

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  
Daniel Elias  
Erin Sullivan  
Katherine Yon

ABSENT

Hon. James Ruberto  
Churchill Cotton

STUDENTS

Christian Kennedy                      Pittsfield High School  
Jacob Mullen                              Taconic High School

Chairperson Amuso declared a quorum.

II. A. PARTICIPATION BY THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Chairperson Amuso read a statement on behalf of the Pittsfield School Committee relevant to the status of negotiations with the United Educators of Pittsfield (UEP). She reviewed tentative agreements reached to date and several of the Committee's proposal presented to the UEP. Chairperson Amuso said the Committee responded to the UEP's request to meet on a weekly basis by to meet in open session. She said the Committee believes their proposals are fair and reasonable.

II. A. PARTICIPATION BY THE PUBLIC

Joan Roy, School Nurse Leader for the Pittsfield Public School, applauded the School Committee for supporting Lacrosse and adding a new item for them. However, she would like the nurses to be treated fairly also. In addition, Ms. Roy said nurses must be licensed just like teacher do. She urged the Committee to support the nurses

Sheila Irvin, 63 Commonwealth Avenue, commented on remarks made by Mr. Elias and Mrs. Amuso at the last School Committee meeting. She feels the statements

made against the teachers were derogatory. She told the Committee that they need to re-exam their demands. The teachers need a contract that is fair and equitable.

Mr. Scott Eldridge, President of the UEP, commented on an article in the Berkshire Eagle quoting Chairperson Amuso on the additional 40 minutes per week. He said while the language the Committee wants to put in the contract about the additional 40 minutes is illegal and it is designed to make sure that if the teachers go work-to-rule in the future they would have to stay after school once a week or be faced with disciplinary action. In addition, he said the Committee is not offering additional compensation for this time. Mr. Eldridge also talked about the School Committee's lack of availability to negotiate more frequently.

Terry Kinnas, 14 Cooper Parkway, provided a record of School Choice trends in enrollment and tuition that he received from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education for the period 2002-2011. He reviewed the local aid assessments to Pittsfield. He told the Committee they need to focus on the operations of the school district and deal with issues such as why students are leaving the district. Mr. Kinnas said there are serious financial problems in the district.

Ellen Mary D'Agostino, Lee, MA, talked about the upbeat presentation on keeping update on the school projects. She also commented on the CBS broadcast on bullying featuring the Pittsfield Public Schools and the great job the school system is doing to address bullying.

Chairperson Amuso returned to Participation by the School Committee. There were no objections.

#### PARTICIPATION BY THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Daniel Elias did admit to making a comment at the last School Committee and explained why he made the comment. Mr. Elias commented on some events he attended, such as the Reid "Welcome to 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Night" that highlights Reid's achievements; Crosby's public viewing of "Lost 3 Worlds: Land, Air, Sea;" and Egremont's Academic Classroom. He talked about the number of events taking place at Allendale School, such as the cultural enrichment event, school-wide reading initiative, the PTO donation of books to the library in memory of Linda Peaslee, starting up a scholarship fund in Ann Kuhn's name, and the student fundraiser for new playground equipment.

Daniel Elias said the elementary competition "Battle of the Books" will be held on June 7.

Katherine Yon commented on how difficult it was to come to a contract resolution. Ms. Yon talked about the many wonderful events taking place in the schools and she judged for the Capstone Project. She also talked about the CBS program highlighting the districts efforts to address bullying and thanked everyone involved in the program.

Christian Kennedy commented on the PHS play "Chicago" noting that it will be held again on May 27 and 28. He said the performances were great

Chairperson Amuso toured Crosby along with other City representatives and said there are no environmental issues. She said the air quality is fine and safe and that City and school district representatives are looking at Capital Projects for repairs of the school. Mr. Elias also toured Crosby with the group.

Alfred Barbalunga thanked Principal Vosburgh for the tour of Taconic High School.

C. REPORTS OF SUBCOMMITTEES

NONE

III. RECOMMENDED ACTIONS – ROUTINE MATTERS

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Erin Sullivan, seconded by Alfred Barbalunga, that the School Committee approve the Special Meeting minutes of May 4, 2011, as outlined in Enclosure No.1A, the minutes of May 11, 2011, as outlined in Enclosure No. 1B and the Executive Session minutes of May 11, 2011, was by vote unanimously approved.

B. ACCEPTANCE OF PERSONNEL REPORT

Chairperson Amuso congratulated Joseph Benjamin on his promotion to Vice Principal of Taconic High School.

Motion by Erin Sullivan, seconded by Alfred Barbalunga, that the School Committee accept the Personnel Report, as outlined in Enclosure No. 2, was by vote unanimously approved (see Pages 5-6).

C. SCHOOL PRESENTATION

- MORNINGSIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Due to technical difficulties, Mr. Curtis delayed his presentation until after Superintendent Eberwein's report.

