

REGULAR MEETING OF THE PITTSFIELD SCHOOL COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY,
JULY 21, 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
Alfred Barbalunga
Churchill Cotton
Daniel Elias
Erin Sullivan
Katherine Yon

Chairperson Amuso declared a quorum.

II. A. PARTICIPATION BY THE PUBLIC

NONE

B. SCHOOL COMMITTEE PARTICIPATION

Chairperson Amuso thanked Peter Marchetti for a great parade. She said the school system had a wonderful float.

Daniel Elias commented on the wonderful end-of-year program at Egremont School.

C. REPORTS OF SUBCOMMITTEES

• CURRICULUM SUBCOMMITTEE

Churchill Cotton provided an update on the Curriculum Subcommittee's meeting of June 23. He said the subcommittee discussed the Workplace Readiness Certificate Program being proposed, the two new textbooks up for adoption: Career Choices Series and Introduction to College Algebra. The third item, Benchmark assessments, was tabled until the next meeting.

Motion by Erin Sullivan, seconded by Churchill Cotton, that the School Committee approve the Curriculum Subcommittee minutes of June 23, 2010, as outlined in Enclosure No. 1A, was by vote unanimously approved.

• POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE

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Erin Sullivan provided an update on the three policies discussed at the July 7th Policy Subcommittee meeting. The policies discussed were: SRV-50 (Meal Charging), which is a new policy addressing the charging of meals at all levels; Revised Policy STU-4 (School Attendance Areas Intra-City School Transfer); and Revised Policy STU-12 (Admission of Non-Resident Students). She stated that the Policy Subcommittee will start reviewing each section of the policy manual starting with the School Committee section.

Motion by Erin Sullivan, seconded by Churchill Cotton, that the School Committee approve the Policy Subcommittee minutes of July 7, 2010, as outlined in Enclosure No. 1B, 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 June 23, 2010, as outlined in Enclosure No. 2, 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 Pages 4-6).

C. SCHOOL PRESENTATION

NONE

IV. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

A. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

Superintendent Eberwein commented on the following:

- Thanked Pamela Delmolino and Stephen Gingras for the dynamic 4th of July float;
- Announced that the Pittsfield Public Schools was the recipient of a 21st Century Grant for high schools and commended Kim Grady for getting the grant;
- Announced that Theresa Allen, a PHS Social Studies teacher, is working on aligning the curriculum to include Pittsfield's 250th Anniversary Celebration;
- Announced that Lynn Shortis thanked the School Committee for allowing the field trip to Cape Cod;
- Announced that Ayssa Kirywine was selected as *Kid of the Month*;
- Thanked Jim Abel and his crew for their involvement in *Sticks for Kids*;

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- Thanked Jim Schultz and Karen Shields for their hard work on the *PPS Post*;
- Announced that the City Council's Finance Subcommittee has approved the plan to borrow money to hire a project manager in order to conduct study of the proposed school projects and that the SBA will be reimbursing the City for a portion of the funds;
- Announced that the Curriculum and Policy Subcommittees will be looking into on-line learning and policy setting for this type of learning;
- Announced that the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education voted to accept federal Common Core standards; and
- Provided an update on the campaign promoting the Pittsfield Public Schools. A discussion took place about the ad campaign.

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

B. UPDATE ON CVTE (CAREER VOCATIONAL/TECHNICAL EDUCATION)

Assistant Superintendent Keith Babuszczyk provided an overview of the CVTE programs that included enrollment comparisons, results of the CVTE Follow-up Survey by programs, a listing of staff members, and a breakdown of the major equipment purchases since 2008.

Motion by Erin Sullivan, seconded by Churchill Cotton, that the School Committee accept Assistant Superintendent Babuszczyk's update on CVTE programs, as outlined in Enclosure No. 4, was by vote unanimously approved (see Pages 7-14).

C. UPDATE ON BUDGET/STAFFING DECISIONS

Superintendent Eberwein provided an update on budget and staffing decisions.

Motion by Erin Sullivan, seconded by Churchill Cotton, that the School Committee accept the update on budget and staffing decisions, as presented by Superintendent Eberwein, was by vote unanimously approved.

V. RECOMMENDED ACTIONS – OLD BUSINESS

A. UPDATE OF 2010-2011 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLANS

Deputy Superintendent Barbara Malkas provided an overview of the Professional Development Plans for the 2010-2011 school year.

