

**APPROVED**  
**Pelham School Board**  
**Workshop/Business Meeting**  
**Public Session**  
**December 16, 2009**

**School Board Members:** Eleanor Burton-Chair; Linda Mahoney, Lorraine Dube;  
Deb Ryan; Cindy Kyzer  
**Superintendent:** Dr. Frank Bass  
**Assistant Superintendent:** Roxanne Wilson  
**Business Administrator:** Kathleen Sargent  
**Student Representative:** Shannen Perry

Chairman Burton called the public session to order at 7:15pm. All those in attendance stood for the pledge of allegiance.

**Public Forum**

Richard Tarpey addressed the school board. He spoke of a recent AlertNow message that went out to parents notifying them of a small fire at one of the schools followed by a 2<sup>nd</sup> AlertNow message stating everything was alright. He questioned the timing of the messages. Dr. Bass responded stating students were evacuated to Memorial School and agreed that the first message and the timing could have been better. Chief Midgley commended the staff and students at the elementary school for their handling of the matter.

Mr. Tarpey questioned if the leak in the kindergarten portable had been fixed. Mrs. Sargent responded by noting the leak was small and had been fixed.

Mr. Tarpey's third question was with regard to removing of the portable at the high school now that the life safety issues had been addressed. Dr. Bass stated the issue is with overcrowding at the high school thus the continued need for the portable. Cindy Kyzer stated they had to have the portable in order to replace some of the classroom space that had to be eliminated in the building in order to make hallways, etc.

Mr. Tarpey's fourth comment was questioning how the board was able to purchase recent land for \$125,000, if last year's warrant article requesting \$50,000 failed to purchase property. Kathleen Sargent responded by stating the warrant article was specific to the Capital Reserve Fund and noted that going forward, the line item that was used to purchase the recent parcel will no longer have funds in it.

Mr. Tarpey felt that the community needs to know that the property was intended to be used for something other than building a high school on it. He felt strongly about the misconception. Mr. Tarpey commented on recently viewing Windham High School and Bedford High School and noted they are beautiful facilities. He felt that Pelham missed out on the opportunity to do a cooperative agreement with Windham and now they stand to lose state aid for a new building if they wait too long. He requested that the board

consider putting something on the ballot this March. He thanked everyone for their time and commitment.

### **Consent Agenda**

Eleanor Burton noted – a request for a sabbatical from Memorial School was granted.

A request for an unpaid leave of absence was granted.

A request for retirement was granted with regret.

Manifests/Vouchers were read aloud by Eleanor Burton.

Motion to accept the non public minutes of December 2, 2009 as written was made by Cindy Kyzer with a 2<sup>nd</sup> by Linda Mahoney. 5-0

Motion to accept the public minutes of December 2, 2009 as amended was made by Linda Mahoney with a 2<sup>nd</sup> by Cindy Kyzer. 5-0

Tonight's non public minutes have been sealed – noted.

Motion to accept the Consent Agenda as read was made by Cindy Kyzer with a 2<sup>nd</sup> by Linda Mahoney. 5-0.

### **Superintendent Remarks**

Dr. Bass spoke of a grade study – noting it will take some more time to complete – this will be brought to the board when completed.

Roxanne Wilson spoke of looking at how the grades compare to special education students as well as regular education students.

Cindy Kyzer questioned if the percentage of failure grades was higher in certain classes with certain teachers and why that was. Roxanne Wilson will look into that.

The Race to the Top initiative is looking at ways to obtain some monies for the Pelham District through a series of grants.

### **Warrant Articles**

Kathleen Sargent presented a new draft including changes made

Article #10 – Capital Reserve Funds – request is for \$50,000 to replenish that line.

Article #7 – Dean of Students Request – Dr. Bass noted that Principal LaFrance would be comfortable changing the title to Service Coordinator. The board discussed the changing of the title and agreed to keep the title Dean of Students.

Cindy Kyzer spoke of putting in a bond for a new high school on a new site. She noted the board is looking at potential land at this time. She also spoke of the need to put renovations for the high school for the purposes of a middle school on as a warrant.

Dr. Bass will contact Ed Murdough to verify what is needed to be done in order to convert to a middle school. Kathleen Sargent reminded the board that amendments can be made to Articles right up to the Deliberative Session.

The board discussed putting in a placeholder of not more than \$2million for land purchase.

Deb Ryan spoke of the board doing their due diligence regarding land searches and trying to keep the price as low as possible. She felt the board should not limit themselves to a small figure in the event they have to pay a higher amount for the purchase of land. She stressed the importance of not delaying such a purchase for another year when interest rates are so low.

Motion to approve the Warrant Article 2A wording as read by Kathleen Sargent on the land portion purchase for a future high school site for \$2million, was made by Cindy Kyzer with a 2<sup>nd</sup> by Deb Ryan. Approved 3-2 (Lorraine Dube and Linda Mahoney negative).

Motion to approve Warrant Article 2B wording for the amount of \$37million for a new high school contingent upon approval of land was made by Cindy Kyzer with a 2<sup>nd</sup> by Deb Ryan. Approved 3-2 (Lorraine Dube and Linda Mahoney negative).

