUNNING
AGAINST MYSELF AND SALLY KELLY
FROM CHICHESTER, CANT SEEM TO SEE
PAST THEIR NOSE.

THE SCIENCE ALSO TELLS US THE EARTH
HAS WARMED 1.1C SINCE THE BEGINNING
OF THE INDUSTRIAL AGE.

AND FOR EVERY 1° WARMING
THERE WILL BE NEW CHALLENGES
AND NEW PROBLEMS.

I HOPE SMALL TOWNS LIKE US
CAN VOTE MONEY IN THE BUDGET
TO HELP US UNDERSTAND HOW
OUR SCHOOLS AND TOWN OPERATIONS
IMPACT OUR CLIMATE AND SOME
SOLUTIONS TO MITIGATE IT.

AND ALWAYS REMEMBER,
WE NEED TO TRANSFORM
OURSELVES, BEFORE WE TRANSFORM
THE WORLD.

I CAN'T DO THIS ALONE
PLEASE HELP

Don A. Stoneman