

PITMAN SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Education Meeting

October 16, 2024

MINUTES

Motion to Open the Meeting at 7:30 PM

Motion: Pappalardo
Second: Boulton
In Favor: ALL

Open Public Meeting

Notice of Meeting per Sunshine Law Requirements - *Notice of this Regular Meeting of the Pitman Board of Education was advertised in the South Jersey Times, posted at Borough Hall, a copy thereof delivered to all Pitman Schools to be posted, and posted on the District's web site. Further, notice was posted and filed as required by law stating that the Board would meet in Executive Closed Session at 7:00 p.m. followed by the Regular Meeting at 7:30 p.m. in the Pitman High School Media Center. The President shall entertain any objections, with supporting reasons, to the conduct of this meeting on the grounds that it violates the Open Public Meetings Act.*

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Attendance:

Mrs. Boulton: Present
Mrs. Farrell: Present
Mr. Grossman: Present
Mrs. Higbee-Ionno: Present
Mrs. Miller: Present
Mrs. Pappalardo: Present
Mrs. Pote: Present
Quorum: 7-0

Presentation

Introduction of New Staff Members - **Dr. Preston invited the principals to introduce the following new staff members:**

- **Memorial Elementary School - Introduced by Mrs. Sager-Miller**
 - Megan Bell
 - Joanna Bottiglieri
 - Megan Fields
- **Pitman Elementary School - Introduced by Mrs. Mason and Mr. Morris**
 - Gianna Morganti
 - Victoria Nastasi
 - Emory Seabrook
 - Nicole Civalier
 - Melissa Barton
- **Pitman Jr./Sr. High School - Introduced by Dr. Lombardo**
 - Kimberly Nefferdorf
 - Daria Hall
 - Jason Shivers

Dr. Preston thanked the principals and new staff members. The BOE then took a brief recess from 7:43 PM to 7:48 PM.

Public Comment

No Comment

Correspondence

No Correspondence

Approval of Minutes:

September 18, 2024

September 18, 2024 Executive Session

Approval of Minutes - September 18, 2024 (Regular Session & Executive Session)

Motion: Miller

Second: Pappalardo

In Favor: ALL

President's Report

Mrs. Miller discussed the following items during her President's Report:

1. **Senate Education Hearing** - Mrs. Miller provided an update on the 9/30/24 Senate Education Hearing. One discussion item was the school funding formula and no items were moved out of committee as it pertains to that topic.
2. **School Funding Call** - Mrs. Miller participated in a call with the Haddon Township Board President and encouraged other BOE members to participate as well given the fact that the group is looking to add more members.
3. **Camden-Gloucester County School Board Association Meeting** - Mrs. Miller discussed the 10/1/24 meeting that the entire Pitman BOE was able to attend.
4. **School Board Association Legislative Meeting** - On 10/4/24, Mrs. Miller attended this meeting and provided the BOE with an update regarding the funding formula as it relates to home valuation. Mrs. Miller also discussed the rising special education costs for out-of-district tuition (specifically those costs incurred after the March budget submission) and how a possible funding formula revision could provide relief. Other topics included meals and pilot agreements.
5. **NJSBA Conference** - Mrs. Miller asked Mrs. Pappalardo to discuss the plan for the upcoming conference (to be held from 10/21/24 through 10/24/24) and how the BOE will maximize their presence at the sessions.
6. **Megan Mazzola and Fiona James** - Mrs. Miller congratulated both students on being chosen to sing the National Anthem at the NJSBA Conference on 10/22/24.
7. **Committees** - Mrs. Miller discussed how Mrs. Pappalardo and she would be meeting to lay the groundwork for the 2025 committees and informed the BOE that communication regarding this would be sent in December.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Preston discussed the following topics during his presentation:

1. **Megan Mazzola and Fiona James** - Dr. Preston reiterated his congratulations to both students.
2. **Sports** - Dr. Preston highlighted the accomplishments of the athletic teams and that the district recently was conferred an All-Sports Award from the Tri-County Conference.
3. **Pitman Education Foundation** - The upcoming Panther Prowl will take place on 10/29/24.
4. **Rain Garden Grant** - The digging will take place on 10/23/24 and on 10/28/24 the first graders will take part in planting.
5. **HIB** - Two reported HIBs; Zero confirmed drills

6. **Safety Drills** - Dr. Preston briefly discussed the drills conducted.
7. **Referendum** - The first Communication Committee meeting will take place on 10/17/24 and more information will be forthcoming regarding whether or not the BOE will pursue a January 2025 vote or a March 2025 vote.
8. **NJSLA Assessment Data** - Dr. Preston turned it over to Mr. Caltabiano to present NJSLA assessment data.

