

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

MINUTES

Pittsfield School Board Meeting
February 21, 2019
Pittsfield Middle High School

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

Others Present: John J. Freeman, Superintendent of Schools
Tobi Chassie, Director of Student Services
Derek Hamilton, Dean of Operations
Colby Wolfe, Site Council Representative
Members of the Public

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

II. AGENDA REVIEW

The following item was added to the agenda:

- Damaged Sidewalk (Mr. Gauthier)
- Presentation: Business and Life Values (Dr. Freeman)
- NEASC (Dr. Freeman)
- School Funding (Dr. Freeman)
- Learn Everywhere Program Proposal (Dr. Freeman)
- District Voting (Dr. Freeman)
- Non Public Session – student matter and personnel matter (Dr. Freeman)

III. ACTION ON AGENDA

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

IV. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Mitchell and seconded by Mr. Gauthier to approve the

minutes of the February 6, 2019, meeting. The following corrections were made: On page one, change the location of the meeting to Pittsfield Elementary School; on page one, last line, change to “On page 1 ...”; on page one, change footer to February 6, 2019; on page two, paragraph four, change Mr. Asdot to Ms. Asdot; on page two, paragraph seven, change to “The school nurses have brought the total to less...”; on page three, second paragraph, change Mr. Douglas to Ms. Douglas and Mr. Asdot to Ms. Asdot; on page three, paragraph four, change to “...lower than what is... The Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes as amended.

V. PUBLIC INPUT - None

VI. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

According to Colby Wolfe, middle school representatives have been added to Site Council.

VII. SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Dr. Freeman informed the Board that Mr. Dan Schroth, a Pittsfield citizen, would like to address the Board. Mr. Schroth opined that business and life values are very important for students to learn. He provided the Board with a packet of information and reviewed the information therein. He believes the information would help to inform students about business and life values, as well as substance misuse prevention. He estimates his packet would cost seven dollars to reproduce and will look for the funds to do so.

VIII. DEAN OF INSTRUCTION

A. Movie Request

Mr. Murray would like to show his fifth grade class the movie “Wonder,” rated PG. On a motion made by Ms. Asdot and seconded by Mr. Mitchell, the Board voted unanimously to approve the showing of the movie.

B. Mid-Year Data

By report, Ms. Harvey explained that she is currently meeting with all teachers to review their mid-year student data and to discuss the plans they have put into place to support the academic success of all students.

C. Artist in Residence

According to Ms. Harvey’s report, artist Kirsten Reynolds will be working with third graders as an Artist-in-Residence at PES. The title of the project will be “Bright Bold Sculpture.” The Sanderson Trust is funding the project. Ms. Harvey provided the Board with a description of the project.

IX. DEAN OF OPERATIONS

A. Sanderson Trust and Freese Family Foundation Grants

Mr. Hamilton reported to the Board that the Sanderson Trust has approved the following grant requests:

- Artist in Residence at PES - \$2,249
- Drake Field Summer Recreation Program - \$5,000
- Drama Club at PMHS - \$2,000
- Scoreboards at PMHS - \$7,000
- Ski and Snowboard Club - \$5,000
- Wireless Program - \$240

From the Freese Foundation, a donation of \$2,009 was granted for the purchase of a baritone saxophone for the PMHS music program. On a motion made by Mr. Gauthier and seconded by Ms. Asdot, the Board accepted the donations with gratitude.

Mr. Gauthier asked if permission needs to be given by the Board before grants are submitted. Dr. Freeman stated he would look at policies to determine the answer to that question.

B. School Visits and Program Inquiries

According to Mr. Hamilton, a group of students and teachers from Nashua North High School and Nashua South High School visited with PMHS teacher Kate Hillsgrove and members of the Justice Committee on February 6, 2019. On March 13, 2019, a team of middle grade teachers from Contoocook Valley School District will be visiting to learn more about competency-based education. A team of educators from Bentonville, Arizona, are also planning a trip to visit Pittsfield and other New Hampshire schools in the spring.

X. DIRECTOR OF STUDENT SERVICES

A. Special Education Procedures Manual

Ms. Chassie provided the Board with a draft of the *Special Education Procedures Manual*, a document required by the Department of Education. On a motion made by Mr. Gauthier and seconded by Mr. Mitchell, the Board unanimously approved the manual with the corrections identified by Mr. Mitchell and Ms. Asdot.

B. Pittsfield Interagency Community Coalition

According to Ms. Chassie, the Pittsfield Interagency Community Coalition met on Friday, February 18, 2019, to hear from the representatives from Juvenile Justice on the topic Children in Need of Services (CHINS). About twenty-five people coalition members were present from a variety of agencies serving the families of Pittsfield. Mr. Gauthier asked if parents/guardians are notified of the potential cost of the CHINS process; Ms. Chassie confirmed that parents are well informed by the Division of Children and Youth Services.

XI. DIRECTOR OF INTERVENTIONS AND TITLE I

A. DIBELS Assessment

By report, Ms. LeMay explained that mid-year reading assessments (DIBELS) of students in kindergarten and first grade are being completed at this time. All students identified as “at risk” will have a reading intervention plan developed.

B. Student Success Factor Interviews

By report, Ms. LeMay reported that she and Susan Bradley will have completed twenty-four interviews with students in grades five through eight before vacation. The data will be compiled to provide an understanding of student perspectives on their school experiences and contribute to school improvement.

XII. SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS (Continued)

A. Policy Review

Dr. Freeman presented Policy JJIFA, Wellness, for the Board’s review. It had been presented at the last meeting and approved, but more time was spent by the Board reviewing it. On a motion made by Mr. Gauthier and seconded by Ms. Asdot, the Board affirmed their approval of Policy JJIFA.

