

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

PITTSFIELD SCHOOL BOARD
MINUTES

Pittsfield School Board Meeting April 11, 2024
Pittsfield Middle High School

MEMBERS PRESENT: Sandra Adams, Chairperson
Molly Goggin, Vice Chairperson
Tim Robinson
Adam Gauthier

OTHERS PRESENT: Bryan Lane, Superintendent
Derek Hamilton, PMHS Principal
Charlene Vary, Director of Student Services
Melissa Brown, PMHS Assistant Principal
Members of the Public

I. Mrs. Adams called the meeting into session at 5:30 and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. INTERVIEW OF SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATES

- The School Board interviewed three candidates: Adam Cote, Sabrina Smith and Eric Nilsson.

III. ACTION ON AMENDED AGENDA

- Installing mailbox at PES
- Fire drill policy update from Tim
- Auditor/Accounting RFP Response
- Policy first reading of EFC add "Free and Reduced-Priced lunch" should be one of the first reading policies.
- Drake field issues after storm
- Open Enrollment updates

Motion made by Mrs. Goggin and seconded by Mr. Gauthier to accept the amended agenda.
Vote: 4 – 0 approved

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES for March 21, 2024

- Several grammatical changes were noted.
- Under Staffing Updates - change title to Special Education Teacher/Case Manager.

- Page 3 Citizens Bank “the board was agreeable to this” instead of asking the question.
- General assurances “act” should be capitalized.
- Title I should be a roman numeral.
- Change time of adjournment to 7:57 pm.
- Change “she” to Mrs. Goggin.
- Capitalize TIGER.
- Page 5 insert the word “issue” after food service.
- Eklof is Peter’s last name.

Motion to approve minutes by Mr. Gauthier and Mrs. Goggin seconded the motion.
Vote 4-0 to approve the motion

V. PUBLIC INPUT ON AGENDA ITEMS

None

VI. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

None

VII. PITTSFIELD ELEMENTARY – Mrs. White

Mrs. White was unable to attend the session and the Board agreed to read her report individually.

VIII. PITTSFIELD MIDDLE HIGH SCHOOL – Mr. Hamilton

End of Third Quarter & Spring Conferences:

- Progress reports were distributed Tuesday, April 9, 2024.
- Spring Conferences began on Monday, April 8, 2024.
- Learning Studio onboarding is held in the Spring and Fall to help students make informed choices in course offerings.

Family Support Coordinator:

- Katherine Price is the new Family Support Coordinator.
- Miss Price has already assisted families to obtain Medicaid and food stamps.
- Most common needs are centered around mental health and securing a place to live.

National Honor Society:

- The Annual Induction Ceremony will be held on Thursday, April 11, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.
- We are proud to be inducting five new members.
- We are also thankful to Miss Brown for her guidance.

Senior Scholarships:

- The Foss Family Scholarship application period began April 1, 2024.
- Students can contact the Guidance Department to get scholarship applications and resources.
- Scholarship recipients will be announced at the Senior Awards Night on June 7, 2024.

- Foss Family Scholarship recipients will be announced on June 8, 2024.
- We express our gratitude to all the local organizations, businesses and families who offer this generous financial support to the students.

Upcoming School Events:

- Multiple events have already been held, some of which include the Class of 2026 Spring Dance, SAT Test, and Granite Edvance: Applying to College 101.
- Class of 2024: Senior Social on April 16
- School Beautification Day on April 18 will be postponed and may be rescheduled for May.
- Spring Break takes place April 22 – 26.
- SAS Testing for Grades 6 – 8 takes place April 29 through May 3.

Course offering question from community member – wondering about a course description for the Government in Action Class.

Mr. Hamilton stated the class is to learn how funding for education works as a civic action project. The students would research and identify issues and develop actions in a civic project around those issues they identified.

Community member was concerned that this is a class in political activism.

Mr. Hamilton stated the class did a voter registration plan. They recognized young voters were uninformed on the voting process and how to register to vote. They partnered with the Town Hall to help young voters to register to vote. These are just two examples of what the class would teach.

