

Pittsburg School Board Meeting Minutes							
Date		4/14/2025					
Time		6:00 pm School Board Meeting					
Location		Pittsburg School Conference Room					
Chairperson		Willard Ormsbee					
School Board Members				Principal		SAU Members	
P	Jamie Gray	P	Reggie Parker	P	Debbie Lynch	P	Dana Hilliard
P	Lindsey Gray	P	Daniel Kurtz		Student Member	P	Bridget Cross
P	Willard Ormsbee			P	Joli Carlson		
Public in Attendance:							

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

Agenda Adjustments: Discussion on Diplomas add to New Business.

Hearing of the Public: None

Reading of the Minutes:

J. Gray/R. Parker: Motion to approve March 24, 2025, minutes.

VOTE: Motion Carries

Principal Report: Debbie Lynch

There are a lot of baseball/softball games coming up. The first home game is Friday the 25th at 4:00 pm against Gorham. Siskin is coming tomorrow and then again on the 23rd which will be his last time here for this spring. The 25th is mad scientist day and Key Club and Honor Society will be helping with this. There is an end of year events calendar in Google. Debbie has offered to share this with board members. Debbie has some candidates to interview. Bob and Reggie volunteered to sit in on these interviews. The Senior class trip itinerary has been included in your packet. The trip is from April 27th to May 2nd. There are 6 students going and 2 chaperones. The class is seeking permission to take private vehicles to Concord to catch the bus to Boston. The bus will cost \$1,600.00 to take to Boston and they do not have enough money for that. Bridget stated that there is a lot of paperwork that will need to be completed to do this. Bob suggested a bus leaves from Littleton and goes to Concord, and this might be a cheaper way to get to Concord.

J. Gray/R. Parker: Motion to approve the senior class trip to St. Petersburg Florida.

VOTE: Motion Carries

Student Report – Mrs. Pettit gave the seniors information on scholarships, and they are working on completing them prior to their trip. The National Honor Society is still working on planning an end of

year field trip for students in 8th through 12th grade. They have narrowed it down to three different places.

Superintendent Report: Dana Hilliard

Dana congratulated all the students that participated in the play last weekend. He praised the entire cast for doing a great job.

The committee for the Future of Pittsburg School has some confusion around what the committee is for and how it is being formed. He was surprised to realize that a meeting had already happened, however, his role in this is to support the members of the committee. Bob and Dana have had a couple of conversations and Bob has come up with the idea for Dana to reach out to Rick Alper from Primex who led the goal setting session last year for the Joint SAU 7 Board. Primex will send their professionals up to help with planning, goal setting and mediate conversations. Dana reached out to Rick to see if he would be available to meet with all the stakeholders and gather their ideas. He would then categorize the ideas and create a report. Rick is available to come to Pittsburg and facilitate this. Dana and Bob will be meeting with Rick on Wednesday at 1:00 pm. This will help create a document to help steer future conversations.

Dana had a conversation with Esther and explained what is going on here and how important it is that we move forward. They will have more deeper conversations that capture the uniqueness of each school within SAU 7 and the individual towns. Dana reinforced that the SAU is here to support the board while going through this process and is available to explore resources and compile those when necessary.

Dana thinks that Rick is a great option for this process as he does not have any preconceived notions. He also is familiar with Pittsburg as he has done a lot of training with the Pittsburg Fire Department. He will be able to take all the conversations and place them in one master document that everyone can work from and keep all of this organized. But he does not have any political connection or preconceived thoughts to steer the conversations in one direction or another. Dana will be speaking to Rick this Wednesday and will update the board after this conversation. Rick will only be working with Pittsburg on the topic of Pittsburg School.

The SAU has reached out to Terry Swain for the Moderator position, and he has not responded, and we have reached out to Beth who has declined the School Clerk position. Lindsey will check with Terry again when he sees him if he is interested in keeping the moderator position. If the board knows anyone that may want the clerk's position, please speak to them. Let the SAU know if they speak to anyone, and they are interested.

