

SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

MONDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2010

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, December 13, 2010. The meeting was called to order by President Wesely at 7:00 p.m. in the Conference Center.

II. Establish Quorum

Members present: Jane Wesely, Connie Potter, MaryAnn Lippert, Julie Strenn, and Lisa Schulz. Administration present: Terry Reynolds, District Administrator; John Olig, High School Principal; Jeff Gast, Finance Director; Chris Nepper, Computer Technologies; and Joe Dostal, Food Service 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 MaryAnn Lippert, to approve the agenda for the December 13, 2010 Regular Meeting of the Pittsville School Board of Education as presented. Motion carried.

V. Public Comments - no public comments.

VI. Student/Staff Reports - PBIS Presentation by Staff

Marlis Downs, Rae Ann Leonhardt, Becky Coon, Bonnie Hedstrom, Jan Hiles, and Heidi Sischo provided information and answered questions that the Board had on PBIS at the High School and Elementary.

VII. Consent Agenda Items

- A. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 8, 2010
- B. General Fund Invoices
- C. Updates to Student Policy 423.62: Open Enrollment, Acceptance/Rejection Criteria

Motion was made by Julie Strenn, seconded by Connie Potter, to approve all items on the consent agenda as submitted. Motion carried

VIII. Financial

A. Financial Status of the District

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

IX. Reports

A. Director of Buildings and Grounds

- We had a failure on the speed drive at the high school. The speed drive operates the pumps that circulate the hot water for building heat. As of this time, the equipment is operating fine, but we will need to update equipment in the future to insure a backup to the existing speed drive.
- The new John Deere 1445 mower had to have gears replaced in the transmission. The shift lever would not allow the gears to mesh completely and created a problem. The work was covered under warranty.
- The new card lock system should be installed by December 11. After testing and preparing keycards, the system should be operational.
- To get a wider view of possible solutions to the heating and cooling systems at the elementary primary wing, we will get ideas and costs from two local companies. This should aid in knowing what may be accomplished within the funds available.

B. Food Services

- We are working on bringing in locally grown fruits and vegetables. The elementary students during lunch were able to sample four varieties of apples grown in central Wisconsin. The week of December 6th we featured two of the four types apples at lunch. Unfortunately, we will only be able to do this once this year because we are at the end of the apple season. Some of the other local items we plan on sampling and then serving in the cafeteria are potatoes, cabbage, maple glazed carrots, dried cranberries, fresh spinach, and baby turnips. The plan is to feature one new item a month.
- Breakfast counts are still low at the high school averaging 50 and at the Elementary at 110. As the weather gets colder, we may see an increase in participation.

C. Computer Technologies

- **Backup Server** - Our backup server, which does backups of our data every night to external hard drives, has now been moved to the high school. This essentially provides us with full off-site backup. If something should happen to the elementary server room destroying our servers (such as a fire), our data backups are secure at the high school. A weekly backup of our data on an external hard drive is also kept in a fireproof cabinet in my office.
- **Electronic Door Locks** - Mr. Nepper has been working with the company who have been installing the electronic door lock & card reader system. They have been running network and power cables from the doors to our network wiring closets in each building.
- **E-Rate Filing to begin** - It is that time of year again to start the process of applying for next year's E-rate discounts. Due to expected changes in the program the filing deadlines are likely to be pushed back to the end of February or early March. We will again be applying for discounts on telephone and Internet access.

D. Elementary School

- On November 23rd a team of teachers from the elementary including Sue Walloch, Tracy Neve, and Susanne Niehaus along with JoAnn Sondelski participated in the Common Core English Language investigation training conducted by CESA 5 staff. The participants were trained on how to review the common core and will be assisting in this process in the district. Elementary teachers have prepared their professional development plans to focus on study of the common core standards. The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction is urging all districts to use this year for the study of the standards in anticipation of full implementation by 2014.
- Additionally, on December 14th, another team of teachers will be trained on the common core standards in math. Participants from the elementary school will be Wanda Neve, Fay Niemann, Nancy Brux, Gloria Young, Karlette Kumm, and JoAnn Sondelski. This training will be held in Stevens Point.
- The elementary play was a huge success. Congratulations to all of the 78 children who participated in this production. Mrs. Sanken and Miss Janz did an excellent job in directing this group of actors/actresses in presenting a production we can all be proud of.
- Junior High Forensics is set to begin the week of December 6th.
- We are looking forward to the 6-8 grade band and choir concert. We have 44 6-8th grade chorus members and the 52 6-8th band students who participate in these two programs at the elementary. In other music news: 6th grade music completed unit on making instruments and using them to create sound effects from a thunder storm. 5th graders are doing a unit on playing recorders. Jr. High students will soon be choosing music for solo/ensemble.
- We are looking forward to our Primary Winter Concert at December 17th. The program will begin at 1:00 p.m. in our auditorium.
- A team of teachers from the elementary school including Jodie Sanken, Doug Schultz, Gloria Young, and Wanda Neve along with JoAnn Sondelski will attend the SLATE conference in Wisconsin Dells on December 8 and 9. This will provide time for the team to learn about the many ways that districts from across the state and country are implementing and integrating technology into their curriculums.
- Leslie Niedfeldt's class has a book buddy program with Mrs. Zickert's students at the high school. They meet once a week and the kids read books with each other. Monthly field trips together such as bowling, the Christmas shopping trip, tours of local businesses, and we are also planning on having the High School students make lunch for the little ones. It has been a very positive experience for both classes.

