

APPROVED BY THE PITTSFIELD SCHOOL BOARD

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

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**MINUTES**

Pittsfield School Board Meeting  
Thursday, April 20, 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  
Danielle Harvey, Dean of Instruction  
Derek Hamilton, Dean of Operations  
Kathy LeMay, Director of Interventions  
Ross Morse, Community Liaison  
Tucker Wolfe, Student Representative  
Members of the Faculty  
Members of the Public

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

II. AGENDA REVIEW

The following items were added:

- Art Installation (Ms. Harvey)
- New Hampshire Legislature (Mr. Odell)
- Primex CAP Program (Dr. Freeman)
- Leave Request (Dr. Freeman)
- Resignation (Dr. Freeman)
- Non-Public Session (Dr. Freeman)
- Program of Studies (Ms. Brown)

III. ACTION ON AGENDA

On a motion made by Ms. Freese 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 Mr. Odell to approve minutes of the April 6, 2017, meeting. On page 4, section XIB, change "Keen" to "Keene." The minutes were approved unanimously as amended.

#### V. PUBLIC INPUT

Ross Morse expressed his appreciation to Dr. Freeman for bringing the information about lead poisoning to the district. The information was very informative and helpful in understanding the potential challenges students have at school.

Mr. Morse stated how impressed he was with the Kindergarten registration process and paid compliments to Kathy LeMay for her work to organize the event. Dr. Freeman agreed the process has improved since previous iterations.

#### VI. PRESENTATION

Jessica Bickford and Anne Banks, teachers from PMHS, accompanied by a student, Dorothy Hardwick, made a presentation to the Board relative to their recent trip to the 2017 At-Risk Youth National Forum in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. Potential ideas to be implemented at PMHS were summarized. Ms. Hardwick reported to the Board her success in executing her plan to be on track to graduate on time. Ms. Bickford and Ms. Banks thanked the Board for their support and allowing them to participate in the conference. Dr. Freeman thanked the presenters for their willingness to attend the conference and especially for sharing ideas that may create positive change in our district.

#### VII. DEAN OF INSTRUCTION

##### A. Movie Request

On a motion made by Ms. Douglas and seconded by Mr. Mitchell, the Board voted unanimously to approve a waiver of Board policy regarding the use of the movie *Bridge to Terabithia*, rated PG, for viewing by sixth grade students.

##### B. Art Installation

Ms. Harvey showed the Board pictures depicting the work with an artist-in-residence. With the artist's help, students completed a beautiful mosaic, which has been installed at the Pittsfield Town Hall.

##### C. Teaching Models

Ms. Harvey provided the Board with an overview of teaching models being implemented in the district so they would feel confidence in answering

questions that may be asked of them. The following models were explained: 1) Looping; 2) One Teach/One Support; 3) Station Teaching; 4) Team Teaching; 5) Alternative Teaching; and 6) Parallel Teaching. She shared comments received from parents about co-teaching possibilities. Dr. Freeman thanked Ms. Harvey for her leadership in providing learning options for students.

## VIII. DEAN OF OPERATIONS

### A. April District Newsletter

Mr. Hamilton provided the Board with a copy of the April newsletter. Mr. Odell and Dr. Freeman spoke about the success of the Jon Ketsy presentation on substance misuse prevention.

### B. Community Service Policy

Mr. Hamilton, Tucker Wolfe, and Jenny Wellington reviewed Site Council's proposal to revise the Community Service policy. They presented the proposed policy including purpose and requirements. Tucker Wolfe reviewed examples of community service opportunities, as well as those activities excluded.

On a motion made by Ms. Douglas and seconded by Ms. Freese, the Board voted unanimously to approve changes to the Community Service Policy which increase the hour requirement for high school graduation to forty hours.

## IX. DIRECTOR OF INTERVENTIONS

### A. Kindergarten Registration

On April 12, 2017, forty-one families participated in Kindergarten registration. Since the registration, five more students have registered, bringing the total to forty-six.

### B. NH Department of Education Summer Summit

Ms. LeMay reviewed an opportunity for professional learning at the New Hampshire Educators' Summer Summit, which is an annual event. She is coordinating the recruitment of participants from the district.

### C. Lexia

Ms. LeMay demonstrated Lexia, which is a literacy program providing instruction in phonological awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, comprehension, and word structure. With only three weeks of implementation, the first grade team has already seen an increase in the number of students working on grade level material (61% to 67%). Grade one is piloting the program and may choose to continue its use next year.

X. DIRECTOR OF COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS

A. Program of Studies

Ms. Brown distributed the proposed PMHS 2017-2018 Program of Studies. She walked the Board through the changes that have been made since last year and asked the Board to approve the document at their next meeting.

XI. DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

A. Good to Great Team

Ms. Chassie reported the Good to Great Team has finished with the audit of the Professional Growth and Evaluation Plan.

B. Nellie Mae Education Foundation

According to Ms. Chassie, in collaboration with Susan Bradley, an end-of-year report is being written for the Nellie Mae Education Foundation. This will include several components such as logic model, work plan, and answers to many questions posed by the Foundation.

C. Saint Anselm College

Dr. Aubrey Scheopner Torres from Saint Anselm College is conducting a longitudinal case study to seek and understanding of how districts and school in New Hampshire are implementing competency-based education. She will be in the district on May 16 and 19, 2017, talking with students, parents, teachers, and administrators.

