

PITTSFIELD SCHOOL BOARD

MEETING AGENDA

5:30 p.m., Thursday, March 4, 2021

PMHS Lecture Hall

Pittsfield Middle High School

1. CALL THE MEETING OF THE SCHOOL BOARD TO ORDER
 - All speakers are to conduct themselves in a civil manner. Obscene, libelous, defamatory, or violent statements will be considered out of order and will not be tolerated. The Board Chairperson may terminate the speaker's privilege or address if the speaker does not follow this rule of order. (Pittsfield School Board Policy BEDH)
2. AGENDA REVIEW
3. ACTION ON AMENDED AGENDA
4. APPROVE MINUTES: February 18, 2021
February 18, 2021, Non-Public Session
5. PUBLIC INPUT & PUBLIC ACCESS– Comments from community members, guests, and faculty. The public may join the meeting remotely using the following information.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9624435282?pwd=ZncvcW1VcUo1KzZEejk5SkNGVnZpQT09>

Meeting ID: 962 443 5282

Passcode: Harvey

Dial by your location:

1(312)626-6799

1(929)205-6099

6. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE – Oral Report

7. PES REPORT

Action

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Information & Discussion

- Attendance
- Remote Students
- Re-Enrollment
- Social Media

8. PMHS PRINCIPAL REPORT

Action

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Information & Discussion

- District Newsletter
- Remote Learners
- School Status

9. PMHS ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL REPORT

Action

▪

Information & Discussion

- No Report

10. DIRECTOR OF STUDENT SERVICES

Action

-

Information & Discussion

- No Report

11. SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Action

-

Information & Discussion

- 2021 – 2022 School District Budget
- School Status Update
- Tuition Study Committee Update

12. SCHOOL BOARD

Action

-

Information & Discussion

-

13. COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

- A) Budget Committee Representative: TM
- B) Drake Field & Facilities: AG
- C) Negotiating Team: BD & HA
- D) Foss Foundation: JD

14. PUBLIC INPUT

15. PLAN AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING: March 18, 2021

16. NON-PUBLIC SESSION – if required under RSA 91-A:3 II

17. ADJOURNMENT

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

MINUTES

Pittsfield School Board Meeting
February 18, 2021
Pittsfield Middle High School

I. CALL TO ORDER

Members Present: Bea Douglas, Chairperson
 Jessica Drouin
 Adam Gauthier
 Ted Mitchell (via Zoom)

Others Present: John Graziano, Interim Superintendent of Schools
 Jessica Bickford, Director of Student Services
 Melissa Brown, PMHS Assistant Principal
 Derek Hamilton, PMHS Principal
 Danielle Harvey, PES Principal
 Kathy LeMay, PES Assistant Principal
 Members of the Public (some via Zoom)

Chairperson Douglas called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

II. AGENDA REVIEW

The following items was added to the agenda:

- Girls on the Run (Ms. Harvey)
- Mask Wearing (Mr. Gauthier)

III. ACTION ON AMENDED AGENDA

On a motion made by Mr. Gauthier and seconded by Mr. Mitchell, the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda as amended.

IV. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

On a motion made by Mr. Gauthier and seconded by Ms. Drouin, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the Non-Public Session on February 3, 2021 as written.

On a motion made by Mr. Gathier and seconded by Ms. Drouin, the Board voted to

approve the minutes of the Deliberative Session on February 3, 2021 with Mr. Gauthier and Ms. Drouin voting in the affirmative and Mr. Mitchell and Ms. Douglas abstaining from the vote.

A motion was made by Mr. Gauthier and seconded by Mr. Mitchell to approve the minutes of the public meeting on February 4, 2021. On page eight, paragraph seven, change yellow to orange and orange to yellow. The motion was passed unanimously to approve the minutes as amended.

V. PUBLIC INPUT

Girard LeDuc stated that it is not appropriate for someone in the audience to be called an “idiot”. He also stated that a member of the Board was too passionate and sounded angry.

Justin Clough said that the administration should consider snow days as a day for students to not be on their computer screens.

Autumn Bursey stated that her son, a student with a disability, was suspended because his mask was not being worn appropriately. She said when asked to adjust his mask, he did so respectfully. Ms. Bursey is concerned that he is missing school when he is already far behind; she feels he cannot afford to miss any more school.

Tracy Hyuck stated that she would like the contact for the Medicaid representative at the NH Department of Education. Ms. Bickford suggested that Ms. Hyuck contact her for the information.

Mr. Gauthier questioned the suspension of the student. Ms. Bursey reiterated her concerns regarding her son’s suspension. Mr. Hamilton explained that non-compliance infractions are dealt with on an individual basis. Ms. Brown offered to provide additional information in a non-public session. Dr. Graziano provided an explanation regarding the way in which behavior is consequence.

