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APPROVED  
PELHAM SCHOOL BOARD  
**Business Meeting – Public Session**  
**February 18, 2009**  
**Pelham Elementary School**

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**School Board Members:** Chairman-Bruce Couture; Linda Mahoney;  
Linda Koehler; Eleanor Burton  
**Superintendent:** Dr. Frank Bass  
**Business Administrator:** Kathleen Sargent

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Bruce Couture called the public session to order at 7:05p.m. All those in attendance stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

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**Good News**

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Eleanor Burton – Pelham Memorial School – Jesse Hayes won the school wide spelling bee and Joey Minichello will represent Pelham Memorial at the National Young Leaders Conference in Boston this week. He was nominated by Diane Malloy and was selected as one of NH’s young leaders.

Linda Koehler – Pelham High School – Denise Blaha, from the Univ. of NH Carbon Challenge program, will be a presenter at PHS this week. The program works to educate, inspire and support sustained reductions in residential energy consumption.

Dr. Bass recognized Chairman Bruce Couture and Linda Koehler for their dedication to the School Board and noted they will not be running for reelection this year. Dr. Bass spoke of the importance of the Public Forum and encouraged members of the public to address the School Board in a dignified manner.

**Public Forum**

Mike Oxner addressed the board and spoke of the issue concerning the dress code for the Washington DC trip as was previously discussed by the School Board at the last meeting. He stated he drafted a petition to keep the dress code as it always has been. He obtained 347 signatures in support of current dress code policy and practices. Mr. Oxner spoke of his request that a school board member follow the Mission Statement. He asked for a voluntarily resignation.

Chairman Couture stated the School Board agreed at the last meeting to take no action with regard to changing the dress code and thanked Mr. Oxner for his concern.

Cathy & Bob Ernst addressed the board and also presented a petition in support of the Washington DC dress code. Mr. Ernst spoke of his concern about the trip possibly being cancelled if the dress code was changed. He noted he obtained 80 signatures on said

1 petition. Cathy Ernst stated she has gone on the Washington trip and never heard of  
2 anyone complaining about the dress code.

3  
4 Linda Mahoney requested to add to the record that she never stated she did not support  
5 students being respectful on their trip to Washington. She stated they need to look  
6 respectful and dress respectful but that her concern was over the School Board being able  
7 to legally impose that type of requirement regarding the dress code. She noted she had  
8 requested that such be asked of legal counsel.

9  
10 Dr. Bass stated that he has spoken with legal counsel about this and that the school  
11 district does have the right to impose dress code restrictions as long as sufficient notice is  
12 given to parents. Dr. Bass will bring legal counsel's written opinion to the next meeting.

13  
14 Linda Koehler stated she would like to see the school district policy have the addition of  
15 wording stating the School Board gives direction to the Administration to alter the dress  
16 code to fit the situation. She felt this would support our administration.

17  
18 Diana O'Connor addressed the board noting she did not see it as infringing on her rights  
19 in any way to have this type of dress code and felt that wearing jeans would be  
20 unacceptable and disrespectful.

21  
22 Richard Tarpey addressed the school board regarding two issues. He spoke of PCB's  
23 found in the caulking of schools built before 1980 and urged the board to look into this  
24 before any renovating is ever done to schools built prior to this time. With regard to  
25 kindergarten, Mr. Tarpey stated he felt that communication between the school district  
26 and the citizens was lacking. He respectfully requested being able to see a copy of the  
27 kindergarten proposal. Dr. Bass will make this available at the town library and at the  
28 schools. It is also available at the SAU. Mr. Tarpey spoke of investing in portables as  
29 being a band aid on the situation. He felt that feedback from the high school committee  
30 should be a part of the permanent solution.

31  
32 Bruce Couture noted the initial portables are being provided by the state – which is  
33 temporary for three years – they are not permanent structures.

34  
35 Eleanor Burton explained that one of the original plans presented for Pelham Elementary  
36 School did include a kindergarten, but that this plan was not the final plan which was  
37 used for the school project.

38  
39 Sheila Marcoux – teacher at Pelham Memorial School – spoke of her support for  
40 Principal Pinsonneault and for the dress code for Washington DC. She noted her strong  
41 concern about a school board member using school board meeting time on this issue. She  
42 feels it is important to pay respect when visiting our nations Capitol.

1 **Consent Agenda**

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3 Motion to approve the January 20, 2009 public hearing minutes as written was made by  
4 Linda Koehler with a 2<sup>nd</sup> by Eleanor Burton. 4-0

5  
6 Motion to approve the January 28, 2009 non public minutes as written was made by  
7 Linda Koehler with a 2<sup>nd</sup> by Eleanor Burton. 4-0

8  
9 Motion to approve the January 28, 2009 public minutes as amended was made by Linda  
10 Koehler with a 2<sup>nd</sup> by Linda Mahoney. 4-0.

11  
12 Chairman Couture read aloud the manifests to be signed.

13  
14 Motion to approve the manifests as read was made by Linda Koehler with a 2<sup>nd</sup> by  
15 Eleanor Burton. 4-0.

16  
17 **Superintendent Remarks**

18  
19 Dr. Bass spoke of the amount of snow days left for Pelham this school year as being two.  
20 He noted he is still awaiting the waiver from the state regarding the three power outage  
21 days.

