

Pittsburg School Board Meeting Minutes							
Date		September 13, 2021					
Time		6:00 p.m.					
Location		Pittsburg School Library Computer Lab					
Chairperson		Toby Owen					
Attendance							
Attendance Legend: P – Present A – Absent E – Excused C – Cell Phone							
School Board Members			Principals			SAU Members	
P	Jamie Gray	P	Toby Owen	P	Elaine Sherry	P	Debra Taylor
P	Lindsey Gray	E	Reggie Parker			P	Cheryl Covill
P	Bob Ormsbee						
Clarksville School Board Members							
P	Erin Blanchard	P	Michael Dionne	P	Heather Mitchell		
Public in Attendance: Jennifer Mathieu, Curriculum Director (6:00-6:40); Pat Phillips, Coach (6:45-6:50)							

Roll Call / Pledge of Allegiance: The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Chairman Toby Owen and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Adjustments to the Agenda:

- Superintendent Taylor asked that Jen Mathieu be allowed to speak first. Board agreed.

Special Report:

Jen Mathieu was present to explain to the Board what her position of Curriculum Director entailed. She first gave an overview of her education and why she had chosen to leave her position as a principal to accept a grant position as Curriculum Director. This role allows her to work with teachers and staff on professional development and on grants. She was very involved with the professional development that took place at Mohawk Falls over the summer. Teachers need time to work on everything they learned there. Jen developed a calendar over the summer to do curriculum work. She also developed a website for the teachers/staff to form a professional learning community. Peers get together over Zoom to work on curriculum. Teachers are provided time during the day with coverage for their classes to do this. This year sees the creation of a teacher mentor program. Hopefully, this supports the new teachers.

Jen has had lots of meetings with principals. She is in one of the schools each day, but not necessarily on the same day each week. She maintains weekly office hours and is available to meet with teachers in person or on Zoom.

She then opened for questions. Heather said “You mentioned you had a BA” and then said “you became Principal”. Jen responded that she got her master’s in between. She now needs on class for certification as a Curriculum Director.

Jen then showed the website that is a resource for teachers. It is interactive so the teachers can put the goals of their teams. The teachers have already used some of their summer learning to help the students create learning tools. Teachers can teach their own way, but this gives them more ideas.

Jen will also be assisting the principals in doing teacher evaluations.

Jen left the meeting at 6:40 pm.

Hearing of the Public:

Pat Phillips entered the meeting at 6:45 pm

He came before the board to discuss policy concerning student athlete's grades carrying over to grade 9 in Pittsburg. If a student has low grades at the end of grade 8, then they cannot play sports in grade 9 until their grades have been improved. In Canaan, when you enter grade 9, your previous grades do not count. NHIAA rules are the same. There is a student who attends Pittsburg School who falls into this category, but playing sports is the way the student is going to have the incentive to keep good grades. Mr. Phillips wants to see the policy changed or something done to help the student. He is willing to do what is necessary to help the student play sports and achieve academic success. It will require a policy procedure change if Board agrees to this. Toby Owen stated it would be discussed in a nonpublic session. Pat Phillips left at 6:50 pm.

Reading of the Minutes: School Board Meeting of August 23, 2021

Jamie Gray stated she would abstain from voting as she was not present at the meeting.

T. Owen/L. Gray: To approve the minutes of August 23, 2021

VOTE: MOTION CARRIES

Connecticut River Collaborative Committee: Lindsey recommended that members of the Board look at options other than the CRCC. He wanted to find out how other schools in the state operate.

School Administrator's Report – Elaine Sherry (written report included)

Events:

1. Opening day went well.
2. Bus Evacuations scheduled for September 14
3. Open house scheduled for September 22 with staggered attendance

Old Business

1. Continue to work with Tom Ledue to solidify this year's School in Need of Improvement Plan

New Business

1. New walkthrough evaluation for instructors is pretty proficient.
2. Neil Prehemo would like to have the board offer $\frac{1}{4}$ PE credit for students who play sports. Dr. Taylor reviewed the policies and stated this already exists.
3. Elaine presented schedules for the soccer teams.
4. Job description for Assistant Principal was presented.
 - A. Bob stated the number one priority should be teaching not administration
 - B. Cheryl said in the past, the assistant principal only assumed that role when the principal was absent from the building
 - C. Elaine stated that one hour per day was set aside for the assistant principal to assist the principal. This time is not always used.

