

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT #51**

AGENDA

Pittsfield High School Tuition Study Committee
Tuesday, January 19, 2021; 4:30-6:00

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/3251063731?pwd=K3gwd1RsVGJhWk9nMGZtcm5nSnZnUT09>

Meeting ID: 325 106 3731

Passcode: Super

I. CALL TO ORDER

Present: Susan Bradley; John Graziano; Ross Morse; Leslie Vogt, Becky Berk

Regrets: Bob Schiferle; Heidi Asdot, James Cobern; Justin Clough

Guests: Stacy Wittenberg

Dr. Graziano called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

II. AGENDA REVIEW

The following item was added:

- Deliberative Session (Dr. Graziano)

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Morse and seconded by Ms. Bradley to approve the minutes from the December 15, 2021 meeting as written. The motion was passed with Ms. Bradley, Mr. Morse, Ms. Vogt, and Dr. Graziano voting in the affirmative and Ms. Berk abstaining due to the fact that she just started on the committee and was not at the meeting.

IV. SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. BUDGET / FACILITIES - R. Morse / R. Schiferle

Mr. Morse stated that there was nothing further to add since the last meeting.

B. PITTSFIELD COURSE OFFERINGS - H. Asdot / S. Bradley

Ms. Bradley added clarification regarding extended learning opportunities (ELO). She said that if a student is interested in pursuing an ELO, they can partner with a teacher and pursue their interests.

C. DISTRICT CONTRACTS - J. Cobern - No report.

D. OFFERINGS PROVIDED BY OTHER DISTRICTS - H. Asdot / L. Vogt / J. Graziano

Ms. Vogt stated that she has completed entering data into the spreadsheet depicting the offerings provided by various other districts. She invited members of the committee to go into the shared Google drive and peruse the data. Ms. Vogt explained that there is a “public school ranking” column, which is a way that real estate agents measure the quality of schools. The data includes an overall rating and can pay extra for issues of equity and inclusion.

Ms. Vogt asked if the School Board has added any further districts for which the data should be gathered, to which he answered Gilford.

Ms. Vogt described further detail relative to the rating of real estate agents.

E. SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT - Justin Clough / Becky Berk

Becky Berk, the newest member of the committee, has been working with Justin Clough and Dr. Graziano on this sub-committee. She provided the Committee with an overview of the work they have done thus far. The sub-committee has developed a case study using Thayer High School, which closed and Prospect Mountain High School, which opened (as a joint maintenance agreement). Issues they are investigating:

- Anticipated changes in traffic and related business (i.e. what happens when parents are traveling out of town for school events and visitors do not come for home court activities)
- Population shifts which might be anticipated with a closing of the school
- Impact on extracurricular participation
- Impact on families with kids in different schools and districts
- Influence of parents and community members on the school (i.e. what would be the representation of people on another school board, if any)
- Impact on other activities (i.e. Drake Field, or Argue Recreational Pool)
- Time available for involvement of parents and residents in a different district
- Quality education for the price
- Concern from taxpayers without kids in the schools now
- What becomes of the town’s identity if we lose the school?

Stacy Wittenberg, guest, stated that she always thought students “get out of their education what they put into it”. However, her experience with her own child is that there are not the opportunities available in Pittsfield, both academically and extra-

curricular, that are available in neighboring towns. She said that if it came down to money, she would prefer to pay to have her child go to a school where there are more opportunities. Ms. Wittenberg stated that she is not concerned about Pittsfield losing its identity and used Barnstead as an example. Ms. Berk suggested that Barnstead is a bit of a different scenario as they never had a school that had to be closed. When asked, Ms. Wittenberg stated that an example of an academic opportunity is choices in foreign languages and for extra-curricular an example is a ski team.

V. DELIBERATIVE SESSION

According to Dr. Graziano, the Deliberative Session is scheduled for February 4, 2021. He asked the Committee if they are interested in giving the Town an update of the Committee's work. Mr. Morse suggested that the Google folder could be made public so that it would be available to the community. Ms. Berk suggested that since the committee was formed from a public vote, the committee should be updating the community as the committee works. She sees the Deliberative Session as an opportunity for providing information. Ms. Vogt stated her agreement and suggested that community members would like communication about the progress of the committee. Dr. Graziano stated that he would ask the School Board what they might want in terms of information being provided at the Deliberative Session.

Dr. Graziano reminded our guest that the role of this Tuition Committee is to gather information and that the School Board will make the final decision.

VI. PUBLIC INPUT - None

VI. NEXT MEETING - February 16, 2021 at 4:30 to 6:00 p.m.

V. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion made by Ms. Vogt and seconded by Ms. Bradley, the meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.