

Pittsburg School Board Meeting Minutes							
Date		06/10/2024					
Time		6:00 pm School Board Meeting					
Location		Pittsburg School Conference Room					
Chairperson		Bob Ormsbee					
School Board Members				Principal		SAU Members	
P	Jamie Gray	P	Hannah Kingsbury	P	Debbie Lynch	P	Bridget Cross
P	Lindsey Gray	P	Reggie Parker		Asst. Principal		
P	Bob Ormsbee			E	Misty Blais		
					Student Member		
				P	Joli Carlson		
Public in Attendance: Carmen Riley, Leelah Hailey, Wanda McGuire, Lesley Sierad, Nicole Jeralds, Norma Underhill							

Roll Call / Pledge of Allegiance: The meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm by the Chairman and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda Adjustments:

Hearing of the Public: None

Reading of the Minutes:

L. Gray/J. Gray: Motion to approve the May 13, 2024, minutes with discussed change.

VOTE: Motion Carries.

Special Reports: Wanda McGuire, Lesley Sierad, Nicole Jeralds and Norma Underhill came to discuss the Elementary School for the 24/25 school year. With the current student numbers the town may tell us to reduce a position. Board Chair Ormsbee began the discussion stating there are no Kindergarten students anticipated for the 24-25 school year meaning we could potentially have 0 First graders for the 25-26 school year. Debbie stated there is one applicant currently for the vacant 5/6 position. The board wanted input from the Elementary teachers regarding not filling the position and combining another elementary grade level such as 1/2 and possibly moving Nicole back to 5/6 as she has taught Grade 5 in the past. Wanda said she disagrees with combination classrooms. Research shows test scores are down for combination classes, kids get less hours of instruction for each class separately, Math and Reading classes cannot be taught together due to required content that is covered per grade level. Wanda also stated that students that young struggle to work independently making it difficult to teach, walk away, and teach the other class. Norma discussed that she would prefer 3rd and 4th grade be split as it is very challenging. Nicole mentioned that block scheduling will cut down on some of the teaching time as specials are double the time daily than current schedule. She also left her previous position to challenge herself for the lower level and wishes to stay teaching Grade 2. Nicole said having combined classes will require more para educators and support in the classroom. She also expressed concerns that having too many combination classes may be less attractive for families looking to enroll their children in Pittsburg School. Lesley discussed students with developmental delays require more time, the curriculum is more intense and requires more time. The board thanked them all for their input and requested that they speak up in regard to the potential cutting of a position at the Annual School District meeting in March. Many agreed they would do so.

Principals Report – Debbie Lynch –

June Report – The Athletic Awards Banquet will be Wednesday the 12th at 5:00 pm. June 13th is the Kindergarten Graduation, and the last day of school is the 14th. On the last day there will be a BBQ, HS Field Day and early release at 12:00 pm.

The schedule will move to block scheduling for next year. Some of the High School teachers went to Canaan School to review the block scheduling with their staff. The schedule will be 80 minutes each with a 30-minute WIN block before lunch. Will also use this time for travel to/from other schools during WIN.

J. Gray/R. Parker: Motion to allow the class of 2025 to host Donkey Basketball on the new gym floor. The board would like to confirm when the floor can be in use after the refinish and ensure it's not scheduled during that time. Maybe move it to the Spring.

1 No VOTE, 4 Yes VOTES: Motion Carries

Emily Bernhardt asked about the equipment for fly rods, waders, compasses that were purchased many years ago. She is interested in purchasing this equipment. The Board stated if the next PE teacher doesn't want the items for their class then they will consider selling the items.

J. Gray/R. Parker: Motion to approve putting the Junior High baseball/basketball back within the school system.

VOTE: Motion carried

Will need to let Superintendent Lawcewicz know and have Canaan's approval. This would begin in 25-26 as it's not budgeted for 24-25

Mrs. Lynch gave her summer schedule – Mondays and Tuesday work at the office, Wednesday and Thursday will work remotely and Fridays she will be off.

Student Report – Joli Carlson – Field day for younger students was last week. Juniors and Sophmores took down the decorations from graduation, there will be a cake walk on Friday, High School block scheduling next year. Students request there will be more hands-on learning and projects during the long period instead of all instructional time. Debbie will remind staff of this.

Business Managers Report – Bridget Cross

Had a discussion on the USDA RD Grant. Did not receive the funding but will be resubmitting this application.

Discussed the Renew America's Schools Program. The number of schools has increased to 12. We will keep board apprised if the funding is received.

R. Parker/J. Gray: Motion to approve the meal pricing for the 2024/2025 school year

VOTE: Motion Carries

J. Gray/R. Parker: Motion to approve the Food Service Meal Contract with Abbey Group for the 2024/2025 school year.

VOTE: Motion Carries

R. Parker/J. Gray: Motion to approve enrollment of Clarksville resident students to Pre-K and waive tuition.

VOTE: Motion Carries

Unfinished Business:

J. Gray/R. Parker: Motion to approve Clarksville/Pittsburg Area Agreement (2026-2036)

VOTE: Motion Carries

Open to Public: Carmen Riley – discussed the PE position and Josiah as AD & Coach and wanted an updated on the status of that position. Debbie told her we would be discussing it in more detail in nonpublic. Bridget reiterated that the candidate must have their Bachelor’s degree before we can hire them as a teacher per NHED credentialing.

New Business:

Non-Public Session:

R. Parker/J. Gray: Motion to go into Non-Public Session RSA 91-A:3, II (c) at 7:47 pm and invited Bridget Cross and Debbie Lynch into non-public session

VOTE: Motion Carries

R. Parker/J. Gray: Motion to come out of Non-Public Session at 8:48 pm

VOTE: Motion Carries

J. Gray/R. Parker: Motion to seal the minutes from the Non-Public Session

VOTE: Motion Carries

J. Gray/R. Parker: Motion to allow Debbie to pursue the positions as discussed.

VOTE: Motion Carries

L. Gray/R. Parker: Motion to approve the MOA with Pittsburg Education Association and Pittsburg School Board to remove the wording “remains the same” and replace it with “should be removed”. The Board Chair signed the agreement and Debbie will present to the association for final approval.

VOTE: Motion Carries

Meeting Dates:

- Pittsburg School Board meeting of June 24, 2024 @ 6:00 pm in the Pittsburg School Conference Room is cancelled. The next Pittsburg Board meeting will be July 8th @ 6pm.

The board thanked Hannah Kingsbury for serving on the board. Her tenure will be done on 6/30/24 as she will be employed as a teacher for Pittsburg School during the 2024-2025 School year.

Adjournment:

R. Parker/J. Gray: Motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:02 pm.

VOTE: Motion Carries.

Respectfully Submitted,
Billie Paquette
Executive Assistant

Board Approved: July 8, 2024