

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  
Alfred Barbalunga  
Churchill Cotton  
Daniel Elias  
Erin Sullivan  
Katherine Yon

ABSENT

Hon. James Ruberto

STUDENTS

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

Chairperson Amuso declared a quorum.

II. A. PARTICIPATION BY THE PUBLIC

Scott Eldridge, President of the United Educators of Pittsfield, read a letter on behalf of the UEP membership. He said the UEP is fully committed to the students and that nothing has changed in the classroom during the school day. He said the School Committee's availability to schedule negotiations/mediation has been limited.

William Berryman, former President of the United Educators of Pittsfield, spoke about the need to schedule more negotiating sessions. He said he spoke on this same issue on April 13, 2005. The parties need to meet and resolve issues as often as possible on good practices, if one side sets out to win everyone loses. Mr. Berryman said it was time to settle the contract now.

B. PARTICIPATION BY THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Katherine Yon commented on some of the events she attended, such as the playwriting mentoring project sponsored by the Barrington Stage Company, Conte's

Connected for Success event at the Berkshire Museum, and the Career Fair held at Berkshire Community College. In addition, she said she received two calls from realtors looking for information on Pittsfield's test scores.

Daniel Elias commented on several of the events he attended, such as Conte's Connected for Success event, Reid's cafeteria workers St. Patrick's Day Luncheon, and the Taconic Talent show.

C. REPORTS OF SUBCOMMITTEES  
• CURRICULUM SUBCOMMITTEE

Churchill Cotton reported that the Curriculum Subcommittee had reviewed six new course offerings, five of which were on the agenda this evening for a first reading.

Motion by Erin Sullivan, seconded by Churchill Cotton, that the School Committee approve the Curriculum Subcommittee minutes of March 9, 2011, as outlined in Enclosure No. 1, 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 March 9, 2011, as outlined in Enclosure No. 2, and the Executive Session minutes of March 9, 2011, 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 3-4).

Chairperson Amuso took items III.D, School Presentation, and IV.A, Presentation of Pittsfield Colonials /WTBR Broadcast proposal out of order. There were no objections.

D. SCHOOL PRESENTATION  
• HERBERG MIDDLE SCHOOL

Principal Christopher Jacoby introduced Band Director, Christopher Nelson-Unczur, who spoke about Herberg's successful band, chorus and orchestra programs. Three band students shared their experiences about their involvement in these programs.

Motion by Erin Sullivan, seconded by Churchill Cotton, that the School Committee accept Herberg Middle School's presentation, was by vote unanimously approved.

IV. A. PRESENTATION OF PITTSFIELD COLONIALS/WTBR BROADCAST PROPOSAL

Buddy Lewis, co-owner of the Pittsfield Colonials, and Larry Kratka, advisor of WTBR, talked about the proposal to broadcast Pittsfield Colonials 2011 season home games on WTBR, 89.7 FM. Superintendent Eberwein supports this partnership and believes it will allow for participation by Pittsfield students, widen the WTBR audience and support the Pittsfield Colonials baseball team.

Motion by Erin Sullivan, seconded by Churchill Cotton, that the School Committee approve the agreement with the Pittsfield Colonials to broadcast their 2011 season home games on WTBR, 89.7, as outlined in Enclosure No. 5, was by vote unanimously approved (see Pages 7 and 8).

The Committee returned to the regular order of business. There were no objections.

C. APPROVAL OF LINE ITEM TRANSFERS

Motion by Erin Sullivan, seconded by Churchill Cotton, that the School Committee approve the line item transfers, as outlined in Enclosure No. 4, was by vote unanimously approved (see Page 9).

D. SCHOOL PRESENTATION

- HERBERG MIDDLE SCHOOL

THIS ITEM WAS TAKEN OUT OF ORDER.

IV. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

A. PRESENTATION OF PITTSFIELD COLONIALS/WTBR BROADCAST PROPOSAL

THIS ITEM WAS TAKEN OUT OF ORDER.

B. PRESENTATION OF DRAFT TECHNOLOGY PLAN 2011-2014

Assistant Superintendent for CVTE Keith Babuszczyk presented the 2011-2014 Draft Technology Plan. He explained some of the technology involved in the plans that includes creating on-line courses between the two high schools offering courses through "Moodle" and having students create their own pod casts. This plan will serve to guide the work of the IT department as well as to make informed decisions about budget, curriculum, and E-Rate funding.

