

DRAFT MINUTES BY THE PITTSFIELD SCHOOL BOARD
STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT # 51

MINUTES
Pittsfield School Board
December 7, 2023

Pittsfield Middle High School Library Media Center

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

Others Present: Bryan Lane, Superintendent
Charlene Vary, Director of Student Services
Derek Hamilton, PMHS Principal
Melissa Brown, PMHS Assistant Principal
Kristen White, PES Principal
Members of the Public

Chairperson Gauthier opened the meeting at 5:31 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:

Rescinding of September 21 non-public minutes and approval of October 5 non public minutes
(Mrs. Adams)

Non Public Session, Warrant Articles, Policy IKJ, school funding court decision (Mr. Lane)

IV. ACTION ON AMENDED AGENDA On a motion made by Mr. Gauthier and seconded by Mrs.
Goggin

Vote 4-0 to approve the motion

V. Public Input- No public input

VI. Student Representative- Mr. Hamilton states that the site council is discussing parking lot
proposal for senior parking.

VII. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

Superintendent explains that the non-public minutes previously approved for September 21 occurred on October 5.

On a motion by Mr. Gauthier second by Mrs. Goggin, the non-public minutes from September 21, 2023 were rescinded, Vote 4-0

On a motion by Mr. Gauthier, second by Mr. Cote the non-public minutes from October 5, 2023 were approved as presented, vote 4-0.

VIII. PES ADMINISTRATION – Kristen White

- Mrs. White describes the good work done between the buildings and appreciates the cooperation that occurs consistently.
- Describes the events of World Kindness Day.
- Collections of cereal boxes for food pantry, great deal of pride in the kids to work together.
- Describes significant growth in reading levels for Title 1 students and kindergarten.
- Describes the WIN “What I Need” initiative to help students.
- Using time at the end of the day to get every minute of time to work with students.
- Scholastic Book Fair was a big success, many thanks to the PTO for their efforts.
- Description of the Student Success Center on how they are working with students. Lunch bunches are offered to all student to see SSC is a positive environment. Students can be referred or may go to find their way through the school day. Number of referrals are decreasing. Describes “color zones” that help students identify needs during the school day.
- Goes over the calendar of upcoming events.

Mr. Cote inquired regarding SSC and ALMA referrals, how are they categorized? Mrs. White replies that SSC referrals are for students who need help in regulating their day. ALMA referrals are those that require a student consequence. Mrs. White is encouraged by the number of referrals decreasing and student who are recognizing that they need to regulate their behavior during the school day

Mr. Cote inquired regarding Title I progress report. How do you interpret the larger growth in lower grade levels than in higher grade levels. Mrs. White responds that the younger students are experiencing basic skills vs. more complex skills of older students. There is also a timing issue in getting access to additional assistance in grade 5 for instance.

Mrs. Goggin adds that early interventions are helpful in decreasing gaps that exist with younger students than older students. Decoding skills are harder to recoup in older students vs. more basic skills in lower grades.

Mr. Cote inquires what are the effects of staffing. Mrs. White expresses that she is encouraged by the efforts of staff working outside the classroom time including the teacher's lunch.

IX. PMHS ADMINISTRATION- Derick Hamilton

- a. Mr. Hamilton asks for the Board to give permission for the senior class trip to occur this spring in Bingham, Maine. Costs will be approximately \$150 per students which would be offset by fund raising. . Motion by Mr. Gauthier, seconded by Mrs. Goggin.

Mr. Cote requires if there are GPA requirements. or graduation requirements for a student to qualify to go on the trip. Mr. Hamilton clarifies that as long as a student is on track to graduate, they are eligible. There is discussion that take place for those students who are at risk of not completing graduation requirements on time to determine if going on the trip is prudent.

Mr. Cote inquires if there are any reservations regarding, the trip. Mr. Hamilton has none.

Vote 4-0

- b. Mr. Hamilton reviewed the results of the fire inspection. There were few issues and they have been addressed. Compared to inspections of the past, this was a very positive report.
- c. Mr. Hamilton describes that PMHS was one of 11 schools in NH that exited status for needing improvement. The school is in good standing with the DOE. Recognition with the staff and students are upcoming as well as a community announcement.
- d. Mr. Hamilton discusses Granite State Edvantage and the college presentations made to students and families. Mrs. Brown was extremely happy with the turnout.
- e. Fall conferences participation data include 205 of 252 students participated in fall student led conferences. This is an increase of 5% over the previous year. Mr. Hamilton Commends the 7th and 8th grade teams. Mr. Hamilton presents an example to the Board and public.

Mrs. Adams inquired what grade levels of student involved. Mr. Hamilton indicates that this will result in a portfolio of work for students in their careers at PMHS. Mrs. Goggin commends these efforts because it is a great opportunity for students as individuals to show their learning.
- f. Mr. Hamilton will be sending out a notification of the NEASC report with our continuing accreditation status and the continuous improvement plan for instructional practices. Staff will be working on book studies of four different books to identify effective teaching strategies for the staff. Mr. Hamilton describes teachers who are participating in instructional rounds. Representatives from WestED have been meeting with the staff on instructional practices.

Mr. Gauthier commends both Mrs. White and Mr. Hamilton for the efforts they put into their reports.

X. SUPERINTENDENTS REPORT- Bryan Lane

- a. The School District Budget will be presented on December 20 with the Principals and the Superintendent. The Superintendent has asked the Budget Committee to reach out with

questions in advance. Mr. Lane clarifies to Mrs. Adams that documents will be sent out the next day.

