

APPROVED BY THE PITTSFIELD SCHOOL BOARD

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

MINUTES

Pittsfield School Board Meeting
May 5, 2022
Pittsfield Middle High School

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

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

Chairman 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:

- Celebration for Retirees (Ms. Adams)
- Student Centered Learning (Ms. Goggin)
- Teacher Appreciation Week (Mr. Gauthier)
- Drake Field (Ms. Duval)
- PES PTO (Ms. Duval)
- Book Challenge (Mr. Wiley)
- Drake Field Facility Request (Mr. Hamilton)

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 April 21, 2022 meeting were considered. On page three, paragraph one, omit the second period at the end of the sentence; on page five, paragraph four, change to "...student centered learning would be helpful."; and on page five, paragraph six, change Chassis to Chassie. On a motion made by Ms. Duval and seconded by Ms. Adams, the minutes were unanimously approved as amended.

VI. PUBLIC INPUT - None

VII. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Matthew Swenson stated that the Advisory Council was present at Site Council to ask to work on the Advisory Handbook. The Site Council has submitted a proposal to the School Board relative to the dress code. Discussion ensued regarding the changes that are being proposed by the Site Council. On a motion made by Ms. Duval and seconded by Ms. Goggin, the Board approved the proposal as presented with Ms. Adams, Ms. Duval, and Ms. Goggin voting in the affirmative and Mr. Gauthier voting in opposition.

Mr. Hamilton agreed to put the changes into effect as of Monday, May 16, 2022.

VIII. PES PRINCIPAL

A. Lego Robotics

Mr. Wiley reported that Kathy Mahanes attended the Christa McAuliffe Technology conference and attended a Lego Robotics Session. She returned excited about the possibility of bringing Lego Robotics to the district. Rustic Crust has agreed to be a local supporter, which is a requirement of the NH Department of Education. Mr. Wiley provided details about the grant that will support the effort. The Lego League Night has been scheduled for June 15, 2022.

B. Professional Development

Mr. Wiley stated that PES teachers are formatting the curriculum to be displayed on the district website. Also, a book group is occurring, using a book titled, How to Prevent Reading Difficulties.

C. Security Assessment

According to Mr. Wiley, the NH Department of Homeland Security visited PES on April 19, 2022 to conduct a security assessment. A report will be forthcoming.

D. Book Challenge

Mr. Wiley explained a book challenge that is happening at PES. The goal is to have the student body read 3,000 books.

E. Calendar of Events

Mr. Wiley provided the Board with a list of upcoming events

IX. PMHS PRINCIPAL

A. Drake Field

Mr. Hamilton announced that a processional parade sponsored by the Catholic Church will be moving through Drake Field on May 25 through May 27, 2022.

On a motion made by Mr. Gauthier and seconded by Ms. Goggin, the Board voted unanimously to approve the use of Drake Field for the Catholic Church.

Mr. Hamilton stated that the Joy Church has requested the use of Drake Field on August 13, 2022. On a motion made by Mr. Gauthier and seconded by Ms. Goggin, the Board voted unanimously to approve the use of the field.

B. Calendar of Event

Mr. Hamilton provided the Board with a calendar of upcoming events.

C. Empty Bowls Event

On Thursday, May 19, 2022, the Empty Bowls Event will be held prior to the Board meeting. Mr. Hamilton thanked Rustic Crust and Hannaford Supermarket of Northwood for their support.

D. Exhibition of Learning

According to Mr. Hamilton, the 2022 Exhibition Night is being prepared. Students are being provided assistance in developing the presentation of one piece of work.

E. Middle School After School Program

Mr. Hamilton explained that a middle school after school program will be offered on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:00 to 4:00. Students can drop in for academic support in their core courses. The program will run through June 16, 2020.

F. National Honor Society Induction Ceremony

Mr. Hamilton stated that the National Honor Society Induction Ceremony was held on April 6, 2022. Riley Nagle, Trevor Mills, and Jadin Weygand were

inducted. The National Honor Society continues to run the school-based food pantry, which is open to the student body on Fridays at 2:00.

