



SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT #51

23 Oneida Street, Unit 1
Pittsfield, New Hampshire 03263
Phone: (603) 435-5526 • Fax (603) 435-5331
Lori Lane, Interim Superintendent

PITTSFIELD SCHOOL BOARD

MEETING Minutes June 19, 2025

PMHS Media Center-Pittsfield Middle High School

I CALL TO ORDER 5:30pm

Members Present: Sandra Adams-Chair
Eric Neillson
Molly Goggin-Vice Chair

Others Present: Lori Lane - Interim Superintendent
Kristen White - PES Principal
Melissa Brown - PMHS Vice Principal
Charlene Very- Student Special Education
Derek Hamilton - PMHS outgoing Principal
Sandie MacDonald – Superintendent, effective July 1, 2025
Members of the Public

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE– led by Mrs. Adams

III. **6:00 p.m. PUBLIC HEARING** Releasing and expending money from the Drake Field School Fund - \$7500 plus \$2000 - site work, plumbing and install meter at Drake field so water connection by Pennichuck is legal and billable to the School District. Apparently, in prior years, water was on and used at bathrooms by dugout but no bill was ever issued by Pennichuck to the School District. When Pennichuck just became aware, they shut off the water and provided information to the School District as to what needs to take place to make the water connection. The School Board has received one estimate from Forcier, so the school has ballpark costs, they work with Pennichuck. Eric suggested Earth as a second quote.

Molly asked if we could communicate about other vendors via email, for a quote. Eric said we probably have time in between now and the next meeting. If some come in, ok to communicate via email. Derek will get more quotes and forward to board.

Motion to release - Eric, Molly 2nd - to release \$10k from school district Drake Field Fund, voted 3-0-Closed Public Hearing at 6:10pm

IV. New Items to be placed on Agenda

Add approval of the June 5th and June 10th nonpublic meeting minutes to this agenda.

Mrs. Brown Gear Up Newsletter- new one

Derek - no adds but do you want me to add google meets, yes

Motion, Eric, Molly 2nd to approve amended agenda- voted yes 3-0

V. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** June 5 minutes & June 10, 2025 Special Board Meeting Minutes

5th - Eric motioned, Molly 2nd, voted yes Molly read them but was not there. Vote 2-0-1

10th - Eric motioned, Molly 2nd - voted yes Vote 3-0.

June 5th nonpublic minutes - Eric motioned, Sandi 2nd, Molly abstained- Eric motioned to Seal, Sandi - 2nd all voted 3-0

June 10th non pubic, Eric motioned, Molly 2nd, votedyes. SealEric motioned, Molly 2nd, all voted yes 3-0

VI. **PUBLIC INPUT ON AGENDA ITEMS**

None

VII. SITE COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE

Derek shared site council Chairperson is moving on - Rick Anthony will Chair. Next week sit down and talk about restructuring the site council - has 19 voting members, exploring paring back.

VIII. INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS- Mrs. Lane - added 'shout out' to students to graduate and all the staff. Nicest one she has been to, heartfelt.

In April, the board asked me about staff that were on alternative cert plans, provided a list. Wonderful news, people are moving forward and getting certified.

My official Report - Gave overview of current audit being done, still being worked on, no movement on contacting the bank to get information on funds that might be available to relieve the past dept the school is dealing with. Discussed having someone come from the State of NH to discuss options etc. Molly asked if we can pursue having Mr. Kneuer come and speak to us, formally ask him - yes, Lori will.

Board Presented a gift of thanks for Lori for her assistance these past 6 months.

IX. PES PRINCIPAL – Mrs. White-

2 Retirements at PES, Michael Curtin over 29 years of service - he is still helping us even after he has retired. Christy Hinckley, Student Services Center, 28 years - students biggest cheerleader.

Summer Slide - activities with students, reading or math - teamed up with school librarian and students designed their own summer challenge. In fall, 2nd annual kickball game.

Dusty Durant -Admin Assistant went to I love you guys training - creating reunification plans. Day ended with a simulation of reunification.

PES staff inflatable field Day - big success.

Graduation Walk from class of 2025 to PES

Monday we had the kindergarten celebration, class of 2037.

Tuesday - 5th Grade Celebration - moving up to 6th grade. Shared their feelings about PES, what do they like the best - the teachers and the support they give !!

NH SAS Student scores, report on line

Librarian circulated 9976 books - each student took out 44.76 books on average. The walk a thon raised enough money to donate \$4000 to the library - also received Globe grant.

Board commended all involved with these great results.

X. PMHS PRINCIPAL- Mr. Hamilton - see Dereks report - Derek said the events were special and meaningful. Very fortunate to have town and residents support-as well as the various scholarship financial funding we receive.

Board complimented how the events were so well done.

Derek thanked the board for all they do and for the opportunity I have had at PMHS.