T. Owen/J. Gray: To approve the job description as written.

VOTE: 3 YES / 1 NO MOTION CARRIES

5. Strategic Plan Summary Draft 1 was presented for the board to review

Nonpublic (will be discussed at the end of the meeting)

1. Student matter

Superintendent's Report – Dr. Debra Taylor:

1. Dr. Taylor included a written report in the packet.
2. Dr. Taylor presented an SAU 7 student enrollment spreadsheet
3. Full staff meeting on August 26
4. New teacher meeting on August 27
5. Continue to monitor daily Covid 19 cases – no positive cases in Pittsburg today. Lindsey felt that Covid has helped some kids learn to cope. Debra said it is not expected that schools will have to close.
6. Esser II and III – public hearings to accept these funds are being held
7. Curriculum Instruction and Assessment is ongoing
8. Social-Emotional Learning is being addressed by the new specialist, Stephanie Eastman, who works in Colebrook and Pittsburg.
9. Debra learned today that CTE in Canaan is organizing an Advisory Board and Pittsburg has been invited to attend. Does any board member want to be on the board? The first meeting is on October 5 at 8:30 am in Canaan. The board is interested and so are the Clarksville board members. They requested that Debra ask Canaan if these meetings could be held at all the schools, not just Canaan. Lindsey also pointed out that Pittsburg owns the land where other programs could be incorporated into the CTE program. This will be discussed further at the next meeting.

Business Administrator’s Report – Cheryl Covill:

1. Cheryl reported on the ESSER grants public hearing
2. Fraud Mitigation Services: Cheryl presented a request to implement a Payee Positive Pay for all checking accounts. The cost is approximately \$20 per month. This is an automated cash-management service used by financial institutions employed to deter check fraud. Banks use positive pay to match the checks a company issues with those it presents for payment. Any check considered suspect is sent back to the issuer for examination. Board vote requested.

J. Gray/T. Owen: To approve the Payee Positive Pay for all checking accounts.

VOTE: MOTION CARRIES

3. Cross Country only has two or three students participating. Parents are providing transportation as they attend all the events.
4. Buying and selling services to other districts: There is a Colebrook teacher coming to Pittsburg half-a-day to teach math. Cheryl needs to know for budgeting how Colebrook is to be reimbursed for this teacher’s time.

T. Owen/L. Gray: Draw up a contract between the districts that reimburses Colebrook for half the teacher’s salary. Take the funds from the full-time salary that was budgeted.

VOTE: MOTION CARRIES

5. Cheryl presented spreadsheets for:
 - A. The Health Trust Surplus Distribution for FY 2022
 - B. Local Tuition Comparisons
 - C. SAU 7 Pupil Enrollment figures for the current and past four years
 - D. Changes in Adequacy estimates
 - E. Town of Pittsburg Trustees report for school accounts

Unfinished Business: None

New Business: (Nonpublic Session)

Other Business:

Meetings:

The next meeting for Pittsburg School Board will be September 27, 2021 at 6:00 pm.

7:40 pm Erin Blanchard, Michael Dionne, Heather Mitchell, Cheryl Covill, and Patricia Grover left the meeting as the Board prepared to enter a nonpublic session.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia E. Grover
Minutes Taker

T. Owen/L. Gray: Motion to enter nonpublic session per RSA 91-A:3, II(c) at 7:42 pm.

Roll Call Vote: L. Gray – yes, J. Gray – yes, B. Ormsbee – yes, T. Owen – yes

Elaine Sherry and Debra Taylor were present for the nonpublic session.

The board discussed Student Athletic Eligibility and parent visitation privileges.

T. Owen/J. Gray: Motion to leave the nonpublic session and return to public session at 7:55 pm.

Roll Call Vote: L. Gray – yes, J. Gray – yes, B. Ormsbee – yes, T. Owen – yes

T. Owen/J. Gray: Motion to change the Student Athletic Handbook to align with NHIAA guidelines for student eligibility.

VOTE: MOTION CARRIES

T. Owen/L. Gray: Motion to allow a parent to resume visitation privileges.

VOTE: MOTION CARRIES

T. Owen/J. Gray: Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:58 pm.

VOTE: MOTION CARRIES

Respectfully submitted,

Debra J. Taylor
Superintendent

Adopted 09/27/2021