

# SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2012

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PITTSVILLE

## OFFICIAL SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

### I. Call to Order

A regular monthly meeting of the Pittsville School Board of Education was held on Monday, February 13, 2012. The meeting was called to order by President Strenn at 7:00 p.m. in the Conference Center.

### II. Establish Quorum

Members present: Jane Wesely, Connie Potter, Lisa Schulz, Julie Strenn, and MaryAnn Lippert. Administration present: Terry Reynolds, District Administrator; John Olig, High School Principal; Jeff Gast, Finance Director; and Joe Dostal, Food Services Director.

### III. Meeting Notice Certification

Meeting notice was posted on the doors at the Elementary School, High School, and Administration area and meeting notice was sent to the official newspaper, the *Wisconsin Rapids Daily Tribune* and also to the *Marshfield News Herald* and the *Pittsville Record*.

### IV. Approval of Agenda

Motion was made by Lisa Schulz, seconded by Jane Wesely, to approve the agenda for the February 13, 2012 meeting of the Pittsville School Board of Education. Motion carried.

### V. Public Comments - no public comments.

### VI. iPad Demonstration

Gina Zickert and Sarah Freedlund provided the Board with an iPad demonstration on different apps that they use in their classrooms and how these devices are now being used as teaching and learning tools for students.

### VII. Strategic Planning Presentation - Improving Student Achievement Action Plan

Mark Denniston, the chairperson for Improving Student Achievement Action Plan, explained the action plan initiatives.

Motion was made by MaryAnn Lippert, seconded by Jane Wesely, to approve the Strategic Plan with timelines as presented. Motion carried.

### VIII. Consent Agenda Items

- A. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 9, 2012
- B. General Fund Invoices
- C. Approve Updates to School Board Open Enrollment Policies: 423, 423-Rule
- D. 2012 Spring Election
  - 1) Approve Paper Ballots for Town of City Point and Town of Finley
  - 2) Approve Board of Canvassers
- E. Approve Academic Excellence Scholarship Representative

Motion was made by Connie Potter, seconded by Lisa Schulz, to approve the consent agenda items. Motion carried.

### IX. Financial

#### A. Financial Status of the District

A handout of the financial status of the District was presented and discussed with the Board.

#### B. 2012-2013 Budget Discussion

The deficit is down to approximately \$179,000. We will have information about Health Insurance costs in March.

**C. January 13, 2012 Membership Count**

Pupil Count indicated a gain of three students from the September Count. The District has a total of 647 students attending our school.

**X. Reports**

**A. Elementary School**

- To break up the winter doldrums at the elementary school, we are switching it up during February. Special Dress Up Days are planned throughout the month. We just celebrated favorite sport team day and are looking forward to the others---dress your best day, pajama day, hat, tie and shade day, and twin day.
  - Our first grade students traveled to Lucille Tack Center to see the play "Are you My Mommy"
  - Forensics competed in Arcadia on February 6<sup>th</sup>. We had 49 students participate. 44 of them will continue on in a competition in Eau Claire on Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup>.
  - IXL training was held on Feb 6<sup>th</sup> from 3-4:00 p.m. Several teachers attended to learn how they can use this math program to the benefit of their students. New flash--Mrs. Niemann's group to this point have completed 20,000 problems using this program, logging 100 hours already. This program is accessible to students using their home computers. Questions, please ask your child's teacher on how it is being used in their classroom.
  - Golden Awards and Panther Diner was won by Mrs. Wanda Neve's group this month.
  - PBIS store open this week. Mrs. Hiles volunteers her time once a month or so to open this opportunity up to the students.
  - Farm to School will be here for 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students on February 10<sup>th</sup>.
  - Parent Workshop-Partners In Print will be held on Feb. 10<sup>th</sup> and Feb. 13<sup>th</sup>
  - 4Kgn screening will be held on Feb 16<sup>th</sup> and Feb 20<sup>th</sup>.
  - A Junior High Dance will be on Feb. 17<sup>th</sup>
  - Students will be treated to two lyceums this month: Korean dance on Feb 20<sup>th</sup> and Birds of Prey on the 21<sup>st</sup>. The Birds of Prey lyceum is sponsored by the FFA.
  - Parent-Teacher Conferences will be held on Feb 23<sup>rd</sup>.
  - Our Fit-tastic program is set to end on Feb 29<sup>th</sup>. We had approximately 30 kids participate in this winter program. This is more than double what has participated in the past!
  - Our 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students will be traveling to Stevens Point for their annual planetarium trip on February 29<sup>th</sup> as well.
  - Mrs. Niedfeldt's students just finished a poetry unit. Their study culminated in the students choosing their favorite poem and transforming it into an animoto slide show!
  - And finally, our 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students had two guest speakers this month---Justin Lowe and Mr. Science (Bob Wolff) taught them about the weather.
- **Senior High School**
- The high school students began second semester on January 24. This is a great opportunity to recap some of the successes in the first half of the school year.
  - Involvement in the on-line classes was a success for our eight students involved in the ten classes. For the most part, these courses prepare students for the Advanced Placement Tests. The students do miss the traditional feedback of the classroom teacher, but appreciate the opportunity to take classes otherwise not offered at Pittsville High School. Our students did well grade wise in these courses. Self-pacing is one of the more difficult skills our students learned during this course work.
  - This semester, we have seven students taking ten classes. Two new students will be involved in the AP Psychology Class. AP Psychology is the most popular on-line class. This semester class has been taken by six of our students. We are expecting our ten students involved in on-line learning to participate in 12 Advanced Placement Tests.
  - Last year, we ordered a total of 25 AP Tests. Approximately 20 of these Advanced Placement Tests were English Literature, English Composition, or United States History. The students complete the AP curriculum for these classes in course offerings at Pittsville High School. One of my goals, at the start of the school year, was to see an increase in the number of students taking AP tests as well as an increase in the number of AP tests being taken. It is anticipated

that approximately 35 AP tests will be taken by our students this year. This would be a 40% percent increase from last year.

