

SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2011

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 14, 2011. 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, Lisa Schulz, with Julie Strenn excused. Administration present: Terry Reynolds, District Administrator; John Olig, High School Principal; Jeff Gast, Finance Director. Excused: JoAnn Sondelski, Elementary Principal; Dick Koshall, Director of Buildings and Grounds; 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 MaryAnn Lippert, seconded by Lisa Schulz, to approve the agenda for the February 14, 2011 Regular Meeting of the Pittsville School Board of Education as amended. Item X was moved to after Closed Session. Motion carried.

V. Public Comments - no public comments.

VI. Consent Agenda Items

- A. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 10, 2011
- B. General Fund Invoices
- C. 2011 Spring Election
 - 1) Approve Paper Ballots for Town of City Point and Town of Finley
 - 2) Approve Board of Canvassers
- D. CESA 5 2011-12 Contract
- E. Academic Excellence Scholarship

Motion was made by Lisa Schulz, seconded by MaryAnn Lippert, to approve Items A-D on the consent agenda as submitted. Motion carried

Motion was made by Connie Potter, seconded by Lisa Schulz to approve Item E (Academic Excellence Scholarship recipient) on the consent agenda. Motion carried with Jane Wesely abstaining.

VI. Financial

A. Financial Status of the District

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

B. Preliminary 2011-2012 Budget

Governor Walker's 2011-13 budget will not be released until February 22. We are waiting to hear what amount of aids will be cut from our budget. We currently are \$140,000 from a balanced budget with the numbers we currently have. Much depends upon what the legislature does in the coming weeks.

C. January 14, 2011 Membership Count

January Pupil Count was 633. This is up four students from the September count.

VIII. Reports

A. Elementary School

- The Junior High has received a Target Field Trip Scholarship for \$700 which will be used to go to The Mead Wildlife Center in May. There students will learn about the history of the site. They will also examine the three ecosystems that exist on the site along with the great variety of species of plants and animals. Students will learn about the importance of swamps and marshes for water recharge into our groundwater system, first hand. All of these things are part of the science curriculum. After the wildlife visit students will eat out at either a Spanish or Chinese restaurant to coordinate with the ethnic study curriculum. Thanks to Mrs. Kumm for applying for this grant to help enrich the educational experience for our students.
- To break up the winter doldrums at the elementary school, we are switching it up during February. Special dress up days will help us chase away the winter blues: Feb 4 Sports Day; Feb 10 Pajama Day; Feb 16 Mix It Up Day, Feb 22 Hat, Tie and Shade Day; Feb 28 Crazy Hair Day.
- Our second grade students from the Looping Classroom were asked to share their writing about veterans with the High Ground in Neillsville. Their work, along with a DVD of the students singing the Veteran's Day song and the Kindergarten children singing God Bless America was part of the January display at the High Ground. Mrs. Look also submitted pictures of the Veterans Wall that she creates every year as a tribute to veterans. Congratulations to all for being a part of this tribute.
- Jon Burnett from Burnett Transportation in Spencer, Wisconsin presented a program to students on bus safety. He used Barney the Bus, a robot, to encourage and train the students on how to be safe around a bus and on the bus. This was a very enjoyable program, especially when Mrs. Sondelski along with some teachers were brave enough to get sprayed by Barney!
- Mid-quarter grade reports will be sent home on February 17, 2011.
- Congratulations to all 50 plus forensic students under the direction of Mrs. Jodie Sanken and Mrs. Tracy Neve for receiving firsts at the Eau Claire forensics contest. All students are eligible to go on for further competition later this month in Nekoosa.

B. Senior High School

- Earlier this year, Mr. Steward and Mr. Olig toured Adlei Stevenson High School in Illinois. Adlei Stevenson High School is a school which, on a monthly basis, hosts tours of their facilities and provides educators from throughout the nation an opportunity to use the experiences and successes of Adlei Stevenson High School to guide changes in their schools. When Mr. Steward attended this event, he was impressed with the grading system used by the science department. After thinking about the model for grading at Adlie Stevenson High School and visiting Greenwood High School (a high school closer to home) Mr. Steward and Mr. Denniston made some changes in their grading structures for their classes at Pittsville High School. The students were apprised of the grading structure at the start of the new semester. The new grading structure seems to be off to a positive start. The onus of the new grading structure is a reduced emphasis on homework. The new grading system is based on the work of Rick Wormelis and his "Fair Isn't Always Equal" approach to grading. The main focus of this grading system is to grade students on their knowledge and mastery of the topics covered in class and not how much homework they complete. Understanding and applying the information is paramount. The only way a student will do well on a test is when they learn the material for understanding. To Quote Rick Wormeli, "Students have mastered content when they demonstrate a thorough understanding as evidenced by doing something substantive with the content beyond merely echoing it. Anyone can repeat information; it's the masterful student who can break content into its component pieces, explain it and alternative perspectives regarding it cogently to others, and use it purposefully in new situations." This reflects our goal for Pittsville students; having them master and apply what they learn to new situations and explain it, which benefits our students in their future academic goals and life skills in general. Mr. Downs and Mr. Piotrowski have also implemented this grading system for some or all of their classes starting at the beginning of the second semester. This is a new approach to grading; a grade should be based on what a student knows and understands. Here are the basics to the system that Mr. Denniston has set in place.
 1. Tests are weighted heavily. In his classes tests account for 65% of the grade, with homework 15%, labs 15%, and participation 5%. The idea is that your grade should reflect what you know, not how much homework you can do (or copy). Different instructors assign weights differently.
 2. Tests are written with three levels of questions. Level 1 questions include things such as terminology or vocabulary. Level 2 questions address more complex ideas and processes, and would be addressed and practiced in class. Level 3 questions may require students to generate information and make inferences and applications to topics not addressed in class. An "A" student would be expected to answer all three levels of questions.

