

MEETING OF THE PITTSFIELD SCHOOL COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY,
NOVEMBER 17, 2010, 6:00 P.M., PITTSFIELD HIGH SCHOOL

I. A. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Amuso called the meeting to order.

"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
Hon. James Ruberto
Churchill Cotton
Daniel Elias
Erin Sullivan
Katherine Yon

ABSENT

Alfred Barbalunga

STUDENTS

Christian Kennedy	Pittsfield High School
Joshua Rivera	Taconic High School
Jacob Mullen	Taconic High School

Chairperson Amuso declared a quorum.

II. A. PARTICIPATION BY the PUBLIC

Ellen Mary D'Agostino, Stockbridge, talked about the importance of playground equipment and the fundraisers that Allendale and Conte School's are holding to raise funds for this new equipment.

B. PARTICIPATION BY THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Chairperson Amuso commented on the following: the Open House that was held at the high schools, the Williams School Veteran's Day Celebration, and the MASC/MASS Conference that she recently attended.

Mayor Ruberto also commented on the Veteran's Day Celebration at Williams School.

Katherine Yon commented on the MASC/MASS Conference, noting that Pittsfield shines above other school district, the Veteran's Celebration at Williams School, and

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Morningside's Reading event. She announced that Superintendent Eberwein will be a judge for the *Mr. Taconic Pageant*.

Joshua Rivera talked about some of Taconic's musical productions and some of Shakespeare and Company's productions.

C. REPORTS OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE

NONE

III. RECOMMENDED ACTIONS – ROUTINE MATTERS

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Erin Sullivan, seconded by Katherine Yon, that the School Committee approve the minutes of October 27, 2010, as outlined in Enclosure No. 1, and the Executive Session minutes of October 27, 2010, was by vote unanimously approved.

B. ACCEPTANCE OF PERSONNEL REPORT

Motion by Erin Sullivan, seconded by Katherine Yon, that the School Committee accept the Personnel Report, as outlined in Enclosure No. 2, was by vote unanimously approved (see Pages 4-6).

C. APPOINTMENT OF INTERIM SCHOOL NURSE LEADER

Motion by Erin Sullivan, seconded by Katherine Yon, that the School Committee approve the appointment of Joan Roy as Interim School Nurse Leader, as outlined in Enclosure No. 3, was by vote unanimously approved (see Page 7).

D. School Presentation

NONE

IV. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

A. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

Superintendent Eberwein announced the following:

- Conte's fundraiser event with the Harlem Rockets will take place on Saturday, November 20;
- PHS Cheerleaders won the Western MA competition and will be going on to the state competition;
- Jackie Quetti selected as the recipient of the 2010 the National High School Spirit Award;

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- November 11th football game dedicated to “Soldier On”;
- Morningside School will be holding a reading event next week; and
- Several schools are participating in the *Festival of Trees* at the Berkshire Museum; and several students from the high schools have been nominated to audition for the Western Mass Chorus competition and the State competition including Joshua Rivera.

Superintendent Eberwein reported on the following...

- Massachusetts School Building Authority has selected Skanska as the Owner’s Project Manager;
- Attended Urban Superintendents’ meeting – new data out for early learning indicates cauterizing all 9th grades in specific ranges to obtain drop out rates;
- Conducted a comparison of the number of students leaving the district over the last few years and there is no mass exit of students out of the district. He would like it on the record that the school system is losing few students; and
- Cautioned parents to listen to phone calls for school cancellations.

Superintendent Eberwein wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

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

B. DISTRICT AND SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLANS

Superintendent Eberwein provided an overview of the District Improvement Plan (DIP) for the 2010-2011 school year. The initiative, *FOCUS on RESULTS*, is a continuation from last year to reflect ongoing evaluation and alignment of programs. Deputy Superintendent Malkas talked about the *PPS Promise* as well as some of the challenges the district faces. Each principal outlined his or her own school’s School Improvement Plan (SIP) that aligns with the District Improvement Plan.

The focus of the elementary schools is to improve ELA and math skills in all categories. The middle schools are focusing on development of interim assessments to evaluate student progress and enhance instructional practices. The high schools are focusing on engaging rigorous instructional practices and enhancing higher-order thinking skills.

Motion by Erin Sullivan, seconded by Churchill Cotton, that the School Committee accept the presentations by Superintendent Eberwein, Deputy Superintendent Malkas and the elementary and secondary principals, as outlined in Enclosure No. 4, was by vote unanimously approved (see Pages 9-50)

V. RECOMMENDED ACTION – UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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A. NONE

VI. RECOMMENDED ACTION – NEW BUSINESS

A. APPROVAL OF OVERNIGHT FIELD TRIP
• NEW YORK CITY

Motion by Erin Sullivan, seconded by Churchill Cotton, that the School Committee approve the overnight field trip to New York City, December 10-11, 2010, as outlined in Enclosure No. 5, was by vote unanimously approved (see Pages 52-55).

B. FIRST READING ON REVISED POLICY STU-80 (ANTI-BULLYING POLICY)

Motion by Erin Sullivan, seconded by Churchill Cotton, that the School Committee approve, on a first reading, Revised Policy STU-80 (Anti-Bullying/Peer Harassment), as outlined in Enclosure No. 6, was by vote unanimously approved.

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. ITEMS OF NEGOTIATIONS

Pursuant to Ch. 30A, Section 21, Subsection a3, to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining with the United Educators of Pittsfield in that an open session would have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body.

Motion by Erin Sullivan, seconded by Churchill Cotton, that the School Committee go into Executive Session for Items of Negotiations, pursuant to Ch. 30A, Section 21, Subsection a3, to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining with the United Educators of Pittsfield in that an open session would have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body, was by roll call vote unanimously approved.

B. PERSONNEL MATTER

Pursuant to Ch. 30A, Section 21, Subsection a3, to discuss strategy with respect to litigation in that an open session would have detrimental effect on the litigating position of the public body.

Motion by Erin Sullivan, seconded by Churchill Cotton, that the School Committee go into Executive Session for a Personnel Matter, pursuant to Ch. 30A, Section 21, Subsection a3, to discuss strategy with respect to litigation in that an open session would have detrimental effect on litigating position of the public body, was by vote unanimously approved.

The School Committee returned to the regular order of business at 10:12 p.m.

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

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VIII. FUTURE BUSINESS

- A. The next Regular Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 15, 2010, 7:00 P.M., Pittsfield High School.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 10:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin Sullivan