

SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
MONDAY, APRIL 9, 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, April 9, 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, Lisa Schulz, Julie Strenn, MaryAnn Lippert, and Connie Potter. Administration present: Terry Reynolds, District Administrator; John Olig, High School Principal; and Jeff Gast, Finance 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 Jane Wesely, seconded by Lisa Schulz, to approve the agenda for the April 9, 2012 meeting of the Pittsville School Board of Education. Motion carried.

V. Public Comments - no public comments.

VI. Consent Agenda Items

- A. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 12, 2012
- B. Minutes of the Special Meeting of March 19, 2012
- C. Minutes of the Special Meeting of March 26, 2012
- D. General Fund Invoices
- E. Approve CESA 5 Service Contract 2012-13
- F. Approve Resignation of Elementary School Health Director/Administrative Assistant

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

The Board thanked Mrs. Cramer for her four years of service to the district.

VII. Financial

A. Financial Status of the District

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

B. 2012-13 Budget Update and Discussion

Administration announced that with the proposed Health Insurance changes, the 2012-13 budget would be balanced. No staffing reductions for budgetary reasons will be necessary.

C. Consider Employee Health Insurance Changes

Motion was made by Jane Wesely, seconded by MaryAnn Lippert, to change employee health insurance to WEA effective July 1, 2012. Motion carried.

VIII. Reports

A. Elementary School

- We have been moving forward throughout the school year. Our upcoming calendar clearly depicts the positive way we interact with the students we have here and integrate opportunities throughout our curriculum.

- Several 6th grade students will be participating in College for Kids at UWSP on April 13. This day gives students not only an opportunity to see what college is about, but provides them with insight into the leadership and academic skills that they need to develop in order to be successful in junior high and beyond. This opportunity is afforded the students through the work of Doug Schultz who coordinates this event for those involved.
- Our 3rd grade students are planning their annual trip to the Wood County Landfill. While such an excursion may bring questions as to why a “trip to the dump,” we know that the students come back with a keen awareness for the environment. The massive amounts of waste that are processed in this landfill opens their eyes of the need to reduce, recycle and reuse.
- On April 26, the focus of environmental education continues with our Looping Classroom and our 2nd grade students walking to Riverside Park here in Pittsville to plant a tree with Mr. Robert Wolff as a part of our commemoration of Arbor Day. The students will also learn about trees and the environment from Mr. Wolff.
- Our 8th grade students will once again participate in the Reality Store, a venture offered by the MACC. It will be held in Marshfield at the Junior High/Middle School. Students learn the complexities of adult life—having a job, caring for a family and paying the bills. Our goal with their participation is that they will come away with a keen awareness of the need to get a good education to prepare them for life.
- Our Partners in Print program sponsored by the Title One program will be held on April 16.
- I hope you had a chance to attend the Art Show and Learning Fair to get a firsthand look at the work of our students. Awesome art work and learning was presented. Congratulations to all of our teachers! These events clearly demonstrate your commitment to our students and their learning.
- Cindy Schooley is beginning a book club for students in Grades 5-8. She sent out suggestions for books and students signed up for the book that they would be interested in reading and discussing with their fellow club members. Way to get kids reading for fun, Cindy!
- Our junior high teachers will be traveling to Edgar on April 10th to learn about block scheduling and how it is implemented at the junior high level. We appreciate Edgar Schools being so willing to accommodate our visit.
- Technology at the Elementary School---You bet! On the Pittsville for Staff webpage there is a wiki that staff can use to ask questions and share apps for the iPads. The wiki is interactive so staff can answer questions and help each other out. This is a great way for the elementary staff to collaborate and share what they are doing with the iPads. The link to this wiki is: <http://pittsvilleipad.wikispaces.com/>
- And finally---Congratulations to Jennifer Petersen who is our Crystal Apple Teacher of Distinction! We are proud of her and the work that she does with the 4 year old kindergarten program.

