

Pittsburg School Board Meeting Minutes

Date	February 11, 2019
Time	6:00 p.m.
Location	Pittsburg School Conference Room
Chairperson	Toby Owen

Attendance

Attendance Legend: **P** – Present **E** – Excused Absence **A** – Absent

School Board Members				Principals		SAU Members	
P	Lindsey Gray	P	Reginald Parker	P	Elaine Sherry	P	Bruce Beasley
P	Bob Ormsbee	P	Billie Paquette			P	Cheryl Covill
P	Toby Owen						

Public in Attendance: Dan Lepine, Dan Wade, Eugene Cote (Canaan School Board); John Wade; Heather Mitchell; Dawn Pettit; Tammy Jeralds

Minutes

Item	Subject	Action
1.	The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chairperson, T. Owen and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance	
2.	<p>Hearing of the Public:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representatives from the Canaan School Board entered the meeting at 6:10 p.m. to discuss the Open Gym policy and Sunday practice. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Suggestion: Principals and Athletic Directors should work on an amended policy to present to the School Boards. <p>Consensus of the School Board is to have the Principals and Athletic Directors from Pittsburg and Canaan develop a policy for open gym out of season and present to both districts' school boards.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canaan School Board requested that Pittsburg School Board revisit the hiring of one Athletic Director and Game Manager for next year. <p>Dan Lepine, Dan Wade, Eugene Cote (Canaan School Board members) and John Wade (Dan Wade's son) left the meeting at 6:30 p.m.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heather Mitchell entered the meeting at 6:38 p.m. to discuss hiring and retention of substitute teachers. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Heather shared her experiences as a substitute teacher and the challenges that are encountered: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Not having knowledge of the subject matter being taught (such as foreign languages, technical classes, etc.) 2. Being called the morning of the day you are needed 3. Being creative and flexible 4. Do not always having lesson plans to reference 5. Walking in to an unfamiliar atmosphere and culture 6. Respect of the students 7. Ability to be a good manager (or better manager) than the classroom teacher 8. Substitute teachers are not recognized as part of the staff 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Heather submitted four ideas to help substitute teachers <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop a training program specifically for substitute teaching; a paid, half-day session prior to the first day of a new substitute’s employment 2. Assign a mentor for each substitute teacher in the school to use as a resource when the substitute teacher has a question or requires guidance 3. Schedule a “meet and greet” at the beginning of the school year for permanent staff members to meet substitute staff members; brief discussions on expectations. 4. Create a “sliding” pay scale based on the substitute’s education level; eligible substitutes would receive a pay raise after X number of successful days worked within the school year. <p>Heather Mitchell left the meeting at 6:46 p.m.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dawn Pettit entered the meeting at 6:50 p.m. to discuss concerns about the Connecticut River Collaborative Exploratory Committee. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Pittsburg staff was told they could not serve on the Committee; however, teachers are on the committee ○ PowerPoint presentation states that staff and students were surveyed. Dawn is not aware of survey of staff. ○ Student Council presented courses to be offered but not about a “regional” plan; however, Canaan students and staff have been discussing a “regional” plan. ○ Opportunities that must be considered <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Running Start must be offered by teachers with a Master’s degree if consolidation results in teaching positions being eliminated 2. Transportation: Mileage may reflect only 9-10 miles from school; however, that could mean an hour on the bus 3. Top honors students – Valedictorian and Salutatorian would lose the New Hampshire free tuition opportunities. 4. NH Scholars: Opportunities are lost if attending Vermont 5. Canaan students are eligible for free tuition and NH students are not 6. Canaan does not have a school-to-work program ● Tammy Jeralds entered the meeting at 7:10 p.m. <p>Dawn Pettit left the meeting at 7:15 p.m.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● As the Advisor for grades 7 and 8, Tammy asked the board if they have individual fund raisers or a combined number of fund raisers. <p>Board Consensus: Fundraisers will remain separate as in the past.</p> <p>Tammy Jeralds left the meeting at 7:30 p.m.</p>	
3.	Agenda Adjustments: None	

