

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

MINUTES

Pittsfield School Board Meeting
January 23, 2020
Pittsfield Middle High School

I. CALL TO ORDER

Members Present: Michael Wolfe, Chairperson
Heidi Asdot, Vice Chairperson
Bea Douglas
Adam Gauthier
Ted Mitchell

Others Present: John J. Freeman, Superintendent of Schools
Jessica Bickford, Director of Student Services
Melissa Brown, Director of Career Readiness
Derek Hamilton, Dean of Operations
Tobi Chassie, Recording Secretary
Members of the Public

Mr. Wolfe called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m.

II. AGENDA REVIEW

The following items were added to the agenda:

- Eligibility for Open Campus and Athletics (Mr. Gauthier)
- Vaping (Mr. Gauthier)

III. ACTION ON AGENDA

On a motion made by Mr. Gauthier and seconded by Ms. Douglas , the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda as amended.

IV. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES - Deferred to next meeting.

V. PUBLIC INPUT - None

VI. SUPERINTENDENT

A. Acceptance of Donation from Foss Family Foundation

Mr. Hamilton described a generous donation made annually by the Foss Family Foundation to support the Ski and Snowboard Club. The program is open to grades four to twelve. Before the donation started being made, only high school students were able to participate. On a motion from Ms. Douglas and seconded by Mr. Mitchell, the \$5,000 donation from the Foss Family Foundation was unanimously approved.

B. Deliberative Session

Dr. Freeman asked if the Board would like to have a meeting before the Deliberative Session, to which the Board agreed. The meeting will begin at 6:15 p.m.

Dr. Freeman stated that because Barbara Loughman is unable to attend as legal counsel, John Teague will be present in her place.

Dr. Freeman distributed the *Deliberative Session Warrant Articles*. Members of the Board volunteered to make motions at the Deliberative Session for each of the warrant articles as well as speak to the articles.

C. Emergency Freezer Repair

Mr. Hamilton explained that the freezer at PES, which is the original freezer installed when the building was built in 1989, is not working. He reviewed two quotes that he sought to have the freezer repaired. He was unable to attract additional quotes. On a motion made by Mr. Gauthier and seconded by Ms. Douglas, the Board voted unanimously to Thermal Stor Refrigeration, Inc. for \$7,000.

VIII. SCHOOL BOARD

A. Eligibility for Open Campus and Athletics

Mr. Gauthier asked if there was a change in the PMHS Family and Student Handbook regarding eligibility for open campus and athletics. Dr. Freeman stated he knew of no changes. Mr. Gauthier's question arises from a letter that was called to his attention addressed to the teachers on the 9/10 team.

Mr. Gauthier stated that his concern regarding eligibility for athletics as it compares to eligibility for open campus. He stated he thought there were inconsistencies that needed to be addressed. Mr. Hamilton stated the athletic eligibility requirements reflect the NHIAA regulations. Dr. Freeman stated he will bring the eligibility policies to the Board for their review at the next meeting.

B. Vaping

Mr. Gauthier stated there were recent issues regarding an incident of vaping. He asked Mr. Hamilton to review the situation with the Board. Mr. Hamilton explained there were a number of reports that day about students vaping. Five suspensions were made on that day, which exceeds the norm. Mr. Hamilton further explained that the Emergency Management Team discussed ways in which more information can be provided to students. Last year, there was a program offered, but a refresher may be needed. The Board agreed that further action was in order and Mr. Hamilton stated he would bring suggestions to the Board.

VIII. PUBLIC SESSION (Second Session)

Jill Gauthier provided additional information relative to a change in competency grading that may be affecting the eligibility for open campus and athletics.

VII. NON PUBLIC SESSION

At 5:27 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Gauthier and seconded by Ms. Douglas to enter into non-public session under the authority of RSA 91-A:3 (c) to discuss a student matter. The Board was polled and voted unanimously (Ms. Asdot, yes; Ms. Douglas, yes; Mr. Gauthier, Mr. Mitchell, yes; Mr. Wolfe, yes) to enter into non-public session.

The Board considered two requests for manifest educational hardship placements outside the district. The Board approved one request and denied one request. The Board also received information regarding a current such placement.

At 6:01 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Mitchell and seconded by Ms. Douglas to exit from non-public session and to re-enter into open session. The Board was polled and voted unanimously exit the non-public session (Ms. Asdot, yes; Ms. Douglas, yes; Mr. Gauthier, Mr. Mitchell, yes; Mr. Wolfe, yes) and to re-enter into open session.

XIII. COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

- A. Budget Committee – Ms. Asdot
- B. Drake Field & Facilities – Mr. Wolfe and Mr. Gauthier
- C. Negotiations – Ms. Asdot and Ms. Douglas
- D. Foss Family Scholarship Foundation – Mr. Mitchell

XIV. PUBLIC INPUT (Third Session)

Jodi Cunningham expressed her concern regarding changing how competencies are graded. She stated changes are being made by some teachers, but she is uncertain as to if these changes are consistent across the school. Ms. Cunningham also stated her concern about a recent post on social media that depicted teachers “frolicking down the hall”. Ms. Douglas stated she didn’t think it was a negative to have our teachers having fun.

XV. NEXT MEETING

The next meetings of the Board are scheduled for February 5 at 6:15 p.m. (prior to the Deliberative Session) and February 6, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. in the Pittsfield Middle High School media center.

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion made by Mr. Gauthier and seconded by Ms. Douglas, the meeting was adjourned at 6:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tobi Chassie
Recording Secretary