VII. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE - No report.

VIII. PES PRINCIPAL

A. Attendance

Ms. Harvey provided the Board with attendance statistics pointing out an improvement in the last few days.

B. Grant Funds

Ms. Harvey provided an explanation of what grants could be used for different purposes. Questions had arisen during recent budget discussions.

C. School Status

Ms. Harvey reported that PES moved to teal status and provided accolades to the

teachers for making this possible. Mr. Gauthier thanked Ms. Harvey for her effort in getting students back to school.

D. Girls on the Run

Ms. Harvey stated that permission is being requested for Girls on the Run to use school facilities. Most of the time will be spent outside wearing masks, according to Ms. Harvey.

On a motion made by Mr. Gauthier and seconded by Mr. Mitchell, the Board voted unanimously to approve Girls on the Run to use PES facilities.

IX. PMHS PRINCIPAL

A. District Newsletter

Mr. Hamilton shared the recent District Newsletter.

B. NEASC Collaboration Conference

Mr. Hamilton summarized the visit of a NEASC team composed of seven educators from across New England.

C. School Status

Mr. Hamilton described the work being done at PMHS to move students from orange to yellow and eventually to teal. They are on track for all grade levels to be in the teal status by March 1, 2021. He gave teachers credit for the work they have done to ready the building for students' return. Mr. Gauthier and Mr. Mitchell thanked Mr. Hamilton for the effort to get students back to school.

X. PMHS ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

A. Modern States Education Alliance

Ms. Brown provided the Board with information about the NH Department of Education's alliance with Modern States Education Alliance to offer free, online courses and free CLEP exams. A few PMHS students were approached to pilot this program. Currently, one student accepted the challenge and is enrolled in advanced placement macroeconomics and is scheduled to take the exam in May.

B. Registrations and Withdrawals

Ms. Brown reported that since the start of the school year, there have been twenty-four registrations and twenty-three withdrawals, compared to nineteen registrations

and thirty-two withdrawals last year.

C. Class of 2021 Update

Ms. Brown stated that there are twenty nine students in the class of 2021.

D. Running Start Program

Ms. Brown reported that two running Start courses are offered which provide students with the opportunity to receive high school credit as well as college credit through New Hampshire Technical Institute.

E. Online and eStart Programs

According to Ms. Brown, there are thirty-nine high school students taking an online course through Virtual Learning Academy Charter School (VLACS). Students also have the opportunity to take classes for college credit through the eStart Program sponsored by the Community College System of New Hampshire.

XI. DIRECTOR OF STUDENT SERVICES

A. Medicaid

Ms. Bickford provided the Board with an overview of the Medicaid process and changes that have occurred since August of 2019. She noted that in NH, the Medicaid to Schools program was reimbursed in FY 2019 \$26,379,998 for 10,498 students while in FY 2020 the reimbursement was \$8,223,474 for 9,003 students. She explained that reduction is largely due to the fact that doctor's orders are now required for occupational therapy, board licensed psychologists must order para support for behavior, and the inability to bill for para support during remote learning.

B. IDEA Grant Overview

Ms. Bickford explained the IDEA grant which Pittsfield receives to help offset some of the extremely expensive services to students with disabilities. She provided an explanation regarding the rules that guard against supplanting.

XII. INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

A. School Status Report

Dr. Graziano commended the administration, faculty, staff, parents, and students for the work that was done to make it possible for students to return to school.

Dr. Graziano commented on the positive outcomes of the NEASC visiting team. He stated that the process was complicated by the pandemic.

B. 2021-2022 Budget

Dr. Graziano deferred comments about the budget to the scheduled non-public session.

XIII. SCHOOL BOARD

A. Mask Wearing

Mr. Gauthier asked how students are doing with mask requirements. Mr. Hamilton stated that the students at PMHS have been very compliant about wearing masks. Ms. LeMay said the same is true at PES.

XIV. COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

A. Budget Committee - Mr. Mitchell

C. Drake Field & Facilities - Mr. Gauthier

D. Negotiations – Ms. Asdot and Ms. Douglas

E. Foss Family Scholarship Foundation – Ms. Drouin

XV. PUBLIC INPUT

Tracy Hyuck asked which school might need help with mask donations. She said that she has a donation to make masks but needs to know if PES or PMHS need them more. Mr. Hamilton and Ms. Harvey said that for now, they have enough masks.

Justin Clough stated that there are military scholarships available for students going to college. Ms. Brown explained that branches of the military are invited to come to the school to talk to students. Mr. Clough explained that there is also opportunity for students who want to go to college first before entering the military.