4.	Reading of the Minutes: <u>B. Ormsbee / B. Paquette:</u> Motion to accept the minutes of January 28, 2019 as presented.	Vote: Unanimous
5.	Policy Review: None	
6.	Special Reports: None	
7.	School Administrator's Report: Elaine Sherry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Events: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Senior night was held Friday, February 8th in Pittsburg ○ The Pittsburg Poker Run is scheduled for February 23rd ○ The class of 2021 held a bake sale on Saturday, February 9th at Young's Store ○ The last Swim & Skate session is next Friday ○ E. Sherry is working with the students on revising the cell phone policy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Student Council will attend the next Board meeting to present the revised cell phone policy 	
8.	Superintendent's Report: Bruce Beasley <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Collaborative Committee hosted the second of its four forums on January 24 in Stewartstown. The format for this forum was the same as the one held in Canaan earlier. The feedback from those in attendance was similar to the Canaan forum feedback. Many of the questions that are being asked are the same questions identified by the committee. These are terrific questions that feed right into the warrant article for further research. Future forums are February 12 in Colebrook and February 18 in Pittsburg. All meetings are scheduled to begin at 6:30 pm. • The Professional Development Team is now in the planning stages for March 22nd. Originally there was a plan to have Justice Broderick attend as a keynote speaker but the committee had decided that it will be best if we invite him on a day when he can address students and then meet with staff. Nicole Highmark from NHSBA is expected to be in attendance to share the Code of Ethics and the Code of Conduct legislation with staff. • The basketball teams are looking like they will qualify for post season play. I think the girls are in pretty good shape while the boys' team sits on the bubble. It will be a great boost to the programs if they can make it into tournament play. • There are a few bills being discussed in Concord that may be of interest to you. Please monitor these bills as they progress and let me know if you have questions - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ HB 177 - relative to the calculation of stabilization grants. This proposal would freeze the reduction in stabilization at the 2018 level for the next biennium. It is difficult to imagine that stabilization funds can be restored to previous levels but at least this will help going forward. ○ HB 184 - relative to the calculation of Kindergarten students in the ADM funding based on Keno revenues. This bill would repeal the reliance upon Keno as a revenue source and include full-day K students in the ADM calculation, similar to other students. ○ SB 97 - This bill is new to my radar but I feel it is worth watching. This bill appears to prevent other medical options 	

	<p>from expanding in the area in an attempt to limit the amount of competition for patients, which in turn increases the health insurance costs. I encourage you to pay attention to this bill and to ask any questions that you have. I anticipate that Barrett Christina will address this issue in his upcoming address to the North Country Superintendents.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I attended a workshop on Monday (2/4) to hear from the Education Committee Chairmen on several pieces of legislation as well as a few other things taking place in Concord. The afternoon was geared towards understanding the legislation that surrounds data security. The meeting was informative and I will provide a verbal update at our meeting. • B. Beasley provided an update on SB 93 from Barrett Christina 	
9.	<p>Business Administrator's Report: Cheryl Covill</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farm-to-School brochure is complete and has been distributed to the community. • Discussed the terms and conditions of the Consolidated Communications contract for the new phone system. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A three-year agreement was proposed. ○ The contract has been reviewed by our attorney <p><u>T. Owen / R. Parker:</u> Motion to approve entering into a three-year agreement with Consolidated Communications for installation of phone lines.</p>	Vote: Unanimous
10.	<p>Connecticut River Collaborative Exploratory Committee Report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • B. Ormsbee stated that he has been asked by the Committee not to present at the Pittsburg Community Forum • R. Parker asked B. Beasley if the Collaborative Meetings are legal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ B. Beasley did not know but stated he has no decision-making authority • The Board discussed when questions will be answered and responses provided to the communities • Discussed why three models were not presented to each community 	
11.	<p>Unfinished Business:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None 	
12.	<p>New Business:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scholarship Donation form: An SAU #7-wide Scholarship Donation form has been developed to allow school districts to receive scholarship funds and trust funds. <p><u>B. Paquette / L. Gray:</u> Motion to approve the Scholarship form with a minor revision (remove the school name in the document)</p>	Vote: Unanimous
13.	<p>Other Business:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None 	
14.	<p>Meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connecticut River Collaborative Exploratory Committee Public Forum: 2/18/19 at 6:30 p.m. • Pittsburg School Board Meeting: February 25, 2019 • Pittsburg Annual District Meeting: March 6, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. 	

15.	<u>R. Parker / B. Paquette:</u> Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m.	Vote: Unanimous
Respectfully Submitted by: Cheryl Covill, Business Administrator		