

# SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

MONDAY, OCTOBER 10, 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, October 10, 2011. The meeting was called to order by Vice President Schulz at 7:00 p.m. in the Conference Center.

### II. Establish Quorum

Members present: Jane Wesely, Connie Potter, Lisa Schulz, MaryAnn Lippert, with Julie Strenn absent. Administration present: Terry Reynolds, District Administrator; John Olig, High School Principal; JoAnn Sondelski, Elementary Principal; Jeff Gast, Finance Director; Dick Koeshall; Chris Nepper, Computer Technologies.

### 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 Jane Wesely, to approve the agenda for the October 10, 2011 meeting of the Pittsville School Board of Education. Motion carried.

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

### VI. FFA Alumni Presentation

The FFA Alumni organization will be donating 20% of their yearly profits for the next five years as a contribution towards the new greenhouse project.

### VII. Consent Agenda Items

- A. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 12, 2011
- B. General Fund Invoices
- C. Approve Updates to District Grievance Procedure
- D. Approve DPI 5-Year School Self-Evaluation Summary for Status of Pupil Nondiscrimination

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

### VIII. Reports

#### A. Elementary School

- We had a great start to the school year. We welcomed 442 students to our building this year. MAP testing is underway at the elementary school. Students have been working very hard during their testing sessions. We will most likely close the testing window the third week of October. Only a few minor glitches have been encountered because of this being our first testing session. Overall, the district technology has worked well.
- We are looking forward to our annual Walk to School on October 5th. All the teachers have signed up to be a part of the event in some way. Some will be walking with the students, some will be collecting permission slips at the site, some will remain at school to greet and supervise the students upon their arrival. Everyone working together makes this event a special one for Pittsville Elementary School. Mrs. Sondelski and Mrs. Bisek have coordinated this event.
- The rain couldn't dim the excitement of the third grade students attending Diversity Days at the High Ground in Neillsville on September 27th. Students experience that featured information on the Chocow culture, hide tanning, Norwegian culture, native instruments, tree identification, native dances, how to work with disabilities. The students were also given a tour of the Highground site.

- The 4K is having their first Parent/Child Activity day on Oct. 7th. Parents bring their children to school for some fun developmentally appropriate activities to do with their child. We have 26 children signed up to come. Our activities include making a pumpkin pancake, playing board games, making a Rascal the Raccoon puppet, making play-doh into letters, and making a Colors of Fall Counting Necklace.
- We have over 200 students/parents signed up for our Partners in Print program for parents and children in Grades K-2. Cindy Schooley and JoAnn Sondelski traveled to Wisconsin Rapids to talk to the students in the early childhood program at MSTC to offer them the opportunity to assist us with the centers that will be offered. We are looking forward to their students helping us with this learning opportunity.
- Our first Panther Diner was held for the school year on October 3rd. Students from Miss Coon (nominated by Mrs. Young) for the best on time return of library books due were the winners for the month of September. Staff who helped with this month's diner were Kelly Look, Becky Whitrock, Paula Bisek, Noi Mohr, JoAnn Sondelski, Tracy Neve, Joe Dostal, Rose Nelson, Kara Demmerly, and Karen Garrels. This event each month is a combined effort of many staff members but is well worth it because the students enjoy their time in the Panther Diner.
- One testing season is nearly done and another is about to start. The WKCE tests are scheduled to arrive any day. This session will begin at the elementary school on November 2nd and is scheduled to end on November 23rd.

