

REGULAR MEETING OF THE PITTSFIELD SCHOOL COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2008, 7:00 P.M., PITTSFIELD HIGH SCHOOL.

I. A. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Amuso called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

B. MOMENT OF SILENCE

C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

D. ROLL CALL

PRESENT

Kathleen Amuso, Chairperson
Hon. Mayor James Ruberto
Daniel Elias
Carmen C. Massimiano, Jr.
Angel Ramirez
Erin Sullivan

ABSENT

Churchill Cotton

Chairperson Amuso declared a quorum.

E. INTRODUCTION OF STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL TO SCHOOL COMMITTEE

The General Laws Relating to Education specify that school committees shall meet at least once every other month with an Advisory Council consisting of five high school students chosen by their peers. Our local policy invites student representatives to participate at the first meeting of every month. The Student Advisory Council to the School Committee for the 2008-2009 school year is as follows:

George Leibinger	Pittsfield High School
Rachael Came	Taconic High School
Darran Colvin	Taconic High School
Courtney Nason-Farrell	Taconic High School

Hannah Simons, a PHS student, was unable to make the meeting and will be introduced at the October 22 meeting.

F. PRESENTATION OF M.A.S.S. CERTIFICATES OF ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

The Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents' Certificates of Academic Excellence are given to high school students who have distinguished themselves in the pursuit of academic excellence during their high school careers. The criteria are: three-year cumulative grade point average, rank in

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class, and personal selection by the Superintendent. The following students were presented certificates:

Daniel M. Tassone	Pittsfield High School
Melanie J. Comeau	Taconic High School
Brianna M. King	Taconic High School

Hannah Simons, a PHS student, was unable to make the meeting and will be presented with her certificate at the October 22 meeting.

Motion by Angel Ramirez, seconded by Carmen Massimiano, that the School Committee take a five-minutes recess, was by vote unanimously approved.

Motion by Angel Ramirez, seconded by Erin Sullivan that the School Committee return to the regular order of business, was by vote unanimously approved.

II. A. PARTICIPATION BY THE PUBLIC

NONE

B. SCHOOL COMMITTEE PARTICIPATION

Motion by Angel Ramirez, seconded by Carmen Massimiano, that the School Committee oppose Question 1, a ballot initiative that would eliminate the state income tax. Passage of Question 1 would significantly cut the state budget, cause massive reductions in local aid to cities and towns, and result in drastic reductions in school programs. The Pittsfield School Committee urges the residents of Pittsfield to vote No on this ballot question, was by vote unanimously approved.

Daniel Elias attended Herberg's School Council meeting and commented on some of the events being held at Herberg and some of the initiatives the School Council is implementing to address AYP.

Erin Sullivan thanked SABIC Innovations for their work at Crosby and the many people who volunteered their time. She also announced that the annual PHS/THS football game will be held this weekend.

Mayor Ruberto thanked SABIC Innovations for their contributions to the schools. He also thanked the UEP and AFT for supporting the GIC Insurance Program.

Chairperson Amuso thanked the many volunteers and SABIC Innovations for their work on the Crosby Playground.

C. REPORTS OF SUBCOMMITTEES

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Erin Sullivan provided an update on the Policy Subcommittee, noting that the Policy Manual will be reviewed and updated.

Motion by Angel Ramirez, seconded by Carmen Massimiano, that the School Committee approve the minutes of the Policy Subcommittee, as outlined in Enclosure No. 1, was by vote unanimously approved.

III. RECOMMENDED ACTIONS – ROUTINE MATTERS

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Angel Ramirez, seconded by Carmen Massimiano, that the School Committee approve the minutes of September 10, 2008, as outlined in Enclosure No. 1A and the Executive Session Minutes of September 10, 2008, as outlined in Enclosure No. 1B, the minutes of September 24, 2008, as outlined in Enclosure No. 1C and the Executive Session Minutes of September 24, 2008, as outlined in Enclosure No. 1D, was by vote unanimously approved.

B. ACCEPTANCE OF PERSONNEL REPORT

Motion by Angel Ramirez, seconded by Carmen Massimiano, that the School Committee accept the Personnel Report, as outlined in Enclosure No. 2, was by vote unanimously approved (see Pages 4-7).

