

REGULAR MEETING OF THE PITTSFIELD SCHOOL COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY,
MARCH 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
Carmen C. Massimiano, Jr.
Angel Ramirez
Erin Sullivan

ABSENT

Hon. Mayor James Ruberto

STUDENT

Hannah Simons Pittsfield High School

Chairperson Amuso declared a quorum.

II. A. PARTICIPATION BY THE PUBLIC

NONE

B. SCHOOL COMMITTEE PARTICIPATION

Chairperson Amuso reported on events at Herberg Middle School and the Taconic Science Fair. Chairperson. Amuso was a judge at the Taconic Science Fair.

C. REPORTS OF SUBCOMMITTEES

Chairperson Amuso provided an update on the Finance Subcommittee meeting.

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

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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 February 11, 2009, as outlined in Enclosure No. 2A and the minutes of February 25, 2009, as outlined in Enclosure No. 2B, 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. 3, was by vote unanimously approved (see Pages 4-5).

C. LINE ITEM TRANSFERS

Motion by Angel Ramirez, seconded by Carmen Massimiano, that the School Committee accept the Line Item Transfers, as presented by Mrs. Douglas and outlined in Enclosure No. 4, was by vote unanimously approved (see Page 6).

D. SCHOOL PRESENTATION

• CROSBY SCHOOL

Ms. Lisa Buchinski, Principal of Crosby School, introduced Kathy Garson, a music teacher, and the Crosby 5th grade chorus who sang two songs to the Committee.

Motion by Angel Ramirez, seconded by Carmen Massimiano, that the School Committee accept Crosby School's choral presentation, was by vote unanimously approved.

IV. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

A. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

Superintendent Eberwein commented on the following:

- Thanked everyone who participated in the *Read Across America* event;
- Read to the kindergarten class at Williams School and had lunch with two students, Nicole Mazzeo and Shairai Richards;
- Announced that the Regional Science Fair will take place at MCLA this Friday;
- Visited Herberg and saw their Robotics Club in action;
- Wished all the schools well in the Robotics competition;
- Announced that Conte students are participating in the Harvard University Harvard Forest Project which consists of identifying trees around the school and recording information on the trees;
- Announced that last week was World Math Week and that several of the

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- schools participated in this global event;
- Met with a representative from MassRide and commended Lisa Buchinski for her *Walking School Bus Program*;
- Recognized the students who took first placed in the *Business Professionals of America* State Competition;
- Recognized PHS students who placed first in the state Decathlon Competition;
- Announced that the PHS Quiz Team will appear on the *As Schools Match Wits* TV Program in May;
- Congratulated all winter athletes;
- Announced that spring sports will be starting up soon;
- Announced that there will be a lecture by Howard Gardner on April 29 and that event is sponsored by Legacy Banks;
- Announced that the 9th grade Career Fair will be held at BCC on March 19;
- Recognized the Taconic and PHS students who received awards at the Massachusetts All State Music and Art Festivals;
- Announced that the PHS Concert Band recently held a concert at the school and will participate in an alumni concert on March 20 at the First United Methodist Church to raise funds for their Montreal trip;
- Announced that the Dropout Prevention work is moving forward and that a county-wide forum will be held on June 5 at the Berkshire Hills Country Club;
- Congratulated Morgan Williams and his staff for being invited to present at the New England League of Middle Schools;
- Announced that Taconic staff and students, under the direction of Heather McNeice, held a loose change drive for Danny LaPatin, a Capeless student with cancer;
- Announced that Commissioner Chester asked him to serve on the Performance and Proficiency Subcommittee and that he will not be at the March 25 school committee meeting.

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

B. FY'10 BUDGET FINANCIAL OVERVEIW

Mrs. Sally Douglas, Assistant Superintendent for Business and Finance, provided an overview of the preliminary FY'10 financials as presented to the Finance Subcommittee on Monday, March 9, 2009. In addition to the financial overview, Deputy Superintendent Malkas provided a brief overview of projected enrollment for the 2009-2010 school year. Beyond Wednesday's meeting specific sessions of the budget will be held and the budget will be discussed in detail.

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Motion by Angel Ramirez, seconded by Carmen Massimiano, that the School Committee accept the FY'10 Budget Financial Overview, as presented by Mrs. Douglas and Ms. Malkas, was by vote unanimously approved.

V. RECOMMENDED ACTIONS – OLD BUSINESS

A. NONE

VI. RECOMMENDED ACTIONS – NEW BUSINESS

A. APPROVAL OF OVERNIGHT FIELD TRIPS

- NEW YORK CITY

Motion by Angel Ramirez, seconded by Carmen Massimiano, that the School Committee approve the field trip to Broadway in New York City, April 10-11, 2009, as outlined in Enclosure No. 6A, was by vote unanimously approved (see Page 8).

- HOLYOKE, MA

Hannah Simons explained to the Committee about the PeaceJam organization and some of the programs the group participates in.

Motion by Angel Ramirez, seconded by Carmen Massimiano, that the School Committee approve the field trip to the Elms College in Holyoke, MA, April 4-5, 2009, as outlined in Enclosure No. 6B, was by vote unanimously approved (see Pages 9-10).

C. APPROVAL OF FOREIGN TRAVEL

- MONTREAL, CANADA

Motion by Angel Ramirez, seconded by Carmen Massimiano, that the School Committee approve the field trip to Montreal, Canada, May 8-10, 2009, as outlined in Enclosure No. 7, was by vote unanimously approved (see Pages 11-12).

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. DISCUSSION OF GRIEVANCE

Motion by Angel Ramirez, seconded by Carmen Massimiano, that the School Committee go into Executive Session for Discussion of Grievance, was by roll call vote unanimously approved.

The Committee went into Executive Session at 8:13 p.m.

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

The Committee returned to the regular order of business at 8:22 p.m.

Let the record show that no votes were taken in Executive Session

Motion by Angel Ramirez, seconded by Carmen Massimiano, that the School Committee deny the grievance presented by the U.E.P. on March 11, 2009 for both procedural and substantive grounds on advice of counsel, was by vote unanimously approved.

VIII. FUTURE BUSINESS

Next Meeting Scheduled for Wednesday, March 25, 2009, 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 8:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

ANGEL RAMIREZ