

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

MINUTES

Pittsfield School Board
Public Hearing
September 9, 2021
Pittsfield Middle High School

I. Opening of Hearing

Mr. Bryan Lane opened the public hearing and introduced himself as the Interim Superintendent of Pittsfield School District. He offered to stay late to answer questions and offered the public to call and email him as needed. Mr. Lane stated that this is an informational hearing, voting will occur on September 23, 2021. This public hearing is operating under RSA 197:3

II. Presentation

Mr. Lane presented a PowerPoint describing the consideration of additional adequacy funding from the State of New Hampshire. Mr. Lane is proposing the following warrant article:

To see if the Pittsfield School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$358,696.76 for the purpose of supporting the operational budget of the Pittsfield School District. Such funds to come from the State of New Hampshire and not from taxation.

If this article is defeated, the sum of \$358,696.76 will be used to decrease the tax rate for the Pittsfield School District for the 2021-22 school year.

Tax impact \$0.00

Mr. Lane stated that the Department of Education informed school districts that the Adequacy Funds that would be receiving had been recalculated. This recalculation would give each school district additional funds. He gave a thorough explanation and presentation of the dollar amounts and plans to spend these funds if approved.

III. Public Input

Mr. Louis Houle asked for clarification around the ability to modify the warrant article. Mr. Lane re-stated that the language in the RSA 197:3 is specific in that it does not allow for modifications of amounts

Ms. Amy Ramsey asked for an explanation of how or why if voters say no and the rate goes down, why it would go up the next year. Mr. Lane explained that the DOE has expressed the opinion that they feel schools will do more .

Ms. Paula Beleveou asked for further clarification around why the town couldn't continue to get the \$208 tax break every year if they vote to not allow for the district. Mr. Gauthier reinforced that idea that it will have an increased impact next year on taxes.

Ms. Molly Goggin stated that this adequacy funding was more than expected and we would still get this money next year so it wouldn't have a tax benefit next year

Ms. Amy Ramsey stated that we will be getting a portion of the current adequacy funds that will continue and allow for stability moving forward. However, the \$119,000 may not continue and could be used to offset taxes for next year.

Ms. Paula Beleveou asked to verify the \$200,000 is ongoing and the 119,00 is one time money. Mr. Lane confirmed.

Ms. Amy Ramsey asked if the school board supports the proposals from Mr. Lane. Mr. Lane explained that the school board will be discussing this next week. She asked how their decision will be shared out so the community so that the town is knowledgeable about what they are voting on.

Mr. Adam Gauthier stated that he is in favor of the proposal except he would like to see raises for all support staff, not just a few.

Mr. Ed Rezinski asked if the school boards support or non support will be presented on the ballot or warrant. Mr. Lane stated that the school board will be discussing the warrant and proposed expenditures at the next school board meeting on September 16, 2021. That conversation and decision will be available and shared out with the community.

Mr. Lane expressed that it will be a yes or no vote, not a computer based ballot. Mr. Lane stated that he consulted with the budget committee on this warrant and proposed expenditures.

Ms. Beverly Drolet asked if when the School Board meets next week, if they don't approve of expenditure, does it negate the proposal? Where does this leave us? Mr. Lane stated that it will still leave the town with the yes or no vote. He

promised the town that he will not spend any of the approved additional money without permission from the school board

IV. Board Action

The Board had no action at this meeting as this was a public hearing, not an official School Board meeting.