Presentation #1: Mr. Caltabiano, Director of Curriculum & Instruction, provided a detailed analysis of the 2024 NJSLA ELA, Math, and Science scores and compared this information to the same data from 2023. Mr. Caltabiano elaborated on the performance of various cohorts and also discussed the percentage of students who met proficiency by scoring at a level of 4 or 5.

Presentation #2: Mrs. Sager-Miller, Principal of Memorial Elementary School, and Mrs. Mitten, Preschool Instructional Coach, provided a Preschool Quality Study Overview to the BOE. Specifically, Mrs. Sager-Miller provided information on the status of the program and progress related to its growth. Mrs. Mitten also discussed the ECERS (Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale) and the achievements that the program has attained during its first three years of existence.

Student Representatives Report - Miss Mazzola and Miss Yordy provided a detailed report regarding events at each school:

1. **Memorial Elementary School** - Miss Mazzola discussed the students being able to collect caterpillars and observe the life cycle of the monarch butterfly, the new rain garden (fully funded by the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation), Fire Prevention Week, and the fall parade.
2. **Pitman Elementary School** - Miss Mazzola outlined events such as the week of respect, Fire Prevention Week, the kick-off of after-school clubs, and the Halloween Parade.
3. **Pitman Jr./Sr. High School** - Miss Yordy discussed Spirit Week, the Homecoming Dance, the theme for fall decorating that will take place on 11/25/24, the painting of parking spots that took place on 10/11/24, the S.A.D.D. Club food drive that will take place from 10/16/24-10/31/24 (partnering with Monster Martin's), the tutoring of students by National Honor Society members, the Pink-Out game that occurred on 10/10/24 and successfully raised over \$1,000 in support of Unite for Her, the accomplishments of the fall sports teams, and the upcoming Trunk or Treat (hosted by the Music Department) that will take place at Sunset Auditorium on 10/25/24.

FINANCE & FACILITIES COMMITTEE – Grossman, Boulton, Miller

Mr. Grossman provided an update regarding the recent Finance & Facilities Committee Meeting that took place on Wednesday, 10/9/24 at 3:30 PM. In attendance were Mrs. Miller, Mrs. Boulton, Mr. Grossman, Dr. Preston, and Mr. Miles. The Committee discussed the upcoming agenda items, as well as the following topics: the withdrawal of funds from the maintenance reserve to replace a boiler at Memorial Elementary School, the purchase of Rosetta Stone (partially offset through remaining ESSER III funds), snack prices, the Crispin Court sign, and the amendment of tuition policies for non-resident students.

1. Recommend motion to approve line item transfers for the months of July 2024, August 2024, and September 2024. (Attachment F&F-1, Attachment F&F-2, Attachment F&F-3)
2. Recommend motion to approve all bills which are properly approved and certified to be paid. (Attachment F&F-4)
3. Recommend motion to withdraw \$94,369.98 from the district's maintenance reserve account in order to purchase and install a new boiler at Memorial School. (Attachment F&F-5)

Note: The current balance in the district's maintenance reserve account is \$308,808. Additionally, the boiler that needs to be replaced was installed in 2007 and has an estimated lifespan of 20 years. Due to the extent of the malfunction, repair costs are comparable to replacement costs (\$90,549.52 v. \$94,369.98).

4. Recommend motion to approve the annual subscription agreement with CRG (Critical Response Group) for the 2024/2025 school year. (Attachment F&F-6)

Note: CRG provides yearly updates to school floor plans and shares those plans digitally with law enforcement.

5. Recommend motion to approve the contract with Rosetta Stone for the 2024/2025 school year in the amount of \$3,720.

Note: The \$3,720 overall cost was offset by \$960.91 in remaining APR ESSER III funds. The breakdown is as follows: \$959.09 (11-000-221-600-06-0-000), \$1,800 (11-190-100-340-01-0-000), and \$960.91 (20-490-200-600-00-0-000).

6. Recommend motion to approve the following amended parent transportation contract for the 2024/2025 school year:

<u>Student ID #</u>	<u>Route#</u>	<u>Amount</u>
5626752185	P3	\$2,984.52

Background: Approved in September in the amount of \$2,954.52.

7. Recommend approval to enter into a Joint Transportation Agreement with the following district for the 2024/2025 school year:

<u>District</u>	<u>State/End Date</u>	<u>Route #</u>	<u>Destination</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Gateway	9/1/24-6/30/25	N/A	Bus Evacuations	\$1,200 (approx.)