Bob brought up that the letter that Dana wrote to the Canaan School Board as it is really stirring things up. Dana stated that he met with Superintendent Lawcewicz last week and made sure they understood the meaning of the letter which is that SAU 7 is not interested in an interstate agreement but are very willing to continue to explore ways of collaborating. Superintendent Lawcewicz has been speaking with Montpelier to hopefully get them to change some of their rules and regulations to hopefully make collaborating a little easier. Bob stated that he would like to meet with the Canaan Board however, Jamie stated she felt that would not be a good idea. Dana discussed that he and Superintendent Lawcewicz are both professionals in their fields and that is why they have been meeting regarding this subject. He stated that he has offered to write a letter for her to take to Montpelier and to even attend a meeting with her at Montpelier to review that SAU 7 is very willing to continue collaboration and to build further on that. Cannot worry about the people who misinterpret what Dana says.

Bob asked about Kim Sweatt and if a decision has been made. Debbie stated that she has a part-time contract so we would be buying the other half of her contract.

Dana mentioned that he was on a website for Coaticook and they have a direct link to the Indian Stream Republic and they encourage people to come here and visit. Dana felt this was nice to see and if anyone has any piece of history for this area, they want to share he would enjoy seeing it.

Business Manager Report: Bridget Cross

Review Budget Analysis - We retained \$144,353 from last year's surplus and for additional revenues there is \$79,000. This is for services to LEA's which is Special Ed, shared positions and athletics and \$32,277 was tuition that was not booked as an accounts receivable. There was an overpayment refund from New Hampshire School Board and the booked transportation aid of \$537 which are included in the \$79,000 in additional revenue.

The insurance claim reimbursement, which was paid to us directly for expenditures we need to pay out, is \$28,000 and we told the taxpayers in March that we would use \$250,000 of the surplus to offset next year's budget which brings us to \$561,539.00. If we retain about the same amount next year of \$144,000 that will give an additional fund balance of \$417,539.00.

Bridget has provided a list of purchase/repairs that could be completed with these funds, or all of the funds could be returned to the taxpayers. There is not a large balance left in the Facilities Trust Fund as \$70,000 was used this year for the roof. The bleachers are the number one priority, fire alarms, as we have been notified by Johnson Control that the panel is not compliant and hasn't been for several years, that would be \$14,435 and that is just the panel being upgraded. Johnson Control can no longer get parts for the panel so in the event of component failure, a full panel replacement would be required on an emergency basis. Bridget reached out to a company in Lancaster, DS Security, to get a quote to update everything in the fire alarm system and security system. We currently use them in another district and the fees are minimal when they come for service. Johnson Control is harder to work with and their technicians come from New York. Another item is electricity in the greenhouse, however, Debbie stated that the guy came to look at that today and it might not be a good thing to do. Bridget found out that the bleachers are only inspectable for another 2 years then they can no longer be inspected. This would need to be added into the budget within the next 2 years if these don't get upgraded now.

If these projects are completed, you would still turn back \$168,000 which would be a reduction of 39 cents on the tax rate. So, it would only be a three-cent increase compared to what your current tax rate is. Reggie suggested that Bridget ask if we get a discount if we upgraded the fire alarm and security cameras together.

R. Parker/J. Gray: Motion to approve the quote on the new bleachers and move ahead with installing the new bleachers

VOTE: Motion Carries

J. Gray/L. Gray : Motion to approve the Seed Grant Contract Amendment and give Chairman Williard Ormsbee authority to sign the Certificate of Vote through June 30, 2026.

