

REGULAR MEETING OF THE PITTSFIELD SCHOOL COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY,
DECEMBER 16, 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.

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.
Angel Ramirez
Erin Sullivan

STUDENTS

Kelly Bartley	Taconic High School
Kelsey Stasiewski	Taconic High School

Chairperson Amuso declared a quorum.

II. A. PARTICIPATION BY THE PUBLIC

Ellen Mary Dagostino, Stockbridge, MA, celebrated student successes in the schools and initiatives the school system is taking to improve student performance. She was impressed with the Readiness School initiative for Conte Community School and commented on the new principals.

Terry Kinnas, 14 Cooper Parkway, spoke about academic rigor or the lack thereof. He cited examples in the secondary schools. His concern was the percentage of students making the honor roll versus the number that pass MCAS. He urged the Committee not to sell the students short by giving passing grades.

B. SCHOOL COMMITTEE PARTICIPATION

Angel Ramirez thanked past and present School Committee members and administration for their support during his tenure as a School Committee member. He also thanked the voters who elected him. He said it made him proud to be a part of making students successful.

Daniel Elias commented on the Stearns science fair and the PHS band concert that he attended. He voiced his concern over the lack of publicity for fine arts events such as the band concert. Mr. Elias also acknowledged Sheriff Massimiano and

REGULAR MEETING OF THE PITTSFIELD SCHOOL COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2009, 7:00 P.M., PITTSFIELD HIGH SCHOOL.

Angel Ramirez for their service and commitment to the children of the City of Pittsfield.

C. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES

Churchill Cotton talked about the Curriculum Department's focus on the need to look at more early childhood programs.

Motion by Angel Ramirez, seconded by Carmen Massimiano, that the School Committee approve the Curriculum Subcommittee minutes of December 2, 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 December 2, 2009, as outlined in Enclosure No. 2, and the Executive Session minutes of December 2, 2009, 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 Page 5).

C. ACCEPTANCE OF REPORTS

- CAFETERIA REPORT
- STUDENT ACTIVITY AND SCHOLARSHIP REPORTS

Motion by Angel Ramirez, seconded by Carmen Massimiano, that the School Committee accept the Cafeteria Report, as outlined in Enclosure No. 4A, and the Student Activity and Scholarship Reports, as outlined in Enclosure No. 4B, was by vote unanimously approved (see Page 6-11).

D. SCHOOL PRESENTATIONS

NONE

IV. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

A. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

Superintendent Eberwein announced the following:

- Acknowledged the DARE graduates from Capeless, Crosby, Egremont and Stearns schools;

REGULAR MEETING OF THE PITTSFIELD SCHOOL COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2009, 7:00 P.M., PITTSFIELD HIGH SCHOOL.

- Thanked principals, Sheriff Massimiano, Police Chief Wynn, District Attorney Capeless and Officer Ortega for their support of the DARE program;
- Announced that the Pittsfield Public Schools Post is hot off the press today;
- Announced that multiple TV shows promoting programs and events in the Pittsfield Public Schools will air on PCTV starting next week;
- Thanked the five parents who attended the Parent Advisory Council meeting on Tuesday and announced that he is looking for more volunteers;
- Bullying resources posted on the Pittsfield schools website;
- Announced that many events are taking place in the schools, such as holiday concerts, science fairs, etc.;
- Thanked the Pittsfield Rotary Club for distributing dictionaries to the elementary students;
- Announced that Stearns School raised \$5,000.00 for St. Jude's Hospital and that Principal Morgan Williams ran the Jolly Jaunt to raise funds for the Special Olympics;
- Announced that the Pittsfield High School science fairs will be held in the near future and that they are looking for volunteer judges;
- Congratulated students who were inducted into the National Honor Society;
- Attended the PHS play and as usual was outstanding;
- Announced that he attended a community meeting sponsored by the Berkshire United Way and the presenter was the EEC Commissioner who talked about early education programs;
- Provided a draft of the Value Statements around Strategic Planning;
- Met with EOS team to talk about EOS programs in the schools;
- Announced that he was proud of all the students that participated in the S.A.D.D. candlelight vigil;
- Announced the Pittsfield Prevention Program is running an ad campaign on substance abuse; and
- Wished everyone a happy holiday.

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

B. RACE TO THE TOP UPDATE

Superintendent Eberwein provided an update on the status of the Race to the Top application.

Motion by Angel Ramirez, seconded by Carmen Massimiano, that the School Committee accept the Race to the Top Update, as presented by Superintendent Eberwein and outlined in Enclosure No. 5A, was by vote unanimously approved.

Motion by Angel Ramirez, seconded by Carmen Massimiano, that the School Committee authorize the School Committee Chairperson to sign and submit the Race to the Top Memorandum of Understanding, as outlined in Enclosure No. 5B, was by vote unanimously approved.

REGULAR MEETING OF THE PITTSFIELD SCHOOL COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2009, 7:00 P.M., PITTSFIELD HIGH SCHOOL.

.C. COORDINATED PROGRAM REVIEW UPDATE

Mr. Keith Babuszcak, Assistant Superintendent for CVTE, provided an update on the progress made to date on the Coordinated Program Review and that there were three outstanding issues that are currently being addressed.

Motion by Angel Ramirez, seconded by Carmen Massimiano, that the School Committee accept the Coordinated Program review Update, as presented by Assistant Superintendent Babuszcak, was by vote unanimously approved.

D. NEW ENGLAND ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

Superintendent Eberwein, along with Principals Joanne Soules and John Vosburgh, provided an update on the acceptance of the Five-Year Progress Reports and the progress made for Pittsfield and Taconic High Schools. The also reviewed the items still identified still needed to be addressed.

Motion by Angel Ramirez, seconded by Carmen Massimiano, that the School Committee accept the New England Association of Schools and Colleges Update, as provided by Superintendent Eberwein, Mr. Vosburgh and Ms. Soules and outlined in Enclosure No. 6, was by vote unanimously approved (see Pages 12-16).

V. RECOMMENDED ACTIONS – UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. NONE

VI. RECOMMENDED ACTIONS – NEW BUSINESS

A. APPROVAL OF FY'11 PROPOSED BUDGET CALENDAR

Motion by Angel Ramirez, seconded by Carmen Massimiano, that the School Committee approve the FY'11 Proposed Budget Calendar, as outlined in Enclosure No. 7, was by vote unanimously approved (see Page 17).

Chairperson Amuso took a moment to thank Carmen Massimiano and Angel Ramirez for their years of service on the School Committee.

Mayor James Ruberto presented Certificates of Appreciation, on behalf of the City of Pittsfield, to Angel Ramirez and Carmen Massimiano.

Carmen Massimiano thanked everyone he was lucky to serve with on the School Committee. He stated that Pittsfield has a wonderful school system. He wished the new members great success.

Angel Ramirez thanked everyone for their support over the years. He said the School Committee is there for students of Pittsfield.

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

REGULAR MEETING OF THE PITTSFIELD SCHOOL COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2009, 7:00 P.M., PITTSFIELD HIGH SCHOOL.

- A. ITEMS OF NEGOTIATIONS
- B. ITEM OF LITIGATION

Motion by Angel Ramirez, seconded by Carmen Massimiano, that the School Committee go into Executive Session for Items of Negotiations and an Item of Litigation, was by roll call vote unanimously approved.

The Committee went into Executive Session at 8:15 p.m.

Motion by Angel Ramirez, seconded by Carmen Massimiano, 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 8:50 p.m.

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

VIII. FUTURE BUSINESS

- A. Next Regular Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, January 13, 2010, 7:00 P.M., Pittsfield High School

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 8:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

ANGEL RAMIREZ