

APPROVED BY THE PITTSFIELD SCHOOL BOARD

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

MINUTES

Pittsfield School Board Meeting
October 20, 2022
Pittsfield Middle High School

I. CALL TO ORDER

Members Present: Adam Gauthier, Chairperson
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
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:

- School Board Meeting (Mr. Gauthier)
- Student Lunch Program (Mr. Gauthier)
- Non-public, Superintendent Evaluation (Ms. Adams)
- Morning Meeting (Ms. Goggin)
- Boys and Girls Club (Ms. Goggin)
- Policy GD, Support Staff (Mr. Lane)
- Middle School Science (Mr. Hamilton)
- Staffing Update (Ms. Vary)

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 October 6, 2022 meeting were considered.

Changes include: page 2, VI, paragraph 4, remove at, after “Jaime Koladish inquired”, paragraph 9, remove the comma after “student selected”, last sentence, correct spelling of “Lorrie O’Neill”; page 3, paragraph 2, change “their main” to “her main”, VII, C., correct Constitution: VIII, D., change Ms. Hamilton to Mr.; page 5, I, paragraph 6, change equality to equity; page 6, paragraph 7,

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

VI. PUBLIC INPUT

Dan Schroth spoke on Policy, JBAB, and his support of student’s privacy in regard to their gender identity and does not wish to see this changed as the discussion continues on the revisions to this policy.

Mr. Schroth asked the Board to find \$50,000 in the budget for electric vehicle charging stations for the PMHS parking lot.

Erica Anthony spoke as the School Board Secretary to notify the Board that there is a lawsuit that has been filed, and the District is part of it. The documents are available for review at town hall.

Diane Rider appealed to the Board to repeal Policy, JBAB, and recognize that the Affirmation Model is failing.

Jaime Koladish spoke on Policy JBAB. Ms. Koladish believes that these students can be protected under other policies such as JICK, and continues to request that Policy JBAB, be repealed.

VII. SITE COUNCIL

- A. Annalissa Marcotte informed the Board that the Site Council is looking to expand participation to the district’s sixth grade students.

VIII. DIRECTOR OF STUDENT SERVICES

- A. Ms. Vary spoke about the Life Skills Programs that are offered between the middle and high school population. Ms. Vary explained that these programs are for our students with severe disabilities that are not capable of carrying out the tasks independently. Ms. Vary explained that these programs can be utilized by students up to age twenty-two.

- B. Ms. Vary gave examples to the Board of how the elementary school programs differ to be age and goal appropriate for the elementary school setting.

IX. PMHS PRINCIPAL

- A. Mr. Hamilton provided the Board with an update on the science classes currently being held at the middle high school. The current enrollment for online learning options for science studies is 79% for the 7th grade and 76% for the 8th grade.

X. SUPERINTENDENT

- A. Mr. Lane provided the Board with an update on the budget for 2023-24. Mr. Lane presented the Board with the HealthTrust insurance increase of 15% for medical and dental costs.

Mr. Lane conveyed to the Board and the public that all Budget documents are available on the SAU website, as well as the information on the Tuition Study, for the community discussion that is set to be held on October 27, 2022.

- B. Mr. Lane provided the Board with an update on the grant funds.
- C. Mr. Lane provided an enrollment report for the month of October.

XI. SCHOOL BOARD

A. Policies – First Reading

- i. MAH, Daily Physical Activity
- ii. EHAB, Data Governance and Security
- iii. DN, Disposal of Material and Equipment
- iv. IMBA, Distance Education
- v. GD, Support Staff

B. Policies – Second Reading

- i. Policy JKA, Corporal Punishment, accepted as written.
- ii. Policy KDF, Drake Field Use, tabled for third reading for language to institute a facilities use statement for the property.

C. Policies – Third Reading

- i. IGA, Curriculum Development, accepted as written.
- ii. IGAD, Curriculum Adoption, accepted as written.
- iii. AC-E, Contact Information for Human Rights Officer, Title IX Coordinator and Civil Rights Agency, changes presented are accepted as written, on a motion made by Ms. Goggin, and seconded by Ms. Duval, the motion passed 4-0.

D. Policies – Fourth Reading

- i. Policy JBAB, Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming Students, tabled for a fifth reading, on November 3, 2022.

- E. Morning Meeting - Ms. Goggin asked the Board to revisit parent presence and participation in the morning meetings with their students at PES.
- F. Boys and Girls Club
 - i. Ms. Goggin praised the addition of the Boys and Girls club to PES for afterschool care. Ms. Goggin stated we are at risk of losing the program as they are understaffed.
- G. Mr. Wiley stated that he has reached out to paraeducators to see if there were any who would be interested in working for the boys and girls club after school in order to keep the program going.
- H. Recording of Meetings – Mr. Gauthier would like to request that all school board meetings be recorded through Google Meet and posted for the public.
- I. Free Meals - Mr. Gauthier would like to further investigate how much it would cost the district to fund free meals for all students in the district that are not currently on free or reduced lunch.

XII. COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

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

XIII. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for Thursday, November 3, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. in the Pittsfield Middle High School Media Center.

XIV. PUBLIC INPUT

Ms. Nikas spoke as an advocate for the LGBTQ+ community and the concern for children who are affected and protected by Policy JBAB. Ms. Nikas shared personal experiences with the Board of self-harming that is happening with our youth, in even the safest of homes. Ms. Nikas advocated for providing these kids with safe environments, where they can have calm and constructive conversations to continue to feel normalized and supported.

Lorrie O’Neill stated that we must have a policy in place to protect these kids. If the District can have a smoking policy in place, then the District should have a policy to protect this group of students.

Harmony DeFruscio asked the Board if they would allow the students to respond with their thoughts, feelings and experiences in regard to Policy JBAB, and how it affects and protects them.

Ms. Marcotte additionally asked the Board if it was possible for students to participate.

Superintendent Lane stated that they would be offered the opportunity to respond to an

anonymous survey that will be going out to students.

Mr. Schroth asked the Board to explore having solar panels installed to assist in keeping energy costs down.

Jill Gauthier asked the Board if there was a possibility of increasing the cost share for the medical and dental benefits with employees to absorb some of the increase.

Ms. Rider read a letter from a de-transgender individual to the Board.

XV. NON-PUBLIC

At 7:54 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 to evaluate the Superintendent.

At 8:29 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Gauthier and seconded by Ms. Adams 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).

XVI. BUDGET DISCUSSION

- A. The Board discussed the coding program at the elementary school and possible grant funding to keep the program going.

XVII. 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