



SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT #51

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Dr. Sandie MacDonald, Superintendent

PITTSFIELD SCHOOL BOARD
MEETING MINUTES

July 17, 2025 5:30 PM
Pittsfield Middle High School
Media Center

- I. CALL TO ORDER – Sandra Adams, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.
Members Present, Sandra Adams, Molly Goggin, Tim Robinson, Eric Nilsson;
Staff, Jerrica Smith, Dr. Sandie MacDonald, Dr. Erik Anderson
Public
- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE led by Sandra Adams
- III. ACTION ON AMENDED AGENDA-Sandi Adams: appointing our Treasurer, Terri Jones; Debbie Vintinner right to know request;; Eric, Update on Drake Field, Dr. MacDonald - non public items, per RSA 91-A:3 2j and 2c. Sandra made the motion to accept amended agenda, seconded by Eric. Vote 4-0.
- IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – June 19, 2025, public and nonpublic session minutes - made some grammatical changes. Eric motioned to approve with amendments, Molly 2nd - voted in favor, Tim abstained. Vote 3-0-1.
Non Public Minutes - Eric motioned to approve June 19 nonpublic minutes- Molly 2nd, voted in favor, Tim abstained. Vote 3-0-1. Eric motioned to seal, Molly 2nd - all voted in favor, Tim abstained. Vote 3-0-1.
- V. PUBLIC INPUT REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS ONLY- Debbie Vintinner asked where the floor sanding in gym money is coming from. Will discuss once Dr. MacDonald gives her report.
- VI. FINANCIAL UPDATES - Services of Greg Colby (no charge or a lot pro bono) for Forensic Accountant review, been working with Rheana and Plodzyk and Sanderson. He will return and continue to work with us, a few months, Final number of deficit for Deficit Warrant Article in 2026 voting season- this will take a few months. We sent out a number of checks today to pay vendors. Making Progress.

VII. SCHOOL BOARD Updates

Open Enrollment update-We are still waiting on our court case to be settled. HB 771. Bill that did pass, if you are an open enrollment school you must budget for it. Pittsfield is not an open enrollment school.

Fair Funding update- ConVal Lawsuit says state must pay adequacy at \$7k plus vs \$4k but the State budget that was just voted on does not include this new amount, so not sure where this stands. Molly explained Andru Volinsky who wrote The Last Bake Sale re: Fair School funding - Date for him to speak in Pittsfield is Sept. 9 at 6pm at PMHS.

Audit Update-in progress, per above comments.

Cell phone policy discussion - Dr. Sandie MacDonald new Super- now against the law, JICJ in packet explains and will need to move forward prior to new year etc. All grade levels, ok to use phones for school-related learning IF school does not have technology.

Review and discussion of Wellness Policy JJIFA -JLCF wellness is the policy we need to adopt per Dr. MacDonald. JJIFA was already passed before she started - there are concerning areas that will cost district money and change schedules. Policy needs to come back to the board for a 1st reading. Adopt all policies to match state website? We should have a policy committee consisting of a building admin, school board member and staff member. The board should discuss process to appoint a committee. Policy cross-walk is an enormous undertaking. Start with 2025 and work backwards. Sandi asked if someone from the board would like to be on the policy committee. Sandi said she would be interested.

Goal setting for future meetings - Sandi Adams talked about how to streamline board meetings and admin and staff input, how to format etc. Molly suggested, establish norms as a group/board, the long-term goal setting, how we can support district goals.

VIII. COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

- Budget Committee – nothing until Sept.
- Drake Field and Facilities updates - Pennichuck will advise us what they want us to do July 18 - Eric will report back.
- Negotiations - Molly, heard from the Union President, meetings to start back up soon. Sandi asked if they were the same 'team'.
- Legislation - Sandi, as of July 15 - Kelly Ayotte signed 105 bills into law. Sandi reviewed a few - vetoed several bills - book ban
- Foss Family Scholarship - Nothing yet
- Public Relations - Molly will interview Dr. Anderson and Dr. MacDonald to submit to the POST
- Selectboard Liaison – Eric did not make the last SB meeting
- Art St. Laurent is the SB Liaison to the School board.
- Art St. Laurent explained the WW treatment plant needs overhaul - just wanted the board to be aware. There will be a tax impact.

