

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
Jacob Mullen	Taconic High School

Chairperson Amuso declared a quorum.

II. A. PARTICIPATION BY THE PUBLIC

Joan Roy, School Nurse Leader for the Pittsfield Public Schools, informed the Committee that today was *National School Nurse Day*. She referenced a letter recently published that talked about the contributions school nurses have made. She urged the School Committee to resolve the contract in a fair and timely manner.

Scott Eldridge, teacher and President of the United Educators of Pittsfield, spoke on behalf of the UEP membership. He said there were only a few issues remaining to settle the contract; however, after the negotiating session on Monday night, he feels they are far from settling the contract. Mr. Eldridge commented on the percentage offered for salary increases, as well as their counterproposals. He said the teachers are willing to develop contract language in order to implement the additional time the Committee is requesting but not for no additional money.

B. PARTICIPATION BY THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Katherine Yon commented on Taconic's wonderful production of *West Side Story*. She also commented on the public presentations that the School Building Needs Commission is putting on and urged the community to attend one of the sessions.

Daniel Elias commented on some of the events he recently attended, such as Conte's Health Fair, Reid's Spring concert and Reid's School Council meeting. He said the School Council discussed Reid's video "A Day in the Life of Reid" and the open house "Come See Reid" scheduled for May 24. Mr. Elias said the school is working on a proposal with SABIC that benefits instructional music for students. In addition, he said the school is in need of more technology.

C. REPORTS OF SUBCOMMITTEES

Churchill Cotton reported on the Curriculum Subcommittee meeting held on April 27, 2011 where they talked about piloting the new textbook, Reading Street for grades K-5, tabling the adoption of the College Readiness course and considering adding Lacrosse to the athletic program. Mr. Cotton and Mrs. Sullivan asked that two corrections be made in the minutes.

Motion by Erin Sullivan, seconded by Churchill Cotton, that the School Committee approve the Curriculum Subcommittee minutes of April 27, 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 April 27, 2011, as outlined in Enclosure No. 2 and the Executive Session minutes of April 27, 2011, was by vote unanimously approved.

B. ACCEPTANCE OF PERSONNEL REPORT

Katherine Yon and Alfred Barbalunga thanked Mr. Babuszcak for his contributions to the district.

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).

C. SCHOOL PRESENTATION

- ALLENDALE SCHOOL

Principal Carl Ameen and several of his staff presented a video focusing on what bystanders in a bullying situation can do to help. This was a result of Allendale's Olweus survey showing that 96% of their fourth and fifth graders feel bad for those who are bullied but do not know how to help.

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

IV. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

A. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

Superintendent Eberwein announced the following:

- School Building Needs Commission is holding informational meetings on the construction feasibility process;
- Final Report of the MSBA's 2010 Needs Survey has been received;
- Crosby was not ready for a feasibility study based on criteria set by the MSBA, therefore, the project shifted to the high schools;
- MSBA looking at the general needs across the state;
- Berkshire Academy's closing ceremony is on Thursday;
- Egremont's Academic Showoff Night is Thursday, May 12;
- Williams School students raised \$1,000 for the Jimmy Fund;
- Will be attending the Women of Color graduation ceremony on Saturday, May 14;
- Attended Taconic's play *Westside Story* and congratulated Jessica Passetto and all students who participated in the show;
- School Climate survey up for two more days; and
- Has met with Vocational staff at both high schools on Keith's transition.

Superintendent Eberwein...

- Congratulated BPA students who placed in the national conference;
- Thanked Joseph Curtis and Catherine Chase for their involvement in the Berkshire Immigrant Community Initiative;
- Thanked staff who worked with CBS to promote the Pittsfield Public Schools' bullying efforts;
- Congratulated Keith Babuszcak on his next transition; and
- Thanked Keith Babuszcak for his work on partnering with Berkshire Health Systems to support the Allied Health program.

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

Chairperson Amuso took Items C and D out of order. There were no objections.

C. 21ST CENTURY GRANT OVERVIEW

Ms. Liz Baker, 21st Century Coordinator, provided an overview of the after-school program activities, assessment system and professional development funded by the grant. Some of the after-school programs students are engaged in are song-writing, culinary whereby the students cook dishes from other cultures, working on gardening and community service learning. Several students talked about their involvement and personal experiences in this program.

Churchill Cotton said this was a great program and that he has been involved in the 21st Century program at Conte for several years. He feels this program is very important to the educational process.

Motion by Erin Sullivan, seconded by Churchill Cotton, that the School Committee accept the 21st Century Grant Overview presented by Liz Baker and outlined in Enclosure No. 5, was by vote unanimously approved (see Pages 7-39).

D. LACROSSE FOLLOW-UP PRESENTATION

Mr. James Abel, Director of Athletics, provided an overview of actions that must be taken in order to include Lacrosse as an athletic sport in the Pittsfield Public Schools. He said Lacrosse must be sanctioned by the M.I.A.A, before finalizing coordinating field availability with the City of Pittsfield Parks Department, assessing the impact on the school system budget. as well as reviewing potential risk to other athletic programs, preparing schedules and booster club responsibilities.

Diane Agar, Treasurer for the Berkshire County Lacrosse Association (BCLA), said BCLA is committed to supplying equipment, uniforms, helmets and helping with the maintenance of fields.

Motion by Erin Sullivan, seconded by Churchill Cotton, that the School Committee authorize Superintendent Eberwein to include Lacrosse as a line item in the FY'12 budget and authorize James Abel to pursue M.I.A.A. status for the Berkshire County Lacrosse League, was by vote unanimously approved (see Pages 40-48).

Chairperson Amuso returned to the regular order of business. There were no objections.

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. ITEMS OF NEGOTIATIONS

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, 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.

Churchill Cotton requested a short break, There were no objections.

The School Committee went into Executive Session at 9:26 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 10:31 p.m.

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

Chairperson Amuso read a statement on behalf of the Pittsfield School Committee relevant to negotiations with the United Educators of Pittsfield.

VIII. FUTURE BUSINESS

- A. The next Regular Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 25, 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 10:40 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

ERIN SULLIVAN