G. Project Soapbox

According to Mr. Hamilton, senior Lilli Brisbois will be representing PMHS at the NH Project Soapbox Showcase on Thursday, May 12, 2022. Mr. LaRoche, social studies teacher, has been instrumental in growing and enhancing this program at PMHS and throughout the State.

H. Summer Programs

The extended school year program will run Monday through Thursday from July 11 to August 4, 2022. Two programs will be offered.

Responding to a question raised by Ms. Goggin, Mr. Wiley stated that there are no summer Title I programs being planned. However, Mr. Lane stated that he is investigating options for summer programs for elementary students.

I. Vision of the Learner Forum

The District Leadership Team and the PMHS Vision of the Learner Focus Group is preparing for the next community forum on Saturday, May 14, 2022 from 10:00 to 12:00 in the PMHS media center. Participants will be invited to rotate through stations to offer feedback. Mr. Hamilton highlighted that the vision is relative to the entire student body, grades K through 12. For people unable to attend, there will be an online option for providing feedback. Also, there will be an opportunity at Exhibition Night.

X. INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT

A. Contracts

Mr. Lane stated that contracts have been distributed. As of Monday, May 2, 2022, there are eleven people who have indicated that they will not be returning. Mr. Lane is finalizing a questionnaire to be completed by these people in order to learn why they might be leaving. Mr. Lane's goal is to be fully staffed by June 15, 2022.

Administration, support staff, and paraprofessional contracts are in process.

B. After School Program

Mr. Lane stated that he is working with Victoria Marcotte to investigate the implementation of an after school program beginning in the fall.

C. Drake Field

Mr. Lane reported that he has further inspected Drake Field. He is getting quotes for removal and installation of new asphalt, repairing the natural path that leads to the water, trimming the pathway, and replenishing the crushed stone.

D. Bids

Bids for paper, field maintenance, and the dumpsters will be available to the Board at the May 19, 2022 meeting.

E. School Board Vacancy

Mr. Lane stated that the written questions developed by the Board for the two candidates for School Board appointment were sent. The responses were returned and shared with the Board members prior to the meeting.

F. Facilities Staff

Mr. Lane thanked the facilities staff, who have stripped and waxed the floors in the SAU during the vacation break.

XI. SCHOOL BOARD

A. Policies - First Reading

The following policies were presented for the first reading:

- Policy CHCA, Approval of Handbooks and Directives
- Policy ILBA, Assessment of Educational Programs
- Policy JG, Assignment of Students to Classes and Grade Levels
- Policy JH, Attendance, Absenteeism, and Truancy

B. Policies - Second Reading

The following policies were presented for the second reading and approval:

- Policy IMBC, Alternative Credit Options - On a motion made by Ms. Adams and seconded by Ms. Duval, the Board voted unanimously to change Director of College and Career Readiness to Principal or designee in Policy IMBC.
- Policy IHBI, Alternative Learning Plans - On a motion made by Mr. Gauthier and seconded by Ms. Adams, the Board voted unanimously to approve Policy IHBI with change of Director of College and Career Readiness to Principal or designee and to change Board to School Board.
- Policy IL, Analysis and Assessment of Instructional Resources - approved as written.

- Policy DB, Annual Budget - On a motion made by Mr. Gauthier and seconded by Ms. Duval, the Board voted unanimously to approve Policy DB with a change from Board to School Board.

C. Retiree Celebration

Ms. Adams asked if arrangements are in process for the celebration of retirees. Mr. Lane stated that the administrative assistant has this task on her list of things to do. Mr. Lane agreed to reach out to the PMHS staff to see if students might take on the responsibility of creating the invitations for the retirees and their families.

Mr. Gauthier asked Mr. Wiley if he would arrange to have elementary students make cards for the retirees, since many of them would have had these teachers. Mr. Lane also suggested asking the senior class for cards.

Ms. Adams suggested buying a gift from a local artist for the retirees.