8. Recommend motion to approve the Memorandum of Agreement for the Gloucester County Title III Consortium for the 2024/2025 school year. (Attachment F&F-7)
9. Recommend motion to approve the school bus emergency evacuation drills that took place at the Jr./Sr. High School, PES, and Memorial School. (Attachment F&F-8)

Motion to Approve Items #1-9

- Motion:** Grossman
- Second:** Boulton
- Mrs. Boulton:** Yes
- Mrs. Farrell:** Yes
- Mr. Grossman:** Yes
- Mrs. Higbee-Ionno:** Yes
- Mrs. Pote:** Yes
- Mrs. Pappalardo:** Yes
- Mrs. Miller:** Yes
- Motion Carried:** 7-0

CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION COMMITTEE – Farrell, Pappalardo, Miller

Mrs. Farrell provided an update regarding the recent Curriculum & Instruction Committee Meeting that took place on Wednesday, 10/9/24 at 4:30 PM. In attendance were Mrs. Miller, Mrs. Pappalardo, Mrs. Farrell, Dr. Preston, Mr. Caltabiano, and Mr. Miles. Items discussed were the completion of the HIB self assessment, the upcoming math workshop hosted by Eric Milou, non-resident tuition, the 10/11/24 professional development plan, and Dr. Preston's meeting with the Council of Churches.

1. Student Statistics September 30, 2024:

Date	Memorial	PES	Jr./Sr. HS	Out of District	Alternative	Total
9/30/24	269	429	468	26	0	1192
9/15/24	271	428	469	26	0	1194
9/30/23	237	413	488	20	0	1158
9/20/23	236	410	485	20	0	1151

Suspensions/Reasons:

Inappropriate Behavior: 1

HIB:

Reported: 2

Confirmed: 0

(Attachment C&I-1)

2. Recommend motion to approve the Substitute List for the 2024/2025 school year. (Attachment C&I-2)
3. Recommend motion to approve travel and related expenses of staff members and board members on the attached list. (Attachment C&I-3)
4. Recommend motion to approve all field trips as submitted. (Attachment C&I-4)
5. Recommend approval of the Use of Facilities as attached. (Attachment C&I-5)
6. Recommend motion to approve the submission of the 2023/2024 HIB Grades Self Assessment to the New Jersey Department of Education. (Attachment C&I-6)
7. Recommend motion to approve the submission of the Three-Year Preschool Program Plan and Annual Update, Statement of Assurance, and District Contact Chart for the 2025/2026 school year to the Department of Education. (Attachment C&I-7)
8. Recommend motion to approve the submission of the 2025/2026 Pre-Kindergarten Projected Enrollment to the New Jersey Department of Education. (Attachment C&I-8)
- 9. Recommend motion to retroactively approve the tuition contract with sending district, Franklin Township School District, for the following student for the 2024/2025 school year:**

Student ID	School	ESY	Tuition
8071495271	Memorial School	\$3,713.42	\$56,880.40

10. Recommend motion to approve the following out of district placements by the Special Services Department for the 2024/2025 school year:

Student ID#	Placement	Tuition Cost
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5322149730	Bankbridge Regional/ERI Program	\$44,710
7716307925	Bankbridge Regional/MD Program	\$42,690
4510433277	Bankbridge Regional/MD Program	\$42,690
2244629209	Career Center at Bankbridge Regional/MD Program	\$42,690
6556554389	Career Center at Bankbridge Regional/MD Program	\$42,690
5143170850	Career Center at Bankbridge Regional/MD Program	\$42,690
2447690478	Bankbridge Elementary School/Auditory Impairments Program	\$64,080
8232174199	Bankbridge Development Center/MD Program	\$42,690
4982665746	Bankbridge Development Center/MD Program	\$42,690
5163357883	Bankbridge Development Center/MD Program	\$42,690
5626752185	Bankbridge Development Center/MD Program	\$42,690
1775082782	Clearview Regional School District/MD Program	\$31,500

11. Recommend motion to approve Robert Miles as primary district safety representative and Karolyn Mason as secondary district safety representative for the Gloucester County Reunification Team.

Note: Both district representatives will report to the RCSJ reunification site in the event of a safety event that requires reunification for another Gloucester County school district.