Motion by Angel Ramirez, seconded by Carmen Massimiano, that the School Committee take Item VI.C out of order, was by vote unanimously approved.

C. APPROVAL OF MASSACHUSETTS SCHOOL BUILDING AUTHORITY STATE OF INTEREST

Tricia Farley-Bouvier, Co-Chair of the School Building Needs Commission, provided an overview on the steps taken to date in order to submit Statements of Interest to the School Building Authority. She explained that the MSBA would only allow the district to select one of the schools as a priority project. Taconic High School was selected as the priority school.

Members of the Committee also provided input on the process to date and the need to address repairs in the high schools based on recommendations in the NEASC reports and to provide appropriate educational services in an educational facility that is up-to-date.

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Motion by Angel Ramirez, seconded by Carmen Massimiano that the School Committee having convened in an open meeting on October 8, 2008, authorize the Superintendent of Schools to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest dated September 26, 2008 for Pittsfield High School, as outlined in Enclosure No. 6A, was by vote unanimously approved.

Motion by Angel Ramirez, seconded by Carmen Massimiano that the School Committee having convened in an open meeting on October 8, 2008, authorize the Superintendent of Schools to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest dated September 26, 2008 for Taconic High School, as outlined in Enclosure No. 6A, was by vote unanimously approved.

Motion by Angel Ramirez, seconded by Erin Sullivan, that the School Committee return to the regular order of business, was by vote unanimously approved.

C. SCHOOL PRESENTATION
• TACONIC HIGH SCHOOL

Mr. Douglas McNally, Principal of Taconic High School, provided an overview on using career pathways to create smaller learning communities.

Motion by Angel Ramirez, seconded by Carmen Massimiano, that the School Committee accept the presentation by Mr. McNally, was by vote unanimously approved.

IV. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

A. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

Superintendent Eberwein commented on the following:

- Welcome student representatives to the School Committee;
- Welcomed Boy Scouts Troop 20 to the meeting;
- Thanked everyone who showed up to work on the Crosby project;
- Referenced an article in the Boston Globe recognizing the positive work at the JRC to combat truancy;
- Invited School Committee members to the ceremony at the *Reconnect Center* at the CYC;
- Announced that October 15 will be the test day for the Connect Ed system;
- Commended the DA's Office for setting up a Junior Advisory Board;
- Announced that he is meeting with principals to put together a strategic plan for the district;

Superintendent Eberwein asked Assistant Superintendent for CVTE, Keith Babuszcak, to provide an update on the laptop initiative. Mr. Babuszcak informed the Committee that laptops will be passed out to the Herberg students

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next week and Reid students the following week.

Superintendent Eberwein concluded his report with the following announcements:

- Announced that Friday, October 10 is a half day of school and that Monday, October 13 is Columbus Day; and
- Concluded his report by reading a student's response to an assignment.

Motion by Angel Ramirez, seconded by Carmen Massimiano, that the School Committee accept Superintendent Eberwein's report, was by vote unanimously approved.

B. REPORT ON OCTOBER 1 MEMBERSHIP AND ORGANIZATION DATA

Ms. Barbara Malkas, Deputy Superintendent, provided an overview of the October 1 Membership and Organization Data and responded to questions from Committee members.

Motion by Angel Ramirez, seconded by Carmen Massimiano, that the School Committee accept the October 1 Membership and Organization Data Report, as presented by Ms. Malkas and outlined in Enclosure No. 4, was by vote unanimously approved.

Motion by Angel Ramirez, seconded by Carmen Massimiano, that the School Committee take Item VI.E out of order, was by vote unanimously approved.

E. APPROVAL OF APPLICATION FOR A COOPERATIVE HOCKEY TEAM AGREEMENT BETWEEN PITTSFIELD HIGH SCHOOL AND TACONIC HIGH SCHOOL

Mr. James Abel, Director of Athletics, responded to questions from Committee members.

Motion by Angel Ramirez, seconded by Carmen Massimiano, that the School Committee approve the application for a cooperative hockey team agreement between Pittsfield High School and Taconic High School, as outlined in Enclosure No. 8, was by vote unanimously approved.

