

Pittsburg School Board Meeting Minutes

Date 1/27/2025

Time	6:00 pm - Pittsburg Public Hearing						
Location	Bremer Pond Auditorium						
Chairperson	Willard Ormsbee						
School Board Members			Principal		SAU Members		
P	Jamie Gray	P	Willard Ormsbee	P	Debbie Lynch	P	Dana Hilliard
P	Lindsey Gray	P	Reggie Parker			P	Bridget Cross
P	Daniel Kurtz				Student Member		
					Joli Carlson		
Public in Attendance: Wayne Dorman, Beverly Dorman, Ricky Clogston, Helen Clogston							

Public Hearing: Bob began reviewing the warrant articles. He then asked the public if they had any comments. Wayne Dorman asked to elaborate on Article 1. Bob stated that the School Board Members have always had their salaries the same as the selectmen. But moving forward, if this article is approved, the School Board Members will receive a stipend of \$750.00, the School Treasurer will receive a stipend of \$1,400.00, School Clerk \$100.00 stipend, School Moderator \$120.00 and the minute taker \$1,300.00 stipend. This is a \$270.00 increase over last year. Ricky Clogston asked if this included the SRO salary. The SRO salary is actually included in the budget figure under Article 4. The SRO salary was budgeted for last year however, Pittsburg did not have one on staff. The question was asked what happened to the funds for that unused salary? That money was included in the Balance on Hand and gets returned to the taxpayers of Pittsburg.

The proposed budget reflects a decrease of \$105,171 and projected revenues reflect a decrease of \$356,282. The total tax rate will increase \$0.42 per thousand. The projected balance on hand as of June 30th is \$350,000.00, which is a decrease of \$193,221.00 compared to last year. Estimated tuition is \$100,000 and other grants increased by \$12,000. There is no longer revenue from the Expendable Trust Fund in the amount of \$70,000 for the roof project.

It was asked what the enrollment is right now, and Bridget answered that enrollment is at 80. There are 10 students graduating this year.

Bridget reviewed the revenue to be raised by taxes which is \$3,358,157.00 for the 2025/2026 budget. The total budget is down.

Wayne asked the cost per student that are not residents of Pittsburg and how much Pittsburg pays for these students to attend school. The cost per pupil based on 70 students for 2025-2026 school year is \$47,973.67. Tuition Cost that we charge to Clarksville for 2024-2025 school year is \$22,606.94 elementary and high school \$22,022.33 due to their area agreement. Stewartstown High School

student tuition rate is \$22,822.33 He pointed out that the costs keep going up each year and enrollment keeps declining. He asked when the school board was going to look at making changes. Jamie spoke and stated that the district will try to do a study of different scenarios for future budgets. 29:33

Dana discussed the state laws regarding teacher certifications and in high school the difficulties of having a teacher that has more than one certification. Elementary teachers are already teaching combined classes.

Asked what the reason for the decrease in revenue is. The biggest reason is the decrease of \$100,000.00 in tuition. The projected balance on hand as of June 30th is \$350,000, a decrease of \$193,000. When Pittsburg closed their books last year, they had \$443,221 on hand.

Asked what the balance is currently in the expendable trust? \$51,630.00 and asking to raise another \$50,000.00 Bridget stated that they will be working on a capital improvement plan.

Discussed whether the state should be paying more to the town for education. Recommended speaking to your legislature. The state mandates what we need to do as a school but does not help pay for it.

Bridger brought up the rising food cost and asked if we still utilized Abbey Group. Asked if it would be a cost savings to bring that back in-house? Bridget answered that she oversees the food service, and she would not recommend bringing it back in-house. That would require hiring a coordinator and at least two staff members plus the cost of food that keeps going up. There are also a lot of restrictions as well like how much sodium to use, how much sugar, how much whole grains and it is very limited on what you can purchase. It is a very big undertaking at this point.

Meeting Ended 7:55 pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Billie Paquette

Board Approved: February 10, 2025