Mrs. Goggin stated it is education and the topics are self-selected by the students and what they deem are important. The school is not determining the topics for them.

Mrs. Goggin asked if there anything that the board can do to help Miss Price help families.

Mr. Hamilton replied that Miss Price would be able to answer that more accurately than he would and will pass that along to her.

IX. SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Nominations for Certified Professional Staff:

- Contracts are ready to go out to all professional staff.
- The additional workshop day added to the calendar was brought up as a concern because it doesn't follow language of the contract. The Education Association of Pittsfield feels it is not in the spirit of the contract as it is written, and it should be brought up during negotiations starting next year. That day was removed and it was added to the end of the school year.

Grant Process:

- Mr. Lane is continuing to work on the grants.
- Mr. Lane is looking to hire someone to take over the grant process. The grant process is not normally something in the Superintendent's job description.
- Mr. Lane will bring this request forward to the Board in May to further discuss funds and hiring.

Reflections on Modifications to ED 306

- Some changes are innocuous but some seem restrictive and could be detrimental to the ability of the school to make decisions or may not be to the benefit of the district itself.

- The State Board of Education was discussing it today, April 11, 2024 as it appears on their agenda.

COVID- 19 Protocol:

- The nurses would like the board to vote on changes to the policy since protocols by the CDC have changed.
- The recommended protocol is: When people get sick with a respiratory virus, the updated guidance recommends that they stay home and away from others. For people with COVID -19 and influenza, treatment is available and can lessen symptoms and lower the risk of severe illness.
- Notice it does not say mask and stay home for 5 days like the old policy.

Motion made by Mr. Robinson that the board adopt the most up-to-date CDC guideline so the board doesn't have to vote anytime it changes and Mrs. Goggin seconded the motion.

Mr. Gauthier was concerned that there is no recommendation on number of days to be out.

Mr. Lane stated the standard is always 24 hours regardless, so it would stay that way.

Mrs. Goggin stated if the CDC doesn't give a specific timeline, it's interpretive and doesn't know if the board wants to be more restrictive.

Mr. Gauthier stated that since there is no clarity on time to return he believes the board should recommend to add 24 hours symptom-free before returning.

Vote: 4-0 to approve

Drake field:

- A tree branch fell on the grandstand from a neighbor's tree.
- We need someone to go and cut up the branch.
- The membrane of the overhang on the bandstand is also damaged by a branch.
- The Superintendent was contacted by a representative for an incoming daycare next to Drake field. The black fence needs to be painted for their ability to meet licensing standards and to open. He wanted to know if the school was responsible to do that. Mr. Lane advised him that the school is not responsible to paint it.

State Board:

- The State Board of Education appears to have found in favor of the family in the tuition for open enrollment issue. That would make us liable for tuition for open enrollments. We should receive a letter in the next week on the finding.
- If we appeal, it would create additional costs to pay the lawyer and court costs.
- Not having seen their official decision, it appears the State Board of Education's logic is that since there was no vote on the statute, therefore you don't get to decide how many students do or don't go.
- Under the procedure of adoption on the decision, if the town votes to be an open enrollment school they can make that number 0. We can allow students from open enrollment schools, but we can also set the number from 0 to 100%.
- The upside of 0% is that we can determine how much money the district is willing to spend to send kids somewhere else. For example: if limit is 2 and the schools rate is \$20, 000 then 80% of that is \$16,000, and the adequacy money goes with the student, that lessens to \$12,000. If we had 10 students that did decide to do that it would be \$120,000 and that would be 1% of our budget.
- As soon as the Superintendent receives the documents on the decision and recommendations from lawyers, he will include them in the May board meeting.

- Mrs. Goggin stated that she believes we are handing over our tax dollars and control over the school system in the district.
- Mr. Lane stated other school districts may want to join, and share costs if they are in the same situation Pittsfield is facing.
- There will have to be a line in the budget for this purpose and if we do that are we by default agreeing to the decision?

