

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE PITTSFIELD SCHOOL COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY,
MARCH 3, 2010, 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.
Erin Sullivan
Katherine Yon

ABSENT

Alfred Barbalunga

Chairperson Amuso declared a quorum.

II. A. PARTICIPATION BY THE PUBLIC

NONE

B. SCHOOL COMMITTEE PARTICIPATION

Chairperson Amuso talked about the protocol for canceling School Committee meetings due to inclement weather. She thanked the teachers, parents and students involved in the science fairs at both Pittsfield High and Taconic High. In addition, she thanked everyone who participated in the *Read Across America* event this week.

Katherine Yon commented on several of the events she recently attended: the Pittsfield High and Taconic High Open House events, as well as the Positive Options Program at Berkshire Community College.

C. REPORTS OF SUBCOMMITTEES

Erin Sullivan provided an update on the timeline for beginning the process of revising the Policy Manual as well as discussing some of the policies that are currently being revised.

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Motion by Erin Sullivan, seconded by Churchill Cotton, that the School Committee approve the Policy Subcommittee minutes of January 27, 2010, as outlined in Enclosure No. 1, was by vote unanimously approved.

III. RECOMMENDED ACTIONS – ROUTINE MATTERS

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Erin Sullivan, seconded by Churchill Cotton, that the School Committee approve the minutes of January 27, 2010, as outlined in Enclosure No. 2A, the minutes of February 3, 2010, as outlined in Enclosure No. 2B, and the Executive Session minutes of February 3, 2010, was by vote unanimously approved.

B. ACCEPTANCE OF PERSONNEL REPORT

Motion by Erin Sullivan, seconded by Churchill Cotton, that the School Committee accept the Personnel Report, as outlined in Enclosure No. 3, was by vote unanimously approved (see Page 4).

C. SCHOOL PRESENTATION

NONE

IV. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

A. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

Superintendent Eberwein commented on the following:

- Thanked everyone for their efforts on snow removal and for the bus drivers getting the children home safely;
- Thanked everyone who participated in the *Read Across America* event this week;
- Visited the preschool program at Conte Community School;
- Announced that MCAS testing will be coming up soon;
- Congratulated all winter sports teams;
- Encouraged students to participate in spring sports;
- Commented on the End-of-Year bowling event he attended;
- Congratulated the PHS cheerleaders on winning the Western MA competition and advancing to the national competition;
- Thanked everyone involved in the science fairs;
- Thanked the Taconic staff for helping out with the military mobilization ceremony;
- Congratulated National Merit Finalist, Matthew Bird;
- Announced that March is census month and urged parents to support the census process;

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- Announced some of the upcoming events being held at the schools;
- Announced that Drop Out Data has been released by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and that there has been a decrease in the number of dropouts;
- Announced that Egremont School Post Office Dedication Day will be held on March 24;
- Announced that the Center for District and School Accountability will conduct their audit April 13-16;
- Announced that district has received an acceptance letter to participate in the Race to the Top Initiative; and
- Reviewed the 2009 Summer Food Service Program Report.

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

B. ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLANS

Deputy Superintendent Malkas begin the presentation by explaining the district-wide initiative *Focus on Results*. She reviewed the seven areas of focus and the five primary domains that formed this district initiative. Herberg Middle School Principal Jacoby and Conte Community School Principal Leep provided an overview of the development of instructional focus at the elementary and secondary levels. Each principal described the development of their school-wide focus using data analysis, learning communities, and key strategies.

Motion by Erin Sullivan, seconded by Churchill Cotton, that the School Committee accept the presentations by Mrs. Malkas and the elementary and secondary principals, as outlined in Enclosure No. 4, was by vote unanimously approved (see Pages 5-16).

V. RECOMMENDED ACTIONS – OLD BUSINESS

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

Motion by Erin Sullivan, seconded by Churchill Cotton, that the School Committee approve, on a second reading, Policy STU-80 (Anti-Bullying/Peer Harassment), as outlined in Enclosure No. 5, was by vote unanimously approved (see Pages 17-19).

VI. RECOMMENDED ACTIONS – NEW BUSINESS

A. APPROVAL TO FUND ALTERNATE CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITY

Motion by Erin Sullivan, seconded by Churchill Cotton, that the School Committee approve funding the alternate co-curricular activity, Science Research Club, as outlined in the Administrative Memorandum, was by vote unanimously approved.

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B. APPROVAL OF FIELD TRIPS

- AUBURN, MA

Motion by Erin Sullivan, seconded by Churchill Cotton, that the School Committee approve the field trip to Ashland, MA, March 5-6, 2010, as outlined in Enclosure No. 6A, was by vote unanimously approved. (see Pages 21-22).

- FRAMINGTON, MA

Motion by Erin Sullivan, seconded by Churchill Cotton, that the School Committee approve the field trip to Framingham, MA, March 6-8, 2010, as outlined in Enclosure No. 6B, was by vote unanimously approved. (see Pages 23-28).

- HARTFORD, CT

Motion by Erin Sullivan, seconded by Churchill Cotton, that the School Committee approve the field trip to Hartford, CT, March 27-28, 2010, as outlined in Enclosure No. 6C, was by vote unanimously approved. (see Pages 29-30).

C. APPROVAL OF 2010-2011 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

Motion by Erin Sullivan, seconded by Churchill Cotton, that the School Committee approve the 2010-2011 School Year Calendar, as outlined in Enclosure No. 7, was by vote unanimously approved (see Page 31).

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. ITEMS OF NEGOTIATIONS

Motion by Erin Sullivan, seconded by Churchill Cotton, that the School Committee go into Executive Session for Items of Negotiations, was by roll call vote unanimously approved.

The Committee went into Executive Session at 8:56 p.m.

Motion by Erin Sullivan, seconded by Churchill Cotton, 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 9:16 p.m.

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

VIII. FUTURE BUSINESS

Next Meeting Scheduled for Wednesday, March 10, 2010, 7:00 P.M., Pittsfield High School.

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IX. ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

ERIN SULLIVAN