

REGULAR MEETING OF THE PITTSFIELD SCHOOL COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 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
Churchill Cotton
Carmen C. Massimiano, Jr.
Angel Ramirez

ABSENT

Daniel Elias
Erin Sullivan

Chairperson Amuso declared a quorum.

E. INTRODUCTION OF STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL TO SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Superintendent Eberwein introduced the Student Advisory Council to the School Committee for the 2009-2010 school year. The student representatives are:

Mia Alessio	Pittsfield High School
Diana Quetti	Pittsfield High School
Kamaar Taliaferro	Pittsfield High School
Kelly Bartley	Taconic High School
Kelsey Stasiewski	Taconic High School

F. PRESENTATION OF THE 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 class, and personal selection by the Superintendent. The students below were presented certificates:

Marcus B. Widitor	Pittsfield High School
Caitlin F. Bird	Pittsfield High School
Christine J. Niccoli	Taconic High School

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

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

II. A. PARTICIPATION BY THE PUBLIC

NONE

B. SCHOOL COMMITTEE PARTICIPATION

Sheriff Massimiano commented on the Fall Foliage parade he attend last weekend and the outstanding job that the Pittsfield High School band did. He was happy to see the band in the parade.

Mayor Ruberto commented that because of the number of AP courses offered in Pittsfield Caitlin Bird's parents have kept her in the Pittsfield Public Schools. He congratulated all the students that received the M.A.S.S. award.

Chairperson Amuso thanked the representatives from SABIC Innovations and all the volunteers who showed up and assisted with the Egremont School project. She invited the public to stop by and see the impressive project. She also thanked the PHS staff and students for following the rules of the Open Campus policy.

Mayor Ruberto talked about the epilepsy walk organized by Officer Quetti's daughter and how successful it was.

C. SCHOOL COMMITTEE SUBCOMMITTEES

NONE

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 23, 2009, as outlined in Enclosure No. 1, 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 Page 3).

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C. SCHOOL PRESENTATION
• STEARNS SCHOOL

Ms. Bednarski, Principal of Stearns School, along with her math coach, Lynn Griffin, talked about the tool used in Grades 4 and 5 that made their Open Response scores soar. In addition, Carol Scorpa, a SPED teacher at Stearns School, explained the Math Olympics program while students provided a demonstration of one of the math games used in the Olympics.

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

IV. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

A. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

Superintendent Eberwein reported on the following:

- Welcomed the new student representatives;
- Recognized the students from BCC observing the School Committee meeting;
- Acknowledged everyone who helped out with the SABIC project at Egremont School;
- Thanked SABIC for all their efforts on behalf of the schools;
- Announced that Egremont School participated in the *International Walk to School Day* today;
- Announced that the Parent Advisory Committee meetings will begin next week and invited parents who wish to participate to notify their principal or contact his office;
- Announced that Erin Leith, an ELL teacher at Reid, recently had an article published on ELL Gains;
- Congratulated the PHS Band for participating in the Fall Foliage parade;
- Announced that the Taconic Theatre group will present *One Act Comedies* be October 22-24;
- Thanked Greylock Credit Union for sponsoring no-cost student visits to the Berkshire Museum for Pittsfield Public School students;
- Acknowledge Laurin Publishing for their past sponsorship of this program;
- Announced the mentoring programs are on-going in the district and that a presentation will be made at the November 4 School Committee meeting;
- Announced that *Red Ribbon Week*, which raises awareness for drug free choices, runs October 17-25;
- Announced that he received letters from parents, whose child previously attended private or parochial schools, letting him know how pleased they are with the Pittsfield Public Schools;

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- Congratulated Jackie Quetti for raising awareness on epilepsy and who successfully arranged a walk to raise money for this disorder;
- Received letters from former students commenting on how well prepared they were for college;
- Announced that a collaboration has been formed between the Pittsfield Public Schools and Youth Alive;
- Attended a meeting with members of the district's emergency planning team to continue the emergency planning process;
- Received MCAS growth data, which is currently being reviewed, and will be presented to the School Committee at a future date;
- Provided an update on the H1N1 planning and reminded parents to keep their child home when ill and to contact the schools with updated phone numbers or address changes; and
- Asked Assistant Superintendent Sally Douglas to provide an update on the cooperative purchase of wipes and sanitizers with Berkshire Health Systems and the city.

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 READINESS ADVANTAGE SCHOOL – CONTE PROSPECTUS

Superintendent Eberwein, along with Conte Community School Principal Donna Leep, provided an overview of the proposed Readiness Plan and the vision and goals for converting Conte Community School to a Readiness School.

Motion by Angel Ramirez, seconded by Carmen Massimiano, that the School Committee accept the report on Readiness Advantage School – Conte Prospectus, was by vote unanimously approved.

V. RECOMMENDED ACTIONS – OLD BUSINESS

A. NONE

VI. RECOMMENDED ACTIONS – NEW BUSINESS

A. APPROVAL OF STUDENT ACTIVITY AND SCHOLARSHIP ACCOUNTS AUDIT

Motion by Angel Ramirez, seconded by Carmen Massimiano, that the School Committee accept the Student Activity and Scholarship Accounts Audit for Fiscal Year 2009, as outlined in Enclosure 3, was by vote unanimously approved.

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- B. APPROVAL OF OVERNIGHT FIELD TRIP
- FRANKLIN, MILFORD AND BOSTON, MA

Motion by Angel Ramirez, seconded by Carmen Massimiano, that the School Committee approve the overnight field trip to Franklin, Milford and Boston, MA, as outlined in Enclosure No. 4, was by vote unanimously approved (see Pages 7 and 8).

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- A. NONE

VIII. FUTURE BUSINESS

Next Meeting Scheduled for Wednesday, October 21, 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 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

ANGEL RAMIREZ