

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. A. PARTICIPATION BY THE PUBLIC

Scott Eldridge, teacher and President of the United Educators of Pittsfield, spoke on how contract negotiations have affected him personally. He finds teaching students a very rewarding experience. Mr. Eldridge said the negotiation process is currently bogged down and that the morale of the teachers is the lowest it has even been. He feels the UEP's counter proposals are fair and legitimate and hoped the May 9<sup>th</sup> negotiating session will be the last and the contract will be finalized.

B. PARTICIPATION BY THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Katherine Yon thanked Jonathan Levine, Editor of the Pittsfield Gazette, for putting on the annual Spelling Bee contest. She said Reid Middle School took home the trophy but Herberg Middle School student, Brandon LaFleur, was the Spelling Bee champion. She also commented on Taconic's production of *West Side Story*.

Mayor Ruberto attended the S.A.D.D. vigil again this year and commented that each year the number of participants increases.

Churchill Cotton also commented on attending the S.A.D.D. vigil and how very upsetting the statistics are on teenage suicide, as well as drug and alcohol abuse. He said the community needs to let the students know that people do care about them.

Daniel Elias commented on some of the events he attended, such as the Teen Pregnancy forum sponsored by the United Way and the Spelling Bee contest where the theme focused around Pittsfield's 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration. He thanked Lynda Bianchi for taking the time to show him around Williams School.

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 April 13, 2011, as outlined in Enclosure No. 1, and the Executive Session minutes of April 13, 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. 2, was by vote unanimously approved (see Page 5).

C. SCHOOL PRESENTATION

• TACONIC HIGH SCHOOL

Principal John Vosburgh and Lynn DiSimoni, BPA Advisor, talked Taconic High School's Chapter of Business Professionals of America participation in both the state and national competitions and the tremendous results that the students have achieved in these competitions. They said the program is a model for "college readiness" that prepares students for post-secondary academic success in the area of Business as well as many other professional areas of growth. Student in the program talked about the various programs they competed in.

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

D. NINE-MONTH BUDGET PROJECTION

Assistant Superintendent Sally Douglas reported on FY'11 budget projections for the remainder of the fiscal year.

Motion be Erin Sullivan, seconded by Churchill Cotton, that the School Committee accept Nine-Month Budget Projection, presented by Mrs. Douglas and outlined in Enclosure No. 3, was by vote unanimously approved (see Pages 6-14).

#### IV. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

##### C. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

Superintendent Eberwein announced the following:

- SBNC meeting scheduled for Monday, May 2;
- Connect Ed call going on Bullying Forum being held at Herberg Middle School on May 3;
- CBS Weekend News coming into schools next week to do article on bullying;
- Connect Ed call going out to urge parents to go on website to do School Climate Survey;
- Public service announcements on eating good are being activated and are supported by the PEP grant;
- 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Kickoff event held at City Hall;
- Two vocational students received the Outstanding Vocational Student for the state;
- Egremont's Eagles raised \$600 for the Berkshire Untied Way;
- Meeting with MSBA scheduled for May 5;
- Group headed by Pamela Delmolino started working on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade float;
- MCLA announced they are giving a new award honoring educators of distinction called the *Berkshire County Educator Recognition Award*;
- BCC Instant Admission listing is out;
- Interviews for School Business Administrator will be held May 4, packets on candidates will be sent out; and
- Layoff notices going out to staff being paid by grants.

Superintendent Eberwein ...

- Thanked his administrative staff for coming to the meeting this evening;
- Thanked everyone who attended the S.A.D.D. vigil;
- Thanked Jonathan Levine for putting on the *Spelling Bee* contest;
- Thanked Pamela Delmolino for getting a group together for the BMC Walk with Me
- Congratulated Principal Morgan Williams for winning the trophy for the *Spelling Bee contest*;
- Congratulated Spelling Bee champion Brandon LaFleur, a Herberg Middle School student; and
- Thanked Legacy Bank for supporting the schools.

Chairperson Amuso said each candidate will be allotted 50 minutes for their interview starting at 5:30 p.m.

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

B. BUDGET OVERVIEW

- Annual Report
- Projected Enrollment
- School Choice/Communication
- Grants

Superintendent Eberwein gave a brief introduction to the budget process. Assistant Business Manager Kristen Behnke walked the Committee through the major section of the budget book and Assistant Superintendent Sally Douglas provided an overview of various sources of funding. In addition, Deputy Superintendent Barbara Malkas reviewed projected enrollment for the 2011-2012 school year and Assistant Superintendent Keith Babuszcak provided an overview on School Choice and Communications. Superintendent Eberwein said specific sessions of the budget will be held at future meetings and the budget will be discussed in detail.

Erin Sullivan questioned transportation services for out-of-town. Mayor Ruberto said local and state has been cut for the fourth year in a row. He said the Committee members need to take a look at the programs and be creative to run the school system. A discussion followed.

Motion by Erin Sullivan, seconded by Churchill Cotton, that the School Committee accept the FY'12 Budget Overview, as outlined in Enclosure No. 4, was by vote unanimously approved.

V. RECOMMENDED ACTION – UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. SECOND 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 second reading, the new courses outlined above and described in Enclosure Nos. 5A-5E, was by vote unanimously approved (see Pages 15-30).

B. SECOND READING ON NEW POLICY

- INS-106A (GRADE PLACEMENT AND ELIGIBILITY FOR GRADUATION OF STUDENTS LEAVING A CHARTER SCHOOL AND ENROLLING IN DISTRICT SCHOOLS)

Motion by Erin Sullivan, seconded by Churchill Cotton that the School Committee approve, on a second 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. 6, was by vote unanimously approved (see Page 32).

#### VI. RECOMMENDED ACTION – NEW BUSINESS

- A. APPROVAL OF OVERNIGHT FIELD TRIP
- CAMBRIDGE, MA

Motion by Erin Sullivan, seconded by Churchill Cotton that the School Committee approve the overnight field trip to Cambridge, MA, May 5-7, 2011, as outlined in Enclosure No. 7, was by vote unanimously approved (see Page 33-35).

#### 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 8:44 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 9:23 p.m.

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

#### VIII. FUTURE BUSINESS

- A. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 4, 2011, 5:30 P.M., Pittsfield High School for School Business Administrator interviews.
- B. The next Regular Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 11 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 9:25 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

ERIN SULLIVAN