

REGULAR MEETING OF THE PITTSFIELD SCHOOL COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY,  
NOVEMBER 4, 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.

Chairperson Amuso expressed condolences on behalf of the School Committee to Mayor Ruberto on the death of his mother and to the Champoux family on the death of Bernie Champoux, a long-time secretary at Morningside Community School.

B. MOMENT OF SILENCE

C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

D. ROLL CALL

PRESENT

Kathleen Amuso, Chairperson  
Churchill Cotton  
Daniel Elias  
Carmen C. Massimiano, Jr.  
Angel Ramirez  
Erin Sullivan

ABSENT

Hon. Mayor James Ruberto

STUDENTS

|               |                        |
|---------------|------------------------|
| Mia Alessio   | Pittsfield High School |
| Diana Quetti  | Pittsfield High School |
| Kelly Bartley | Taconic High School    |

Chairperson Amuso declared a quorum.

II. A. PARTICIPATION BY THE PUBLIC

NONE

B. SCHOOL COMMITTEE PARTICIPATION

Diana Quetti announced the PHS Theatrical production of *You Can't Take It With You* will take place December 3-5.

C. SCHOOL COMMITTEE SUBCOMMITTEES

Erin Sullivan provided an update on the Policy Subcommittee meeting held on October 28, noting that they are working on the Attendance Policy which will be reviewed by the Superintendent.

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Motion by Angel Ramirez, seconded by Carmen Massimiano, that the School Committee approve the Policy Subcommittee minutes of October 28, 2009, as outlined in Enclosure No. 1, was by vote unanimously approved.

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 October 21, 2009, as outlined in Enclosure No. 2, 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. 3, was by vote unanimously approved (see Pages 4-5).

C. SCHOOL PRESENTATION

• CROSBY SCHOOL

Ms. Lisa Buchinski, Principal of Crosby School, talked about the various programs in place at Crosby School to support the school-wide focus on writing model. Some of the programs in place are the Brain Boosters before and after school program, BCC mentor tutoring, Miss Halls mentor tutoring, the Junior Achievement volunteers and the Mass Cultural Counsel with the Berkshire Museum.

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

IV. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

A. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

Superintendent Eberwein reported on the following:

- Extended condolences the Champoux and Ruberto families;
- Provided enclosures on the Department of Elementary & Secondary Education's Standards and Indicators and Commissioner Chester's visit;
- Attended the launch of the district's DSAC (District School Assistance Centers) at Berkshire Community College;
- Thanked the schools that took part in the Halloween parade ;
- Announced that Williams School is sponsoring a beanie baby and candy drive to support soldiers overseas;
- Announced that the academies mentoring program will be launched next week at Berkshire Community College;

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- Recognized Mr. Cotton and members who participated in the multicultural task force;
- Encouraged parents to go to their child's school website to see what is happening in their school ;
- Announced that parent conferences will be held next week and the following week;
- Announced that Conte Community School students, along with students from their partner Jacob's Pillow, will present *Curriculum in Motion* event;
- Announced that he took a team of staff members to attend the DE&SE Drop Out forum ;
- Announced that a public forum on H1N1 was held on November 2;
- Announced that informational packets on the H1N1 vaccination will be mailed out by Friday;
- Thanked all the schools who supported the election and congratulated those who were elected and those who ran;
- Thanked Sheriff Massimiano and Angel Ramirez for all their support and commitment to the schools; and
- Announced student absences are declining;

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

#### B. MENTORING PRESENTATION

Ms. Kim Grady along Dr. Howard J. Eberwein, Jr., provided an overview of the mentoring initiative launched this school year, as well as providing information on the variety of mentoring programs utilized in the four secondary schools. They highlighted the Morningside/PHS project and Herberg's *Make Dreams Real* initiative. Students shared their experiences about being involved in mentoring. Kari Dupuis from Herberg and Jen Hashim from PHS provided an update on the number of students involved in the mentoring programs and the activities they are doing.

Motion by Angel Ramirez, seconded by Carmen Massimiano, that the School Committee accept the presentation on the Mentoring Programs, as outlined in Enclosure No. 4, was by vote unanimously approved.

#### V. RECOMMENDED ACTIONS – OLD BUSINESS

##### A. NONE

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VI. RECOMMENDED ACTIONS – NEW BUSINESS

A. APPROVAL TO FUND ALTERNATE CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Motion by Angel Ramirez, seconded by Carmen Massimiano, that the School Committee approve funding the alternate co-curricular activities, as outlined in Enclosure 5, was by vote unanimously approved (see Page 7).

B. APPROVAL TO CONDUCT FY'09 END-OF-YEAR AUDIT AND APPROVAL TO CONDUCT FY'09 STUDENT ACTIVITY ACCOUNTS AUDIT

Motion by Angel Ramirez, seconded by Carmen Massimiano, that the School Committee approve hiring Thomas J. Scanlon CPA & Associates of South Deerfield, MA to conduct an audit of the Pittsfield Public Schools' End-of-Year Pupil and Financial Report for FY'09, in the amount of \$4,500.00, as outlined in Enclosure No. 6A, was by vote unanimously approved (see Page 8).

Motion by Angel Ramirez, seconded by Carmen Massimiano, that the School Committee approve hiring Thomas J. Scanlon CPA & Associates of South Deerfield, MA to conduct an audit of the Pittsfield Public Schools' Student Activity Accounts for the year ending June 30, 2010, in the amount of \$3,000.00, as outlined in Enclosure No. 6B, was by vote unanimously approved (see Page 9).

C. APPROVAL TO RENEW AND EXTEND NATURAL GAS CONTRACT

Motion by Angel Ramirez, seconded by Carmen Massimiano, that the School Committee approve and authorize the Assistant Superintendent for Business and Finance to renew and extend the Pittsfield Public Schools' current Natural Gas Contract with Hess Corporation for an additional two years, November 2010 – November 2012, as outlined in Enclosure No. 7, was by vote unanimously approved (see Page 10).

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. NONE

VIII. FUTURE BUSINESS

Next Meeting Scheduled for Wednesday, December 2, 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 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

ANGEL RAMIREZ