

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12

APPROVED  
**Pelham School Board**  
**Workshop/Business Meeting**  
**Public Session**  
**November 18, 2009**

13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23

**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

24  
25  
26  
27

Chairman Burton called the public session to order at 7:22 pm. All those in attendance stood for the pledge of allegiance.

28  
29

Mrs. Burton spoke of sharing in the loss of a Pelham Elementary School child.

30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37

**Good News**

38  
39  
40  
41  
42  
43  
44  
45  
46

Linda Mahoney spoke of the first grade team using the new Scott Foresman Reading program. The team began the “Walk to Read” program. This program allows teachers the flexibility to offer a wider range of activities to supplement the reading program as well as give the students the experience of different teaching approaches.

Lorraine Dube spoke of the Pelham Memorial School Drama Club holding their fall performance on Friday, November 6<sup>th</sup>. They are donating all props and collecting new toys for the Toys for Tots Campaign and starting a can drive for the Pelham Food Pantry.

**Consent Agenda**

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

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

Leave of absence – noted and approved.

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 meeting with the Board of Selectmen to discuss using part of Town Hall for Preschool Services. He noted they are looking for a lease of no less than 10 years. The Board of Selectmen approved of this idea. The District is still looking at other possibilities in earnest for the program. If the use of Town Hall were agreed upon, the lease would be put on the Town Warrant for voter approval.

1  
2 Dr. Bass noted that Tina McCoy would like to perform a grade study in the Pelham  
3 Schools to look at all the grades to see students being successful and areas of limited  
4 success. She would like to seek remedies and interventions. More will be forthcoming.  
5 Roxanne Wilson will be involved in this endeavor.  
6

7 **Presentation from Memorial School**

8 Assistant Principal Adamakos addressed the board to speak of proposed staff changes for  
9 the 2010-2011 school year. This request would be for a relocation of staff in order to  
10 meet the needs for the upcoming school year. There would be no cost to the town for  
11 these changes. He noted the addition of a new teacher to the building would prove to be  
12 difficult – capacity wise. This proposal would place Spanish instruction for once every  
13 three days for ½ the year.  
14

15 Lorraine Dube requested seeing the benefit of Spanish I.  
16

17 Deb Ryan wishes to have more clarification. It was noted students typically go into  
18 Spanish or French I at the high school level. They are not prepared for Spanish or French  
19 II coming out of Memorial School.  
20

21 This proposal would eliminate the Wellness and Spanish Teacher in order to  
22 accommodate the incoming students in the area of math. It was stressed that they are  
23 trying to accommodate, but are being forced to make some tough decisions.  
24

25 Deb Ryan suggested putting an 8<sup>th</sup> grade teacher on the warrant this year. Cindy Kyzer  
26 suggested wording the article to let voters know what would happen if it were to fail. She  
27 spoke of these positions as being needed and that what is being proposed is actually  
28 taking away from our students in order to accommodate in other areas in order to bring  
29 up the math program because the math teacher failed 2 years in a row on the Warrant  
30 Articles.  
31

32 Linda Mahoney spoke of being reluctant to go before tax payers again, but noted her  
33 concern about cutting the areas of health and Spanish. She agrees with crafting a warrant  
34 article with the necessary wording.  
35

36 **Warrant Articles**

37 Dr. Bass spoke of the need to put in for reconsideration for preschool monies totaling  
38 \$20,400 for renting one classroom of the kindergarten portable for next year. The board  
39 agreed.  
40

41 Dr. Bass spoke of putting \$40,000 in for reconsideration for the removal of the structure  
42 on the property recently purchased. The cost should be between \$20,000 - \$40,000.  
43

44 Linda Mahoney spoke of putting food service raises for non union workers on the  
45 appropriate warrant article.  
46

1 Motion to amend the approval of the 2010-2011 food service budget by reducing the  
2 original amount by \$8,747.53. Kathleen Sargent will reconfigure the bottom line of the  
3 operating budget.

4  
5 Linda Mahoney requested that Warrant Article #5 have the number of employees as  
6 being ten (10) listed out.

7  
8 It was noted that Article 6 should be increased by \$4,400.33 and to add the wording of  
9 food service staff. The total new amount for Article 6 would be \$19,751.19.

10  
11 Linda Mahoney questioned creating a position called “Dean of Students” instead of an  
12 Assistant Principal request. Cindy Kyzer suggested having that person only work the  
13 school year as opposed to year round.

14  
15 Dr. Bass noted his concern about offering a salary for such a position any lower than  
16 \$55,000.

17  
18 The board discussed the job description for such a position.

19  
20 Cindy Kyzer suggested a person with administrative background - not from a school  
21 background for about \$40,000. Dr. Bass voiced is concern regarding this – stressing the  
22 need to have someone who understands how a school operates and what it means to be a  
23 teacher or Principal.

24  
25 The board discussed the rest of Article 7. With regard to the speech assistant position, it  
26 was noted this would save the district money as we are paying a lot more in contracted  
27 services fees. The district spends about \$100,000 for contracted services. With regard to  
28 the ½ time nurse request, Cindy Kyzer requested that the word kindergarten through  
29 grade 5 be written out in the article.

30  
31 Article 8 – Linda Mahoney requested justification for each position proposed, be written  
32 on the article.