Motion by Erin Sullivan, seconded by Churchill Cotton, that the School Committee accept Deputy Superintendent Malkas' report on Professional Development Plans for the 2010-2011 school year, as outlined in Enclosure No. 5, was by vote unanimously approved (see Pages 15-22).

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VI. RECOMMENDED ACTIONS – NEW BUSINESS

A. APPROVAL OF FOREIGN TRAVEL

- PARIS AND GRANVILLE, FRANCE

A discussion took place over the cost of the trip. Mayor Ruberto voiced his concern about students not being able to afford the trip and that funding was not available for students on an as needed basis. He said that diversity needs to be incorporated into the plan. Mr. Cotton felt that students need to work for the trip and that it was not an entitlement. Mr. Elias feels this a valuable opportunity for students and feels that students should have an opportunity to raise funds. Mrs. Yon wants to see a provision added to the policy to address the concerns of the Committee. Mr. Barbalunga suggested having travel insurance in the case of a disaster.

Ms. Suzanne Polo, a French teacher at Pittsfield High School who has organized the trip, explained that fundraisers have been held and will continue to be held. She responded to questions from Committee members.

Motion by Erin Sullivan, seconded by Churchill Cotton, that the School Committee approve the trip to Paris and Granville, France, April 14-24, 2011, as outlined in Enclosure No. 6, was by vote approved 6-1, with Mayor Ruberto casting a dissenting vote (see Pages 24-28).

B. APPROVAL OF MILK BID

Motion by Erin Sullivan, seconded by Churchill Cotton, that the School Committee award the Bread Bid to George Weston Bakeries (Freihofer's Division) Inc. of Albany NY, as outlined in Enclosure No. 4A, was by vote unanimously approved (see Page 29).

C. APPROVAL OF FUEL BID

Motion by Erin Sullivan, seconded by Churchill Cotton, that the School Committee award the Fuel Bid to O'Connell Oil of Pittsfield, MA, as outlined in Enclosure No. 8, was by vote unanimously approved (see Page 30).

D. FIRST READING ON COURSE ADOPTION

- 21ST CENTURY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Motion by Erin Sullivan, seconded by Churchill Cotton, that the School Committee table this item, was by vote unanimously approved.

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E. FIRST READING ON TEXTBOOK ADOPTIONS

- INTERMEDIATE ALGEBRA

Motion by Erin Sullivan, seconded by Churchill Cotton, that the School Committee approve, on a first reading, Intermediate Algebra, as outlined in Enclosure No. 10A, was by vote unanimously approved.

- CAREER CHOICES

Motion by Erin Sullivan, seconded by Churchill Cotton, that the School Committee approve, on a first reading, Career Choices, as outlined in Enclosure No. 10A, was by vote unanimously approved.

F. FIRST READING ON REVISED POLICIES

- STU-4 (SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AREAS INTRA-CITY SCHOOL TRANSFER)

A discussion took place over the early deadline date and suggested a later date. They also discussed not having deadline.

Motion by Erin Sullivan, seconded by Churchill Cotton, that the School Committee approve, on a first reading Revised Policy STU-4 (School Attendance Areas Intra-City School Transfer), as outlined in Enclosure No. 11A, was by vote approved 5-2, with Alfred Barbalunga and Churchill Cotton casting dissenting votes.

- STU-12 (ADMISSION OF NON-RESIDENT STUDENTS)

Motion by Erin Sullivan, seconded by Mayor Ruberto, that the School Committee approve, on a first reading Revised Policy STU-12 (Admission of Non-Resident Students), as outlined in Enclosure No. 11B, was by vote approved 6-1, with Churchill Cotton casting a dissenting vote.

G. FIRST READING ON POLICY

- SRV-50 (MEAL CHARGING POLICY)

Motion by Erin Sullivan, seconded by Churchill Cotton, that the School Committee approve, on first reading, Policy SRV-50 (Meal Charging), as outlined in Enclosure No. 12, was by vote unanimously approved.

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 9:21 p.m.

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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 9:38 p.m.

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

VIII. FUTURE BUSINESS

Next Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, August 18, 2010, 7:00 p.m., Pittsfield High School.

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 9:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

ERIN SULLIVAN