VOTE: Motion Carries

J. Gray/R. Parker: Motion to approve the date change from the Canaan School Board on the Cooperative Agreement from September 1, 2024, to September 1, 2026

VOTE: Motion Carries

R Parker/J. Gray: Motion to approve the 2025/2026 Food Service Agreement

VOTE: Motion Carries

J. Gray/R. Parker: Motion to approve the Lighting Proposal

VOTE: Motion Carries

Discussion - EMC will be the project manager. He will put this out to bid to local vendors. There are a lot of guidelines to follow since this is federal funds. The amount received from the grant is \$120,000. The project cost after all the incentives with EMC is estimated to be \$145,212. The Eversource rebates have already been taken off of this amount. The district will have to cover \$25,212.00

Discussion on the Capital Improvement Plan & Consultant – Bridget brought up that at a meeting last year it

was discussed to advertise for the position to oversee these projects. Do you still want to advertise for this or do you want to look internally to fill this position? A Capital Improvement Plan is a long-term plan of your facility and facility improvements. This will help you in the future when deciding about funding being returned to the town or if there are facility improvements that need to be completed. The two other schools have a Facility Director who is working on this for them. Bridget checked with the Pittsburg Custodians, but they were not interested in taking on this work. Reggie asked how many hours this person would be putting in as Facilities Director a week and how is the person paid? Bridget stated that Pittsburg would pay 25% of the total wages. Bridget stated that Pittsburg had \$8,000.00 allocated to do the plan. It was \$38.50 an hour for 208 hours. Jamie asked if the Pittsburg School Custodians could be asked again if they are interested in this position before hiring someone from the outside. Debbie will check with them again.

Unfinished Business:

J.Gray/W. Ormsbee: Motion to approve the General Assurances

VOTE: Motion Carries

Update on CN Brown Contract - We will not be billed for the tariff tax

New Business: Move the April 28th Meeting. The board agreed to cancel the meeting scheduled on the 28th and not reschedule at this time. Dana can call an emergency meeting if something comes up.

J. Gray/R. Parker: Motion to cancel the April 28, 2025, meeting with no reschedule date at this time.

VOTE: Motion Carries

Bob asked about Policy JFAB-D that was discussed at the SAU School Board Meeting on April 11th. He wanted clarification on who that policy covers for students attending Pittsburg School. This policy will be moved to the SAU Policy Committee for approval.

J. Gray/D. Kurtz: Motion to approve the policies below as recommended by the SAU Policy Committee in January 2025:

VOTE: Motion Carries

- o BGAA Policy Development, Adoption and Review
- o GBGD Background Investigation and Criminal History Records Check
- o GBGA Staff Health
- o GCG Substitute Employment
- o IHCD Advance Course Work/Advanced Placement Courses & Stem Dual & Concurrent Enrollment Program

Bob asked about an email from SIMBLI and if this is a legitimate email. Dana recommends reaching out to the NHSBA to verify that this is an actual email from them. Jamie looked it up and it is an actual email from NHSBA.

Bob asked if the boards were doing anything for Laurel Hemon. Dana and Bridget will discuss this tomorrow. Debbie stated that Pittsburg sent a card and is taking up a collection.

Information: None

Other Business: None

Non-Public Session: RSA 91-A :3, II (a)

R. Parker/J. Gray: Motion to go into non-public session RSA 91-A:3, II (a) at 8:19 pm

VOTE: Motion Carries

Bridget Cross, Business Manager, Debbie Lynch, Principal and Dana Hilliard, Superintendent were invited to stay in the meeting.

R. Parker/J. Gray: Motion to come out of non-public session at 8:43 pm.

VOTE: Motion Carries

R. Parker/D. Kurtz: Motion to extend the principal's contract for 1 year.

VOTE: Motion Carries

Meeting Dates:

- Pittsburg School Board Meeting: Monday, May 12, 2025 @ 6:00 pm – Pittsburg School Conference Room

Adjournment:

J. Gray/R. Parker: Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:18 pm.

VOTE: Motion Carries

Respectfully Submitted,
Billie Paquette,
Executive Assistant

Board Adopted: May 12, 2025