

REGULAR MEETING OF THE PITTSFIELD SCHOOL COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 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. and read the following statement:

"Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, s. 20, I am hereby informing all attendees that a video and audio recording is being made of this meeting."

B. MOMENT OF SILENCE

C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

D. ROLL CALL

PRESENT

Kathleen Amuso, Chairperson
Alfred Barbalunga
Katherine Yon
Daniel Elias
Erin Sullivan
Katherine Yon

ABSENT

Mayor James Ruberto

Chairperson Amuso declared a quorum.

E. INTRODUCTION OF STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL TO SCHOOL COMMITTEE

The General Laws Relating to Education specify that school committees shall meet at least once every other month with an Advisory Council consisting of five high school students chosen by their peers. Our local policy invites student representatives to participate at the first meeting of every month. The Student Advisory Council to the School Committee for the 2010-2011 school year is as follows:

Christian Kennedy	Pittsfield High School
Yi Zhong	Pittsfield High School
Joshua Rivera	Taconic High School
Jacob Mullen	Taconic High School
Madeline Bianchi	Taconic High School

F. PRESENTATION OF M.A.S.S. CERTIFICATE OF ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

The Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents' Certificates of Academic Excellence are given to high school students who have distinguished themselves in the pursuit of academic excellence during their high school careers.

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The criteria are: three-year cumulative grade point average, rank in class, and personal selection by the Superintendent. The following students were presented certificates:

Christian M. Austin	Pittsfield High School
Eric L. Dunton	Pittsfield High School
Sarah A. Moon	Taconic High School
Taylor M. Jacoby	Taconic High School

The School Committee took a short recess at 7:16 p.m. There were no objections. The Committee returned to the regular order of business 7:26 p.m.

II. A. PARTICIPATION BY THE PUBLIC

NONE

B. SCHOOL COMMITTEE PARTICIPATION

Daniel Elias reported on Conte's Neighborhood Advisory Council meeting he attended recently. He talked about Conte's focus on MCAS, parent involvement at the school and their concern about putting a traffic light at the end of West Union Street.

Katherine Yon talked about the great opportunities available in the Pittsfield Public Schools. She talked about some of the classes and events she attended, such as the EOS program at Taconic High School, the Grandparents' Day at Williams School and the International Walk Day at Egremont School. She also commented on the Bullying workshop she recently attend and the need to focus on empathy.

Alfred Barbalunga talked about the YMCA's after school programs taking place at Herberg and Reid Middle Schools.

Chairperson Amuso asked if there were objections to taking items III. C. and IV. C. out of order. There were no objections.

III. C. PARTICIPATION BY THE PUBLIC

- WILLIAMS SCHOOL

Principal Lynda Bianchi introduced teachers Colleen Trager and Colleen Wright. Ms. Trager and Ms. Wright, along with students from their classes, provided a brief presentation on the topics of *Daily Five Instruction* and *Odyssey of the Mind*.

Motion by Erin Sullivan, seconded by Churchill Cotton, the School Committee accept the Williams' School presentation, as outlined in Enclosure No. 4 (see Pages 3-21).

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IV. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

C. PEP GRANT REPORT

Mrs. Linda Avalor, Coordinator of Math and Science, spoke about the collaborative effort between the City of Pittsfield, community partners, Operation Better Start and the YMCA that led to Pittsfield Public School being awarded. This group's objective is focusing on an approach to improve the long-term health of our students. Staff from Operation Better Start, Peter Gazzillo, Kathy Marchetto and Edward Perlak, were present to talk about their involvement in the program.

Motion by Erin Sullivan, seconded by Churchill Cotton, that the School Committee accept the PEP Grant report, as presented by Mrs. Avalor.

Chairperson Amuso recommended that the Committee return to the regular order of business. There were no objections.

C. REPORTS OF SUBCOMMITTEES

- CURRICULUM SUBCOMMITTEE

Churchill Cotton said the Curriculum Subcommittee met on September 15 and discussed the virtual schools and on-line learning. The concern of the Committee is to make sure the on-line and virtual learning programs maintain the same rigor as regular classes.

Motion by Erin Sullivan, seconded by Churchill Cotton, that the School Committee approve the Curriculum Subcommittee minutes of September 15, 2010, as outlined in Enclosure No 1A, was by vote unanimously approved.

- POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE

THIS ITEM WAS WITHDRAWN FROM THE AGENDA.

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 September 22, 2010, as outlined in Enclosure No. 2, was by vote unanimously approved.

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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 23-30).

C. SCHOOL PRESENTATION

- WILLIAMS SCHOOL

THIS ITEM WAS TAKEN OUT OF ORDER.

IV. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

A. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

Superintendent Eberwein....

- Welcomed the new student representatives to the school committee;
- Congratulated the students who received the MASS Academic Excellence Award;
- Encouraged parents to look at their child's progress report that was released;
- Asked Deputy Superintendent Malkas to talk about professional development in the district..
 - Wide variety of data-based professional development being offered such as developing strategies, deep on data, broad data analysis focusing on graduation rate, safety, OSHA, CPR, etc;

Superintendent Eberwein announced the following:

- SBNC secured an Owners Program Manager who will be introduced at the November 1 SBNC meeting;
- John & Abigail Scholarship letters received today;
- Many staff members serving on DE&SE committees;
- Met with members of the Parent Advisory Council last week;
- Continues to solicit input on bullying and revising the policy;
- Rival football game taking place this Friday – donations will go to the *Making Great Strides* Breast Cancer event;
- Walk being on Sunday, October 17 supporting *Making Great Strides Event*; and
- Parent informational events being held at Conte, meal and babysitting services provided.

