

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

AGENDA

Pittsfield High School Tuition Study Committee
Tuesday, December 15, 2020; 4:30-6:00

Time: Dec 15, 2020 04:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)
Join Zoom Meeting
<https://zoom.us/j/3251063731?pwd=K3gwd1RsVGJhWk9nMGZtcm5nSnZNUT09>
Meeting ID: 325 106 3731
Passcode: Super

I. CALL TO ORDER

Present: Heidi Asdot; Susan Bradley; Justin Clough; James Cobern; John Graziano; Ross Morse; Leslie Vogt

Regrets: Bob Schiferle; Becky Berk

Dr. Graziano called the meeting to order at 4:34 p.m.

II. AGENDA REVIEW

Dr. Graziano reviewed the agenda; no additions or deletions were made.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion made by Mr. Morse and seconded by Ms. Vogt, the Committee approved the minutes unanimously.

IV. DISCUSSION

A. Chairperson / Vice Chairperson

Dr. Graziano reported that Mary Paradise will not be participating in the Committee. Mr. Cobern suggested tabling the voting for a Vice Chairperson.

Dr. Graziano introduced Justin Clough and stated that he had met with Becky Berk about adding them to the Socio-Economic Sub-Committee.

V. SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. BUDGET / FACILITIES - R. Morse / R. Schiferle

According to Mr. Morse, a meeting was held with Sally Blanchette. She explained the division of expenditures by middle and high school. She highlighted areas of the budget that would need to be further considered by the Committee.

Ms. Vogt asked if there is an estimate of high schoolers who live in Pittsfield but are not enrolled in Pittsfield Middle High School and would take advantage of the opportunity to enroll if students were tuitioned to another district. Ms. Asdot estimated twenty students throughout the high school who are currently homeschooled. Mr. Morse stated that he and Mr. Schiferle would like to look at statistics over the past ten years to determine the number of students that would potentially be tuitioned. He explained that a larger sample size should be determined in order to get to a more accurate bottom line of the budget.

Mr. Cobern asked about a per pupil tuition estimate. He suggested that a receiving district would charge an average tuition rate times the number of students. Dr. Graziano suggested that a district would negotiate a per student rate.

B. PITTSFIELD COURSE OFFERINGS - H. Asdot / S. Bradley

Ms. Bradley stated that community service has been added to the previous report, as has the Mentor Program. Additionally, the FLEX program was added with a link to an explanation of the program. She invited people to let her know if there are additional programs to be added, to let her know. The list of extra curricular activities are in the Google drive.

Ms. Bradley stated that she researched participation in co- and extracurricular activities. Information sought has been added to the Google drive.

C. DISTRICT CONTRACTS - J. Cobern

According to Mr. Cobern, information that he has gathered will be added to the Google drive. He has information from Gilford and Pinkerton Academy. Transportation, per pupil tuition cost, and the prorated cost of capital improvements, special education are used to determine the cost for Pittsfield. Usually a sending district will send a School Board member to the district's Board. The contracts that he read were good for up to ten years, but could be extended or renegotiated. The sending school is "at the mercy" of the receiving district to determine the per pupil cost. Meetings between the principals of sending schools meet with the receiving district several times of year to discuss curriculum.

Mr. Morse asked if the capital improvement costs would include bonds; Mr. Cobern stated he thought it would be included in the calculation of per pupil cost. Mr. Morse suggested that a potential sacrifice is that the Pittsfield taxpayer may lose local control over how money is spent in the receiving district.

Dr. Graziano stated that there is interest from receiving schools to have Pittsfield join them due to their declining populations. He reported that in the Lakes Region superintendent group, he has heard positive comments made about Pittsfield schools and their students.

D. OFFERINGS PROVIDED BY OTHER DISTRICTS - H. Asdot / L. Vogt / J. Graziano

Ms. Vogt stated that a spreadsheet has been added to the drive that includes six school districts. Cells have started to be populated from data from the NH DOE website, as well as additional data that needs to be gleaned from student handbooks and other documents. This is a broad comparison. If anyone wants to add any factors to be added to the spreadsheet, they can contact Ms. Vogt.

Ms. Vogt stated that 2018-2019 tuition rates were not available but should be added to the document.

Mr. Cobern asked if the schools included are schools that would be willing to accept Pittsfield students, to which she answered in the affirmative. Mr. Cobern stated that more than one school could be considered, giving students a choice. Ms. Chassis interjected that when Barnstead sent students to multiple schools without having an all-inclusive contract for all students, there were problems placing students with intensive needs.

E. SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT - Justin Clough / Becky Berk

Dr. Graziano stated that Mr. Clough and Ms. Berk will be adding value to this Committee by looking at the socio-economic impact. Mr. Clough has read articles suggested by Dr. Graziano on the topic. He stated that closing the school may or may not reduce taxes; the details will need to be researched. He suggested that the community may need to entertain ideas on how to grow the community so that the cost of education would decrease.

III. PUBLIC INPUT - None

IV. NEXT MEETING - Agenda will be consistent with this agenda. The next meeting is January 19, 2020 at 4:30 p.m. Ms. Bradley asked if Committees should continue to conduct their research to which Dr. Graziano answered in the affirmative. Ms. Vogt asked Ms. Bradley and Ms. Asdot to look at the spreadsheet to be sure that all categories are represented.

V. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion made by Ms. Asdot and seconded by Mr. Cobern, the meeting was adjourned at 5:21 p.m.