I. A. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Amuso called the meeting to order.

"Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, s. 20, I am hereby informing all attendees that a video and audio recording is being made of this meeting."

B. MOMENT OF SILENCE

C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

D. ROLL CALL

PRESENT
Kathleen Amuso, Chairperson
Hon. Mayor James Ruberto
Alfred Barbalunga
Churchill Cotton
Daniel Elias
Erin Sullivan
Katherine Yon

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES
Jill Ritrosky                  Pittsfield High School
Christopher Coughlin         Taconic High School
Andrew Mara-Williams         Taconic High School

Chairperson Amuso declared a quorum.

II. A. PARTICIPATION BY SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Katherine Yon said she walked around the track for Herberg’s Walk-A-Thon and congratulated Erin Sullivan’s son, Grady, for being the top student obtaining pledges. She talked about Conte Community School’s business partnership with Wal-Mart and their new business partnership with BJ’s. Mrs. Yon attended the grand opening of Morningside Community School’s Meercafé. She said the Berkshire Bank Foundation funded the upgrade of the culinary lab.

Daniel Elias attended both the Stearns School Council meeting and Capeless School Council meeting. He said some of the topics discussed by the Stearns School Council were the Brain Child pilot program, John Nuciforo’s article on parental control, their focus on bullying and the books of poem students are working on.

Daniel Elias said the Capeless School Council’s main focus is to raise MCAS scores. The School Council talked about the big jump in the number of students receiving Free and Reduced Lunch. Mr. Elias also said they would be expanding their business partnership with Berkshire Gas and that there is a math tutoring after school program that is well attended.
Alfred Barbalunga visited Capeless School and thanked Candy Jezewski for taking him on tour of the school.

B. PARTICIPATION BY THE PUBLIC

Terry Kinnas, 14 Cooper Parkway, talked about some of the MCAS results stating that Stearns School was the best ranked school in the City of Pittsfield, Williams School third grade math placement was excellent and that Taconic made AYP in English and math but PHS did not. Mr. Kinnas suggested that a parent component be built into the School Improvement Plan process and splitting the schools presentations into two meetings (see Pages 5-6).

C. REPORTS OF SUBCOMMITTEES

NONE

III. RECOMMENDED ACTIONS – ROUTINE MATTERS

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

NONE

B. ACCEPTANCE OF PERSONNEL REPORT

NONE

C. SCHOOL PRESENTATION

NONE

IV. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

A. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

Superintendent Eberwein…

- Referred to the materials he sent them outlining his responses to the requests they made at the last meeting;
- Announced that the next SBNC meeting will be held on November 14th at 5:15 p.m, and that there had not been a lot of movement since the last meeting;
- Announced the names of the two additional who received perfect scores on the MCAS test and sent congratulation letters to all of them;
- Informed the Committee and public that the Pittsfield Public Schools’ website had been hacked but was backup and running;
• Announced that Morningside students will attend the Rice Silk Mill groundbreaking ceremony on Friday;
• Announced that Taconic High School staff will be holding a fundraiser on Friday, November 11 for Bob O’Neil, a teacher at Taconic, who has ALS; and
• Reminded parents and staff that the same procedures for inclement weather will be used as in the past: Connect Ed call, website, radio and TV.

Motion by Erin Sullivan, seconded by Churchill Cotton, that the School Committee accept Superintendent Eberwein’s report, was by vote unanimously approved.

B. INDIVIDUAL SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLANS

Superintendent Eberwein started the presentations were just a snapshot of each school’s School Improvement Plan.

Deputy Superintendent Malkas said the School Improvement Plans are in line with the district’s initiative Focus on Results which is an extension of last year’s plan. The school district’s core mission is to prepare every student for post-secondary education, career and life-long economic, social and civic success.

The elementary and secondary principals provided an overview of their School Improvement Plan (SIP) for the 2011-2012 school year. Their plans are in line with the district’s initiative Focus on Results. Each principal reviewed their school’s instructional focus, challenges, successes and aspirations for this school year.

Motion by Erin Sullivan, seconded by Churchill Cotton, that the School Committee accept the presentations by the elementary and secondary principals, as outlined in Enclosure No. 1, was by vote unanimously approved (see Pages 7-277). The approved District and School Improvement Plans will be included in the official minutes but have not been included in this packet (Pages 52-277).

V. RECOMMENDED ACTION – UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. NONE

VI. RECOMMENDED ACTION – NEW BUSINESS

A. APPROVAL OF MARINE SHALE SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

Motion by Erin Sullivan, seconded by Churchill Cotton, that the School Committee approve the Marine Shale Settlement Agreement, as outlined in No. 2, was by vote unanimously approved (see Page 278).

B. APPROVAL OF OVERNIGHT FIELD TRIP
   • BOLTON, MA
Katherine Yon informed the Committee that Luke Polidoro, the golf coach, was her nephew.

Chairperson Amuso informed the Committee that her son was on the golf team but would not be participating in the tournament.

Motion by Erin Sullivan, seconded by Churchill Cotton, that the School Committee approve the overnight field trip to Bolton, MA, October 30-31, 2011, as outlined in No. 3, was by vote unanimously approved (see Page 279).

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. NONE

VIII. FUTURE BUSINESS

A. The next Regular Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 16, 2011, 7:00 P.M., Pittsfield High School Library.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Erin Sullivan, seconded by Churchill Cotton, that the School Committee be adjourned was by vote unanimously approved.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

ERIN SULLIVAN