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

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B. OCTOBER 1 MEMBERSHIP AND ORGANIZATION REPORT

Deputy Superintendent Malkas reported on the October 1 Membership and Organization Data and responded to questions from Committee members regarding the data.

Motion by Erin Sullivan, seconded by Churchill Cotton, the School Committee accept the presentation by Deputy Superintendent Malkas on the October 1 Membership and Organization Data, as outlined in Enclosure No. 5, was by vote unanimously approved (see Pages 33-62).

C. PEP GRANT REPORT

THIS ITEM WAS TAKEN OUT OF ORDER.

D. UPDATE ON RACE TO THE TOP GRANT

Superintendent Eberwein provided an update on the status of the *Race To The Top* grant, noting the application deadline is October 22. He said that once the grant application is approved the school system will receive just under \$1M for four year.

Motion by Erin Sullivan, seconded by Churchill Cotton, the School Committee accept the update on the *Race To The Top* grant, was by vote unanimously approved (see Pages 63-65).

E. PUBLIC DAY SCHOOL OVERVIEW

Mrs. Kristen Behnke, Assistant Business Manager, and Mrs. Stephanie Case, Director of Special Education, provided an overview of the Public Day School Program. Mrs. Behnke and Mrs. Case stated that there would a substantial savings for the school system by opening a Public Day School program.

Motion by Erin Sullivan, seconded by Churchill Cotton, that the School Committee approve solicitation of proposals for a Public Day School building, was by vote unanimously approved (see Pages 66-71).

V. RECOMMENDED ACTIONS – OLD BUSINESS

A. NONE

VI. RECOMMENDED ACTIONS – NEW BUSINESS

A. APPROVAL OF REVISED 2010-2011 SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING CALENDAR

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Motion by Erin Sullivan, seconded by Churchill Cotton, that the School Committee approve the Revised 2010-2011 School Committee Meeting Calendar, as outlined in Enclosure No. 6, was by vote unanimously approved (see Page 72).

B. APPROVAL TO FUND CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

The teachers' collective bargaining agreement (Article 15 s.A.3) allows building principals, with concurrence of the Superintendent, to finance an additional co-curricular activity when an unfilled co-curricular position provides funds to do so. The School Committee is approached annually by high school principals with requests to approve reallocating co-curricular funds for the particular school year.

Pittsfield High School Principal, Tracey Benson, requested that the co-curricular activities identified in Enclosure No. 7A, as being new this year, replace the co-curricular activities in that same enclosure as inactive for the 2010-2011 school year. The Superintendent of Schools concurs with the recommendation of the principal and recommends that the School Committee approve Mr. Benson's petition.

Motion by Erin Sullivan, seconded by Churchill Cotton, that the School Committee approve funding the alternate co-curricular activities for Pittsfield High School, as outlined in Enclosure No. 7A, was by vote unanimously approved (see Page 74).

Taconic High School Principal, John Vosburgh, requested that the co-curricular activities identified in Enclosure No. 7B, as being new this year, replace the co-curricular activities in that same enclosure as inactive for the 2010-2011 school year. The Superintendent of Schools concurs with the recommendation of the principal and recommends that the School Committee approve Mr. Vosburgh's petition.

Motion by Erin Sullivan, seconded by Churchill Cotton, that the School Committee approve funding the alternate co-curricular activities for Taconic High School, as outlined in Enclosure No. 7B, was by vote unanimously approved (see Page 75).

C. APPROVAL OF FIELD TRIP

- AUBURN AND AMHERST, MA

The Pittsfield High Schools' Soccer team will travel to Auburn, MA on Saturday, October 23 to play against the Auburn High School Girl's Soccer team. They will stay overnight at the LaQuinta Inn in Auburn, MA and travel to the University of Massachusetts where they will have a campus tour and attend the NCAA women's soccer game on the UMass campus.

Motion by Erin Sullivan, seconded by Churchill Cotton, that the School Committee approve the trip to Auburn and Amherst, MA October 23-24, 2010, as outlined in Enclosure No. 8, was by vote unanimously approved (see Pages 76-78).

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D. APPROVAL OF FOREIGN TRAVEL

- PERUGIA, ROME, FLORENCE, ASSISI, SIENA, AND PISA ITALY

Pittsfield High School students, who participated in the exchange program with high school students from Perugia Italy, will travel to Italy to reunite with the students. The students will be staying in the homes of Italian families and experiencing their lifestyles. They will have an opportunity to visit many historical sites and cultural cities in Italy. The students will be traveling to Perugia, Rome, Florence, Assisi, Siena, and Pisa. The trip will take place April 14-24, 2011.

Motion by Erin Sullivan, seconded by Churchill Cotton, that the School Committee approved the trip to Perugia, Rome, Florence, Assisi, Siena, and Pisa Italy, April 14-24, 2011, as outlined in Enclosure No. 9, was by vote approved 5-1, with Chairperson Amuso abstaining from the vote because of her involvement in the trip (see Pages 80-86).

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- A. NONE

VIII. FUTURE BUSINESS

Next Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, October 27, 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 9:37p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

ERIN SULLIVAN