#### **B. Senior High School**

- Last month, I spoke about ACT Scores. This month I need to address some of the building and classroom actions that the staff is taking to improve ACT scores. Our goal might be to improve test scores, but in reality, we are making changes that assist our students in being successful after high school.
- For the past three years, we have used the Explore and Plan tests for the freshmen and sophomores. These tests are used as predictors of eventual ACT scores. Our current seniors are the first class to take both the Explore and Plan test. The results from these tests can help students determine their strengths and weaknesses relative to the ACT. By taking these tests, we hope that students will use their results to select challenging course work.
- The use of on-line Advanced Placement courses and the courses on the Distance Learning Network have helped in placing students in rigorous course work. The setting of schedules prior to the start of the semester has also prevented students from leaving challenging classes once the school year has started.
- Another area that will help address ACT Scores is the introduction of the Common Core Curriculum. The Common Core is the new state curriculum for students Kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. The goal of the Common Core Curriculum is to make students college ready. The knowledge needed to be successful is now very similar for students bound for the technical college and the four year college. Last month, I stressed our percentages of students meeting all four of the "Students Ready for College Level Course Work". Having students prepared for college in all four core areas is critical for students to be successful after high school. Our staff has been introduced to the Common Core Curriculum in Math, Reading, and Language Arts, and has started reviewing our current curriculum evaluating how well it meets the Common Core. We are working on a date with Pam Hilleshiem Setz from CESA 5 to meet with our English staff. The goal of this meeting will be to further evaluate our current English curriculum. We will be looking for gaps in our English curriculum in relationship to the Common Core. The reason we are starting with the English curriculum is that at the State level only the English portion of Common Core has been developed to this point.
- In the vocational area, Rae Ann Leonhardt is working with the Vocational Education Team: Family and Consumer Science, Agricultural Education, Business Education, and Technical Education, to work with the reading in the content area portion of the Common Core Curriculum. These curricular areas can help students work on comprehension of technical readings. This is a critical component of the Common Core. Being a strong reader is an essential skill for any student seeking college success. Technical reading is a skill often missed in the core areas. This also helps us to realize that preparing students for college is a building wide project. Reading is a skill used in more classes than English, Math, Science, and Social Studies.

- A new item which was added to our assessment system is Measures of Academic Performances (MAP) testing. MAP testing will allow us to assess our students through sophomore year in Reading, Math, and Language Arts. This data will help teachers chart the progress of students in their classes up to three times throughout the year. The data can be used to determine skills that have been mastered by individuals and/or classes. This will also show skills which need to be re-taught to individual students or classes. The MAP testing aligns with the Common Core. Finally, MAP testing allows students to practice an ACT type test.
- Besides the building wide actions, many staff members have taken steps in their classes to help students perform better on the ACT. In Algebra II, students cover ACT type questions five or six times a week. Mrs. Downs has multiple choice questions on math tests to help students familiarize themselves with the style of questions on the ACT. Reading and story problems are included on the math assignments and tests as well.
- In the English area, Ms. Freedlund works with students in finding the best answer to a question. Often when taking a test a student will select the first answer which he or she believes is correct. On the ACT, students are often asked to select the best answer. The emphasis is placed on reading the questions and all the choices prior to answering. She also gives students short ACT quizzes prior to the ACT in April.
- In Science, Mr. Denniston has increased the amount of graphing in quizzes and homework. This includes increasing the amount of data analysis required of students in class. This is a critical skill expected of students on the ACT. He has also increased his emphasis on scientific writing skills by teaching the proper lab report writing skills.
- In Family and Consumer Science, Mrs. Leonhardt has added the use of more graphs and charts in her classes. This is done to facilitate students in the development of data analysis. Mr. Urban has included a section of definitions to help students build vocabulary. These are just a few of the actions being taken by staff to increase student performance on the ACT.
- One practice I would like to see established at Pittsville High School is the offering of a seminar to prepare our students for the ACT. We offered a seminar of this type last spring, but we did not have enough student interest to make it cost effective. Research has shown that ACT results improve with coaching in this fashion. We need to generate the student interest to warrant this type of seminar.
- I want to close by saying that the new Common Core Curriculum will lead to changes in the manner in which school districts are assessed. In the near future (two years) we will move from the present assessment, the WKCE, to an assessment system which should be aligned with a student's ability to successfully complete college level work after high school.
- Next month, I will share our AP results from last spring. I expect more students to take tests this spring with the increased sign up for Advanced Placement on-line courses during the current school year.

**IX. District Administrator Report**

**A. Schedule Special Meeting for Budget Approval and Levy Certification**

A Special School Board Meeting was set for 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 19, 2011 to make final approval of the 2011-2012 budget and tax levy certification.

**B. WIAA Area Meeting Update**

Mr. Reynolds updated the Board on the main topics and information that was presented /discussed at the yearly WIAA Area Meeting.

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

Motion was made by MaryAnn Lippert, seconded by Jane Wesely, 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	Absent		

**1) Personnel Matters - 19.85(1)(c)**

- 1) Personnel and Other Related Matters -19.85(1)(c)
- 2) Ratification of Salary Agreement for PEA 2011-2012 -19.85(1)(c)

**XI. Move out of Closed Session**

Motion was made by Jane Wesely, 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 Connie Potter, seconded by Jane Wesely, to adjourn at 8:50 p.m. Motion carried.

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*Connie Potter, Clerk*