12. Recommend motion to approve Ryan Caltabiano, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, as Gifted and Talented Coordinator for the 2024/2025 school year.
13. Recommend motion to approve the amended hourly rate of Janeta Antonucci, Instructional Aide at Pitman Elementary School, effective October 30, 2024, from \$15.83 per hour based on Step F/0 Credits of the salary guide to \$16.03 per hour based on Step F/60 Credits of the salary guide.
14. Recommend motion to approve Nicolette Obidos as a part-time Instructional Aide at Memorial School, effective on or about October 17, 2024, 29.5 hours per week, at an hourly rate of \$17.53 based on Step B/0 Credits of the salary guide (pending receipt of proper paperwork).

Background: Replacing Jennifer Nicastro 1:1 instructional assistant.

15. Recommend motion to approve Anthony Fabbi as a full-time Preschool Aide at Memorial School, effective on or about October 28, 2024, at an hourly rate of \$18.64 based on Step A/Degree of the salary guide (pending receipt of proper paperwork).

Background: Replacing Elizabeth Kelly.

- 16. Recommend motion to approve the following Jr./Sr. High School academic teachers to be compensated at a rate of \$2,315 (prorated) for a sixth teaching assignment effective September 11, 2024 until such date that a full-time teacher is hired:**

<u>Teacher</u>	<u>Subject</u>
Stacie Hess	Math
Kimberly Nefferdorf	Math

17. Recommend motion to retroactively approve Jennifer Coles as a replacement teacher at Pitman Jr./Sr. High School effective September 30, 2024 through TBD, to be paid the substitute teacher rate of \$130 per day plus a stipend in the amount of \$44 per day through the duration of her placement in that assignment.

Background: Replacing Megan Bracken.

18. Recommend motion to approve the following teacher as mentor for first year teacher for the 2024/2025 school year with the approved rate:

<u>Mentoree</u>	<u>Mentor</u>	<u>Stipend</u>
Nicole Civalier (CEAS) (Replacement Teacher)	Kathryn Beaver	\$550

19. Recommend motion to approve Riyahn Gaines as a Panther Club Counselor for the 2024/2025 school year at an hourly rate of \$15.13.

20. Recommend motion to approve the agreement with FUREver As Friends, Inc., non-profit pet therapy organization, for visits to Memorial School for grades PK3-1 monday from October 2024 through June 2025. Annual fee of \$300 for initial therapy team and \$150 for each additional therapy team - two one hour sessions per month.

21. Recommend motion to approve the following staff members to attend the Eric Milou’s Building Thinking Classrooms workshop on Monday, December 16, 2024 at Rowan University. The cost of the workshop is \$199 per staff member (Local Funds)

Ryan Caltabiano	Thomas Tocco
Karolyn Mason	Jill Young

22. Recommend motion to bring Eric Milou into the district during the May 16, 2025 in-service with a focus on teaching strategies in the mathematics classroom. The cost of the workshop is \$2,000. (Local Funds).

23. Recommend motion to approve the following volunteers for the fall drama/spring musical for the 2024/2025 school year:

Kaitlyn Delengowski	Melissa LeVay
Abby Donahue	Angel Morton
Kelly Donahue	Emily Otvos
Melody Forchic	Abbie Post
Sam Grossman	Gabriella Will
Andrew Lehman	

24. Recommend motion to approve the following Data Leaders for the 2024/2205 school year, stipend to be paid with Title IIA grant funding:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Stipend</u>
Christe Leakan	PK-6 ELA	\$1,000
Kimberly Nefferdorf	7-12/Math	\$1,000
Thomas Tocco	PreK-6/Math	\$1,000

25. Recommend motion to approve the following Content Area Leaders for the 2024/2025 school year, stipend to be paid with Title IIA grant funding:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Stipend</u>
Nicole Beach	PK-6/Science	\$1,000
Robert DiTizio	PK-12/Social Studies	\$1,000
Michael Finley	PK-12 Technology and Business	\$1,000

Sarah Mickle	PK-12/VPA	\$1,000
Shelly Nichols	PK-12/World Language	\$1,000
Jaclyn Schanz	PK-6/ELA	\$1,000
Jill Young	PK-6/Math	\$1,000
Amanda Giorno	7-12/Science	\$1,000
Kandice Hanrahan	7-12/ELA	\$1,000
Stacie Hess	7-12/Math	\$1,000

26. Recommend motion to approve the following Extra Service Contracts for the 2024/2025 school year. Stipend in accord with the agreement with the Pitman Education Association:

