

REGULAR MEETING OF THE PITTSFIELD SCHOOL COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY,  
FEBRUARY 11, 2009, 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  
Churchill Cotton  
Daniel Elias  
Erin Sullivan

ABSENT

Hon. Mayor James Ruberto  
Carmen C. Massimiano, Jr.  
Angel Ramirez

Chairperson Amuso declared a quorum.

II. A. PARTICIPATION BY THE PUBLIC

NONE

B. SCHOOL COMMITTEE PARTICIPATION

Daniel Elias reported on the Stearns' School Council meeting he recently attended. He highlighted some of the key topics of the meeting, such as their School Improvement Plan, providing an update on the current budget, and hosting a program on bullying.

Churchill Cotton reminded parents that this is college application time and that students should be applying for scholarships and filing college applications.

Chairperson Amuso stated that there are two local colleges, BCC and MCLA, which are very affordable.

Daniel Elias was pleased that Mr. Cotton reminded parents about college applications and scholarship applications.

Chairperson Amuso announced the City Basketball Championship games being held Friday, February 13.

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Motion by Erin Sullivan, seconded by Churchill Cotton, that the School Committee take the Superintendent's Report and Graduation Rate Report out of order, was by vote unanimously approved.

A. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

Superintendent Eberwein announced the following:

- March 2 is *Read Across America Day* and that schools are looking for volunteer readers;
- Kim Grady received two grants, a Community Partnership Grant and a Community Service Learning Grant;
- PHS and Williams School students have partnered on a reading program;
- PHS Art Department and Grade 2 students at Egremont have partnered on working on an art project;
- *Goodwill Food Drive* is being held throughout the district;
- Hibbard and PHS students working on service learning projects;
- NAEP testing taking place at Allendale, Reid and PHS;
- New edition of Pittsfield Public Schools Post is out and is posted on the website
- Third installment of "Superintendent's Scuttle" taped yesterday;
- Berkshire Center for Children and Families has received a grant and will be able to continue their Community Literacy Program;
- April 14<sup>th</sup> will be the official Groundhog "Shadow" Day for students;
- Career Day will be held March 14 at BCC;
- Friday, February 13 is a half day for students; and
- Student art exhibits are being showcased at the Norman Rockwell Museum.

Superintendent Eberwein.....

- Urged citizens to clean their sidewalks and pathways for students; and
- Thanked Keith Babuszcak and the high school principals for a successful Open House at both schools.

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

B. GRADUATION RATE REPORT

Superintendent Eberwein provided an overview on the Graduation Rate, highlighting the increase in students graduating and the decrease in the number of dropouts. He responded to questions from Committee members.

Motion by Erin Sullivan, seconded by Churchill Cotton that the School Committee accept the presentation on the Graduation Rate Report, as presented by

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Superintendent Eberwein and outlined in Enclosure No. 6, was by vote unanimously approved.

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

### C. REPORTS OF SUBCOMMITTEES

Erin Sullivan provided an update on the Policy Subcommittee, noting that the Subcommittee is reviewing the current Attendance Policy.

Motion by Erin Sullivan, seconded by Churchill Cotton, 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 Erin Sullivan, seconded by Churchill Cotton, that the School Committee approve the minutes of January 14, 2009, as outlined in Enclosure No. 2A and the Executive Session Minutes of January 14, 2009, and the minutes of January 30, 2009, as outlined in Enclosure No. 2B, was by vote unanimously approved.

### B. ACCEPTANCE OF PERSONNEL REPORT

Motion by Erin Sullivan, seconded by Churchill Cotton, that the School Committee accept the Personnel Report, as outlined in Enclosure No. 3, was by vote unanimously approved (see Pages 5-6).

### C. SIX-MONTH BUDGET PROJECTION

Mrs. Sally Douglas, Assistant Superintendent for Business and Finance, provided an overview of the six-month budget projection and responded to questions from Committee members.

Motion by Erin Sullivan, seconded by Churchill Cotton that the School Committee accept the Six-Month Budget Projection, as presented by Mrs. Douglas and outlined in Enclosure No. 4, was by vote unanimously approved.

Motion by Erin Sullivan, seconded by Churchill Cotton, that the School Committee take Approval of Application for Cooperative Tennis (Boys Girls) Team Agreement Between Taconic High School and St. Joseph High School, out of order, was by vote unanimously approved.

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C. APPROVAL OF APPLICATION FOR COOPERATIVE TENNIS (BOYS AND GIRLS) TEAM AGREEMENT BETWEEN TACONIC HIGH SCHOOL AND ST. JOSEPH HIGH SCHOOL

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

Motion by Erin Sullivan, seconded by Daniel Elias, that the School Committee approve the application for a cooperative tennis (boys and girls) team agreement between Taconic High School and St. Joseph High School, as outlined in Enclosure No. 10, was by vote unanimously approved (see Pages 7-11).