D. Student Centered Learning

Ms. Goggin stated her desire to begin a conversation with the Board on student centered learning. She suggested improving communication about the efforts that continue to promote student centered learning by assessing the current status. Ms. Goggin also expressed interest in measuring the benefits of student centered learning. She is concerned that people may be misinformed about what student centered learning is and what it looks like in Pittsfield.

Ms. Adams stated that there is a lot of misunderstanding about student centered learning in the community. She stated that the Board needs to have answers in order to answer the questions that may be coming up in the community.

E. Teacher Appreciation Week

Ms. Duval publicly recognized the PES PTO's effort to celebrate teachers at PES. She said that what they did to show their appreciation of the teachers was extraordinary.

Ms. Goggin asked if the PTO was limited to PES. Mr. Lane explained that historically PTOs are more active at the elementary level.

Mr. Hamilton stated that similar acknowledgements have occurred at PMHS, sponsored by the administration.

F. Drake Field

Ms. Duval stated her continued concern about the behavior at Drake Field. Mr. Gauthier relayed an incident in which he was recently a part. Mr. Lane stated that it is appropriate to call the Pittsfield Police Department if problems are

encountered while at Drake Field. Discussion ensued regarding strategies that could be considered to limit issues at Drake Field.

XII. COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

- A. Budget Committee Representative
- B. Drake Field and Facilities
- C. Negotiating Team
- D. Foss Family Scholarship

On a motion made by Mr. Gauthier and seconded by Ms. Adams, the Board voted unanimously to appoint Ms. Duval as the School Board representative to the Foss Family Scholarship Committee.

XIII. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for Thursday, May 19, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. in the Pittsfield Middle High School Media Center.

XIV. PUBLIC INPUT

Diane Rider asked if the discussion about curriculum will continue at the Board level. Mr. Gauthier said it would be on the agenda.

Ms. Rider stated that a charter school called Franklin Academy is in progress to be opened in Pittsfield. She provided the Board with some background information. Ms. Rider suggested bringing someone to the Board to provide information. She suggested visiting their website at www.franklinacademy.info. Mr. Lane invited a person from Franklin Academy to request being added to the agenda for an upcoming Board meeting.

Clayton Wood opined that the Board needs to do something to control behavior at Drake Field. He suggested getting some professional help to figure out what steps could be taken.

Ms. Rider suggested a “See Something - Say Something” initiative be used to help control the situation at Drake Field.

Mr. Wood suggested developing a leadership position to assist in controlling the Drake Field situation.

Louie Houle relayed an incident in which he was involved at Drake Field, underscoring the problem of behavior. He stated that something needs to be done to enforce rules.

Mr. Wood suggested that the problem is that no one takes ownership or authority over Drake Field. He stated that he doesn't think an appropriate alternative is to hire district personnel to deal with the issue. He does feel strongly that something has to be done to address the issue.

Mr. Houle suggested inviting the Select Board and Police Department to have a conversation about the problems at Drake Field. Mr. Wood suggested appointing one of the Board members to talk to the Select Board. Mr. Lane stated that he will invite Chief Collins to attend a future meeting to continue the discussion.

Ms. Rider asked if there were consequences for the student involved in the breaking of the lobby window, to which Mr. Hamilton replied in the affirmative.

XV. NON-PUBLIC

At 7:20 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Gauthier and seconded by Ms. Adams to enter into a non-public session under the authority of RSA 91-A:3 (a) to discuss personnel. The Board was polled and voted unanimously to enter into a non-public session (Ms. Adams, yes; Ms. Duval, yes; Mr. Gauthier, yes; Ms. Goggin, yes).

At 8:25 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Gauthier and seconded by Ms. Goggin to exit from a non-public session. The Board was polled and voted unanimously to exit the non-public session (Ms. Adams, yes; Ms. Duval, yes; Mr. Gauthier, yes; Ms. Goggin, yes).

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Ms. Duval and seconded by Mr. Gauthier to adjourn the meeting. The Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tobi Gray Chassie
Recording Secretary