- The December Coffee and Conversation with the Principal was attended by 5 parents. Topics covered included PBIS, classroom placements for next year, the looping room, and the school garden. The parent library was made available to parents at this time as well. This will become a regular part of the “conversation” at future meetings.
- Winners of the Panther Diner this month were Mrs. Denniston’s 2nd grade classroom. They were honored guests on Monday, December 6th.
- Two informational meetings on PBIS will be offered to parents on December 9th. Meetings will be held in the school library at 5:15 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Members of the PBIS team from the elementary school will be presenting.
- From all of us to all of you—we wish you a very blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year!

E. Senior High School

- We are looking forward to the Christmas break. Time seems to be only going faster as we approach the new year.
- One of the big items on the horizon is the process of scheduling. Teachers have been notified about making course changes; all course changes will be turned in to Mrs. Backaus by Friday, January 7. Following this, students will receive course booklets and registration sheets to use in planning for next year’s courses. I want to bring attention to this topic now in hopes that parents will have discussions with their son or daughter about his/her classes next year.
- Students will begin pre-registration for classes shortly after the end of 1st semester. Once pre-registration for classes is complete, that information is used to create class sections. If only a few students sign up for a particular class there is a high probability that this class will not be offered. It is important that students have an alternate class picked out. The pre-registration process is important because the students’ choices at this time determine the classes offered next year.
- At the beginning of February, we will start building the master schedule for the 2011-2012 school year. The schedule should be complete by mid February. Students will then meet with Mrs. Backaus to complete their schedule. We hope to have all students scheduled by the beginning of March.
- Mr. Olig encourages parents to talk to their child about his/her plans for the future. All too often students make choices aligned with their classmates or friends. This is a problem when friends change and class choices are not aligned with their future.
- Last year we required students to have signed paperwork from their parent(s) and their instructor(s) for all advanced classes. This requirement is in place to ensure that students who sign up for these classes are in the proper classes to be successful. We don’t want students signing up for classes where they will be overmatched for the sake of convenience. We want students taking classes appropriate for their ability. Please refer to the course description handbook for a complete listing of classes that fall under this requirement.
- While on the topic of scheduling I need to mention the value of AP classes. We have had seniors leave Pittsville High School having passed three AP tests. These students have received up to 12 college credits which equates to a full semester of college. Advanced Placement tests cost a student \$86.00 per test. This option can save a perspective college student a large amount of money as they begin college. More importantly, the time saved can reduce the stress of college.
- Last year Olivia Wesely passed three AP classes. Summer Wilke passed four AP classes. AP tests are scored on a scale of 1 to 5. A score of a 3 is considered passing for most Universities, however some require a score of 4. Both Summer and Olivia are considered students of distinction due to their success on the Advanced Placement Tests. If your child is looking at a 4 year college, I encourage you to talk to your child about signing up for AP classes. The tests are not easy but, if your child is interested and willing to work hard, passing these tests can save time and money.

X. District Administrator Report

A. Set Date and Time for Determining Ballot Order of Election Candidates Names

The drawing for ballot order will take place on January 5, at 8:30 a.m. in the Administration Office.

B. Elementary AHU/Roof Replacement Study

The Board received information from Grumman and Butkus Associates on the four options for the replacement of the Primary wing AHU/roof. The options ranged in price from \$1.16 million to \$1.55 million, all of which far exceed the budgeted amounts for this year. The Board discussed possible options they now have with this information, and will further investigate these options at next month’s meeting.

C. Distance Learning Lab and Greenhouse Projects Update

The Board received costing estimates for replacing the greenhouse at the high school (\$12,000-21,000), and the addition of a Distance Learning Lab (\$45,000).

D. Strategic Planning Discussion

The Board discussed their individual Board Goals for Board Governance. They will discuss these further in January. The Goals are centered around the five District Goals: 1) Strengthen Communication and Partnerships, 2) Improve Student Achievement, 3) Expect Excellence and Personal Integrity, 4) Maintain Safe, Healthy and Welcoming Environment, 5) Sustain Financial Viability.

E. School Forest Committee Update

A School Forest Grant Committee is working on a \$30,000 WEEB Grant which is due in late January. The grant proposal will assist in developing Environmental Education professional development, classroom supplies and resources, and construction of a teaching shelter in the School Forest.

F. PEP Grant Update

The 2011 grant process will begin in January and February with Dr. Joy Ebben again assisting in the process for the District.

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

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

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

Purpose: 1) Personnel Issues - 19.85(1)(c)

XII. Move out of Closed Session

Motion was made by Julie Strenn, seconded by Connie Potter, to move out of closed session. Motion carried.

XIV. Act upon Closed Sessions - No action taken.

IX. Adjourn

Motion was made by Lisa Schulz, seconded by Julie Strenn, to adjourn at 9:45 p.m. Motion carried.

Connie Potter, Clerk