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

D. SCHOOL PRESENTATION  
• MORNINGSIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Mr. Joseph Curtis, Principal of Morningside Community School, provided an overview on Morningside's School Exit Safety Plan and explained the dilemma he is facing with traffic around the school during starting and dismissal times. He responded to questions from Committee members. A discussion followed. Chairperson Amuso asked that the Morningside traffic issue be forwarded to the Transportation & Safety Subcommittee for review.

Motion by Chairperson Amuso, seconded by Daniel Elias, to direct Deputy Superintendent Malkas to inform Superintendent Eberwein that the current Morningside traffic plan in place at Morningside Community School is not acceptable and that the situation needs to be addressed and an update provided to the School Committee at the next meeting, was by vote unanimously approved.

Motion by Erin Sullivan, seconded by Churchill Cotton, that the School Committee accept Morningside Community School's presentation, as presented by Mr. Curtis and outlined in Enclosure No. 5, was by vote unanimously approved.

IV. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

A. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

THIS ITEM WAS TAKEN OUT OF ORDER.

B. GRADUATION RATE REPORT

THIS ITEM WAS TAKEN OUT OF ORDER.

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C. SCHOOL CHOICE IN AND OUT

Mrs. Sally Douglas, Assistant Superintendent for Business and Finance, and Ms. Barbara Malkas, Deputy Superintendent, provided an overview on School Choice In and Out and responded to questions from Committee members.

Motion by Erin Sullivan, seconded by Churchill Cotton, that the School Committee accept the presentation on School Choice In and Out, as presented by Mrs. Malkas and Mrs. Douglas and outlined in Enclosure No. 7, was by vote unanimously approved (see Pages 14-19).

V. RECOMMENDED ACTIONS – OLD BUSINESS

A. NONE

VI. RECOMMENDED ACTIONS – NEW BUSINESS

A. APPROVAL OF 2009-2010 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

Motion by Erin Sullivan, seconded by Churchill Cotton, that the School Committee approve the 2009-2010 School Year Calendar, as outlined in Enclosure No. 8, was by vote unanimously approved (see Page 20).

B. APPROVAL OF OVERNIGHT FIELD TRIPS

- NEW YORK, NEW YORK

Motion by Erin Sullivan, seconded by Churchill Cotton, that the School Committee approve the field trip to New York City, February 15-19, 2009, as outlined in Enclosure No. 9A, was by vote unanimously approved (see Pages 21-24).

- WASHINGTON, DC AND BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

Motion by Erin Sullivan, seconded by Churchill Cotton, that the School Committee approve the field trip to Washington, DC and Baltimore, Maryland, March 27-29, 2009, as outlined in Enclosure No. 9B, was by vote unanimously approved (see Pages 25-26).

- FRAMINGHAM, MA

Motion by Erin Sullivan, seconded by Churchill Cotton, that the School Committee approve the field trip to Framingham, MA, March 7-9, 2009, as outlined in Enclosure No. 9C, was by vote unanimously approved (see Page 27).

- MILFORD AND ASHLAND, MA

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Motion by Erin Sullivan, seconded by Churchill Cotton, that the School Committee approve the field trip to Milford, MA, March 6, 2009, and Ashland, MA, March 7, 2009, as outlined in Enclosure No. 9D, was by vote unanimously approved (see Page 28).

- C. APPROVAL OF APPLICATION FOR COOPERATIVE TENNIS (BOYS AND GIRLS) TEAM AGREEMENT BETWEEN TACONIC HIGH SCHOOL AND ST. JOSEPH HIGH SCHOOL

THIS ITEM WAS TAKEN OUT OF ORDER.

- D. APPROVAL OF APPLICATION FOR COOPERATIVE TRACK (BOYS AND GIRLS) TEAM AGREEMENT BETWEEN TACONIC HIGH SCHOOL AND ST. JOSEPH HIGH SCHOOL

THIS ITEM WAS WITHDRAWN

- E. APPROVAL OF REVISED 2008-2009 SCHOOL SYSTEM LINE ITEM BUDGET

Motion by Erin Sullivan, seconded by Churchill Cotton, that the School Committee approve and adopt a Revised 2008-2009 School System Line Item Budget totaling \$49,262,445 which includes a second reduction in the City Appropriation of \$150,000. as outlined in Enclosure No.12, was by vote unanimously approved (see Pages 29-37).

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- A. NONE

VIII. FUTURE BUSINESS

Next Meeting Scheduled for Wednesday, February 25, 2009, 7:00 P.M., Pittsfield High School.

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 9:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

ERIN SULLIVAN