

APPROVED
Pelham School Board
Public Session
Pelham Elementary School
March 24, 2010

School Board Members: Rob Hardy; Linda Mahoney; Deb Ryan
Lorraine Dube; Andy Ducharme
Superintendent: Dr. Frank Bass

Dr. Bass called the public session to order at 7:00pm. Dr. Bass presided over the election of chairperson(s).

Linda Mahoney made a brief statement thanking the people who sent her emails in support of her being Chairman of the new School Board. She stated she appreciated their support but had no desire to become Chairman. Mrs. Mahoney stated she felt Mr. Ducharme would make a good Chairman.

Motion to nominate Andy Ducharme as Chairman was made by Linda Mahoney with a 2nd by Lorraine Dube. Defeated 2-3.

Motion to nominate Rob Hardy as Chairman was made by Deb Ryan with a 2nd by Andy Ducharme. Approved 5-0.

Motion to nominate Deb Ryan as Vice Chairman was made by Andy Ducharme with a 2nd by Rob Hardy. Approved 5-0.

Mr. Hardy made a statement regarding the need to have the board work in a cooperative manner. He spoke of every member's opinion as being important.

- Budget Committee – Andy Ducharme
- PHS School Council – Deb Ryan & Rob Hardy (when available)
- PMS School Council – Lorraine Dube
- PES School Council – Linda Mahoney
- Parks & Rec – Deb Ryan
- SERESC – Lorraine Dube
- NHSBA – Linda Mahoney
- Technology Committee – Andy Ducharme
- Performance Compensation Model – Lorraine Dube
- Policy Review – Lorraine Dube & Rob Hardy
- Pelham School Aged Childcare – Linda Mahoney
- Professional Development – Deb Ryan

All those in attendance stood for the Pledge of Allegiance

1 **Lou Gehrig Day at PES**

2 Principal LaFrance spoke of 214 fourth grade students being involved. She spoke of Dr.
3 Bass getting involved with grade level teams and encouraging them to make a difference.
4 Students wrote essays and created a human timeline. This culminated in an event which
5 hosted Mr. Mader, a former White Sox baseball player and father of a 4th grade student.
6 Four essays were selected to be read to Mr. Mader. This provided a great experience for
7 students and staff alike.

8
9 **Haiti Presentation – Memorial School**

10 Principal Pinsonneault spoke of students wanting to help after the earthquake in Haiti.
11 The decision was made to raise funds and send it to students in Haiti. Mrs.
12 Pinsonneault’s aunt works with schools in Haiti. The Jr. National Honor Society
13 coordinated the efforts along with leadership through a Week of Fun which included bake
14 sales; raffles and donations. \$1623.00 was raised to date.

15
16 **STEM Program – High School**

17 Principal Mohr spoke of a 5-year initiative of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering
18 & Math) including Project Lead The Way. She spoke of the need to add a bit more to the
19 high school curriculum in order to better prepare students in the areas of pre-engineering ,
20 robotics, biotechnology and green jobs. She noted that each science room had been
21 outfitted with SmartBoards this year. This new equipment has made a major impact in
22 science courses. She spoke of students now being more excited about Chemistry. She
23 noted that Mrs. McCoy was able to supply a lot of the new equipment and programs
24 through her grant writing.

25
26 It was noted that in the future, there may be scholarships available. Dr. Mohr would like
27 to add components to the current curriculum. She did note that robotics would be
28 challenge with regard to space needs.

29
30 Deb Ryan questioned if BAE Systems had facilities they could use offsite. Deb Ryan
31 asked Dr. Mohr if this could be implemented. Dr. Mohr stated she has the ability to
32 obtain some more equipment, but no room in the school for it.

33
34 Dr. Mohr will continue developing the STEM program. She stated that anything they can
35 offer students in this area would be beneficial to them – noting they already offer the
36 foundation courses but what they lack are the hands on aspects.

37
38 **Superintendent Remarks**

39 Dr. Bass spoke of a later start time for high school students and the rational behind this
40 potential move. He spoke of being in the beginning stages of working with surrounding
41 districts to move in the same direction.

42
43 Grading and Restructuring Update would be coming before the board soon.

44
45 Dr. Bass noted the new Assistant Superintendent had recently spent the day in Pelham
46 schools and would be coming to a future April meeting to address the board.

1
2 USDOE Social Studies Grant – Dr. Bass stated the new Asst. Superintendent had
3 managed to get Pelham High School involved in the \$2.5million grant over a three year
4 period. The grant centers on professional development.

5
6 Foreign Language – Dr. Bass spoke of testing and formatting a vision for future
7 assessments in this area. He would like to look at bringing foreign language into the
8 elementary school through grants.

9
10 Dr. Bass spoke of having one meeting a month where schools can make their
11 presentations to the board, and having the other monthly meeting strictly for business
12 purposes.