XI. PMHS ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL – Mrs. Brown

NH Scholars - very proud to report 7 seniors, 22% of the graduates earned this distinction.

Guidance Dept work with students and look at their schedule freshman year- encouraging NH Scholars, showing them course of study and career path. We fill this out with the students and follow them for 4 years. Biggest barrier is - language arts piece, their only option is to take foreign language online. Need 4th year of math and PMHS only offers 3.

Scholarships and Free Application available to NH Scholars.

Master Schedule has been completed. Cannot hand out to students due to open positions.

Gear Up Program - fully funded grant position - we are guaranteed this position till Sept 30th.

We took Middle School Students to CRTC. There are several field trips this summer being offered.

Gardening, Robotics, Soccer

Sandi asked if most of these opportunities are filled up?

Yes

Funding may be ending - Federal Issue

XII. DIRECTOR OF STUDENT SERVICES – Mrs. Vary

Re: Gear Up - great opportunity - ok to bypass a day of school for this. They are learning!

Summer Program July 7 to 24 - Monday -Thursday - almost 40 students. Students do have breakfast and lunch with transportation if needed.

New software platform for Medicare Reimbursement

Thank you to the board.

XIII. SCHOOL BOARD Updates

Fair Funding update-Molly-rally in Concord about Fair Funding and Vouchers, 5-7 Tues 24th. Discussed having Andrew Volinsky (spearhead attorney) who began the school funding debate years ago and also wrote a book, The Last Bakesalespeak to interested folks in Pittsfield-2 dates in September, Molly will pursue, partner with Pittsfield Library, hold at PMHS.

Open Enrollment update- waiting for update from Attorney Barbara Loughman.

Drake Field Issues-in addition to getting monies for water from Pennichuck. Culvert to the river was undermined and had a big hole, someone fixed it. Eric will call Derek and have this added to the Pennichuck water work. Lori - asked what is the goal? Timing? Balloon Rally. If not done in time, there would be no running water for vendors at the Balloon Rally. Board discussed the time frame from contractors-can they get this done by Balloon Rally. Derek mentioned that Rotary gave back to make up for water use in the past. Did projects to upgrade equipment etc.

Second Reading of Wellness Policy JJIFA- Sandi notes changes and page numbers. More responsibility given to the Superintendent Position. Free and Reduced lunch recipients kept as private as possible, 20 minutes for lunch, will not use removing physical fitness type activities as punishment for bad behavior.

Molly asked about adding recess to Middle School. There are no plans now-kids eat fast and then go out.

Molly motioned to accept new policy, Eric 2nd- voted 3-0

Second Reading of Policy ACAC – Title IX- Parking Lot Item

XV. COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

- Budget Committee-next meeting
- Drake Field and Facilities-next meeting
- Negotiations-Molly, transition with new Super
- Legislation-SB295 KA signed into law - school choice - voucher program universal, no income limit - July 2025- HB 10 parent bill of right KA signed into law - certain rights some that exist and some that are new. HB 571 - constitution day and patriotic exercises be followed at schools.
- Foss Family Scholarship-almost \$50K to students. Largest single amount.
- Public Relations-Molly heard from the Post - asked me to do an interview with new Sandie MacDonald and Erik Anderson.
- Selectboard Liaison-Art St. Laurent is the Liaison-Eric mentioned trying to get better rates by joining forces with town...

XVI. AGENDA Items FOR NEXT MEETING – July 17, 2025-decided not to meet July 3rd-Drake Field Follow-up, re-eval temporary hiring freeze to review with Sandie M. Continue discussions over the shortfall of \$\$\$\$

XVII. BOARD COMMENTS-none

XVIII. PUBLIC INPUT-

Allison Buckley,name of article? Lori, NH Bulletin Ethan Dewitt.

Donna Keeley-Drake Field-per Eric, there was water at the field but it was not being billed to the school, there was no meter-now there will be a meter and there will be a bill.

Art St Laurent - hiring ideas - could we get teachers to come if we offered something, pay for last year of school if they agree to stay - thanked the board - appreciate the work they are doing and the problems they are dealing with. Discussed how a teacher impacted him -

Paulette Wolfe - transparency - website docs were available, Lori Lanes info was there - still some holes.

Art explained how the Selectboard might get info out to the public better, other methods, besides just minutes, social media etc.

Parking LOT -

Second Reading of Policy ACAC

Google Drive to house School Board Documents so that they can be uploaded onto the website.

Andrew Volinsky - speaker in Fall.

ADJOURNMENT of Public meeting

Non-Public 7:30 pm – Sandi Motioned, Eric 2nd. Roll call vote – 3-0.

Exited non-public at 8:42 with a motion by Eric, seconded by Molly. Roll call vote – 3-0.

Eric made the motion, seconded by Molly to accept the resignations of Martha Carnes and Tom Pouliot, with regrets, and to nominate Nicolette Clark for math position. Vote 3-0.

Submitted by: Donna Keeley