- Another goal for the year was to increase the number of classes offered to prepare students for AP Testing. AP Psychology is our most popular on-line course offering. Todd Steward is developing an Advanced Psychology course to meet the AP Psychology Curriculum. Our Social Interaction Course taught by Robert Piotrowski would be an introductory course. John Downs is developing an Advanced European History class. Western Civilization I and II would be the introductory classes for this new AP offering. Mark Denniston is reviewing the curriculum in an existing class, Advanced Chemistry, to eventually change the title to AP Chemistry.
- Next year we will begin alternating AP English Language and AP Literature. We have not offered AP English Language for a number of years. When they were both offered, AP Literature and AP Language were semester long courses.
- AP classes are a great fit with the new Common Core Curriculum. One of the benefits of preparing students for the advanced placement tests is the emphasis on content area writing. Writing in the content area is a consistent theme in the Common Core. Advanced placement tests have always been an asset in preparing students for college writing.
- These new classes were listed on the course offerings students could register for in the 2012-13 school year. You might notice, these new offerings use the word "advanced" in the course title. Eventually we hope to have the title include the words "advanced placement". However, we cannot title a class Advanced Placement until our curriculum is approved by the College Board. The College Board is the company which provides the Advanced Placement Tests.
- Another new addition to Pittsville High School this past year has been the SCING Distance Learning Network. Last semester students participated in World at War, The Holocaust, AP Calculus, and Anatomy & Physiology. AP Calculus and Anatomy & Physiology are year-long classes. The students who participated in these classes enjoyed the offerings and were successful grade wise. This semester the new offerings include Mythology, Street Law, and Criminal & Civil Law. This gives us three new course offerings for our students.
- The Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) testing is given to the freshmen and sophomores this year. Most will complete the second round of testing during the week of February 5. The important aspect of this round of MAP testing is that our students will be able to compare their results from the first round of testing to determine their academic growth in Reading, Language Arts and Math during the 2011/12 school year. The MAP testing should be completed by February 17.
- As many of you are aware, we introduced the concept of block scheduling to our students with the start of course registration, which began on January 31. On February 17, Mark Denniston, Todd Steward, Robert Piotrowski, Aneva Petersen, and Julia Backaus will visit Elk Mound High School with ten student leaders to investigate the block schedule. The visit will allow staff and students to experience the block schedule in a school comparable in size to Pittsville High School. The students invited to attend this experience were nominated by the staff. It is our hope that the students will speak to their peers about the block schedule after returning from Elk Mound. A number of staff members participated in a similar visit to Edgar High School.
- February 10 was the first performance of the high school play, *Just Another High School Play*. The scenario is that the night of performance has arrived with students not prepared, at all. In fact, the stage manager and assistant director do not even know the name of the play. Their director, Ms. Sarah Freedlund, has left the country. The drama club must improvise. Improvise they do...acting out scenes from several great, and not so great, plays from the history of theater including: *Hamlet*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *The Little Shop of Horrors*, *Our Town* (with a few accommodations to 'our town' Pittsville, *Little Women* (or in our case, *Little Men*), as well as many others. The students viewed the play during 7th and 8th hours on Friday. Students in grades 6 through 12 were invited to this play which featured an interactive audience. The second performance was Friday evening. Additional performances were on February 11 and 12.

## **XI. District Administrator Report**

### **A. Approve Utility Easements-City of Pittsville**

Motion was made by Lisa Schulz, seconded by Connie Potter, to approve a 25' utility easement along the walking trail between 2nd and 3rd Street, to allow for a new water line in the city. Motion carried.

**B. Discussion on School Board Governance Development-Self Assessment**

A special meeting will be held on April 21 at 12:30 pm to discuss and develop strategic board goals.

**C. Sunday Use of School Facilities**

The Board discussed developing a District policy concerning use of school facilities on Sundays. More information and samples will be provided to the Board for their consideration.

**D. Future Food Service Considerations**

Discussion on the school lunch program and the drop in revenues and student participation. Joe Dostal, Food Service Director, was present to discuss possible changes to the food service program to help bring more financial stability to the food service budget.

**E. Establish Number of Available Spaces for Regular and Special Needs Open Enrollment Students**

Motion was made by Connie Potter, seconded by MaryAnn Lippert, to approve the administrations recommendations for available spaces for regular and special needs open enrollment students for the 2012-13 school year.

**XII. WASB Convention Discussion**

The Board discussed information from the State School Board Convention in January.

**XIII. The Board will move into Closed Session pursuant to Wisconsin State Statute**

Motion was made by Jane Wesely, seconded by Connie Potter, to move into Closed Session as per Wisconsin State Statute. President Julie Strenn directed the Clerk to take a roll call vote:

Jane Wesely	Yes	Lisa Schulz	Yes	MaryAnn Lippert	Yes
Connie Potter	Yes	Julie Strenn	Yes		

**1) Personnel and Other Related Matters -19.85(1)(c)**

**a) Consideration of Initial Notice of Possible Non-Renewal of Employment Contracts**

**XIV. Move out of Closed Session**

Motion was made by MaryAnn Lippert, seconded by Lisa Schulz, to move out of closed session. Motion carried.

**XV. Act upon Closed Sessions - no action taken.**

**XVI. Adjourn**

Motion was made by Connie Potter, seconded by Jane Wesely, to adjourn at 10:40 p.m. Motion carried.

---

*Connie Potter, Clerk*