Jr./Sr. High

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Stipend</u>
Renee Post*	Musical/Play Director	\$3,887
Patricia Perez*	Musical Play Assistant Director	\$2,330
Kelly Roberts	Mentor Club	\$1,425
Melissa Bianchini	Co-Head Coach Winter Track	\$6,109
Dan Miller	Co-Head Coach Winter Track	\$6,109
Tara Hartwyk* (pending receipt of proper paperwork)	Head Coach Girls' Basketball	\$6,803
Ron Myers*	Head Coach Boys' Basketball	\$6,803
David Smith*	Head Coach Wrestling	\$6,803
Matthew Newcomb	Head Coach Swimming	\$6,803
Robert Tender	Assistant Coach Swimming	\$5,441

**not a district employee*

Background: Karen Roberts was inadvertently approved on September 18, 2024. Winter track combined stipend PEA Winter Track Head Coach \$6,803 and Board of Education Assistant Winter Track Coach \$5,415 - 50% each Co-Head Coach.

PES

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Stipend</u>
Janine Morrison	Safety Patrol Advisor	\$1,182

27. Recommend motion to approve the following volunteer coaches for the 2024/2025 school year:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>
Steve Crispin*	Basketball
Jason Shivers	Basketball

**not a district employee*

28. Recommend motion to approve the athletic trainer substitute rate of \$50 per hour for the 2024/2025 school year.

29. Recommend motion to approve the following dues and athletic ticket prices for the 2025/2026 school year:

Tri-County Conference Dues - \$1,600.00;

Tri-County Conference tickets for athletic events: \$3.00 for Adults; \$2.00 for Students, Free for Senior Citizens and Military Personnel

West Jersey Football League Varsity Football Games: \$5.00 for Adults; \$3.00 for Students; Free for Senior Citizens and Military Personnel

Motion to Approve Items #1-29

Motion: Farrell
Second: Pappalardo
Mrs. Boulton: Yes
Mrs. Farrell: Yes
Mr. Grossman: Yes: #1-22 & #24-29
 Abstain: #23
Mrs. Higbee-Ionno: Yes #1-25 & #27-29
 Abstain: #26
Mrs. Pote: Yes
Mrs. Pappalardo: Yes
Mrs. Miller: Yes: #1 & #3-29
 Abstain: #2
Motion Carried: 7-0: #1, #3-22, #24-25, #27-29
 6-0: #2, #23, #26

COMMUNICATION & POLICY COMMITTEE - Higbee-Ionno, Pote, Farrell

Mrs. Higbee-Ionno provided an update regarding the recent Communication & Policy Committee Meeting that took place on Monday, 10/7/24 at 4:30 PM. In attendance were Mrs. Pote, Mrs. Farrell, Mrs. Higbee-Ionno, Dr. Preston, Mr. Caltabiano, and Mr. Miles. The Committee discussed the following topics: Policy #0143.2, which is being revised to eliminate any issue in which the requirements of the governing statute are not followed; Policy #5450, which is being revised to lower the benchmark for receiving jackets for championship athletic teams in order to rectify an inequity between performing arts and athletics as it pertains to obtaining State championship status; and lastly, Policy #9180, which is being revised to tighten and clarify the rules regarding the use of volunteers who work in close supervision of students.

1. Recommend motion to approve the first reading of the policies/regulations below (Attachment C&P-1):

POLICIES/REGULATIONS	
Policy 0143.2	High School Student Representative to the Board of Education (M) (Revised)
Policy 5450	Student Awards (Revised)
Policy 9180	School Volunteers (Revised)

Motion to Approve Item #1

Motion: Higbee-Ionno
Second: Pote
Mrs. Boulton: Yes
Mrs. Farrell: Yes
Mr. Grossman: Yes
Mrs. Higbee-Ionno: Yes
Mrs. Pote: Yes
Mrs. Pappalardo: Yes
Mrs. Miller: Yes
Motion Carried: 7-0

Public Comment

No Public Comment

Old Business

No Old Business

New Business

The following new business items were discussed:

- 1. Mrs. Miller thanked the student reps for spearheading a social media campaign as a way to highlight projects.**
- 2. Dr. Preston clarified that item #29 under Curriculum & Instruction approved the ticket prices for the 2025-26 school year. Dr. Preston also clarified that the 2024-25 ticket prices for students would be free for the remainder of this year, with the exception of playoff games governed by the NJSIAA.**

Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn the Meeting at 8:45 PM

Motion: Pappalardo

Second: Farrell

In Favor: ALL

The next Board of Education Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 20, 2024 in the Pitman Jr./Sr. High School Media Center.

Board Minutes Certified by Robert Miles, Board Secretary; In Attendance on Wednesday, 10/16/24