

REGULAR MEETING OF THE PITTSFIELD SCHOOL COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY,
MARCH 25, 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
Hon. Mayor James Ruberto
Carmen C. Massimiano, Jr.
Churchill Cotton
Daniel Elias
Erin Sullivan

ABSENT

Angel Ramirez

STUDENTS

Hannah Simons Pittsfield High School

Chairperson Amuso declared a quorum.

II. A. PARTICIPATION BY THE PUBLIC

Ellen Mary Dagostino, Stockbridge, MA, commented on the Pittsfield High School *PeaceJam* group that participated in a Service Learning Project in New York City over the February vacation. She urged the School Committee to encourage more service learning projects in the schools.

B. SCHOOL COMMITTEE PARTICIPATION

Erin Sullivan congratulated the Pittsfield High School Cheerleaders and their coach, Shavelle Dudley, for competing and placing in the Western Mass Cheerleading Competition.

C. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES

Erin Sullivan reported on the Policy Subcommittee meeting and Chairperson Amuso reported on the Finance Subcommittee meeting.

Motion by Erin Sullivan, seconded by Churchill Cotton, that the School Committee approve the minutes of the Finance Subcommittee of March 11, 2009, as outlined in Enclosure No. 1A and the Policy Subcommittee meeting of March 16, 2009, as outlined in Enclosure No. 1B.

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III. RECOMMENDED ACTIONS – ROUTINE MATTERS

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Erin Sullivan, seconded by Carmen Massimiano, that the School Committee approve the minutes of March 11, 2009, as outlined in Enclosure No. 2 and the Executive Session minutes of March 11, 2009, was by vote unanimously approved.

B. ACCEPTANCE OF REPORTS

- CAFETERIA REPORTS
- STUDENT ACTIVITY AND SCHOLARSHIP REPORTS

Carmen Massimiano requested a report be provided outlining funds raised by Booster Clubs.

Motion by Erin Sullivan, seconded by Carmen Massimiano, the School Committee approve the Cafeteria Report, as outlined in Enclosure No. 3A and the Student Activity and Scholarship Reports, as outlined in Enclosure No. 3B (see Pages 3-8).

C. ACCEPTANCE OF PERSONNEL REPORT

Motion by Erin Sullivan, seconded by Carmen Massimiano, that the School Committee accept the Personnel Report, as outlined in Enclosure No. 4, was by vote unanimously approved (see Page 9).

C. SCHOOL PRESENTATIONS

- EGREMONT SCHOOL

Ms. Karen Senus, Principal of Egremont School, math coach, Candy Jezewski, and fourth grade teacher, Gigi Hawkins, discussed the focus Egremont School has had this year around math. Six students, ranging from kindergarten through fourth grade, spoke about their experiences they have had while participating in these activities.

Motion by Erin Sullivan, seconded by Carmen Massimiano, that the School Committee accept Egremont School's presentation, was by vote unanimously approved.

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IV. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

A. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

Superintendent Eberwein commented on the following:

- Attended Reid Middle School Science Fair and was impressed with student projects;
- Attended Conte and Crosby Schools' *Connected for Success* open house;
- Announced that a fundraiser sponsored by the Pittsfield Hoop Club and the Pittsfield Public Schools' Athletic Department featuring K. C. Jones, a Celtics Legend, will be held on April 2 and to contact the Athletic Department if you are interested in tickets;
- Announced that the Robotics competition was held and that the Stearns Huskies received an award;
- Announced that the winners of the Science Fair held at MCLA will participate in the MIT state competition;
- Announced that Capeless School was showcased on PCTV's *Food for Thought*;
- Announced that on April 8 the middle school students will be touring BCC and MCLA;
- Attended Career Fair for grade 9 students held at BCC and thanked BCC, Kim Grady and vendors for their time in this successful event;
- Congratulated Ron Lively and his band for a wonderful concert held last Friday in which former band alumni played along with students;
- Attended the Junior Festival Concert held at UMass and announced the Pittsfield students that participated in this event;
- Thanked the Allendale community for raising funds for their school's Literacy program;
- Announced that the Wellness Committee, with the help of Larry Kratka from WUPE Radio, will be recording a PSA (public service announcement);
- Announced that an *iPod Touches* Program will be piloted at the middle schools;
- Announced that the Math Expressions curriculum program that the School Committee adopted last fall was featured in Education Week; and
- Announced the deadline for non-resident admission to vocational programs is April 1.

Carmen Massimiano requested an update on the laptop initiative.

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

B. NEASC UPDATE

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Mr. Christopher Sposato, Principal of Pittsfield High School, and Mr. Douglas McNally, Principal of Taconic High School, provided an update on the NEASC Five Year Report

Motion by Erin Sullivan, seconded by Carmen Massimiano, that the School Committee accept the NEASC Update, as presented by Mr. Sposato and Mr. McNally and outlined in Enclosure No. 6, was by vote unanimously approved.

C. BUDGET OVERVIEW
• GRANT UPDATE

Mrs. Sally Douglas, Asst. Superintendent for Business and Finance, provided an overview on the preliminary FY'10 school budget, highlighting key components in the budget book. Mrs. Barbara Malkas, Deputy Superintendent, provided an update on grant funding for FY'10 and Mrs. Alicia Couture, Director Safe Schools/Healthy Students, provided an update on the *Safe Schools/Healthy Students* grant.