B. Law Enforcement Against Drugs (LEAD)

Dr. Freeman presented information on Law Enforcement Against Drugs (LEAD). He explained that he has met with Dan Schroth, Tracy Huyck, and Chief Collins and Officer Worthley from the Pittsfield Police Department consider opportunities for collaboration on a program to address both bullying and substance misuse. Through Ms. Huyck’s research, LEAD was discovered. This program will be reviewed carefully and possibly piloted during the next school year, perhaps in grades 1, 2, and 9. Board members were asked to review the materials provided by Dr. Freeman.

C. New England Association of School and Colleges (NEASC)

The New England Association of School and Colleges (NEASC) is the organization that provides schools with accreditation. Dr. Freeman stated that the high school was originally scheduled for review in 2021, but it has been changed to 2022 because NEASC has revised their standards. He explained that the accreditation is based on standards established by NEASC. He provided the Board with a booklet explaining the standards.

Dr. Freeman further explained that historically NEASC has accredited high schools, but now are also accrediting elementary and middle schools. At a recent meeting of the teacher leaders, a representative from NEASC discussed district-wide accreditation. There was unanimous approval by the teacher leaders present of having the district move forward with district-wide accreditation. Dr. Freeman would like to have the Board's approval to move in that direction.

On a motion made by Mr. Mitchell and seconded by Ms. Asdot, the Board voted to approve moving forward on a district-wide approach, with Mr. Mitchell, Ms. Asdot, and Mr. Wolfe voting in the affirmative and Mr. Gauthier abstaining from the vote.

D. School Funding

Dr. Freeman explained proposals that are being considered by the state legislature relative to school funding. He said that there is a movement to restore the stabilization grant in the form of bills that would reinstate the stabilization grants and other bills that would restore the stabilization grant funding to the 2016 level. Other bills would increase the base adequacy, but would not reflect the actual annual per pupil cost. A third bill is being considered that would establish a commission to review and revise the state funding formula.

Dr. Freeman stated he has testified six times on this issue and that it is time consuming. He asked the Board for their nod of approval for him spending the district's time in this way. The Board agreed that it was in the best interest of the district for him to participate.

Dr. Freeman distributed a sample budget report and accompanying reports that would provide people with an idea of the impact of the district surviving on adequacy grants only and not dependent on local education taxes.

Dr. Freeman asked the Board if they agree to have Pittsfield data used in an op-ed submitted to the Manchester Union Leader about school funding. The Board agreed to have the data shared.

E. Learn Everywhere

Dr. Freeman explained the Commissioner of Education has proposed a plan to give credit granting status to non-school institutions. Dr. Freeman is fearful that the places where

our students have done extended learning opportunities will not have the capacity to meet the criteria that will likely be required to participate as a community partner. Dr. Freeman further stated that he felt that Learn Everywhere

would not benefit Pittsfield students because the program seems to lack the scaffolding that has been needed in the past to support Pittsfield students in out-of-building ELO's. He provided the Board with an opinion article on this topic from the New Hampshire Business Review.

F. School Voting

Dr. Freeman asked the Board if they would like any information prepared to assist district voters in the upcoming voting process. The Board agreed that information similar to that which was provided last year would be helpful and directed Dr. Freeman to prepare a document.

G. Coming Events

Dr. Freeman provided the Board with a list of coming events in February and March.

XIII. SCHOOL BOARD

A. Damaged Sidewalk

Mr. Gauthier pointed out that damage has been caused by plowing to a portion of the sidewalk at PMHS. He asked if the plow company can be held financially accountable for the damage, which Dr. Freeman affirmed. The suggestion was made to mark the sidewalk to caution the public of potential danger; Mr. Hamilton agreed to take that action.

XIV. COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

A. Budget Committee: Ms. Asdot

No report

B. Drake Field & Facilities: Mr. Wolfe

No report

C. Negotiations – Ms. Asdot and Ms. Douglas

No report

D. Foss Family Scholarship Foundation – Mr. Mitchell

No report

XV. PUBLIC INPUT – Second Session

Paulette Wolfe thanked Mr. Wolfe for distributing copies of handouts to the public.

Ms. Wolfe stated her appreciation for the information that is being posted on the district's Facebook page relative to the budget.

Melissa Babcock asked for clarification about the cafeteria warrant article. It was explained that if the warrant article is defeated, the food service program could not operate. The warrant article has zero impact on the tax rate.

Ms. Babcock stated her concern about the students who do not have ample food. She asked if personnel report these situations to the authorities. Ms. Chassie explained that if students disclose not having adequate food in their homes, then the Division of Children, Youth, and Families is called. However, the fact of students using the school food pantry does not alone warrant calling the authorities.

XVI. NON PUBLIC SESSION

At 6:45 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Mitchell and seconded by Mr. Gauthier to enter into non-public session to discuss a student issue and personnel issue under the authority of RSA 91-A:3, II (b and c). The Board was polled and voted unanimously (Ms. Asdot, yes; Mr. Gauthier, yes; Mr. Mitchell, yes; Mr. Wolfe, yes).

No action was taken in non-public session.

At 7:02 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Mitchell and seconded by Ms. Asdot 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 and re-enter into open session (Ms. Asdot, yes; Mr. Gauthier, yes; Mr. Mitchell, yes; Mr. Wolfe, yes).

XVII. OPEN SESSION

A. PIVOT REQUEST

Mr. Wolfe stated that the PiVOT group has request to meet with him; he stated that he intends to meet with the group prior to the next Board meeting.

B. SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM

Mr. Gauthier asked whether multiple school lunch programs are offered, citing a program entitled the *Healthy and Hunger-Free Kids Act*. Dr. Freeman stated that he would look into this and report back to the Board.

XVIII. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion made by Mr. Mitchell and seconded by Ms. Asdot the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tobi Chassie
Recording Secretary