Girard LeDuc stated that the American Legion has several scholarships available and encouraged students to apply. Also, Boys State and Girls State may also be reinstated; he encouraged participation from students at PMHS. Mr. LeDuc will provide information to the administration.

Melissa Babcock asked when the public will know what budget cuts will be identified. Ms. Douglas stated that once the Board makes decisions the public will be informed. People will be aware of cuts before they have to vote on March 9, 2021. Ms. Babcock stated she is very concerned about the impact the cuts will have on students.

XVI. NON-PUBLIC SESSION

Ms. Douglas stated that a discussion by the Board will be necessary relative to budget cuts. Due to the inclusion of elimination of positions, the Board will have that discussion in non-public session.

At 6:17 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Gauthier and seconded by Mr. Mitchell to enter into a non-public session under the authority of RSA 91-A:3 (c) to discuss personnel matters. The Board was polled and voted unanimously to enter into a non-public session (Ms. Douglas, yes; Ms. Drouin, yes; Mr. Gauthier, yes; Mr. Mitchell, yes).

At 7:37 p.m. a motion was made by Ted Mitchell and seconded by Adam Gauthier to exit from a non-public session. The Board was polled and voted unanimously to exit the non-public session (Ms. Douglas, yes; Ms. Drouin, yes; Mr. Gauthier; Mr. Mitchell, yes).

XVII. SCHOOL BOARD (Continued)

On a motion made by Adam Gauthier and seconded by Ted Mitchell the Board voted unanimously to approve the \$987,000,000 budget reductions as recommended by the Administration for the 2021 2022 school district budget.

XVIII. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for Thursday, March 4, 2021 at 5:30 in the Pittsfield Middle High School Lecture Hall.

XIX. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion made by and seconded by Ted Mitchell and seconded by Adam Gauthier, the meeting was adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tobi Gray Chassie
Recording Secretary (via Zoom)

PITTSFIELD SCHOOL BOARD

Non-Public Session Minutes

February 18, 2021

Members Present: Bea Douglas, Chairperson
Jessica Drouin
Adam Gauthier
Ted Mitchell

Motion: On a motion by Ms. Gauthier and seconded by Mr. Mitchell, the Board voted unanimously to enter into a non-public session under the authority of RSA 91-A:3 II (c).

Specific Statutory Reason for Nonpublic Session: RSA 91-A:3 II (c) to discuss a personnel matter.

Roll call: Vote to enter non public session: Ms. Douglas yes
Ms. Drouin yes
Mr. Gauthier yes
Mr. Mitchell yes

Time Nonpublic Session Entered: 6:17 p.m.

Other Persons Present: Interim Superintendent John Graziano

Description of Matters Discussed: The Administration made a presentation of potential reductions of the 2021 - 2022 school district budget.

Action: No action taken.

Public Session Reconvened: 7:37 p.m.

Role Call to Seal Minutes: No motion to seal minutes.

Minutes Recorded By: John Graziano, Interim Superintendent

Pittsfield School District

To: Pittsfield School Board
From: PES Administration, Danielle Harvey and Kathy LeMay
Subject: Board Meeting – March 4th, 2021
Date: February 24th, 2021

ACTION

None at this time.

INFORMATION

1. Attendance: The following chart shows attendance at PES for the first week of Teal status.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
14	47 (remote due to weather)	41 (remote)	19	26

Our hope is that upon returning from break, we will continue to see numbers in the teens.

2. Remote Students: This is our current breakdown for the number of students who have opted to stay remote during Teal status:

PreK	Kindergarten	1/2	3/4	5th
2	0	14	15	7

3. Re-Enrollment: Five of our 22 homeschool students have re-enrolled for in person learning.
4. Social Media: The warrant articles will be posted and shared to instagram and facebook with explanations of what voting yes means.

Pittsfield School District

To: Pittsfield School Board
From: Derek Hamilton, PMHS Principal
Subject: Board Meeting – March 4, 2021
Date: February 12, 2021

INFORMATION

1. District Newsletter. I've enclosed a copy of our latest district newsletter. This edition highlights the school district budget and PES Winter Reading Challenge. We've also kept the school district website updated with information related to the school district budget.
2. Remote Learners. The following is a breakdown by grade level of the number of students opting to work remotely during segments five and six.
 - Sixth Grade – 10 students
 - Seventh Grade – 8 students
 - Eighth Grade – 14 students
 - Ninth Grade – 17 students
 - Tenth Grade – 9 students
 - Eleventh Grade – 5 students
 - Twelfth Grade – 6 students

The total number of students working remotely is 69, which is 23% of our student population. Each grade level will continue to have a point person and the opportunity to join live classes or office hours. We will continue to offer the option of attending school remotely for the remainder of the school year.