Motion by Erin Sullivan, seconded by Carmen Massimiano, that the School Committee accept the Budget Overview, as presented by members of the Cabinet and outlined in Enclosure Nos. 6A-6B, was by vote unanimously approved.

V. RECOMMENDED ACTIONS – OLD BUSINESS

A. NONE

VI. RECOMMENDED ACTIONS – NEW BUSINESS

A. APPROVAL OF REVISED 2008-2009 SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING CALENDAR

Motion by Erin Sullivan, seconded by Carmen Massimiano, that the School Committee approve the Revised 2008-2009 School Committee Meeting Calendar, as outlined in Enclosure No. 7, was by vote unanimously approved (see Page 12).

B. APPROVAL OF REVISED FY 2009-2010 SCHOOL BUDGET CALENDAR

Motion by Erin Sullivan, seconded by Churchill Cotton, that the School Committee approve the Revised FY 2009-2010 School Budget Calendar, was by vote unanimously approved (see Page 13).

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C. APPROVAL OF OVERNIGHT FIELD TRIPS

- BOSTON, MA

Motion by Erin Sullivan, seconded by Carmen Massimiano, that the School Committee approve the overnight field trip to MIT in Boston, MA, April 30 – May 2, 2009, as outlined in Enclosure No. 9A, was by vote unanimously approved (see Page 15).

- DALLAS, TX

Motion by Erin Sullivan, seconded by Carmen Massimiano, that the School Committee approved the overnight field trip to Dallas, Texas, May 5-10, 2009, as outlined in Enclosure No. 9B was by vote unanimously approved (see Page 16).

D. APPROVAL OF FOREIGN TRAVEL

- QUEBEC CITY, CANADA

Motion by Erin Sullivan, seconded by Carmen Massimiano, that the School Committee approve the foreign travel to Quebec City, Canada, April 18-21, 2009, as outlined in Enclosure No. 10, was by vote unanimously approved (see Page 17).

E. FIRST READING ON POLICY INS-125 (ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS)

Motion by Erin Sullivan, seconded by Carmen Massimiano, that the School Committee approve, on a first reading, Policy INS-125 (English Language Learners), as outlined in Enclosure No. 11, was by vote unanimously approved.

F. FIRST READING ON POLICY INS-126 (LANGUAGE INSTRUCTION FOR LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENT AND IMMIGRANT STUDENTS)

Motion by Erin Sullivan, seconded by Carmen Massimiano, that the School Committee approve, on a first reading, Policy INS-126 (Language Instruction for Limited English Proficient and Immigrant Students), as outlined in Enclosure No. 12, was by vote unanimously approved.

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G. AUTHORIZATION FOR SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS TO SUBMIT STATE OF INTEREST FORMS TO THE MASSACHUSETTS SCHOOL BUILDING AUTHORITY

Motion by Erin Sullivan, seconded by Carmen Massimiano, that the School Committee, having convened in an open meeting on March 25, 2009, the Pittsfield School Committee of the City of Pittsfield, in accordance with its charter, by-laws, and ordinances, has voted to authorize the Superintendent to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest Form dated October 8, 2008 for the Taconic High School located at 96 Valentine Road, Pittsfield, MA which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the priority category(s) for which an application may be submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future: Priority 3 – Prevention of the loss of accreditation. Currently the school site plant and equipment do not support aspects of the educational programs; Priority 5 – Replacement, renovation or modernization of the heating system in a schoolhouse to increase energy conservation and decrease energy related costs in the schoolhouse. Currently this includes replacement of heating system, controls, and low E windows; and Priority 7 – Replacement of or addition to obsolete buildings in order to provide for a full range of programs consistent with state and approved local requirements. Currently this includes a layout that isolates and limits academic and vocational disciplines. Hereby further specifically acknowledges that by submitting this Statement of Interest Form, the Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance or the approval of an application, the awarding of a grant or any other commitment from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, or commits the City/Town/Regional School District to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority, was by vote unanimously approved.

Motion by Erin Sullivan, seconded by Carmen Massimiano, that the School Committee, having convened in an open meeting on March 25, 2009, the Pittsfield School Committee of the City of Pittsfield, in accordance with its charter, by-laws, and ordinances, has voted to authorize the Superintendent to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest Form dated October 8, 2008 for the Pittsfield High School located at 300 East Street, Pittsfield, MA which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the priority category(s) for which an application may be submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future: Priority 3 – Prevention of the loss of accreditation. The current facility is not meeting all the current educational demands necessary to carry out the mission; Priority 5 – Replacement, renovation or modernization of the heating system in a schoolhouse to increase energy conservation and decrease energy related costs in the schoolhouse. Currently this includes heating system upgrades and repair/replacement of ventilation systems; and Priority 7 – Replacement of or addition to obsolete buildings in order to provide for a full range of programs consistent with state and approved local requirements. The current design does not support some programs and the infrastructure is aging. Hereby further

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specifically acknowledges that by submitting this Statement of Interest Form, the Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance or the approval of an application, the awarding of a grant or any other commitment from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, or commits the City/Town/Regional School District to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority, was by vote unanimously approved.

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. NONE

VIII. FUTURE BUSINESS

Next regular Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, April 8, 2009, 7:00 P.M., Pittsfield High School.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

ERIN SULLIVAN