

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

MINUTES

Pittsfield School Board Meeting
October 19, 2017
Pittsfield Middle High School

I. CALL TO ORDER

Members Present: Michael Wolfe, Chairperson
Linda Freese
Ted Mitchell (exited meeting at 6:55 p.m.; returned at 7:05
p.m.)
Ralph Odell

Others Present: John Freeman, Superintendent of Schools
Melissa Brown, Director of College and Career Readiness
Derek Hamilton, Dean of Operations
Danielle Harvey, Dean of Instruction
Kathy LeMay, Director of Interventions / Title I Manager
Ross Morse, Community Liaison
Members of the Public

Gerard LeDuc, School Moderator
Robert Schiferle, Budget Committee Chairperson

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

II. AGENDA REVIEW

There were no additions to the agenda.

III. ACTION ON AGENDA

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

IV. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

A motion was made by Ms. Freese and seconded by Mr. Mitchell to approve minutes of the October 5, 2017, meeting. On page three, VIII, A: edit the year to reflect 2017; IX: insert a space between "OF" and "OPERATIONS;" page five, D. FY17 Expenditure Report: replace the period (.) with a comma (,) to reflect the

estimated \$.30 per \$1,000; page seven, XVII. ADJOURNMENT: change the adjournment time to reflect 6:25 p.m. The Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes as corrected.

A motion was made by Mr. Wolfe and seconded by Ms. Freese to approve minutes of the October 5, 2017, non-public session. Change each “nonpublic” to read “non-public.” Minutes were unanimously approved as amended.

V. PUBLIC INPUT

Jody Cunningham (parent) spoke to the Board of her disappointment and disagreement with the New Hampshire Scholars eligibility as pertaining to middle school students currently enrolled in high school math classes and the preclusion of those courses from the math classes required to meet the NH Scholars eligibility.

Dr. Freeman commended Ms. Cunningham for her support and advocacy of her children and responded that Ms. Brown, Director of College and Career Readiness, would bring information to the Board, adding it to an upcoming agenda, to inform the Board of the spirit and requirements of the NH Scholars program. Ms. Brown was requested to include the history of the New Hampshire Scholars requirements, as well as recent changes to the program.

Desiree Holland (parent) raised concerns of bullying behavior exhibited at the elementary school, as well as outside of the school day.

Mr. Hamilton, Dean of Operations, clarified the procedure by which to file a formal bullying complaint, suggesting first contact be the classroom teacher. Mr. Hamilton further shared the chain of communication to be himself, then superintendent, and finally School Board. He continued to share the various ways allegations may be brought forward and how consequences are determined. Conversation with many members of the public included questions about bullying curriculum in place and possible suggestions for alternative approaches to raising the awareness of bullying and possible strategies to respond to the behavior. Ms. Harvey, Dean of Instruction, shared the current curricula used at both PMHS and PES and welcomed further suggestions. The discussion also included the importance of informing both students and families of the proper path to formally report bullying allegations.

Melissa Babcock (parent) brought forward the recent decision to change the PES Halloween Parade route from downtown to the PES school campus and shared family/community feedback that reflected discouragement in the decision.

Mr. Hamilton reiterated that an opportunity at the end of this school year would be made available to those wishing to participate to reflect on this year’s event. This feedback would then be considered when planning the event for next year.

Paulette Wolfe (parent) raised the concern of the Board’s email addresses on the district website and her experience of having some returned. Mr. Hamilton

acknowledged the technical issue referenced, checked the addresses, and found them to be working correctly at this time.

VI. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Site Council Representative Tucker Wolfe shared that at its last meeting the Site Council completed their review of the Site Council new member orientation presentation and nominated officers for the upcoming year.

VII. DEAN OF INSTRUCTION

A. Health Services at PES

Ms. Harvey shared information about The Great Body Shop curriculum being used this year at PES. Materials are shared with families after their use in classroom is completed.

VIII. DEAN OF OPERATIONS

No Report

IX. DIRECTOR OF STUDENT SERVICES

No Report

X. DIRECTOR OF COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS

No Report

XI. SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

A. On a motion made by Mr. Mitchell and seconded by Ms. Freese, the Board unanimously accepted policy recommendations of: AC, Non-Discrimination; ACE, Procedure Safeguards; ADB, Drug-Free Workplace; ADC, Tobacco Product Use & Possession In & On School Facilities & Grounds; with the amendment of replacing the reference of “principal” with “Dean of Operations.”

B. School Board Retreat

Dr. Freeman shared that the upcoming retreat would include a prioritization of objectives set by the Board.

C. Homeless Students

Dr. Freeman will share a link to a video about homeless students for the Board to view.

D. Plymouth State University Reorganization

Dr. Freeman shared information about the current reorganization occurring at Plymouth State University and the similarities to the systems in place in the Pittsfield School District. Three students from Plymouth State University are

currently in district, one as a student teacher and two working on their student practicum.

XII. SCHOOL BOARD

A. Bob Schiferle, Budget Committee Chairperson

Mr. Schiferle communicated the concerns of the Budget Committee to confirm the proposed timeline of the SB2 budget process to allow the committee time to review the budget and ask questions of the superintendent.

The Board agreed to the changing of the proposed hearing date of the deliberative session on February 8, 2018, with a snow date of February 9, 2018. The Board also acknowledged difficulties in providing the final budget to the committee within the time constraints of the newly accepted SB2. The Board will make every attempt to meet the proposed timeline for delivering the final budget to the committee and proposed emailing the line-by-line budget immediately following its projected approval at the November 16, 2017, meeting. Mr. Schiferle requested that the superintendent be present at the budget committee meetings, beginning with the November 29, 2017, meeting, and each meeting of the committee thereon. Superintendent Freeman confirmed with Mr. Schiferle, his availability of all but one of the meetings scheduled (December 13, 2017).

XIII. COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

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

XIV. PLAN AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING

The next School Board meeting is scheduled for November 2, 2017, at 5:30 p.m. at the Pittsfield Middle High School.

XV. PUBLIC INPUT (Second Session)

None

XVI. NON-PUBLIC SESSION

At 7:35 p.m., a motion was made by Ms. Freese and seconded by Mr. Mitchell to enter into non-public session to discuss employee compensation, including collective bargaining, under the authority of RSA 91-A:3, II (a). The Board was

polled and voted unanimously (Ms. Freese, yes; Mr. Mitchell, yes; Mr. Wolfe, yes) to enter into a non-public session.

At 8:15 p.m., a motion was made by Mr. Mitchell and seconded by Ms. Freese to exit from non-public session and to re-enter into open session. The Board was polled and voted unanimously (Ms. Freese, yes; Mr. Mitchell, yes; Mr. Wolfe, yes) to exit from non-public session and to re-enter into open session.

XVII. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion made by Mr. Wolfe and seconded by Mr. Mitchell, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ross Morse
Recording Secretary