

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

MINUTES

Pittsfield School Board Meeting
May 2, 2019
Pittsfield Middle High School

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

Others Present: John J. Freeman, Superintendent of Schools
Melissa Brown, Director of College and Career Readiness
Tobi Chassie, Director of Student Services
Danielle Harvey, Dean of Instruction (excused at 5:55
p.m.)
Derek Hamilton, Dean of Operations
Kathy LeMay, Director of Interventions & Title I Manager
Colby Wolfe, Site Council Representative
Members of Faculty
Members of the Public

Mr. Wolfe called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

II. AGENDA REVIEW

The following items were added to the agenda:

- Solar Farms (Mr. Gauthier)
- Facility Usage Requests (Mr. Hamilton)
- Safety Forum (Mr. Hamilton)
- Sick Bank Request (Dr. Freeman / Ms. Harvey)
- Nomination (Dr. Freeman)
- Non-Resident Attendance Request (Dr. Freeman / Ms. Harvey)
- Leave Request (Dr. Freeman)
- School Funding Data (Dr. Freeman)
- Messages from Legislators (Dr. Freeman)
- Department of Education Report (Dr. Freeman)
- Education Development Center Report (Dr. Freeman)

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

Dr. Freeman distributed an addition to the minutes that were provided in the packets. It was a section that had been inadvertently overlooked in the draft previously submitted.

A motion was made by Mr. Gauthier and seconded by Ms. Asdot to approve the minutes of April 18, 2019. The following changes were made: on page one, section IV, change to “April 4, 2019”; on page two, section V, Change PIVOT to PYViiT.

The following paragraphs were added as XII-H: “Mr. Mitchell noted that Leslie Vogt seems to head up a group of people keeping up with the school funding issue. The group is coming up with ways to keep the pressure on the legislature regarding changes to the funding scheme. He would like to put placards around the region to give people information.”

“Mr. Gauthier noted that voters need to continue advocacy in case the governor vetoes the budget. The constituents need to keep pressure on the representatives so they have enough votes to override the veto. Ms. Douglas suggested that the Board needs to send a letter from the Board encouraging the legislators to keep on top of the issue. Dr. Freeman will draft a letter.”

“Dr. Freeman informed the Board that there will be an upcoming program on New Hampshire Public Radio call-in show called “The Exchange” which will focus on school funding. It will air on Tuesday, April 30, 2019, from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. and be repeated on the following Wednesday morning. This will be held in conjunction with a series on funding in which a reporter has both Dr. Freeman, a student and others on the issue. A link will be provided on the district’s website.”

The motion passed unanimously to approve the minutes as amended.

A motion was made by Mr. Gauthier and seconded by Mr. Wolfe to approve the non-public minutes of April 18, 2019. The motion passed unanimously to approve the non-public minutes as written.

V. PUBLIC INPUT

Melissa Babcock reported that she is part of a group called *Suncook Valley Supports Equity in Education*. She said that the group is trying to educate people that the real problem with school funding is at the state level, not the town. Ms. Babcock stated that a suggestion has been made by Leslie Vogt to initiate a petition. They would like to promote the signing of the petition at the spring concerts. Dr. Freeman opined that this is

a non-partisan effort and sees no reason not to allow them to seek support at concerts. The Board agreed to support this approach.

VI. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE - None

VII. DEAN OF INSTRUCTION

A. Leave Request

Ms. Melissa Hamilton, PES teacher, has requested a leave of absence for the 2019-2020 school year. On a motion made by Ms. Douglas and seconded by Mr. Gauthier, the Board voted unanimously to approve the request for leave without compensation.

B. Non-Resident Attendance Request

Ms. Harvey presented a letter on behalf of a family to request attendance at PES until the end of the year. The students have been placed in a home in another town by a state agency. On a motion made by Ms. Asdot and seconded by Mr. Gauthier, the Board voted unanimously to approve the request for the three students to remain at PES until the end of the school year, without district-provided transportation. Transportation will be provided by the New Hampshire Division of Children, Youth, and Families.

C. PMHS Courses for 2019-2020

Ms. Harvey explained the work that is being done on scheduling at PMHS. The current aim is to develop a schedule that would allow dividing the middle school classes into five sections instead of four to create smaller classes.

D. Exhibition Night

Ms. Harvey reports that early planning is being done for the annual Exhibition Night on June 6, 2019. Faculty has reviewed last year's plan and have visited other schools' Exhibition Nights. Ms. Harvey reviewed the proposed schedule, including having PES students coming from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and PMHS students coming from 1:30 to 7:00 p.m. PES staff will work from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and PMHS staff will work from 12:00 noon to 7:00 p.m. Faculty and families will be notified of this change in the schedule following confirmation with school staffs next week.

Mr. Gauthier asked if it was possible to schedule the annual Exhibition Night around the night of School Board meeting. Mr. Wolfe suggested moving the School Board meeting to Tuesday, June 4, 2019, to which everyone agreed.

Dr. Freeman offered accolades to Ms. Harvey for the work she has done to merge input from the public and staff in making improvements on Exhibition Night.

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

A. Long Term District Development

Dr. Freeman introduced Susan Bradley and Ross Morse. Ms. Bradley and Mr. Morse provided the Board with an update on the long-term planning process with which district staff has been engaged over the past year and a half. Additionally, they included information on the upcoming New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) accreditation process and how the district plan and NEASC process complement each other. The proposed Pittsfield School District Logic Model was reviewed in detail for the Board.