XII. SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

A. Primex CAP

Dr. Freeman announced decreases from earlier estimates for property and liability as well as worker's compensation insurance. He confirmed his confidence in Primex's service and products and recommended the Board approve continuing working with them.

On a motion made by Ms. Douglas and seconded by Mr. Mtichell, the Board voted unanimously to approve the continuation with the Primex CAP Program for three years in accordance with the terms presented by Primex.

B. Leave Request

Ms. Wellington, PMHS teacher, requested a leave from May 19 to May 26 to travel with her husband to Europe. Ms. Wellington has requested three days of

professional leave to continue to support students remotely and three days of unpaid leave. On a motion made by Ms. Freese and seconded by Mr. Mitchell, the Board voted unanimously to approve leave as requested.

#### C. Resignation

Dr. Freeman brought forth a letter of resignation from Chris Davitt, middle school English language arts teacher. On a motion made by Mr. Wolfe and seconded by Ms. Douglas, the Board voted unanimously to approve the resignation of Mr. Davitt with regret and appreciation for his service.

#### D. Lead Poisoning

Dr. Freeman reported on the presentation by Gail Gettens, a specialist from the Department of Health and Human Services, on lead poisoning. He stated she will be returning to continue sharing information about this serious issue.

#### E. District Staff Meeting

Dr. Freeman spoke with district staff to explain and provide an opportunity for questions regarding our new budget, positions eliminated, teacher contract and next steps, SB2, and other related topics.

#### F. Negotiations

Dates for resuming negotiations are being confirmed with Kiza Armour, president of the Education Association of Pittsfield.

#### G. Fund Balance

Dr. Freeman alerted the Board of an update at the May 4 meeting on fund balance recommendations.

#### H. Community Presentations

The Wellness Coalition sponsored three presentations of Jon Ketsky on the opioid crisis and addiction. Two assemblies were held at school for students and one presentation in the evening for the general public. Among others in attendance, Marty Boldin, the governor's policy advisor on prevention, treatment, and recovery. Approximately thirty others were present for the evening presentation.

### XIII. SCHOOL BOARD

#### A. NH Legislature

Mr. Odell asked if there was a reaction to the Senate Bill sponsored by Senator John Reagan relative to a voucher system, thereby providing families with

money to use on a home education program or a private school placement. Dr. Freeman expressed his concern on the issue and informed the Board of a hearing that was held last week.

Mr. Odell stated an interest in a law suit brought against the State of New Hampshire regarding adequacy funds. He explained some details and asked Dr. Freeman to gather further information. Mr. Wolfe read an email he received from the group that had previously convened to consider potential action. Mr. Mitchell suggested including information in the newspaper with the encouragement of voters to contact legislators on this issue.

#### XIV. COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

- A. Budget – None
- B. Drake Field & Facilities – None
- C. Negotiations – None
- D. Foss Foundation

According to Mr. Mitchell, the Foss Family Scholarship Committee will be meeting on May 25, 2017, to make decisions regarding 2017 awards.

#### XV. PLAN AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING

The next School Board meeting is scheduled for May 4, 2017, at 5:30 p.m. at the Pittsfield Middle High School.

#### XVI. PUBLIC INPUT

Mr. Morse stated that newspapers are reporting an increase in funding resulting from the voucher bill, but warns that this is money will come from public education.

Mr. Morse expressed his disappointment that occurred last year when three out of four teachers in the middle school team did not return. Now, the one teacher with some history with the team, will be leaving. He explained his frustration as a parent regarding the inability of the Board to retain teachers. Mr. Morse further opined that if the competent teachers who have come and gone from this district had incentive to stay in Pittsfield, the district would have an extraordinary school. Ms. Douglas stated her concern that with SB2; she fears it will be difficult to receive approval from the citizens of Pittsfield. Mr. Morse stated his frustration and wonders how the community can be convinced to support a contract that will help retain teachers.

Lee Corson stated that he believes that teachers need to be paid appropriately and wonders how citizens can help members of the community understand the need. He commented on the costs incurred with the turnover of staff.

Tobi Chassie, president of the Pittsfield High School Alumni Association, informed the Board the funds for the LED announcement sign have been raised. Approximately \$18,000 have been donated from members of the alumni, the Sanderson Fund, and a generous anonymous donor. She explained she is working with Mr. Hamilton to plan for the installation of the sign, hopefully this summer.

#### XVII. NON-PUBLIC SESSION

At 7:27 p.m., a motion was made by Mr. Odell and seconded by Mr. Mitchell to enter into non-public session to discuss administrative staffing pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (a). The Board was polled and voted unanimously (Ms. Douglas, yes; Ms. Freese, yes; Mr. Mitchell, yes; Mr. Odell, yes; Mr. Wolfe, yes).

The Board discussed administrative staffing. No action was taken in non-public session.

#### XVIII. OPEN SESSION

At 7:41 p.m., a motion was made by Ms. Douglas and seconded by Ms. Freese to exit from 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 from non-public session and to re-enter into open session.

#### XIX. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion made by Ms. Freese and seconded by Ms. Douglas, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tobi Gray Chassie  
Recording Secretary