Jacob said he has used the "Moodle" program and loves it. Both, Jacob and Christian were pleased to see the new proposed draft technology plan.

Motion by Erin Sullivan, seconded by Churchill Cotton, that the School Committee accept the presentation of the Pittsfield Public Schools Draft Technology Plan for

years 2011-2014, as presented Babuszcak and outlined in Enclosure No. 6, was by vote unanimously approved (see Pages 10-11).

C. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

Superintendent Eberwein announced the following:

- SBNC meeting on April 4 to award Labor Study to McCabe Enterprises;
- Working on brochure highlighting the Pittsfield Public Schools;
- Press release coming out on College Board test results;
- Crosby and Stearns participated in the Robotics Challenge;
- Victoria Nilan going on to the National Science Competition;
- Race To The Top Educator's Study Group document heading to the DE&SE;
- Connect Ed call going out on PEP grant overview;
- Two kindergarten students from Conte were winners in the Real Women's Essay contest;
- Spring sports note: Track is an open enrollment sport;
- Intra School transfers deadline is April 1 and School Choice deadline in May 1;
- Work started on July 4<sup>th</sup> parade; and
- Latest guests on Superintendent Scuttle were Kathy Amuso, Keith Babuszcak and Linda Avalle.

Superintendent Eberwein...

- Commented that it was a challenge to develop a tech plan that is sustainable;
- Thanked Buddy and Larry for their presentation;
- Provided a copy of a letter from the DE&SE commending the school system's Bullying Policy;
- Thanked everyone who attended the career fair and contributed their time to this event;
- Congratulated all students who participated in the Regional Science Fair – 40% of the winners came from Pittsfield;
- Received a letter from Will Singleton, a retired superintendent, providing information for supporting African American students to be successful; and
- Thanked Ernie Fortini for being proactive for the schools and wished him health and happiness in his retirement.

Erin Sullivan announced that the PHS Cheerleaders are going to the nationals in Florida and wished them all the best.

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

V. RECOMMENDED ACTION – UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. NONE

VI. RECOMMENDED ACTION – NEW BUSINESS

- A. FIRST READING ON NEW COURSES
- SPANISH FOR HERITAGE SPEAKS
  - SIGHT SINGING I AND II
  - ACTING I
  - GUITAR ENSEMBLE
  - STRING ENSEMBLE

Motion by Erin Sullivan, seconded by Churchill Cotton, that the School Committee approve, on a first reading, the new courses outlined above and described in Enclosure Nos.7A-7E, was by vote unanimously approved (see Pages 13-28).

- B. FIRST READING ON NEW POLICY
- INS-106A (GRADE PLACEMENT AND ELIGIBILITY FOR GRADUATION OF STUDENTS LEAVING A CHARTER SCHOOL AND ENROLLING IN DISTRICT SCHOOLS)

Deputy Superintendent Malkas said the principals can waive some requirements.

Motion by Erin Sullivan, seconded by Churchill Cotton that the School Committee approve, on a first reading, Policy INS-106A (Grade Placement and Eligibility for Graduation of Students Leaving a Charter School and Enrolling in District Schools), as outlined in Enclosure No. 8 (see Page 29).

- C. APPROVAL OF SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE PITTSFIELD SCHOOL COMMITTEE AND THE PITTSFIELD FEDERATION OF SCHOOL EMPLOYEES, LOCAL 1315, AFT, AFT-MASS, AFL-CIO, PARAPROFESSIONALS' UNIT

Motion by Erin Sullivan, seconded by Churchill Cotton, that the School Committee approve the Settlement Agreement between the Pittsfield School Committee and the Pittsfield Federation of School Employees, Local 1315, AFT, AFT-MASS, AFL-CIO, Paraprofessionals' Unit, as outlined in Enclosure No. 9, was by vote unanimously approved (see Pages 30-31).

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- A Motion by Erin Sullivan, seconded by Churchill Cotton, that the School Committee go into Executive session pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, s. 21(a)(3) to discuss strategies with respect to collective bargaining with the United Educators of Pittsfield and non-bargaining employees, because an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the Pittsfield Public Schools, was by roll call vote unanimously approved.

The School Committee went into Executive Session at 8:34 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.

The School Committee returned to the regular order of business at 9:16 p.m.

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

#### VIII. FUTURE BUSINESS

- A. The next Regular Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 13 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 9:17 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

ERIN SULLIVAN