- b. Student enrollment has remained consistent since the beginning of the school year and is comparable to September. This is a contrast to last year when enrollment declined.
- c. The Professional Development Committee will be reestablished with a meeting to begin in January with the goal of creating an effective and efficient staff evaluation tool. Evaluation tools will be created for those with different job responsibilities. In addition, the committee will look to create professional development experiences that staff feel are valuable.
- d. A representative from the state came to meet with the leadership team to discuss MTSS-B (multi-tiered student support) systems. We will be moving forward by identifying and meeting with community partners.
- e. There are two facilities projects that have been identified regarding school safety. Initially the fire police department suggested a film to put over glass at PES. A better option could be to change the project to upgrading the entrance in the vestibule at PES for better security. The other project is addtional security doors at PMHS. The Superintendent is asking for a consensus to go forward in finding funds for these projects though the grant process. The Board has no objections.
- f. Current tax rates for the Town that are broken down for Board members to answer questions that may be asked when discussing the budget.

Mrs. Adams inquires that the numbers do not add up correctly and the text needs to be corrected. The Superintendent will make corrections and have new

- g. The Superintendent brings forward a document that is the result of a court finding that the current funding process for NH to fund schools. The court found that the current process is not constitutional. It is unclear as to the future and how this will be dealt with under appeal. The new dollar figure would increase the funding for Pittsfield significantly. The Superintendent encourages the Board to reach out to state legislators to find a resolution on how to find a resolution to creating a constitutionally appropriate funding formula.

XI. XI. SCHOOL BOARD

- a. Policy First Reading
 - i. KH- Public Solicitations
 - ii. EH- Public Use of School Records
 - iii. JICK- Pupil Safety and Violence Prevention (Bullying)
 - iv. JICK-R- Pupil Safety and Violence Prevention (Bullying) Report Form
 - v. The Superintendent brings forth policy IKJ for consideration of waiving a first reading and taking a vote at this meeting. The policy describes the types of movies that can be viewed by students. The current policy reads that students in grades K-8 can only view movies rated G. The issue was brought forward that movies that are rated PG cannot be viewed. The Superintendent proposes that the policy be changed to allow students in grades K-8 to have the ability to watch

both G and PG movies. PG movies will require parent/guardian permission forms and if any student in the class objects' the movie will not be shown.

Mr. Gauthier makes a motion to waive the first reading of policy IKJ, second by Mrs. Adams for discussion.

Mrs. Adams requests clarification on permission forms. Movies rated G parents would be informed, movies rated PG would require a parent/guardian permission.

Mrs. Goggin recommends that instead of the whole class not being able to view a film if there is one objection, that the student would have the objection be given an alternative activity. Mrs. Goggin compares to parents who object to books, the student is given an alternative book.

For any reason a parent objects to the movie, the student will be given an alternative activity.

Mr. Cote agrees that making the process for objecting to books and movies is appropriate. Also to change Dean of Instruction to Principal.

Vote 4-0

- b. Board Meeting Schedule for December 21
 - i. Motion to cancel the December 21 meeting by Mr. Gauthier, second by Mrs. Goggin.

Vote 4-0 to approve the motion.

- c. Superintendent brings forward a Warrant Article to fund the Food Service Program. Motion to recommend the Food Service Warrant Article by Mr. Gauthier, second by Mr. Cote.

Vote 4-0 to approve the motion.

- d. Superintendent brings forward a Warrant Article to Accept and Expend Grant Funds, Motion by Mr. Gauthier, second by Mrs. Adams.

Vote 4-0 to approve the motion.

- e. Mrs. Adams brings forward a request to bring forward a Warrant Article to approve the Warrant Article to close the Dumpster Capital Reserve Fund. Motion by Mrs. Adams, second by Mr. Gauthier.

Vote 4-0 to approve the motion.

Mrs Adams inquires if there is a need to bring forward any additional funding in a warrant for facilities projects. Mr. Lane clarifies that with the current fund balance it does not appear that using Capital Reserve Fund would be needed.

XII. Committee Assignments

- a. Budget Committee- Mrs. Adams states there is a meeting on December 20 and
- b. Drake Field and Facilities
- c. Negotiations

- d. Foss Family Scholarship
- e. Public Relations- Mrs. Goggin heard back from Fair Fundi9ng Project and commented on the great job done with Mr. LaRoche's class as well as next steps.

XIII. Plan Agenda for next meeting January 4th

- a. Policies
- b. Budget update

XIV. Board Comments- none

XV. Public Input

- a. Sabrina Smith- comments on films that would be good for students. Comments on Zones of regulation. Asks for clarification on the room environment in SSC, is it a comfortable environment for students. Mrs. Vary states that it is s a more relaxed and comfortable area for students and describes the environment. What is the SSC options at PMHS? Mrs. Vary describes the "Chill Room". Mrs. Brown describes the SSC options at PMHS.

Mrs. Goggin inquires if funding has been used to furnish the SSC environment. Superintendent will put forward any requests. Mr. Hamilton describes comfortable areas set up by teachers.

Motion to go into non-public session under RSA 91:A iii A as well made by Mr. Gauthier, second by Mrs. Goggin.

Vote-4-0 to approve the motion.

Non Public session begins at 7:28

Non-Public Minutes

Negotiations issue discussed

Student Issue discussed

Staff issue discussed.

No action taken.

Mrs. Adams makes a motion to exit the non-public session, seconded by Mrs. Goggin.

Vote 4-0 to approve the motion.

Mr. Cote makes a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mrs. Goggin,

Vote 4-0 to approve the motion, meeting ends at 7:54.