B. Senior High School

- On March 21, about 25 parents, staff, and district residents attended the informational meeting on block scheduling. A survey was provided to all those who attended the meeting. At the start of the meeting, eight responded as in favor of the block schedule, ten responded as neutral, and three respond as unsure of their feelings towards the block schedule. After the presentation, 14 responded to be in favor of the block schedule, six were neutral, and one response was unsure. No one at the meeting was opposed to the block schedule. During the informational meeting on the block schedule, the parents asked about the timeline for the process of schedule completion.
- The next step is to begin completing the schedule of our students in a block schedule. Mrs. Backaus completed the schedule on March 26. On March 29, Mrs. Backaus met with the juniors about the new schedule. She showed the juniors how their present course requests fit the block schedule and how their schedules would be filled out. In addition, Mrs. Backaus spoke about courses, which were changed since the initial requests were entered. A similar meeting occurred with the sophomores on March 30. The freshmen and 8th graders will be meeting with Mrs. Backaus after break.
- The final schedules will begin with the juniors after the students and staff return from spring break. After the juniors schedules are filled Mrs. Backaus will move to the sophomores. The process will conclude with the 8th graders. This process will take approximately three weeks.

- Another concern voiced during the informational meeting pertained to preparing teachers to teach in the block format. Most of the high school staff has already visited a school operating with a block schedule. During the in-service on May 14, we are looking at providing staff with training, this could be in the form of a speaker and/or staff time to discuss the use of skinnies and teaming areas.
- Mrs. Backaus has been quite creative in developing a schedule which will allow all students to be in class all day. For example, weight lifting is taught one semester during the block with band and choir. A student who is in choir will take weightlifting during the “skinny” portion of that period when band is offered. The schedule would allow for similar possibilities with students in foods, art, or business classes. Again, this answered a concern asked during the informational meeting. Mrs. Backaus has posted a template on the website to show and explain the course changes.
- One of the points that was addressed throughout the informational meeting was the new learning curve. When we asked for the original course requests, we were operating under a system (the 8 period day) which the high school will no longer be using. The scheduling procedure will change as the district implements the block schedule. For example, next year if a student completes Spanish I first semester and if numbers permit that student will be allowed to move into Spanish II second semester. The adoption of the Common Core and their subsequent implementation in all content areas will create change. We are currently preparing students for the WKCE. The eighth graders will need to prepare for the Common Core, which will require more problem solving skills. This is another area where the old model (the WKCE) will be replaced with a new model (the Smarter Balanced Assessment). I feel strongly that the block schedule will facilitate the implementing of the Common Core and the Smarter Balanced Assessments.
- I want to close by speaking about one area which was stressed during the block scheduling meeting, that being the RTI period. The RTI period can help students receive needed assistance in classes where the student is struggling. The RTI period can also be used to prepare students for AP or ACT testing. Another use of the RTI period will be to help sophomores prepare for the WKCE. This is especially critical for the sophomores who will not be scheduled into content areas like Biology, Geometry or English 10 during the first semester. For example, half of the sophomores will not be in Biology first semester. Their Biology course is second semester. The RTI time will allow for refresher throughout September and October for these students. Another question about the RTI period pertains to the assignment of students to a teacher. This will be short term placements. If a student needs assistance in Math, the student will be assigned to his or her Math teacher. Once the student has met the prescribed curriculum the student will be released from this assignment.

IX. District Administrator Report

A. Consider Dropping Driver’s Education Program

Motion was made by Connie Potter, seconded by Lisa Schulz, to approve dropping the Driver’s Education program sponsored by the School through CESA 5 beginning this summer with the understanding the decision will be re-evaluated in two years. Motion carried.

B. 2012-13 Employee Handbook Discussion

The School Board discussed the 2012-13 Employee Handbook. Meetings will be scheduled for staff members to receive their input. Final approval of the Handbook will be made in June.

C. 2012 School Board Election - Administer Oath of Office to Elected Board Member

Julie Strenn took the oath of office to finalize the School Board election process.

X. The Board will move into Closed Session pursuant to Wisconsin State Statute 19.85(1)(c)

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		

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

XI. Move out of Closed Session

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

XII. Act upon Closed Sessions - no action taken.

XIII. Adjourn

Motion was made by Jane Wesely, seconded by Lisa Schulz, to adjourn at 9:30 p.m. Motion carried.

Connie Potter, Clerk