

REGULAR MEETING OF THE PITTSFIELD SCHOOL COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 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  
Daniel Elias  
Carmen C. Massimiano, Jr.  
Angel Ramirez  
Erin Sullivan

Chairperson Amuso declared a quorum.

II. A. PARTICIPATION BY THE PUBLIC

NONE

B. SCHOOL COMMITTEE PARTICIPATION

Erin Sullivan invited the public to attend the Policy Subcommittee meeting on September 30 at 7:00 p.m. in the Library at PHS.

Chairperson Amuso explained that all second meetings of the month have designated as regular meetings but that the meeting will be formatted as a Meeting of the Whole with the exception that votes can be taken at that meeting.

Churchill Cotton attend the Taconic football game on Sunday and noticed there was lots of spirit but no cheerleaders or band there.

C. SCHOOL COMMITTEE SUBCOMMITTEES

NONE

III. RECOMMENDED ACTIONS – ROUTINE MATTERS

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A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Angel Ramirez, seconded by Carmen Massimiano, that the School Committee approve the minutes of September 9, 2009, as outlined in Enclosure No. 1 and the Executive Session Minutes of September 9, 2009, 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 Pages 4-6).

C. SCHOOL PRESENTATIONS  
• HERBERG MIDDLE SCHOOL

Christopher Jacoby, Principal of Herberg Middle School, talked about the various programs at Herberg's and their main goal of focusing on data to drive instruction.

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

IV. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

A. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

Superintendent Eberwein reported on the following:

- Acknowledged the smooth handling by the schools that had voting in the building;
- Attended Berkshire Community College's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary kickoff;
- Launched the E-SPED database this week which was purchased by the ARRA funds;
- Thanked Alicia Couture for her amazing organization of emergency planning for the schools;
- Provided an update on the H1N1 preparations and the possibility of receiving the vaccine by mid-October;
- Announced that the school system is looking for volunteer LPNs, RNs or Physician Assistants to help administer the flu vaccines and for volunteers for record control;
- Announced plans are being worked out to make sure lesson plans and coverage is available in the schools in order to keep the schools open;

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- Urged parents to think of alternate daycare coverage when their child is ill this year ;
- Urged parents to make sure their phone numbers are updated at their child's school;
- Reviewed precautions that can be taken to lessen the outbreak of the flu;

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- Reported that information regarding flu symptoms and protocol to follow are on the Pittsfield Public Schools' website and that additional information can be obtained by going to the state website [mass.gov/flu](http://mass.gov/flu);
- Urged parents to submit all consent forms and free and reduced lunch forms before the October 1 deadline.
- Met with Ray Ross from the Big Brother & Big Sisters organization, Kim Grady and Dr. Howard Eberwein, Jr. regarding a mentoring program and that a presentation will be made at the November 4 School Committee meeting
- Thanked the District Attorney's office for providing the *All Stars* bullying program at the schools;
- Thanked Berkshire Health Systems and Berkshire Medical Center for their support in providing baseline testing for all students participating in athletic sports;
- Announced that the SABIC Project is this Saturday at Egremont School and that volunteers are welcome;
- Announced that *Jazz in Our Schools* will be held in October and that our high schools will be participating in the event;
- Commented on the two informational briefs passed out on Readiness Planning and Professional Development Planning for school leaders;
- Announced that the Berkshire Compact for Higher Education will be bringing in Ray McDaulty to speak on October 2; and
- Announced that the Pittsfield Public School Post is out.

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

B. AYP PRESENTATION

Superintendent Eberwein introduced the discussion of AYP and 2009 MCAS test results recently released by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Deputy Superintendent Malkas explained how AYP is measured and the connection to the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act. She reviewed the timelines for reaching the goals set by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education including the need for improvement in the subgroups. She talked about benchmark targets, attendance and the effort the district is taking to make progress and implementing corrective action steps for those schools that have not made AYP.

Superintendent Eberwein and Deputy Superintendent Malkas talked about the attention that principals and teachers are giving to their school data as well as the district data. They talked about the regular and frequent meeting held focusing on the big push to obtain data. In addition, Deputy Superintendent

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Malkas talked about DIBELS and Gallileo testing used to assistant teachers in obtaining data on every student in order to focus in or their needs.

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Deputy Superintendent Malkas reviewed each schools AYP results in both Math and ELA and then introduced the principal to comment on their schools result and what action they are taking in order to make AYP.

Throughout the presentation School Committee members asked questions to Superintendent Eberwein, Deputy Superintendent Malkas and principals. The School Committee thanked the principals for all their efforts on behalf of the students of Pittsfield.

Motion by Angel Ramirez, seconded by Carmen Massimiano, that the School Committee accept the AYP presentation, as presented by Superintendent Eberwein, Deputy Superintendent Malkas and the principals and outlined in Enclosure No. 3, was by vote unanimously approved.

V. RECOMMENDED ACTIONS – OLD BUSINESS

A. SECOND READING ON TEXTBOOK ADOPTIONS

- ECONOMICS – ELECTIVE INTENSIVE LEVEL (GRADES 10-12)
- AP PSYCHOLOGY (GRADES 11-12)

Motion by Angel Ramirez, seconded by Carmen Massimiano, that the School Committee approve, on a second reading, Economics – Elective Intensive Level (Grades 10-12) and AP Psychology (Grades 11-12), as outlined in Enclosure Nos. 4A &4B), was by vote unanimously approved (see Pages 8-17).

VI. RECOMMENDED ACTIONS – NEW BUSINESS

A. APPROVAL OF OVERNIGHT FIELD TRIP

- PROVIDENCE, RI

Motion by Angel Ramirez, seconded by Carmen Massimiano, that the School Committee approve the overnight field trip to Providence, Rhode Island, as outlined in Enclosure No. 5, was by vote unanimously approved (see Page 18).

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. NONE

VIII. FUTURE BUSINES

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

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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 10:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

ANGEL RAMIREZ