

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
Alfred Barbalunga
Churchill Cotton
Daniel Elias
Erin Sullivan
Katherine Yon

STUDENTS

Christian Kennedy	Pittsfield High School
Madeline Bianchi	Taconic High School
Jacob Mullen	Taconic High School

Chairperson Amuso declared a quorum.

II. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. DISCUSSION OF GRIEVANCE

B. ITEMS OF NEGOTIATIONS

Motion by Erin Sullivan, seconded by Churchill Cotton, that the School Committee go into Executive Session pursuant to Ch. 30A, Section 21, Subsection (a)(2), to discuss grievances related the Paraprofessional Unit and the Pittsfield Educational Administrators' pursuant to the collective bargaining agreements, was by roll call vote unanimously approved.

Motion by Erin Sullivan, seconded by Churchill Cotton, that the School Committee go into Executive Session pursuant to Ch. 30A, Section 21, Subsection (a)(3), to discuss strategies with respect to collective bargaining with the United Educators of Pittsfield in that an open session may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the Pittsfield Public Schools, was by roll call vote unanimously approved.

Motion by Erin Sullivan, seconded by Churchill Cotton, that the School Committee go into Executive Session pursuant to Ch. 30A, Section 21, Subsection (a)(3), to discuss strategy with respect to litigation regarding the Pittsfield Custodial Association, because an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigation position of the Pittsfield Public Schools, was by roll call vote unanimously approved.

The School Committee went into Executive Session at 6:05 p.m.

Motion by Erin Sullivan, seconded by Churchill Cotton, that the School Committee return to the regular order of business, was by vote unanimously approved.

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

The School Committee return to the regular order of business at 6:59 p.m.

III. A. PARTICIPATION BY THE PUBLIC

Ellen Mary D'Agostino, a volunteer in the Reading Program at Capeless School, talked about the success of the Educational Options for Success and the JRC Programs. She said the key to success is for students to feel they are cared about. She feels these programs need to continue to run. She commented on Dr. James Shiminski being honored by the state for his contributions to the Parent-Child Home Program. She said priority should be given to the Parent-Child Home Program in order to start educating children at an early age. She feels teaching is a privilege.

B. PARTICIPATION BY THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Daniel Elias commented on the great job the Williams' School students did at their holiday concert. He talked about the number of phone calls he has received from parents regarding the snow days which he feels it is a difficult decision for the superintendent to make, nevertheless the safety of the children is the main priority; He also said he received a phone call from Dorothy van den Honert, a former School Committee member; regarding the proposed Public Day School and the data she has relevant to opening the school. Mr. Elias asked the administration to respond to respond to her.

Katherine Yon talked about Pittsfield High Band's performance of Music Man at the Colonial Theatre, as well as Taconic High School's band performance that evening.

C. REPORTS OF SUBCOMMITTEES

NONE

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 December 15, 2010, as outlined in Enclosure No. 1A, the Special Meeting minutes of December 15, 2010, as outlined in Enclosure No. 1B, and the Executive Session minutes of December 15 2010, was by vote unanimously approved.

B. ACCEPTANCE OF PERSONNEL REPORT

Mayor Ruberto commented that Mrs. Douglas is the most capable person in her field in the Commonwealth and wished her well on behalf of himself and the City Council.

Chairperson Amuso thanked Mrs. Douglas for her dedication to the school system.

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 4-5).

C. SCHOOL PRESENTATION

- STEARNS SCHOOL

Principal Jeanne Bednarski, introduced teachers, Carol Scorpa and Mary Ann Sherman who talked about the projects their classes are working on for Black History month.

The fifth grade students performed a portion of Dr. Martin Luther King's famous speech "I Have a Dream" to commemorate his 83rd birthday.

The second grade students are learning about prominent Black Americans through portraiture and readings. They explained a little of the portraiture process and then dwelled on the word "Character" from Dr. King's speech. They defined six important character traits using a puzzle as a visual aid. They shared diamantes they made of extraordinary Black Americans.

Motion by Erin Sullivan, seconded by Churchill Cotton, that the School Committee accept the presentation by Stearns School, was by vote unanimously approved.

IV. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

A. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

Superintendent Eberwein announced the following:

- SBNC met on January 3 and announced that the MSBA had approved Skanska as the Owner's Project Manager; a lot will be happening the next 6-12 months on the building project;
- March 2 is *Read Across America* day and the community is invited to participate in this event;
- The budget process is underway for next year's school budget;
- Working with NESDEC on enrollment projections;
- SABIC provided grants to district, such as awarding a grant to Stearns School and underwriting the Science Fair for Pittsfield High and Taconic High Schools;
- Attended the General Dymnaxis event;
- Pittsfield High School's "MTV's Made" Program will premiere at the Beacon;
- Educator's Reception held at Berkshire Museum;
- January is mentoring month;
- Received word that Pittsfield's drop out rate is better;
- Race To The Top grant has been approved and the state's panel is working on an evaluation document; and
- Appeal for Reid Middle School has been denied by the DE&SE.

