

MEETING OF THE WHOLE OF THE PITTSFIELD SCHOOL COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2008, 7:00 P.M., PITTSFIELD HIGH SCHOOL

I. A. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Amuso called the meeting to order.

B. MOMENT OF SILENCE

C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

D. ROLL CALL

PRESENT

Kathleen Amuso, Chairperson
Hon. James Ruberto
Churchill Cotton
Daniel Elias
Carmen C. Massimiano, Jr.

ABSENT

Angel Ramirez
Erin Sullivan

STUDENTS

George Leibinger	Pittsfield High School
Hannah Simons	Pittsfield High School
Rachael Came	Taconic High School
Courtney Nason-Farrell	Taconic High School

Chairperson Amuso declared a quorum.

E. INTRODUCTION OF STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBER TO SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Superintendent Eberwein introduced Hannah Simons, a Pittsfield High School senior, as one of Pittsfield High School's student representatives to the School Committee.

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

Superintendent Eberwein presented Hannah Simons, a Pittsfield High School senior, with her Certificate of Academic Excellence. Hannah was unable to make the October 8 School Committee meeting when the other certificates were presented.

Motion by Daniel Elias that the School Committee take a five minute recess, was by vote unanimously approved.

Motion by Daniel Elias that the School Committee return to the regular order of business, was by vote unanimously approved.

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II. A. PARTICIPATION BY THE PUBLIC

NONE

B. PARTICIPATION BY THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Churchill Cotton thanked Sheriff Massimiano for his initiative to waive the \$50.00 laptop user fee. He also thanked Eric Lamoureaux and Joseph Curtis for their time in explaining their school's MCAS test results. He also announced that Conte and Morningside Community Schools are looking for volunteers for their after school programs.

Daniel Elias concurred with Sheriff Massimiano's initiative to waive the \$50.00 laptop user fee. He reported on several School Council meetings he attended. One was Reid Middle School. He talked about the steps they are taking to address their MCAS results. The other meeting was Williams School. He reported on some of the events taking place at Williams School.

III. INFORMATION

A. THE CONTINUUM OF ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION

Superintendent Eberwein introduced the discussion on The Continuum of Alternative Education noting that the school system educates everyone no matter what their needs are.

Dr. Howard Eberwein, Jr., Director of the Juvenile Resource Center, reported on the goals of the program and the services provided at the JrC. He also reported on how they address drop outs and truancy and the success rate the program has had.

Dorothy Mack, Director of the Helen Berube Teen Parenting Program, reported on the program and the services they provide to pregnant teens.

Mr. Vincent Szymanski, Director of the Adult Learning Center, explained the GED and Adult Diploma Programs.

Mr. Christopher Sposato, Principal of Pittsfield High School, reported on the Credit Recovery Program Plato and the student success rate. He also explained the PHS Achievement Academy.

Mr. Douglas McNally, Principal of Taconic High School, talked about the Five-Year Plan and how the program has helped students to have a positive high school experience.

Ms. Anne Beauregard, Director of Alternative Education, explained student placements at the Alternative Education Program.

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Mrs. Sally Douglas, Assistant Superintendent for Business and Finance, responded to question from Committee relevant to costs for the various programs.

Superintendent Eberwein concluded the program by stating that these were just a few programs in the school system that address the needs of students and that there are other programs which will be highlighted throughout the year.

IV. FUTURE BUSINESS

- A. The next Regular Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 5, 2008, 7:00 P.M., Pittsfield High School.

Mayor Ruberto encouraged citizens to vote No on Questions 1 and 2.

VII. Adjournment

Motion by Daniel Elias, seconded by Carmen Massimiano, that the School Committee be adjourned was by vote unanimously approved at 9:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel Elias