3. School Status. When we return from the Winter Break on March 1, all grade levels (6-12) at PMHS will be in the *teal status*. Here is a brief overview of the instructional plan at each grade level or grade span.
 - Sixth grade students will be working in three home bases with 10-13 students in each home base. Core teachers will host live classes during the school day for both in-person and remote learners. In-person learners will rotate to Unified Arts classes.
 - Grades 7-8 will be working in four home bases with 18-19 students in each home base. Core teachers will rotate through the four home bases to provide instruction and support to in-person learners. Each core teacher will also have daily office hours to provide instruction and support for remote learners. In-person learners will also rotate to Unified Arts classes.
 - Grades 9-12 will continue to have live classes throughout the day. In-person learners will rotate through their class schedule and remote learners will join classes via Zoom.



DISTRICT NEWSLETTER



School District Budget

My father taught me to vote with my feet. I was lucky. I grew up in a simple loving family. My Dad used to say son, you vote with your feet. What he meant was, you participate in your community by voting. I encourage everyone to vote. How you decide to vote is up to you. Your participation is critical.

The school district faces over a million dollars in cuts. This is a significant amount of money to an already lean budget and modest program. The cuts will impact people and programs. We will lose people and programs. Teachers, staff, and programs will be cut. The loss will be substantial and significant. These cuts will impact students and their education.

I understand that citizens are challenged financially, especially in these difficult times. I also understand that monies were used last year (\$827,000) to reduce taxes. It worked to lower the tax rate last year but it created a false bottom. We did not receive this one time funding this year and it ballooned the school portion of the tax rate.

As the new Interim Superintendent, I am very proud of the school district and community. I have met good, contributing citizens. I admire Panther Pride. I am concerned however about the short and long term impact of the budget cuts. They will be impactful. I am hopeful that many citizens will come out to vote. A no vote will keep the budget the same as last year.

I look forward to seeing you at the polls on March 9th.

Dr. John Graziano

IMPORTANT DATES

Winter Break
PES/PMHS
February 22-26, 2021

School Board Meeting
PMHS Lecture Hall
March 4, 2021, 5:30 PM

CRTC Parent/Guardian Night
Virtual Event
March 9, 2021, 6:00 PM

Town Elections
PMHS Gymnasium
March 9, 2021, 7:00-7:00 PM

Remote Learning Day
PES/PMHS
March 9, 2021

In-Person Learning Day
PES/PMHS
March 10, 2021

School Board Meeting
PMHS Lecture Hall
March 18, 2021, 5:30 PM

The district calendar is available at:
www.pittsfieldnhschools.org

Meet Mrs. Medeiros

Monique Medeiros grew up in Massachusetts where she graduated from Salem State University with a Bachelors in Educational Studies. This will be her 23rd year teaching. For the last 15 years, Monique has been teaching and directing a school that she opened with a fellow teacher. Monique lives in New Boston with her husband Warren, their daughter Gracie, who is 16, and their dog Chance. In her free time, Monique likes to run, camp, hike, read, visit Disney and cheer on the Patriots! She is looking forward to teaching Kindergarten at Pittsfield Elementary School.

School District Budget Summary

The proposed operating budget for the 2021-2022 school year is \$10,029,306. This figure represents a \$987,000 budget reduction. Below is an overview of budget reductions recommended by the school administration and approved by the Pittsfield School Board.

- Instruction (8.5 teachers and professional staff): \$755,327
- Support Staff (5 paraprofessionals and related support staff positions): \$118,000
- PES Supplies/Maintenance: \$17,812
- PMHS Supplies/Maintenance/Athletics: \$87,861
- Professional Development: \$8,000

For more information on the 21-22 school district budget, please visit the Pittsfield School District website.

PES Winter Reading Challenge



Are you “yeti” for the PES Winter Reading Challenge results? We have had over 40 students participate in our challenge! Some students read over 1000 minutes from the beginning of January until today. I’m sure you will be seeing amazing growth on your next DRA! Congratulations to all winners!

HEALTH SERVICES CORNER

Health Screenings

A friendly reminder to families to continue assessing their child(ren) prior to sending them to school. Any student who is sick or not feeling well is advised to stay home.

Symptoms to look for include fever, respiratory symptoms (runny nose, sore throat, or cough) and muscle aches or chills.

DHHS Travel Advisory

A reminder that anyone traveling outside of New England must quarantine for 10 days upon returning to New Hampshire. Please notify our school nurses, Jessica Strohl and Cindy Caravella, of any travel plans outside of New England.

INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

A

The Interim Superintendent will provide an update of the 2021 2022 School District Budget

B

The Interim Superintendent will provide an update on School Status

C

The Interim Superintendent will provide an update on the Tuition Study Committee