X. SCHOOL BOARD

2024 – 2025 Proposed Calendar:

- Last day is June 23rd with the 5 snow days
- September misspelled
- Early release date is September 25th
- January Civil Rights/Martin Luther King Jr Day

Motion to approve the 2024 – 2025 proposed calendar made by Mrs. Adams and seconded by Mrs. Goggin.

Vote: 4 to 0 to approve

Contract approval:

- Need board to approve the list as presented.
- Mrs. Goggin made the motion, Mr. Gauthier seconded
- Vote 4 to 0 to approve

Policy Review First Reading

- EEAG – Use of Private Vehicles to Transport Students
- EFA – Availability and Distribution of Healthy Foods
- EFAA – Meal Charging
- EFC – Free and Reduced-Price Lunch

Policy Review Second Reading

- EC – Building and Grounds Maintenance
 - Change dean of operations to principal.
 - Mr. Gauthier made a motion to accept the policy as amended, and was seconded by Mr. Robinson
 - Vote: 4 – 0 to approve the motion
- ECA – Buildings and Grounds Security
 - Change dean of operations to building principal.
 - Motion to accept that policy as amended was made by Mr. Gauthier and was seconded by Mrs. Goggin.
 - Vote 4 – 0 to approve the motion
- ECAC - Vandalism
 - Change dean of operations to principal.
 - Motion to accept policy modification made by Mr. Gauthier and seconded by Mrs. Goggin.
 - Vote: 4 – 0 to approve the motion
- EEAA – Video and Audio Recordings in School and On School Property

- Page numbers and EAAA need to be added to page 2.
- Motion made by Mr. Gauthier and seconded by Mrs. Adams.
- Vote 4 – 0 to approve the motion.

Mrs. Adams discussed a request for the need to install a mailbox at the PES. This is due to the difficulty delivering mail into the building as there is no parking available at PES. Mr. Lane questioned if the mail department can use Winant Road to meet their need. Mrs. Adams will speak with the postmaster about the options available.

Mr. Lane will have audit reports available soon for the board’s consideration and approval.

Emergency drills were tabled. Mr. Robinson recommends to go with the state law fire code recommended from the Fire Chief. The Fire Chief expects 10 drills a year. Mr. Lane will bring forward for a second reading at a future board meeting.

XI. COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

- Budget Committee- none
- Drake Field and Facilities- none
- Negotiation- none
- Legislation- none
- Foss Family Foundation- none
- Public Relations- none

XII. PLAN FOR NEXT AGENDA April 18, 2024

- Emergency Drill Policy
- Update on State Board decision on open enrollment
- Committee Assignments are tabled until after the fifth Board member is sworn in. Motion made by Mr. Robinson and seconded by Mrs. Adams.
- Vote 4 – 0 to approve.

XIII. BOARD COMMENTS

- Mr. Gauthier thanked Mrs. Adams and Mrs. Goggin for organizing the distribution of the eclipse glasses.
- Mr. Gauthier commended the school administration and staff for their work with getting juniors and most of the seniors to take the SAT.
- Mrs. Goggin commended the applicants for the school board position for getting involved.
- Mrs. Adams has the contact information of the person who provided the eclipse glasses and will send in an email with their information for future reference.

XIV. PUBLIC INPUT

Sabrina Smith commended the course offerings this year. Sabrina Smith asked if the Government in Action Program included information about students getting funding for

school if students didn't sign up for the draft. Mr. Lane stated that all students have the ability to opt out.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

- Mrs. Goggin moved to go to a nonpublic session and Mr. Gauthier seconded the motion under 91:A:3,II (a) and (c).
- Roll call vote was taken and all agreed.
- Nonpublic at 7:47pm
- Motion was made by Mr. Gauthier and seconded by Mr. Robinson to appoint Mr. Nilsson to the vacant school board position.

NON-PUBLIC

Motion to exit non-public made by Mrs. Goggin and was seconded Mr. Gauthier at 8:18 p.m.
Vote 4-0 to approve the motion

Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Robinson and was seconded by Mrs. Goggin.
Vote 4-0 to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m.