

APPROVED BY THE PITTSFIELD SCHOOL BOARD

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

MINUTES

Pittsfield School Board Meeting
March 5, 2020
Pittsfield Middle High School

I. CALL TO ORDER

Members Present: Mike Wolfe, Chair
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
Danielle Harvey, Dean of Instruction
Tobi Chassie, Recording Secretary
Members of the Public

Mr. Wolfe called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

II. AGENDA REVIEW

The following items were added to the agenda:

- Social Media (Mr. Mitchell)
- Memorial Day Parade (Mr. Gauthier)
- Movie Approvals (Ms. Harvey)
- Guest Speaker (Ms. Harvey)
- Leave Request (Dr. Freeman)
- Pandemic Policy (Dr. Freeman)

III. ACTION ON AGENDA

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

IV.

V. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Mitchell and seconded by Mr. Gauthier to approve the minutes of the February 20, 2020, public meeting. The Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes as written.

VI. PUBLIC INPUT - None

VII. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE - None

VIII. DEAN OF INSTRUCTION

A. Teachers would like to show *The Lorax* and *The Cat and the Hat* to first grade students as part of their literacy study; Ms. Harvey asked for Board approval. On a motion made by Mr. Gauthier and seconded by Ms. Asdot, the Board unanimously approved to allow the movies to be shown.

B. Guest Speaker

Governor Sununu and Kati Preston will be guests at PMHS. Ms. Preston is a Holocaust survivor and will be speaking to students on tolerance. She has been a speaker here before; her previous presentation was well received.

VIII. DEAN OF OPERATIONS

A. PES Student Attendance Report

Mr. Hamilton, by report, provided the Board with data regarding attendance at PES. At PES, nineteen students, or six percent of the kindergarten through grade six population, have a total of five or more unexcused absences from school.

B. PMHS Student Attendance Report

Mr. Hamilton, by report, provided the Board with data regarding attendance at PMHS. At PMHS, thirty-nine students, or sixteen percent of the grades seven through twelve population, have a total of five or more unexcused absences from school.

C. PES Student Behavior Report

By report, Mr. Hamilton provided the Board with data regarding behavior at PES. In December there was an average of 9.3 referrals per day, and in January there were an average of 13.2 referrals per day. The most common problem behavior is non-compliance and out of an assigned area. Seventy-one percent of students at PES have not received a referral through the first semester of the school year.

D. PMHS Student Behavior Report

By report, Mr. Hamilton provided the Board with data regarding behavior at PMHS. There was an average of 2.8 referrals per day in December and 4.7 referrals per day in January. The most common problem behaviors were out of an assigned area and inappropriate language. Sixty-three percent of PMHS students have not received a referral through the first semester of the school year.

Dr. Freeman reiterated that the behavior data is reasonable and reflects a small number of students for whom interventions are required. Ms. Bickford stated that the PES Flex Program has been a great success and has contributed to positive behavior. Also, Ms. Kim Morganti, the district's behavior specialist, has worked with staff to develop successful plans. The results of the work are notable.

IX. DIRECTOR OF CAREER READINESS

A. PMHS Program of Studies

Ms. Brown asked the Board for approval of the 2020 Program of Studies, which she had provided to them at the last meeting. On a motion made by Mr. Gauthier and seconded by Mr. Mitchell, the Board voted unanimously to approve the 2020-2021 Program of Studies.

B. Homeschooled Students

Ms. Brown reported that eleven students have withdrawn to be homeschooled since the beginning of the year. This represents one third of the district's withdrawals. Unfortunately, not all home school programs are successful; when students return to school, it is more difficult for the students to be successful.

C. National Honor Society

Twenty-two students in grades ten through twelve were notified that they met the grade point average to apply to be accepted into the National Honor Society. Once all applications are reviewed by a five-member faculty council, an induction ceremony for those who meet the criteria will be held.

X. SUPERINTENDENT

A. Nomination

Dr. Freeman nominated Lisa Gauthier as district social worker. Ms. Brown provided information on the candidate. On a motion made by Ms. Asdot and seconded by Ms. Douglas, the Board voted unanimously to approve Ms. Gauthier for the position.

Dr. Freeman explained that the position is funded fifty percent from the Foss Family Foundation and fifty percent from an anonymous donor.

