

# 2021 SPECIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING MINUTES

## TOWN OF PITTSFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT SPECIAL MEETING SEPTEMBER 23, 2021

A Pittsfield School District Special Meeting was held at the Pittsfield Middle High School cafeteria Thursday, September 23, 2021. School District Moderator Gerard LeDuc called the meeting to order at 7:05 P.M. Moderator LeDuc explained the rules of procedure. School Board members in attendance: Molly Goggin, Chairperson Adam Gauthier, Diane Rider and Justin Clough. Also in attendance, Superintendent Bryan Lane.

Moderator LeDuc read aloud the warrant article:

### **ARTICLE 01 To Expend Additional Funds Received From The New Hampshire Department Of Education**

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 2021-2022 school year only.

Tax impact: \$0.00

Superintendent Lane explained the NH Department of Education notified school districts this summer that additional adequacy funds would be distributed. This special meeting was called by the School Board under the provisions of RSA 197:3-a to determine how those funds would be used. He explained if the Body votes yes, the funds would be used to support the school budget this school year. If the Body votes no, the funds would be used to offset the tax rate for the 2021 tax year. He shared a PowerPoint presentation to explain in further detail, and distributed a spreadsheet with a list of possible uses of funds should the Body decide to vote in favor. Many of the items had been previously eliminated due to 2021 School District election budget cuts. He encouraged people to communicate with him or their School Board representatives should they have any questions or concerns with potential expenditures.

Moderator LeDuc announced that a secret ballot had been requested in writing, and opened the floor for discussion.

Budget Committee member Bob Schiferle stated it appears at the moment the School District portion of the tax rate will remain the same for 2021. A yes vote would allow the School District to replace items that we desperately need at little to no cost to the tax payer.

Linda Small stated there is "no free money", and the proposed reinstatement of positions and raises would not be one-time costs, but would cost the taxpayer going forward.

## 2021 ANNUAL SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING DELIBERATIVE SESSION MINUTES

Louis Houle stated the funds for the proposed salaries could be covered by the estimated \$239,000 the Department of Education plans to continue to allocate after this year. He stated if we do not use the funds, the State may determine we do not need them and reduce the amount or take it away.

Dan Schroth felt it is important to support our schools, and that we never thanked the teachers for all they have done through this pandemic in particular.

Ryan Rafferty asked if a no vote would negate the \$239,000 next year.

Superintendent Lane stated that under the current law, the \$239,000 adequacy funds will come to the School District next year and in future years regardless of the vote tonight.

Jody Cunningham stated she didn't understand why we would not give the school grant money after the voters cut the budget by \$500,000.

Fred Hast stated the Budget Committee cut \$400,000 from the School District budget before it went to the voters, so \$1,000,000 was cut from the final School District budget. He supports a yes vote.

Louis Houle asked if the Budget Committee had an opinion on how the funds should be dispersed.

Budget Committee member Randy Severance stated there was no vote, just discussion.

Tracy Huyck asked why the State recalculated the funding.

Superintendent Lane responded that the Department of Education calculations took into account the number of students who temporarily left last school year due to COVID-19 but would potentially be back in school this year, and adjusted free and reduced lunch calculations because the Federal government provided free lunch for all students last year and this year.

Budget Committee member Randy Severance stated if funding changes, we can adjust our future budgets accordingly.

Elisha Griffin stated she is a taxpayer as well as a parent and a Pittsfield School District Special Educator and sees every day the desperate need for the funds. She encouraged everyone to vote yes.

Dawn Mistler taxpayer and Pittsfield School District paraprofessional reiterated the need to help the staff and students.

Ed Trzcinski suggested one-time bonuses instead of a pay raise.

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There being no further discussion, Moderator LeDuc opened the polls at 8:00pm and closed them at 8:10pm. The ballot box was checked to verify all ballots were counted.

**Article 01 passed by secret ballot Yes – 58 No - 20**

Moderator LeDuc adjourned the meeting at 8:16pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Erica Anthony".

Erica Anthony  
School District Clerk