IV. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

A. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

Superintendent Eberwein announced the following:

- Egremont students collecting used books for a book sale to support Camp Vision;
- Many spring concerts taking place in the schools;

- Capeless teacher, Heather Ganczar, was recognized as Junior Achievement Teacher of the Year;
- Wellness Committee meeting being held at Mercer on Thursday, May 26 at 3:00 p.m. and thanked everyone who served on the committee;
- Next Superintendent Skuttle will interview students from Taconic High School and Capeless School; and
- Pittsfield High's prom will be held on June 3 and Taconic High's on June 7; both schools will have after-proms.

Superintendent Eberwein...

- Thanked everyone who participate in *Third Thursday*;
- Encouraged everyone to go see *Chicago* which is Ralph Hamman's last show;
- Congratulated students who received awards;
- Attended Women of Color graduation ceremony, where Tracey Benson and Jennifer Smith were keynote speakers;
- Thanked Legacy Bank for their \$10,000 grant to fund Crosby's cultural program;
- Attended the Positive Options Luncheon;
- Thanked everyone who participate in the Community Outreach meeting;
- Thanked everyone involved in the new Teacher Induction Program;
- Thanked the 4<sup>th</sup> o July committee; and
- Commended both middle school principal for promoting their schools by holding an open house.

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

The Committee returned to the Mr. Curtis' presentation

- MORNINGSIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Principal Joseph Curtis highlighted Morningside Community School's use of technology in relation to communication, data management and instruction. He talked about Morningside's website, the use of Connect Ed in notifying parents of events and other necessary information. Mr. Curtis said there is no paper communication, all information is at the fingertips for all teachers for data analysis, He said technology is also used to build school spirit.

Motion by Erin Sullivan, seconded by Alfred Barbalunga, that the School Committee accept Morningside Community School's presentation, was by vote unanimously approved.

B. RACE TO THE TOP (RTTT) PLAN UPDATE

Deputy Superintendent Malkas highlighted some of the initiatives for year one of the Race To The Top (RTTT) initiative. She said the district will continue with the same project Year 2-4 which consists of alignment of state standards and the educator's evaluation. Deputy Superintendent Malkas reviewed the timeline for Year 2-4 set by the DE&SE and said there are specific performance measures for each project (see Pages 8-11).

Motion by Erin Sullivan, seconded by Alfred Barbalunga, that the School Committee accept Race To The Top (RTTT) Plan update presented by Ms. Malkas and outlined in Enclosure No. 3, was by vote unanimously approved (see Pages 10-13).

C. MSBA ED PROGRAM REPORT

Superintendent Eberwein explained the ED Program document that is required by the MSBA feasibility project. He said the report is a composite of different documents, such as the School Improvement Plan, Visioning Reports and handbooks.

Superintendent Eberwein asked for the School Committee's input on this program.

Motion by Erin Sullivan, seconded by Alfred Barbalunga, that the School Committee accept the MSBA ED Program Report, presented by Superintendent Eberwein, as outlined in Enclosure No. 4A and 4B, was by vote unanimously approved (see Pages 14-44).

D. BUDGET WORKSHOP

Superintendent Eberwein provided information of the district's performance, demographics, and the mission of the school system. He talked about dropout rates, graduation rate and the achievement objectives, as well as strategic investments. Deputy Superintendent Malkas talked about the goals and priorities, as well as the various district-wide initiatives. Assistant Superintendent Douglas and Assistant Business Manager Behnke provided an FY'12 budget overview highlighting some of the proposed adjustments to the budget and potential liabilities to the district. Assistant Superintendent Douglas provided a proposed FY'12 Line Item Budget.

Motion by Erin Sullivan, seconded by Alfred Barbalunga, that the School Committee accept the budget overview by Superintendent Eberwein, Deputy Superintendent Malkas, Assistant Superintendent Douglas and Assistant Business Manager Behnke, as outlined in Enclosure No. 5 (see Pages 45-98).

V. RECOMMENDED ACTION – UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. NONE

VI. RECOMMENDED ACTION – NEW BUSINESS

A. APPROVAL OF SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM

Motion by Erin Sullivan, seconded by Alfred Barbalunga, that the School Committee approve the Summer Food Service Program, as outlined in Enclosure No. 6, was by vote unanimously approved (see Page 99).

B. APPROVAL OF END-OF-YEAR TRANSFERS

Motion by Erin Sullivan, seconded by Alfred Barbalunga, that the School Committee authorize the administration to make those line item transfers necessary to close the books as of the end of the fiscal year.

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. ITEMS OF NEGOTIATIONS

Motion by Erin Sullivan, seconded by Alfred Barbalunga, 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 other bargaining units 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 9:12 p.m.

Motion by Erin Sullivan, seconded by Alfred Barbalunga, 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 10:21 p.m.

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

VIII. FUTURE BUSINESS

A. The Public Hearing is scheduled for Wednesday, June 1, 2011, 6:00 P.M., Pittsfield High School.

Special Meeting immediately following the Public Hearing on Wednesday, June 1, 2011, Pittsfield High School.

The next Regular Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 8, 2011, 7:00 P.M.,  
Pittsfield High School.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Erin Sullivan, seconded by Alfred Barbalunga that the School Committee be  
adjourned was by vote unanimously approved.

The meeting adjourned at 10:22 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

ERIN SULLIVAN