Ms. Douglas praised the faculty and staff for their hard work. Dr. Freeman specifically thanked Ms. Bradley and Mr. Morse for their work and recognized them for the work that they have done to move this work forward. Ms. Douglas opined that the quality of the work presented is above and beyond that which is usual for a school district in the area of district planning.

IX. DEAN OF OPERATIONS

A. Facility Use Request

Mr. Hamilton asked the Board to approve a request for use of Drake Field for the annual Suncook Valley Rotary Club Balloon Rally on July 31 to August 4, 2019. On a motion made by Ms. Douglas and seconded by Ms. Asdot, the Board approved the facility use request with Ms. Douglas, Ms. Asdot, Mr. Wolfe voting in the affirmative and Mr. Gauthier abstaining.

On a motion made by Ms. Douglas and seconded by Ms. Asdot, the Board unanimously approved the use of Drake Field on July 13, 2019, for the annual Pittsfield Old Home Day celebration.

B. Safety Forum

Mr. Hamilton informed the Board of a Safety Forum that will take place on May 23, 2019, at 6:00 PM in the PMHS lecture hall.

According to Mr. Hamilton, Pittsfield Emergency Management Director Rob Freese is working on the alignment of radio frequencies between the Pittsfield Fire Department, Pittsfield Police Department, and the Pittsfield School District. A repeater may be necessary for this alignment to occur because of the school building structures. If so, it will cost approximately \$7,000. Also, radios will need to be upgraded within the communication system.

Ms. Douglas asked if there might be some grant funds available. Mr. Hamilton stated the state infrastructure money that was available is now closed, but Title IV funds may be a possibility.

C. Drake Field

Mr. Hamilton reviewed the content of recent discussions with two residents living near the baseball field at Drake Field regarding foul balls coming from the ball field into their backyards and potentially hitting a family member. He proposed two options including extending a net along the roof of the grandstand, which would cost \$10,000, and installing a portable batting cage to be used during practices, which would cost approximately \$4,200. Mr. Gauthier made a suggestion regarding the extension of netting on the grandstand that Mr. Hamilton will further consider. Mr. Wolfe asked if it would be worth approaching our insurance carrier, Primex, to see if they would advise on potential safety measures. Mr. Hamilton will follow through with that suggestion.

B. Winter Athletics Recap

Mr. Hamilton reviewed athletic accomplishments including the steady improvement made by the varsity girls team; recognition of Paige Provencal and Cora LeMay by the New Hampshire Basketball Coaches Organization (NHBCO) for making the All-Academic Team; recognition of Dylan Bocash and Devin Bedell, who were named to the NHBCO All-State Second Team. He underscored the retirement of Gary Colby, who has been coaching thirty-three years.

The School Board will send a card of appreciation to Mr. Colby.

X. SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS (continued)

A. Policy Revision

Dr. Freeman presented two recommended policies: Policy DAF, Administration of Federal Grant Funds, and Policy GADA, Employment References and Verifications. On a motion made by Ms. Douglas and seconded by Ms. Asdot, the Board unanimously approved the policies.

B. Sick Bank Request

Dr. Freeman distributed details from the contract regarding a sick bank request. He asked the Board to approve two sick days from the bank for Shannon DeRosa. On a motion made by Ms. Asdot and seconded by Ms. Douglas, the Board unanimously approved the request.

C. Nomination

Dr. Freeman distributed the resume of Elisha Griffin. He recommended hiring Ms. Griffin for the position of special education teacher, replacing Jess Bickford at PMHS. On a motion made by Ms. Douglas and seconded by Ms. Asdot, the Board unanimously approved the nomination.

D. Messages from Legislators

Dr. Freeman distributed messages from Representatives James Allard and Carol McGuire as well as Senator John Reagan relative to school funding assistance to the Town of Pittsfield.

E. School Funding Data

Dr. Freeman distributed a document that compared enrollments and equalized valuations per pupil for four communities.

F. Department of Education Report

Dr. Freeman distributed a report relative to federal funds program monitoring results.

G. Education Development Center Report

Dr. Freeman distributed the final report from Education Development Center on the Nellie Mae Education Foundation grant. He stated that the results were somewhat disappointing but not unexpected, given the financial constraints of the district in recent years.

XI. SCHOOL BOARD

A. Solar Farm

Mr. Gauthier stated that an energy company is working with three landowners to lease land for solar power equipment. If the work is approved, the district may be able to incur savings on energy. Mr. Gauthier will seek further information and keep the Board informed.

XII. COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

A. Budget Committee: Ms. Asdot

B. Drake Field & Facilities: Mr. Wolfe

Mr. Gauthier asked if a recent incident regarding abuse of the playground slide at Drake Field has been investigated. Mr. Hamilton said that the video tape is inconclusive so no further steps were taken.

C. Negotiations – Ms. Asdot and Ms. Douglas

D. Foss Family Scholarship Foundation – Mr. Mitchell

XIII. PUBLIC INPUT

Mr. Wolfe stated his son Tucker received an internship at the University of Utah that is traditionally reserved for upperclassmen. Mr. Wolfe credited the school district for its work in preparing his son for this accomplishment.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion made by Ms. Asdot and seconded by Ms. Douglas the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tobi Chassie
Recording Secretary