Motion to approve Warrant Article 2C for the renovation of Pelham High School for \$5.5million for the purposes of conversion to accommodate grades 7&8 contingent upon 2A and 2B passing was made by Cindy Kyzer with a 2<sup>nd</sup> by Deb Ryan. Approved 3-2 (Lorraine Dube and Linda Mahoney negative).

Linda Mahoney stated she would like to see a bond schedule. Kathleen Sargent will get that information out to the board – noting she does need that type of information for the Budget Committee – she will use 25 years, with the understanding that it is subject to change.

The Petition Warrant Article from St. Patricks was noted. The signatures from the Petition need to be verified as registered voters. This will go on the ballot.

### **Reconsideration**

Kathleen Sargent noted Preschool rent of \$20,440.00 will be up for reconsideration. Mrs. Sargent noted that the Budget Committee cut a position twice – stating it was listed as a teaching position and it is in fact an Instructional Aide position. They are aware.

Mrs. Sargent spoke of the demolition of Marsh Road and noted she feels confident they can do this out of this year's budget. She is still waiting for the abatement to come.

Mrs. Sargent spoke of the need for food equipment reconsideration – noting some of the equipment is very old.

Deb Ryan discussed the 1.5% increase for secretaries and custodians – noting food service employees received a raise last year and would be excluded from it this year. This will be revisited again next year. Mrs. Mahoney stated this is a fairness issue – noting the board is not stating the food service personnel do not deserve a raise. This is the budget committee’s recommendation. The new number for this Article is \$15,350.86

Motion to change Article 6 to read \$15350.86 and to strike the 20 food service employees from the wording was made by Cindy Kyzer with a 2<sup>nd</sup> by Deb Ryan. Approved 5-0.

Kathleen Sargent stated at the suggestion of legal counsel, there should be a separate warrant article for food service or place it in the operation budget because it is a federal program.

Motion to approve Article 3 Operating Budget as printed was made by Cindy Kyzer with a 2<sup>nd</sup> by Deb Ryan. Approved 5-0.

Deb Ryan suggested a different rate in benefit packages for new hire administrative positions. The board will discuss this further in non public session. It was noted that typically in other districts it is between 90-100%.

**Vacation Survey Results** – noted

Shannen Perry spoke to this, noting the students at the high school would also like to take the survey. Students are concerned about how this would affect vocational classes.

Roxanne Wilson noted that it is crucial that there be workshop days for teachers. Cindy Kyzer commented that Salem has less workshop days.

Deb Ryan spoke of attending Pelham High School’s Council Meeting and spoke of their confusion with regard to the block scheduling study they are to perform. She asked for a Charge and Timeline to bring back to Council.

Dr. Bass responded by stating they should look at the pros and cons to the current block schedule and then look at what programs may or may not be affected. The board suggested they contact other districts to see what they are doing. They will have to look at what makes the most sense. The board would like an update in February/March of 2010 with a completed analysis by June 2010.

**Information/Correspondence**

Request for Staff – noted

*Pelham School District Improvement Plan 1-3 Year* – noting some of this is already in their budget. While some items are ongoing. Kathleen Sargent will speak with Mr. Miller to see if any of these items should be put on for reconsideration.

Deb Ryan would like to go out to bid for the wheel chair access to 2<sup>nd</sup> floor at PMS. Cindy Kyzer commented that it is important and should be looked at for reconsideration. The board agreed to ask to put money in for an architect so that they know how much this project would cost going into next year.

Kathleen Sargent will also address Mrs. Ryan's concern about the gym floor at Memorial School. She noted it is extremely slippery and could be a hazard.

**Food Service Equipment Correspondence** – noted. Mrs. Mahoney inquired if there was a written assessment by the company that Mrs. Bizzarro used. It was suggested to add a replacement of two convection ovens for Memorial School at reconsideration. This will come out of the food service line. Cindy Kyzer suggested looking into gently used equipment.

A2 Gym & Cheer – it was noted that this was specifically for the cheerleading team and not the gymnastics team.

### **Board Member Reports**

Roxanne Wilson spoke of attending workshops on grading and high school redesign.

Lorraine Dube spoke of attending Memorial School's Holiday Concert.

Linda Mahoney spoke of some areas of town not receiving the Facilities Committee postcards yet. It was noted that bulk mailing happens at different stages. Mrs. Mahoney would like people to know that it is all right to say the words Merry Christmas when appropriate and not always refer to things as Holidays or Winter happenings.

Deb Ryan wished everyone a Merry Christmas and noted she had participated in the health screening at Memorial School and spoke of the great coordinated effort involved. She also attended the bus driver appreciation breakfast.

Eleanor Burton wished everyone a wonderful vacation.

Shannen Perry spoke of fashion classes travelling to New York City to attend a fashion show. She commented on the French and Spanish Society holding fundraisers and that winter sports are starting up. It was also stated that this is the last week to buy a yearbook at the High School.

Motion to adjourn was made at 9:30pm by Cindy Kyzer with a 2<sup>nd</sup> by Linda Mahoney.5-0.

Respectfully submitted – Diane Figaro