B. Retirement

Dr. Freeman presented a letter of resignation for the purposes of retirement from Lynette Rose. On a motion made by Mr. Gauthier and seconded by Mr. Mitchell, the Board approved the resignation with regret. Mr. Gauthier opined that he was concerned that she was “ready to let go of the stress dealing with misbehaving youth.” Dr. Freeman said that she works with about fifteen percent of students who are those with the most challenging behavior, which makes for a very stressful work environment.

C. Firewall Purchase

Dr. Freeman reported on bids received for a firewall purchase. He explained that due to the E-Rate category 2 funds, the E-Rate program will cover eighty percent of the cost. Dr. Freeman recommended that the Board approve Security 7 from Hampton, New Hampshire for \$10,430. On a motion by Mr. Gauthier and seconded by Ms. Asdot, the Board unanimously approved using Security 7 for the firewall purchase.

D. Leave Request

Dr. Freeman presented a request for Rick Anthony to take three days of leave due to winning a raffle for a trip to Manchester, England, to attend a soccer game. On a motion made by Ms. Asdot and seconded by Mr. Mitchell, the Board unanimously approved three days leave with compensation.

E. Youth Risk Behavior Survey

Dr. Freeman provided the Board with the Youth Risk Behavior Survey. A public forum will be offered at a later date.

F. Policy IGDJ and NHIAA Eligibility Requirements

Dr. Freeman provided the Board with a copy of Policy IGDJ, Eligibility Requirements, as well as a copy of the New Hampshire Interscholastic Athletic Association eligibility requirements.

Mr. Gauthier stated that eligibility should be consistent between clubs and athletics and should be increased from passing four courses to passing five courses. Mr. Mitchell explained the process for the Site Council to consider the change; he will send Mr. Gauthier the form used by Site Council to start the

process. Ms. Douglas agreed that the Site Council should have the opportunity to investigate this change further.

G. Communication Regarding Learning at PMHS

Dr. Freeman presented the Board with a copy of an email from Concord resident Mary Wilke, who sang the district's praises regarding student centered learning efforts at PMHS.

H. Fair Funding

Dr. Freeman stated that Doug Hall has asked if the Board would be interested in hosting an open forum on the funding issues in New Hampshire. The Board agreed that it was a good time to offer this to the citizens. Dr. Freeman will schedule the forum.

I. Pandemic Policy

Dr. Freeman distributed a copy of Policy EBCF, Pandemic / Epidemic Emergencies. He said that the State of New Hampshire has been very helpful with providing schools with information through webinars. The custodians will be taking extra precautions by sanitizing drinking fountains and door handles. Mr. Hamilton, with the Emergency Management Team, is considering further actions. The administrative team is considering options in the event that school needs to be closed. Since there are only five days in the calendar left to be used, adding extra time to days or time over April vacation will be considered and presented to the Board.

J. Public Hearing

Dr. Freeman explained that he erroneously has been asking for the Board's action on grants coming from foundations. He further explained that gifts from groups must be approved, but grants from foundations do not need Board approval, having been previously approved at the annual School District Meeting. Therefore, a public hearing for several grants was found to be unnecessary.

K. Coming Events

Dr. Freeman provided the Board with upcoming events in March and April.

XI. SCHOOL BOARD

A. Social Media

Mr. Mitchell asked if the district provides students with skill building around the responsible use of social media and the ability to determine appropriate sources.

Ms. Harvey stated that work is being done to update the current curriculum; she will update the Board with this work at an upcoming meeting.

B. Memorial Day Parade

According to Mr. Gauthier, the Town is trying to revive the annual Memorial Day Parade. He asked Ms. Harvey to check with the music program to see if there was interest in having the band march. The parade is scheduled for May 30, 2020, at 11:00 a.m.

XII. PUBLIC SESSION (Second Session)

Mike Cabral asked if there would be a public forum to hear about tuitioning students to Prospect Mountain High School. Dr. Freeman stated that there would not be a public forum at this time, but that representatives from Prospect Mountain High School will be at a school board meeting on April 16, 2020.

Ms. Asdot asked Dr. Freeman to provide the Board with the data that was collected previously regarding the cost for tuitioning students to another school.

Mr. Cabral stated that he agreed with Mr. Gauthier about his concern for the reasons stated in Lynette Rose's letter of resignation.

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. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for March 19, 2020, at 5:30 p.m. in the Pittsfield Middle High School media center.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion made by Mr. Gauthier and seconded by Mr. Mitchell, the meeting was adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tobi Chassie
Recording Secretary