

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. Mayor James Ruberto
Churchill Cotton
Daniel Elias
Erin Sullivan
Katherine Yon

ABSENT

Alfred Barbalunga

Chairperson Amuso declared a quorum.

II. A. PARTICIPATION BY SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Chairperson Amuso thanked everyone who worked on repairing the PHS Dome and those who participated in the repair projects at Crosby School. She also thanked Sheriff Bowler for providing the manpower through his Community Outreach Project and Greg Yon and his staff for the work they did on Crosby.

Chairperson Amuso welcomed Kristen Behnke, School Business Administrator, to the meeting.

Mr. Elias requested a copy of the City's renovation list. He wished Sally Douglas well in her retirement and said had integrity. He also welcomed Kristen Behnke. Mr. Elias said he has received many calls on the PHS Dome.

B. PARTICIPATION BY THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Terry Kinnas, 14 Cooper Parkway, thanked Superintendent Eberwein for handling a complaint he had so quickly. He voiced his concern over the millions of dollars of School Choice money that have gone out of the city over the last five years and suggested that the administration contact advertisers to help with a campaign to promote the schools. His final suggestion to the Committee was to give more time to

speakers during the public participation rather than three minutes and make the participation interactive.

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 July 20, 2011, as outlined in Enclosure No. 1, and the Executive Session minutes of July 20, 2011, was by vote unanimously approved.

B. ACCEPTANCE OF PERSONNEL REPORT

Both Chairperson Amuso and Mrs. Yon stated they have relatives on the 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 Pages 5-12).

C. APPOINTMENT OF SCHOOL NURSE

THIS ITEM WAS REMOVED FROM THE AGENDA.

D. SCHOOL PRESENTATION

NONE

IV. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

A. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

Superintendent Eberwein...

- Thanked Mayor Ruberto, Alfred Barbalunga, Greg Yon and the City Council for reaching out to the community, to help with the repairs at Crosby School and to all of those that helped with the repairs;
- Thanked Sheriff Bowler for providing crews to assist with the repairs at Crosby School;
- Commented on the PHS Dome and said there was minimal costs to lighting the Dome since green bulbs were being used;

- Commented on the numerous professional development workshops held this summer for staff; many of which were funded through the Race To The Top grant;
- Thanked Jennifer Boulais for the great work she did this summer in moving the hiring process along so quickly;
- Received awards on federal grants with the exception of the Alcohol Reduction grant;
- Visited Camp Vision for the blind;
- Commented on the 21st Century summer program at Berkshire Community College and the Green in the Middle program at Reid Middle School;
- Received notification from the Berkshire Taconic Foundation that they have receive a generous donation from Sabic Innovations that is targeted for math and science and urged staff members to apply for grants through the foundation;
- Asked Deputy Superintendent Malkas to set up a Curriculum Subcommittee meeting to discuss public relations;
- Commented on the successful summer registration program;
- Received call from Christine Lynch for the DE&SE regarding the MSBA project; and
- Invited all School Committee members to attend Convocation on August 30th.

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

B. START OF SCHOOL YEAR MATERIALS

THIS ITEM WAS TAKEN OUT OF ORDER.

V. RECOMMENDED ACTION – UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. NONE

VI. RECOMMENDED ACTION – NEW BUSINESS

A. APPROVAL OF 2011-2012 SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING CALENDAR

Motion by Erin Sullivan, seconded by Churchill Cotton, that the School Committee approve the 2011-2012 School Committee Meeting Calendar, outlined in Enclosure No. 5, was by vote unanimously approved (see Page 13).

B. APPROVAL OF VOTING DELEGATE TO ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING OF THE MASSACHUSETTS ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL COMMITTEES

Motion by Erin Sullivan, seconded by Churchill Cotton, that the School Committee appoint Katherine Yon as the official voting delegate and Kathleen Amuso as the alternate delegate to the Annual Business Meeting of the Massachusetts Association of School Committees to be held in Hyannis, MA, November 9-12, 2011, as outlined in Enclosure No. 6, was by vote unanimously approved (see Pages 14-15).

The Committee returned to Item IV. C.

C. START OF SCHOOL YEAR MATERIALS

Superintendent Eberwein reviewed the materials sent to families last week. He urged parents to complete the Free and Reduced Lunch Form and return it to the Cafeteria Department as soon as possible.

Superintendent Eberwein urged drivers to pay attention to students walking to and from school. He also informed the Committee that he met with Chief Wynn, Chief Czerwinski and Alicia Couture on Emergency Planning.

Daniel Elias requested that a paragraph on user fees be included in the booklet.

Mayor Ruberto said the letter to parents was well done and was pleased to see it was bilingual. He also urged parents to complete the Free and Reduced Lunch Form and return it as soon as possible. Mayor Ruberto said translators are available to parents who need assistance.

Motion by Erin Sullivan, seconded by Churchill Cotton, that the School Committee accept the review of the start of school year materials, was by vote unanimously approved.

The Committee returned to the regular order of business, VI. Recommended Actions – New Business

C. APPROVAL OF TUITION RATES FOR THE 2011-2012 SCHOOL YEAR

Motion by Erin Sullivan, seconded by Churchill Cotton, that the School Committee approve the Tuition Rates for the 2011-2012 School Year, outlined in Enclosure No 7, was by vote unanimously approved (see Page 16).

D. APPROVAL OF FY'12 SUBSTITUTE RATES

Mayor Ruberto asked that the rate for custodial substitutes be referred to the subcommittee for review.

Motion by Erin Sullivan, seconded by Churchill Cotton, that the School Committee approve the FY'12 Substitute Rates, outlined in Enclosure No. 8, was by vote unanimously approved (see Page 17).

APPROVAL OF DISPOSABLE RESTROOM PRODUCTS BID

Motion by Erin Sullivan, seconded by Churchill Cotton, that the School Committee award the Disposable Restroom Products Bid to Caligari Sanitary Supply of Lenox, MA, outlined in Enclosure No. 9, was by vote unanimously approved (see Page 20).

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. ITEMS OF NEGOTIATIONS

Pursuant to Ch. 30A, Section 21, Subsection a3, to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining in that an open session would have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body.

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 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..

B. DISCUSSION OF ITEM OF PENDING LITIGATION

Pursuant to Ch. 30A, Section 21, Subsection a3, to discuss strategy with respect to litigation in that an open session would have detrimental effect on the litigating position of the public body.

Motion by Erin Sullivan, seconded by Churchill Cotton, that the School Committee go into Executive Session for Discussion of Item of Pending Litigation, pursuant to Ch. 30A, Section 21, Subsection a3, to discuss strategy with respect to litigation in that an open session would have detrimental effect on litigating., was by roll call vote unanimously approved.

The School Committee went into Executive Session at 7:49 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 8:31 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, September 7, 2011, 7:00 P.M., Pittsfield High School Library.

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 8:34 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

ERIN SULLIVAN