22  
23 Dr. Bass discussed working with Tina McCoy with regard to accommodating students  
24 with disabilities while at the same time providing a quality education for all children. He  
25 noted Mrs. McCoy is looking into federal funding to implement a type of program to  
26 accommodate this type of student. He will bring more information to the board as he  
27 receives it.

28  
29 Dr. Bass then spoke of Community Night and the arts festival and invited everyone to  
30 PMS and PES on March 4<sup>th</sup> and to PHS on March 5<sup>th</sup>.

31  
32 Dr. Bass stressed that the rumors regarding lack of funding at the state level to support  
33 kindergarten was false. He assured the board that all necessary state aid would be  
34 available.

35  
36 Dr. Bass spoke of the proposed stimulus package by the federal government to New  
37 Hampshire and noted the Pelham School District may be able to take part in some of that.  
38 Kathleen Sargent will discuss more later in the meeting.

39  
40 **Fiber Optic Presentation/Adam Steel**

41  
42 Mr. Steel, Director of Technology, presented a proposed package he would like to have  
43 ready in the event monies from a stimulus package became available. He spoke of the  
44 need to connect PES to the town through fiber optic cables. He noted this is the missing  
45 link now. Highlights of such an endeavor would help in disaster recovery; Pelham  
46 television fiber optics and communications.

1  
2 Kathleen Sargent noted that certain criteria would have to be met with regard to the  
3 federal plan.

4  
5 Consensus of the board to have Adam Steel move forward with exploring this further was  
6 made 4-0.

7  
8 **High School Presentation**

9  
10 Principal Mohr spoke of technology at the high school. Jackie Perry and Christine  
11 Morgan spoke of their internship at BAE systems of Nashua. They worked with robotics  
12 and completed tasks using software making circuit boards; soldering and microwave  
13 units.

14  
15 Ms. Wagoner a PHS teacher, gave a presentation about business classes at the high  
16 school and spoke of 21<sup>st</sup> century learning communities and work places.

17  
18 Principal Mohr discussed PHS CAD program. She spoke of how students learn to use the  
19 CAD software. She was happy to inform the Board that she was able to procure software  
20 for the high school lab at no cost to the district.

21  
22 Mr. Fred Koehler addressed the Board to note the company he works for, Solidworks  
23 Corporation, has generously donated design software to PHS. This is the same type of  
24 software which is used by some major corporations. This software has been tested to be  
25 compatible with PHS. A student will have to fill some prerequisites before being able to  
26 take the class which will use this advanced software. Mr. Koehler stated his company  
27 would be providing free training to a teacher. Students can take advantage of the CAD  
28 program at Pinkerton after completing this course.

29  
30 Motion to accept the Solidworks offer, with much gratitude, was made by Linda Koehler  
31 with a 2<sup>nd</sup> by Eleanor Burton. Approved 4-0.

32  
33 **2009-2010 School District Calendar**

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35 Fran DeCinto presented the proposed School District Calendar for 2009-2010. It was  
36 noted the first day of school would be September 2, 2009 for students as Labor Day is  
37 September 7, 2009.

38  
39 Linda Mahoney spoke of her concern of ending the school year too late in the month of  
40 June. She also noted her concern about potential snow days. She suggested eliminating  
41 some teacher workshop days in order to be released earlier in June.

42  
43 Linda Koehler also suggested starting the last week of August.

44  
45 The calendar will be tabled to the next meeting.

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1 **Stimulus Package**

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3 Kathleen Sargent spoke of potential projects the school district may be able to  
4 accomplish under the proposed government stimulus package to the State of New  
5 Hampshire: the moving of HVAC mechanicals to the roof top of the school; retrofitting  
6 the electrical system at PMS; sprinklers at the high school; HVAC at PMS; boilers at  
7 PMS; paving at PMS (in the event the Warrant Article fails). Mrs. Sargent noted this  
8 would be a wish list of sorts and that she would have to follow strict federal guidelines if  
9 approved.

10  
11 **Information/Correspondence**

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13 The letter from Tyngsboro, Mass. Superintendent was distributed to the Board for their  
14 review. The letter inquired about the possibility of sharing the two districts.

15  
16 Dr. Bass noted that he checked with legal counsel, and it was noted it would be legal to  
17 merge MA/NH together. It is possible. Eleanor Burton and Bruce Couture felt it  
18 couldn't hurt to listen to what they had to say. Linda Koehler and Linda Mahoney were  
19 not in favor of it. This item would be tabled to a future meeting.

20  
21 **Polices/Reports**

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23 Anti Harassment Policy – First Reading. This policy would be tabled. Eleanor Burton  
24 requested having the RSA wording at the bottom of each policy.

25  
26 Family and Medical Leave Act Policy – First Reading

27 Video Surveillance Policy – First Reading

28 Criminal Records Check Policy – First Reading

29  
30 Linda Mahoney noted there was another policy regarding student's records that the board  
31 still needed to see. She also requested seeing the amendments that were made to each  
32 policy; perhaps in bold print if possible.

33  
34 **Monthly Reports**

35  
36 Kathleen Sargent stated the budget is looking fine.

37  
38 Enrollment report – noted. Linda Mahoney noted her concern over the number of  
39 students who were opting out of a traditional high school diploma and instead receiving  
40 one through Adult Education. Dr. Bass will look into this matter further.

41  
42 Linda Koehler stated she would like to see NH with the same type of technical high  
43 schools that Massachusetts offers. She noted her frustration about students having to take  
44 a bus to another high school for some technical classes and then be transported back to  
45 PHS.