3. If a student receives a D or F on a test, they have the opportunity to take a retest. Before they can take a retest they have to show some form of active studying they engaged in, such as making flash cards, outlining textbook chapters, etc. All students can take one retest per quarter.
4. The retest includes primarily level 1 and 2 questions that are worded or constructed in a different format than the original test. If a student scores at a certain level on the re-test, such as a 75%, the D or F on the original test will be replaced with a C-. The thinking is that the re-test allows the student to demonstrate a basic understanding of the topic.

Mr. Steward and Mr. Denniston also have bi-weekly quizzes to help gauge student understanding.

- On February 5, thirty students from Pittsville High School competed in the annual Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) Regional Competition. Ten students completed their test here at school prior to February 5th. These tests were completed online, which was an advantage certain students who could not attend on February 5th. This advanced testing could only be done in selected categories. Students can test ahead of the contest in roughly seven of the 40 categories. Pittsville High School will have five (5) students going on to the State competition in Appleton on April 11 and 12. Abi DeWilde took first place in Client Services. This would be comparable to a customer service position with a large company. Thomas Hughes, a junior, placed 3rd in Health Care Administration. This is a new category which contains a large amount of medical terminology and is comparable to operating a health care facility. Jenna Sanken, a freshman, placed 2nd in Business Math. This competition uses math applications in the business climate. The students computed interest, salaries, or taxes. Audrey Meis, another freshman, placed third in Intro to Business. This is a broad competition pertaining to General Business topics. This competition would tie to our Personal Finance and Entrepreneurship courses, which are taught as part of our business curriculum. Finally, Joe Hoffman, a senior, placed second in help desk. This competition is similar to a trouble shooter you would call to assist you with a technology issue you are experiencing on your home computer. Last year Joe represented Pittsville high School in computer problem solving. He competed in the National Competition in Nashville, Tennessee. This year, Joe is in a different category because you cannot compete in the same one in which you competed at the National level. The focus of the FBLA competition is to help students apply their academic skills in a business environment. This type of competition demonstrates the value of concepts students learn during their school day.
- Mr. Bill Urban has been working on crosswalk documentation for the Horticulture class he teaches. Pam Hilleshiem-Setz from CESA 5 has stated that Mr. Urban has completed all the "cross walks" steps in the process outlined by the DPI Agriculture and Natural Resource Consultant (Jeff Hicken) and Science Education Consultant (Shelley Lee). The "crosswalk" document aligns the science state academic standards with the objectives and activities that are taught in the Agriculture and Natural Resource Horticulture Science course. Pam believes that the Horticulture course is ready for the last steps in the process. The Horticulture Science course documents must be reviewed and approved by the Pittsville School Board for science equivalency credit after the science department signs off the science equivalency document. All documentation and signature pages are submitted to DPI for careful review. Shelley Lee, Science Education Consultant at DPI, will have the final decision as to the acceptance of the course for science equivalency. Students successfully completing this class may be able to obtain post secondary credits when the cross walks are in place if the course is aligned with the technical college. Mr. Urban will speak to the cross walk approval at the March board meeting. With the approval of this course, we may want to evaluate requiring a third credit of science for graduation. We will have classes in place which will allow all students to successfully complete three credits of science when a student couples a course like Horticulture with the present offerings of Survival Biology or Ecology along with the more academic offerings such as Advanced Biology and Chemistry. Mrs. Rae Ann Leonhardt is also investigating a potential Food Science course. Currently, UW-System schools require three (3) credits of Science for admission.

IX. District Administrator Report

A. Strategic Planning Update

The two action planning teams are now meeting. Committee chairs have been chosen, and the groups are working on the development of strategies to accomplish the goals which have been approved.

B. AHU/Roof Discussion

The Board received a proposal from Johnson Control and Custofam Corporation for the AHU and Roofing Project. Both proposals had more favorable costing estimates for work to be completed. The

Board will consider taking formal action at the March meeting, after further investigation of the bid proposals.

C. Sunday Use of Facility

The Board discussed recent requests for opening the gyms on Sunday.

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

Motion was made by MaryAnn Lippert, seconded by Lisa Schulz, 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	Absent		

Purpose: 1) Personnel Issues - 19.85(1)(c)
a) Consideration of Initial Notice of Possible Non-Renewal of Employment Contract

XI. Move out of Closed Session

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

XII. Act upon Closed Sessions

Motion was made by Lisa Schulz, seconded by Jane Wesely, to approve actions taken in Closed Session. Motion carried.

XII. Board Discussion - WASB Convention

The Board highlighted some of the sessions they attended at the State School Board Convention in January.

XIV. Adjourn

Motion was made by Connie Potter, seconded by Jane Wesely, to adjourn at 10:04 p.m. Motion carried.

Connie Potter, Clerk