

APPROVED BY THE PITTSFIELD SCHOOL BOARD

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

MINUTES

Pittsfield School Board Meeting
Thursday, March 2, 2017
Pittsfield Middle High School

I. CALL TO ORDER

Members Present: Michael Wolfe, Chairperson
Bea Douglas, Vice Chairperson
Linda Freese
Ted Mitchell
Ralph Odell

Others Present: John Freeman, Superintendent of Schools
Melissa Brown, Director of College and Career Readiness
Tobi Chassie, District Administrator
Ross Morse, Community Liaison
Members of the Public

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

II. AGENDA REVIEW

The following items were added:

- Non-Public Session (Dr. Freeman)

III. ACTION ON AGENDA

On a motion made by Mr. Mitchell and seconded by Ms. Douglas, 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 Ms. Freese to approve minutes of the February 14, 2017, meeting. The motion passed unanimously to approve the minutes as written.

A motion was made by Ms. Freese and seconded by Ms. Douglas to approve the minutes of the February 16, 2017, meeting. On page one, remove Mr. Mitchell's name in list of members present. On page two, second paragraph, change to "be a

funding cliff.” In the same paragraph, change to “one twenty-fifth of the current rate.”

V. PUBLIC INPUT - None

VI. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE - None

VII. DEAN OF INSTRUCTION

A. School Visit

Three teachers from PES – Jodi Biron, Shannon DeRosa, and Bernadette Rowley – visited Walker School in Wisconsin. They returned invigorated and eager to begin co-teaching strategies.

B. Equity Professional Learning

According to Ms. Harvey’s report, a partnership with Dr. Mary Earick, project manager for the NG2 grant, has resulted in the gathering of resources on equity in education. A website was shared with the Board members, housing the information being gathered. Dr. Freeman acknowledged the work of Mary Earick and suggested the Board formally thank her for her work to assist the district.

VIII. DEAN OF OPERATIONS

A. Behavior Data

By report, Mr. Hamilton provided the Board with second quarter behavior data. Dr. Freeman stated the improvements are the result of the work of the dean of operations, with the assistance of the student support staff and in particular, the School Resource Officer. Dr. Freeman explained the administrative team reviews data and identifies patterns; the springtime historically shows spikes in referrals.

B. PES Arrival and Dismissal Routine

In response to parent concerns regarding student safety at morning drop off and afternoon pickup, staff and administrators have reviewed procedures. Procedures will be clarified and more strictly adhered to, while other procedures will be modified. The letter sent to parents was shared with the Board.

IX. DIRECTOR OF STUDENT SERVICES

A. By report, Ms Lehmann explained a newly revised manual and asked the Board for their approval. On a motion made by Ms. Douglas and seconded by Ms. Freese, the Board unanimously approved the *Special Education Policies and Procedures Manual*.

B. Current Enrollment

Ms. Lehmann reported enrollment numbers to the Board: 139 students identified PK – age 21 and nine out-of-district placements.

X. DIRECTOR OF COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS

A. Promotions

Ms. Brown provided the Board with information relative to students who met criteria for promotion to a subsequent grade level. Five students were promoted to grade twelve; three students have a good chance to complete requirements for graduation. Ms. Brown reported there are thirty-nine students in the class of 2018.

B. Rehabilitation for Empowerment, Natural supports, Education, and Work (RENEW)

Ms. Brown explained the RENEW program, a structured school-to-career transition planning and individualized wraparound process for youth with emotional and behavioral challenges. Assistance is received from a consultant from the University of New Hampshire. Currently, there are eleven students in RENEW. The purpose of this program is to provide individualized support on a regular basis for students with an adult who they have a connection with to help them make a plan for success. Dr. Freeman asked Ms. Brown to express his appreciation for the work of the teachers who have agreed to be trained and work with students in the RENEW program.

C. Scholarship Information

Seniors were presented with scholarship materials on February 15, 2017, which were disseminated to the Board by Ms. Brown.

D. Concord Regional Technical Center (CRTC) Update

Ms. Brown informed the Board that on February 3, 2017, forty-six freshmen and sophomore students attending the CRTC field trip. Applications for the 2017-2018 school year are due February 23, 2017.

E. New Hampshire Scholars

The New Hampshire Scholars information shared with students was mailed home to parents on February 15, 2017.

F. Letters of Concern

Ten letters of concern were mailed to families of students in the class of 2018, according to Ms. Brown. She provided the Board with a copy of the letter.

G. SAT School Day

Thirty juniors, according to Ms. Brown, have registered for the SAT assessment on April 5, 2017, proctored at PMHS.

XI. SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

A. Policy IMBC

Dr. Freeman presented Policy IMBC, Alternative Credit Options with modifications. He explained the policy did not include college courses being calculated into a student's grade point average (GPS), but his recommendations, based on conversations with parents and administrators, now includes college courses in the GPA.

On a motion made by Ms. Douglas and seconded by Mr. Mitchell, the Board unanimously approved the changes made to Policy IMBC, Alternate Credit Options.

B. Annual School District Meeting

Dr. Freeman asked the Board if there were last-minute details needing attention for the annual school district meeting. Mr. Wolfe asked if Ms. Blanchette was invited to participate in the meeting, to which Dr. Freeman answered in the affirmative. Mr. Wolfe, in concert with other members, expressed their appreciation for her willingness to attend the district meeting. Mr. Jay Boynton, the Board's attorney, will also be present for the meeting. The Board will meet prior to the district meeting to assign Board members responsibilities in the meeting.

XII. SCHOOL BOARD - None

XIII. COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

A. Budget Committee – None.

B. Drake Field & Facilities - None

C. Negotiations – None

D. Foss Foundation – None

The next School Board meeting is scheduled for March 16, 2017, at 5:30 p.m. at the Pittsfield Middle High School.

XIV. PUBLIC INPUT

Ross Morse asked if there is information prepared in the event someone at the district meeting asks for information about the boiler. Dr. Freeman stated he will have information prepared.

Mr. Wolfe asked if research has been done to know that if SB2 is passed, what the next step for the district would be. Dr. Freeman agreed to research that so the potential question can be answered.

Mr. Morse asked if there is information available regarding the continuity incentive that is included in the proposed teacher contract. Dr. Freeman said information has been shared with the people who have asked the question previously and will be available at the district meeting, should someone ask the questions again.

XV. NON PUBLIC SESSION

At 6:08 p.m., a motion was made by Ms. Douglas and seconded by Mr. Mitchell to enter into non-public session to discuss a parent request pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (c). The Board was polled and voted unanimously (Ms. Douglas, yes; Ms. Freese, yes; Mr. Mitchell, yes; Mr. Odell, yes; Mr. Wolfe, yes) to enter into non-public session.

No action was taken in non-public session.

At 6:39 p.m., a motion was made by Ms. Douglas and seconded by Mr. Mitchell to exit the non-public session and to re-enter into open session. The Board was polled and voted unanimously (Ms. Douglas, yes; Ms. Freese, yes; Mr. Mitchell, yes; Mr. Odell, yes; Mr. Wolfe, yes) to exit the non-public session and to re-enter into open session.

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion made by Ms. Douglas and seconded by Mr. Mitchell, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tobi Gray Chassie
Recording Secretary