

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

PITTSFIELD SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES

Pittsfield School Board Meeting August 1, 2024  
Pittsfield Middle High School

PRESENT: Sandra Adams- Chair  
Adam Gauthier  
Tim Robinson  
Eric Nilsson- Arrived at 5:47

Kristen White- PES Principal  
Derek Hamilton- PMHS Principal  
Melissa Brown- PMHS Asst. Principal  
Charlene Vary- Director of Student Support Services  
Bryan Lane- Superintendent  
Members of the Public

A. The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Adams at 5:30 who led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. ACTION ON THE AMMENDED AGENDA

a. Mr. Lane- Policy JLF and JLF-R first reading, no minutes for July 18, 2024  
Motion to approve the amended agenda by Mr. Robinson  
Second by Mr. Gauthier

Vote 3-0 to approve the motion

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES- July 18, 2024 (Minutes not available)

D. PUBLIC INPUT ON AGENDA ITEMS

E. PRESENTATION- Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS)- Melissa Brown

Mrs. Brown presents the results of the YRBS given every two years. The survey asks a series of questions to determine tendencies of student behaviors around issues that affect students.

Areas of concern include:

Increased marijuana usage, two times the state average  
First time use of marijuana, 11% higher than state average  
Vaping usage has increased  
Students feeling depressed over 50%, higher in female students  
Suicidal ideation higher than state average.

Mrs. Adams inquired as to whether or not results may be “sensationalized.” Mrs. Brown and Ms. Price, Family Services Coordinator, explained the way that questions are asked that it would be difficult to create results that were inflated.

Mr. Robinson inquired as to how the information is used and shared. Is the information shared with students? Mrs. Brown indicated that the information is synthesized by the counseling staff and shared with staff as they create strategies to meet student needs. The information in the past has not been directly shared with students.

F. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE- Not Present

G. PES PRINCIPAL- Mrs. White

- a. Community Outreach at Events  
Old Home Days, Popsicles on the Playground, Kindergarten Pool Day and Community Breakfast were successful and well attended and the staff is to be commended, with a special commendation to Katie Price.
- b. Kindergarten Camp  
Kindergarten Camp has begun with more than 25 students participating
- c. Upcoming Events

H. PMHS PRINCIPAL- Mr. Hamilton

- a. Building Maintenance  
Custodial staff working hard to get the building ready for students, new security equipment is being installed.
- b. Handbooks  
Handbooks are being updated and will be brought to the next Board meeting.
- c. New Teacher Orientation  
Four new teachers will be attending with mentors on August 19 and 20.
- d. Staff Workshop Days  
Staff will participate in several workshops prior to the start of school:
  - Advisory planning
  - Common planning time
  - Emergency preparedness
  - Health services training
  - Title IX training
  - School district policies and procedures
  - School improvement goals
- e. Sixth Grade Orientation and Open House  
Sixth grade orientation and Open House will be held on August 22nd.
- f. Student Attendance Proposal  
A staff committee looked at student attendance issues in the years since COVID. There has been a significant increase in student absences that have had a negative effect on student achievement.

The proposal is to add the language:

“ Students who have 10 or more unexcused absences in a class will receive an attendance failure. This means that a student can earn credit for the class as long as they are passing all competencies, however the attendance failure will negatively affect

their GPA. Additionally, a student who has 10 or more unexcused absences will not be eligible for competency recovery.”

The site counsel has reviewed and approved the language for the policy. The policy will be brought to the Board for a second reading at the August 15<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Mrs. Adams asked for clarification on the GPA penalty. Mr. Hamilton explained that credit would be granted but no GPA points.

Mr. Robinson inquired as to whether or not absences due to suspension would count as unexcused. Originally Mr. Hamilton indicated yes, but corrected himself.

The Board discussed at length the merits of the change in the policy and will consider for a vote at the next meeting.

I. SUPERINTENDENT- Mr. Lane

a. Hiring Summary

The Superintendent indicated that there were two positions still open. There is surplus in the funding of salaries and benefits in the amount of \$95,736.

b. Audit Update

The audit is ongoing, and information is being provided to Plodzik and Sanderson. The Superintendent will keep the board informed of progress.

c. Permission to Suspend

The Superintendent put forward a recommended motion to allow Principals and Assistant Principals to suspend students for up to ten days per offense and for the Superintendent to suspend students for an additional ten days.

Motion to approve the recommendation by Mr. Gauthier

Second by Mr. Nilsson

Vote 4-0 to approve the motion

d. Title IX Changes

The administrative staff has been to a Title IX workshop highlighting new changes to Title IX that are effective on August 1. Policies for consideration will be a first reading at this meeting so they can be approved prior to the beginning of the school year. The language in the policies was recommended by legal counsel.

e. Business Office

Rheana Anderson, Financial Manager, has been doing an excellent job in learning new responsibilities and solving problems.

f. Free and Reduced Lunch

Free and reduced paperwork will be distributed to families on Monday August 5.

g. MTSS-B

The administrative staff is working with the DOE to implement a Multi-tiered Support System for student behavior.

J. SCHOOL BOARD

Policy Review

- Policy Review First Reading
  - AC- Nondiscrimination/Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action

- ACAA- Harassment of Students
- ACAA-R1- Student Discrimination and Harassment Complaint Procedure
- ACAA-R2- Student Discrimination and Harassment Complaint Procedures
- ACAB- Harassment of Staff
- ACAB- R1- Staff Discrimination and Harassment Complaint Procedure
- ACAB- R2- Staff Discrimination and Harassment Complaint Procedure
- JIE- Pregnant Students
- Policy Review Second Reading
  - KCD- Public Gifts and Donations
  - KM- Teacher/Parent Communications Regarding Student Performance
  - KE- Public Complaints
  - IC-School Year

K. COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

- a. Budget Committee- No update
- b. Drake Field and Maintenance- PMHS Walk through August 16
- c. Negotiations- No update
- d. Legislation
- e. Foss Family Foundation- No updates
- f. Public Relations

L. PLAN FOR AGENDA FOR NEX MEETING

- Open enrollment update
- Policy for PMHS attendance
- Title IX policies
- Policy for reporting child abuse and neglect
- Policy CBI- Evaluation of the Superintendent

M. BOARD COMMENT

N. PUBLIC INPUT

Paulette Wolfe- Introduced herself as the new Asst. School District Treasurer. She described her background in finance and qualifications for the position.

O. NON-PUBLIC

Motion to go into non-public session under RSA 193A. 3 (a) made by Mr. Gauthier  
Second by Mr. Nilsson

Roll call vote

Mr. Nilsson- Yes

Mr. Robinson- Yes

Mrs. Adams- Yes

Mr. Gauthier- Yes

Personnel issue discussed.

Motion made to accept the resignation of Evan Whitfield with the \$1,000 penalty for breaking a contract after July 15 made by Mr. Gauthier

Second by Mr. Nilsson

Vote 4-0 to approve the motion

Motion to exit non-public session made by Mr. Gauthier  
Second by Mr. Nilsson

Vote 4-0 to approve the motion

P. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn made by Mrs. Adams  
Second by Mr. Gauthier

Vote 4-0 to approve the motion at 7:21

Submitted by Bryan Lane 8/8/24