Motion by Angel Ramirez, seconded by Erin Sullivan, that the School Committee return to the regular order of business, was by vote unanimously approved.

V. RECOMMENDED ACTIONS – OLD BUSINESS

A. NONE

VI. RECOMMENDED ACTIONS – NEW BUSINESS

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- A. APPROVAL OF FOREIGN TRAVEL
- LONDON, PARIS, ROME FLORENCE, ASSISI

Motion by Angel Ramirez, seconded by Carmen Massimiano, that the School Committee approve the trip to London, Paris, Rome, Florence and Assisi, as outlined in Enclosure No. 5, was by vote unanimously approved (see Page 11-12).

- B. APPROVAL OF OVERNIGHT FIELD TRIP
- DANVERS, MA

Motion by Angel Ramirez, seconded by Carmen Massimiano, that the School Committee approve the overnight field trip to Danvers, MA for middle and high school students to attend the Annual State SADD Conference, as outlined in Enclosure No. 6, was by vote unanimously approved (see Pages 13-17).

- C. APPROVAL OF MASSACHUSETTS SCHOOL BUILDING AUTHORITY STATE OF INTEREST

THIS ITEM WAS TAKEN OUT OF ORDER.

- D. APPROVAL TO FUND CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Motion by Angel Ramirez, seconded by Carmen Massimiano, that the School Committee approve funding the alternate co-curricular activities, as outlined in Enclosure No. 7, was by vote unanimously approved (see Page 18).

- E. APPROVAL OF APPLICATION FOR A COOPERATIVE HOCKEY TEAM AGREEMENT BETWEEN PITTSFIELD HIGH SCHOOL AND TACONIC HIGH SCHOOL

THIS ITEM WAS TAKEN OUT OF ORDER.

- F. APPROVAL OF LETTER OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE CITY OF PITTSFIELD AND THE PITTSFIELD FEDERATION OF SCHOOL EMPLOYEES, PARAPROFESSIONAL UNIT REGARDING BRINGING THE TITLE I STAFF INTO THE PARAPROFESSIONAL BARGAINING UNIT

Motion by Angel Ramirez, seconded by Carmen Massimiano, that the School Committee approve the Letter of Understanding Between the City of Pittsfield and the Pittsfield Federation of School Employees, Paraprofessional Unit Bringing the Title I Staff into the Paraprofessional Bargaining Unit, effective upon the signing of the Letter of Understanding by both parties, as outlined in Enclosure No. 9, was by vote unanimously approved.

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G. APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN THE CITY OF PITTSFIELD AND THE UNITED EDUCATORS' OF PITTSFIELD REGARDING BRINGING THE SCHOOL NURSES INTO THE TEACHERS' BARGAINING UNIT

Motion by Angel Ramirez, seconded by Carmen Massimiano, that the School Committee approve the Memorandum of Agreement By and Between the Pittsfield School Committee United Educators, as outlined in Enclosure No. 10, was by vote unanimously approved.

H. APPROVAL OF PROPOSED RATES OF PAY FOR SUBSTITUTE STAFF

Motion by Angel Ramirez, seconded by Carmen Massimiano, that the School Committee approve the Proposed Rates of Pay for Substitute Staff, as outlined in Enclosure No. 11, was by vote unanimously approved (see Page 20).

I. APPROVAL TO INCREASE LINE ITEM 62056 (SPECIAL EDUCATION PARAPROFESSIONAL)

Motion by Angel Ramirez, seconded by Carmen Massimiano, That the School Committee approve an increase of 3.0 full time equivalent FTE's in Line Item 62056 (Special Education Paraprofessional Salaries) from 118 to 121 due to mandated IEP requirements, was by vote unanimously approved.

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. NONE

VIII. FUTURE BUSINESS

Next Meeting Scheduled for Wednesday, October 22, 2008, 7:00 P.M., Pittsfield High School.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Angel Ramirez, seconded by Carmen Massimiano, that the School Committee be adjourned, was by vote unanimously approved.

The meeting adjourned at 9:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

ANGEL RAMIREZ