Art discussed NH Retirement letter (deficient in payments by SAU office and asked how the School responded. Sandie MacDonald said yes, we did respond back. This is related to the shortfall of payments that were not made into NH Retirement; also shortfall in School Revenue.

Treasurer Appointment - Sandi Adams made the motion to appoint Terri Jones as the SAU Treasurer, Eric 2nd - All in favor. Vote 4-0.

Dr. Sandie MacDonald, Superintendent- we are now collaborating with Rollinsford to share business office services - fiscal accounting and human resources, working on memorandum of understanding (MOU) - will continue to provide updates to the board. Two items came to light that were not budgeted for - overdue for asbestos and air quality inspection, gym floor refinishing - discussed Facilities committee needed. CIP, capital improvement plan-need to keep current etc. Policies - wellness - cell phone - AB parental bill of rights - unsuccessful in getting a bank to work with us, SAU for Revenue Anticipation Note to satisfy the shortfall the district has or will have once audit is complete. Staffing - looking to fill grade 5, middle and HS positions. We hired 2 new teachers, and still need to certify a few teachers. A lot is going on in the District and everyone is working hard.

Eric Motioned, Molly 2nd - nominating Meghan Stone for the position of Elementary Guidance Counselor for the 2025-26 school year, and Savannah Wallace for the position of Elementary School teacher for the 2025-26 school year. All voted in favor, 4-0.

IX. PLAN AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING – July 31, 2025 – AB Parental Bill of Rights; goal setting; facilities; Drake Field; work sessions, CIP; policies in general.

BOARD COMMENTS - Molly discussed ways to promote positions that are open etc.

X. PUBLIC INPUT – the Pittsfield School Board may accept the public's input that is addressed directly to the Chair in a courteous and respectful manner in a time frame of three minutes or less.

Deb Vintinner - a few weeks ago, it was said that there was enough money to pay staff - several checks were sent out recently to pay vendors. Where did money come from.

Paulette Wolfe - Paulette thanked Donna for minutes - will this packet will be put online. Dr MacDonald indicated, yes, our technical director is on vacation, will accomplish this when he returns. Shared services. How will it work? Dr. MacDonald indicated we will do some for Rollinsford and they will do some for us depending on skill sets. Paulette, my goal in asking for transparency is to help, it will build trust.

Ammy Ramsey - will a public hearing be considered for policy changes - will wellness changes be discussed during Union negotiations? Is there a CIP, there should already be one? Can the agenda packet be available before the meeting? Minutes and records should be able to be understood.

Larry Konopka - Welcome to Dr. Sandie MacDonald

Donna Keeley - how are we going to get the funds needed for the school? Dr. Macdonald, Discussion around Forensic accountant who is working with us now, pro-bono (no charge) and special town meeting in Spring 2026, deficit warrant article. This would ask the voters to approve adding the Deficit amount that will be determined by audit - this amount would be then added to the 2027 budget - The Revenue Anticipation Note would have been another option, a loan from a bank, however this is not common practice for NH banks and to date we have not had any interest from any NH banks. Donna asked if voters do not approve this deficit amount - what then? The money that the school budget is short will remain and debts and other payments might be accruing etc.

XI. Tim motioned to go into nonpublic at 6:35 p.m. under RSA 91-A:3, II, j and c. Molly seconded, all in favor with a roll call vote – 4-0. Adam joined us at 6:47 p.m. Exit nonpublic at 7:26 p.m. with a motion by Eric, seconded by Molly – roll call vote 5-0.

XII. PARKING LOT ITEMS
Policy ACAC

Google Drive to house School board documents so they can be uploaded onto the website

Andru Volinsky – September 9th, PSHS Media Room

XIII. ADJOURNMENT at 7:27 p.m. with a motion made by Eric, seconded by Adam. Vote 5-0.

Minutes Submitted by Donna Keeley