33  
34 With regard to the Athletic Director position, Linda Mahoney spoke of her concern with  
35 the amount being requested for salary and benefits. She did agree that they need to do  
36 something with regard to this situation – noting a math teacher should not be pulled from  
37 their position. She suggested a teaching salary for this position – Step 1/Masters.

38  
39 Deb Ryan noted that most schools, with this many athletic offerings, have a full time  
40 Athletic Director. She agreed that the salary could be lowered.

41  
42 Dr. Bass noted this is a full time, year round position and felt it should not be less than  
43 \$60,000.

44  
45 The board agreed to reduce the total salary and benefits for the Athletic Director position  
46 to \$85,000.

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37  
38  
39  
40  
41  
42  
43  
44  
45  
46

Article 9 – keep as written.  
Article 10 – add wording.  
Article 11 – keep as written.

Change last page of the Warrant to read Cindy Kyzer as Vice Chairman.

**High School Conversion Discussion**

The board discussed the outline and bids for a full renovation option and an essential renovation option.

Deb Ryan noted the numbers have probably changed due to the recently addressed life safety upgrades. Dr. Bass spoke of waiting for new numbers from Marinace and the need to coordinate with them what life safety repairs/upgrades were already performed.

Linda Mahoney spoke of looking into having this be a Junior High School, as now they have room for family and consumer sciences.

**Default Budget**

Kathleen Sargent noted she had moved people from the salaries lunch program to the proper location within the budget rather than being lumped together. Linda Mahoney requested separating out the Food Service Director’s Salary. This was noted.

Lorraine Dube requested having a brief narrative of when things are moved around within the budget. This was noted. Kathleen Sargent noted the changes were sent to members via email.

**Old Business**

Vacation Survey – in process.

Teacher Workshop Calendar – Dr. Bass discussed when looking at current survey results, they found that the complaints seemed to surround Teacher Workshop Days – he spoke of wanting to conduct the calendar in a better fashion. Roxanne Wilson noted that Early Release Days have already been cut down significantly.

Transportation Committee Update – Deb Ryan spoke of the committee work thus far – noting they have looked at bus capacity; how many students actually ride the buses to and from school; drop off locations and time factor issues. She stressed that everything is remaining the same at this time. She noted there was a lot of input surrounding the reason children are not attending public kindergarten being there is no bus transportation and working parent issues. It was also noted that statistically speaking, it takes a whole quarter to bring private kindergarten students up to the level they need to be at for first grade curriculum.

Linda Mahoney noted the school board made a previous decision to not offer bus transportation at this time.

1  
2 Deb Ryan commented that the board should be looking at curriculum and not at money  
3 matters all the time.

4  
5 Cindy Kyzer noted she did not support kindergarten busing at this time.

6  
7 Motion that the board consider providing some kindergarten transportation and allowing  
8 the Transportation Committee to explore it further was made by Deb Ryan with a 2<sup>nd</sup>  
9 Linda Mahoney- for further discussion purposes. After further discussion – the Motion  
10 failed 1-3-1 (Eleanor Burton abstained).

11  
12 Kathleen Sargent noted a request by Facilities Committee to send out a postcard type  
13 mailing to all household in Pelham. Linda Mahoney would rather wait until they get the  
14 warrant articles done. She felt they could put it in the Pelham/Windham news for now  
15 and wait to mail until they can put more information on a mailing.

16  
17 Cindy Kyzer felt it was fine to send out as is now.

18  
19 Linda Mahoney noted her concern about the bold lettering “warning status” on the  
20 current mailing. Deb Ryan spoke of other issues for being on warning status from the  
21 New England Association of Schools and Colleges.

22  
23 Cindy Kyzer spoke of the purpose of the board which is to support a new school on new  
24 land as previously made.

25  
26 Lorraine Dube noted they have a document from the state which says they are in good  
27 standing – they are an approved school.

28  
29 Dr. Bass suggested sending out the flyer as written, whose purpose is to get people  
30 involved and keep them informed – then moving forward from there.

31  
32 Deb Ryan would like the website included on the mailing postcard so that people will  
33 know where to go for more information.

34  
35 Direction from the board was to send out the mailing as is.

36  
37 Dr. Bass noted they sent a letter in early October to NEASC and are awaiting a response.  
38 He noted that PHS has not received full state approval since 2001. Linda Mahoney  
39 stressed they have made significant progress in that area.

40  
41 Dr. Bass spoke of the state being upset that Pelham still needed to make improvements  
42 since 2001 – noting the board reacted this past year to those concerns and took steps to  
43 make necessary improvements thanks to some surplus monies in the budget. These were  
44 very necessary changes.

45  
46 **Monthly Reports** - noted

1 **Board Member Reports**

2 Linda Mahoney wished everyone a Happy /Thanksgiving; she spoke of PHS football  
3 having a great season.

4  
5 Deb Ryan spoke of the Budget Committee meeting tomorrow; she spoke of three state  
6 champs for Pelham/Windham Razorbacks this season.

7  
8 Eleanor Burton would like to see a monthly activity calendar. She spoke of attending  
9 professional development and looking to set another public forum date for January.

10

11 **Future Meetings**

12

13 December 2, 2009 Business Meeting PES 7:00PM

14 December 16, 2009 Workshop/Business PES 7:00PM

15

16 Motion to adjourn the public session at 10:04pm was made by Lorraine Dube with a 2<sup>nd</sup>  
17 by Linda Mahoney. 5-0.

18

19 Respectfully submitted – Diane Figaro