Superintendent Eberwein thanked the following:

- Stearns students for their performance;
- Berkshire United Way for supporting early childhood initiatives;
- James Abel for the tickets to the Basketball Hall of Fame event;
- Morgan Williams and Bob Douglas for their hard work on preparing the school system's appeal;
- Sally Douglas for her many years of dedication to the Pittsfield Public Schools;
- Mayor Ruberto for his years of public service; and
- Everyone involved in snow removal.

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

B. PRESENTATION ON THE NEW LAW REGARDING SPORTS-RELATED HEAD INJURY AND CONCUSSIONS

Mr. James Abel, Director of Athletics, and Ms. Joan Roy, Interim Nurse Leader, provided an overview of recent legislation associated with brain injury and concussion management, policies/protocol in effect within the Pittsfield Public Schools, and resources available to educate faculty, coaches, students, and parents.

Motion by Erin Sullivan, seconded by Churchill Cotton, that the School Committee accept the presentation on the New Law Regarding Sports-Related Head Injury and Concussions, as presented by Mr. Abel and Ms. Roy and outlined in Enclosure No. 3, was by vote unanimously approved (see Pages 8-25).

C. UPDATE ON PUBLIC DAY SCHOOL

Assistant Superintendent Sally Douglas provided an update on the timeline on the proposed Public Day Program. She said the district is hoping to recapture students in residential placements. In addition, the district can accept students from other districts.

Motion by Erin Sullivan, seconded by Mayor Ruberto, that the School Committee accept the update on the proposed Public Day School Program, as presented by Mrs. Douglas, was by vote unanimous approved (see Page 26).

D. UPDATE OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS PROGRAM

Ms. Virginia Guglielmo-Stees, ELL Coordinator, provided an update of the English Language Learners Program. She talked about the various programs throughout the district, the number of students enrolled in the district, as well as the languages represent.

Motion by Erin Sullivan, seconded by Churchill Cotton, that the School Committee accept the update on the English Language Learners Program, as outlined in Enclosure No. 3A, was by vote unanimous approved (see Pages 27-33).

V. RECOMMENDED ACTION – UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. SECOND READING ON REVISED POLICY INS-127 (VIRTUAL COURSES)

Motion by Erin Sullivan, seconded by Churchill Cotton, that the School Committee approve, on a second reading, Revised Policy INS-127 (Virtual Courses), as outlined in Enclosure No. 8, was by vote unanimously approved (see Pages 34-35).

VI. RECOMMENDED ACTION – NEW BUSINESS

A. APPROVAL OF REVISED FY'11 SCHOOL SYSTEM OPERATING BUDGET

Motion by Erin Sullivan, seconded by Churchill Cotton, that the School Committee approve the Revised FY'11 School System Operating Budget, as outlined in Enclosure No. 5, was by vote unanimously approved (see Pages 36-44).

B. APPROVAL OF DATA COLLECTION SYSTEM BID

Motion by Erin Sullivan, seconded by Churchill Cotton, that the School Committee approve award the Data Collection System Bid to Great Activities Publishing Company of Durham, North Carolina, in the amount of \$35,400.00, was by vote unanimously approved.

C. APPROVAL OF SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE PITTSFIELD SCHOOL COMMITTEE AND LOCAL 1315, AFT, PITTSFIELD FEDERATION OF SCHOOL EMPLOYEES – SECRETARIES' UNIT

Motion by Erin Sullivan, seconded by Churchill Cotton, that the School Committee approve the Settlement Agreement Between the Pittsfield School Committee and Local 1315, AFT, Pittsfield Federation of School Employees – Secretaries' Unit, as outlined in Enclosure No. 7, was by vote unanimously approved (see Pages 46-47).

D. APPROVAL OF OVERNIGHT FIELD TRIP
• SOMERVILLE, MA

Motion by Erin Sullivan, seconded by Churchill Cotton, that the School Committee approve the request for an overnight field trip for the purpose of Pittsfield High School and Taconic High School students to compete in the Pro-Start competition in Somerville, MA on February 10 and 11, 2011, as outlined in Enclosure No. 7, was by vote unanimously approved (see Pages 48-56).

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. NONE

VIII. FUTURE BUSINESS

A. The next Regular Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 16, 2011, 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 8:46 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

ERIN SULLIVAN