

REGULAR MEETING OF THE PITTSFIELD SCHOOL COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY,
JANUARY 13, 2010, 7:00 P.M., PITTSFIELD HIGH SCHOOL

I. A. CALL TO ORDER

Superintendent Eberwein called the meeting to order at 7:02 P.M.

B. MOMENT OF SILENCE

C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

D. ROLL CALL

PRESENT

Hon. James Ruberto, Mayor
Kathleen Amuso
Alfred Barbalunga
Churchill Cotton
Daniel Elias
Erin Sullivan
Katherine Yon

STUDENT

Mia Alessio

E. ORGANIZATION OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE FOR THE 2010 CALENDAR YEAR

Motion by Alfred Barbalunga, seconded by Churchill Cotton, that Katherine Amuso be elected Chair of the Pittsfield School Committee, was by vote unanimously approved.

Motion by Alfred Barbalunga, seconded by Churchill Cotton, that Daniel Elias be elected Vice Chair of the Pittsfield School Committee, was by vote unanimously approved.

Motion by Alfred Barbalunga, seconded by Churchill Cotton, that Erin Sullivan be elected Secretary of the Pittsfield School Committee, was by vote unanimously approved.

New School Committee members Alfred Barbalunga and Katherine Yon expressed appreciation for the work of previous members Carmen Massimiano and Angel Ramirez and also for the support of the voters and look forward to their work on the Committee.

Ongoing Committee member Daniel Elias expressed appreciation for the work of Carmen Massimiano and Angel Ramirez.

II. A. PARTICIPATION BY THE PUBLIC

Terry Kinnas, 14 Cooper Parkway, requested that discussion of the petition he filed to the Superintendent be tabled. Chair Amuso said that the item was just informational at this point.

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B. SCHOOL COMMITTEE PARTICIPATION

C. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES

Erin Sullivan reported on the upcoming review of all Pittsfield Public Schools policies as directed by Superintendent Eberwein. Questions and discussion followed.

Ms. Amuso will send notification of subcommittee membership to all School Committee members.

Motion by Erin Sullivan, seconded by Churchill Cotton, that the School Committee approve the Policy Subcommittee minutes of December 16, 2009, as outlined in Enclosure No. 1, was by vote unanimously approved.

III. RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Erin Sullivan, seconded by Churchill Cotton, that the School Committee approve the School Committee minutes of December 16, 2009, as outlined in Enclosure No. 2, was by vote unanimously approved.

B. ACCEPTANCE OF PERSONNEL REPORT

Erin Sullivan commended the work of four retiring Allendale Elementary School teachers.

Motion by Erin Sullivan, seconded by Churchill Cotton, that the School Committee approve the Personnel Report, as outlined in Enclosure No. 3, was by vote unanimously approved.

C. SCHOOL PRESENTATION

Morningside Community School Principal Joseph Curtis, teachers and students discussed the initiatives, practices and effects of the focus on instruction. Instructional Leadership Team members who addressed the School Committee included Academic Reading Coach Marge Edwards, Pre-K Teacher Eileen Moynihan, Math Coach Louise Brogan. Students also addressed the Committee.

Motion by Erin Sullivan, seconded by Churchill Cotton, that the School Committee accept Morningside Community School's presentation was by vote unanimously approved.

IV. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

A. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

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Superintendent Eberwein welcomed new School Committee members and announced the following:

- “Race to the Top” Memorandum of Understanding has been filed;
- Pre-feasibility paperwork has been submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority;
- PPS educational programs “Superintendent Scuttle,” “School for Thought,” are aired regularly on PCTV; “Ready, Set, Go” about kindergarten readiness will be added next year;
- “The Berkshire Eagle” is sharing good news about the school district through articles and photographs such as Reid design lab, Morningside mentoring, IS183 project;
- Commended Conte “Connected for Success” program;
- Appreciated the cookbook that Egremont Elementary School staff joined together to create;
- Congratulated Taconic High School chorus under direction of Jessica Guzzo for presentation at mayoral inauguration;
- “S.A.Y. It Proud” (Supporting and Acknowledging Youth) campaign of Pittsfield Prevention Partnership and Berkshire United Way is accepting nominations of students (ages 11-19) who are involved in positive activities and making good choices, which can be submitted at totallyfreeberkshires.org;
- Expressed appreciation to custodial staff for the cleanliness and maintenance of the school buildings;
- Commended the excellent work of the cafeteria staff and Food Services program, bus drivers and Bus Operations;
- Spoke about the Positive Options Program at Berkshire Community College and Introduced Deputy Superintendent Barbara Malkas who spoke about college enrollment/dual enrollment programs for high school students;
- Announced high school Open Houses, 6:00-8:00 p.m. on January 28;
- Announced Egremont concert January 20;
- Thanked Jim Wilusz and Dr. Adamo and the Health Department for their support throughout the successful H1N1 clinics;
- Highlighted the work of the Early Education and Care Task Force;
- Acknowledged the state recognition of Reid Middle School for making “significant change” with regard to ELL;
- The district will be preparing for a four-day audit by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, Educational Quality Assurance Office in April;
- Encouraged ongoing safety in the snow as the winter continues;
- Asked for information about school activities and good news to share at upcoming School Committee meetings.

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

V. RECOMMENDED ACTIONS – New Business

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A. FIRST READING ON POLICY STU-80 (ANTI-BULLYING/PEER HARASSMENT)

Motion by Erin Sullivan, seconded by Churchill Cotton, that the School Committee approve on a first reading Policy STU-80 (Anti-Bullying/Peer Harassment), as outlined in Enclosure No. 4, was by vote unanimously approved.

B. APPROVAL OF FOREIGN TRAVEL

Motion by Erin Sullivan, seconded by Churchill Cotton, that the School Committee approve the trip to San Juan and Ponce, Puerto Rico, February 11-17, 2010, as outlined in Enclosure No. 5A, was by vote unanimously approved.

Motion by Erin Sullivan, seconded by Churchill Cotton, that the School Committee approve the trip to Newton, Massachusetts, January 21-22, 2010, as outlined in Enclosure No. 5B, was by vote unanimously approved.

C. CITY COUNCIL PETITIONS

Motion by Erin Sullivan, seconded by Churchill Cotton, that the School Committee support Superintendent Eberwein's response to the petition filed by Terry Kinnas and referred by the City Council to Superintendent Eberwein as outlined in Enclosure No. 6A, was by vote unanimously approved.

Motion by Erin Sullivan, seconded by Churchill Cotton, that the School Committee support Superintendent Eberwein's response to the petition filed by Wanda Boeke and referred by the School Committee and the School Building Needs Commission, as outlined in Enclosure No. 6B, was by vote unanimously approved.

VI. FUTURE BUSINESS

A. Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 27, 2010, 7:00 p.m., Pittsfield High School

VI. ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

ERIN SULLIVAN