13
14 **Impact of Warrants**

15 Mr. Hardy led the discussion regarding the passing or failing of warrant articles.

16
17 Repaving of PMS had passed.

18
19 Articles 2, 3 & 4 did not pass – Mr. Hardy stated he still thinks a new high school on new
20 land is the best plan. Noting the NEASC letter backs this up.

21
22 Mr. Ducharme stated the district will potentially lose up to \$13million in state aid on July
23 1, 2010 if something can not be done before then. He spoke of having pristine land
24 available to build a new high school upon. Mr. Ducharme stated he would like to make a
25 motion to create a special election with regard to building a new high school on new land
26 before the July 1st deadline.

27
28 Linda Mahoney questioned what the stated emergency would be in order to request such
29 a special election. Andy Ducharme responded by stating the loss of state aid is one
30 reason and that some things with regard to the actual election were not up and up for the
31 community – referring to false information given to voters.

32
33 Linda Mahoney spoke of there always being some voters in town that would oppose a
34 project such as this. She felt it would be great if the whole town accepted and supported
35 it. Mrs. Mahoney noted she was not sure if they could ask for a bond in a special election.

36
37 Mr. Ducharme spoke of the Town of Clairmont, NH recently having a recount and
38 petitioning the court to have another revote. Noting Pelham is in a similar situation.

39
40 Deb Ryan spoke of the 30% state aid as being critical and that clearly there would be
41 some opposition, but she feels election laws had been violated during the last election.
42 She stated that boards should support majority decisions when made. She noted she had
43 received many emails stating they cannot let this go given what happened during the
44 election.

1 Dr. Bass noted he would speak with legal counsel and present the information and case
2 thus far and see what their opinion is. Legal Counsel will come to a special board
3 meeting next week 3/31/10.

4
5 Motion to have legal counsel start preparing a case to present to the state for a special
6 election was made by Rob Hardy with a 2nd by Deb Ryan. Approved 3-2.

7
8 Linda Mahoney spoke of the other Warrant Articles that failed. She spoke of it being
9 disheartening to have the requested teaching positions fail. She would like to hear from
10 the building Principals regarding the impact not having these positions would mean to
11 their facilities.

12
13 She noted that Windham has a new high school, but the voters have not approved their
14 operating budget two years in a row.

15
16 Andy Ducharme stated he felt there were too many big money articles on the ballot. He
17 felt they could have had a better chance if only Article 1, 2, 3 & 4 were on the ballot this
18 year.

19
20 Article 10 A & B – failed (English teacher and Special Education Position)

21 Article 11 – failed (Capital Reserve Fund)

22
23 Deb Ryan would like to market what they need and maybe change the format of how they
24 go about it. Andy Ducharme would like to focus on 2-4 Articles instead of more.

25
26 Lorraine Dube stated she respected everyone's ideas, and felt it important to have the
27 teaching staff they need. She noted these are key positions that were needed. She
28 questioned what would happen if they have a new building and they are refused key
29 positions.

30
31 Dr. Bass spoke of the need to start right away and begin conversations with the public.
32 He will have Administration come before the board soon to explain what the impacts will
33 be for them.

34
35 **NEASC Letter** – noted

36 Deb Ryan spoke of still being on warning status and that NEASC was pleased to know
37 they were pursuing a new high school with updates being requested to the existing high
38 school. She noted the letter was dated and sent prior to the election.

39
40 **Consent Agenda**

41 Mr. Hardy questioned how many times the Athletic Director had to leave his class to
42 attend AD duties. Dr. Mohr noted it is approximately 20 times per year. He has a
43 detailed lesson plan he leaves for the substitute. They try to get the same substitute if
44 possible.

1 Lorraine Dube – spoke of possibly hiring someone to monitor the library from 3:30-4:30
2 each day to allow students to obtain help with homework.

3
4 Deb Ryan noted the total cost to send mailings to citizens from the Facilities Committee,
5 totaled \$1300.

6
7 **Minutes**

8 Motion to approve the Deliberative Session Minutes of February 3, 2010 was made by
9 Linda Mahoney with a 2nd by Lorraine Dube. Approved 3-0-2 (Ducharme & Hardy
10 abstained)

11
12 Motion to approve as amended the non public minutes of February 17, 2010 was made by
13 Linda Mahoney with a 2nd by Lorraine Dube. Approved 3-0-2 (Ducharme & Hardy
14 abstained)

15
16 Motion to approve as amended the public minutes of February 17, 2010 was made by
17 Linda Mahoney with a 2nd by Lorraine Dube. Approved 3-0-2 (Ducharme & Hardy
18 abstained).

19
20 Deb Ryan read aloud the vendor and payroll manifests to be signed.

21
22 Motion to approve the Consent Agenda as read was made by Deb Ryan with a 2nd by
23 Linda Mahoney. Approved 5-0.

24
25 **Superintendent Remarks**

26 Dr. Bass spoke of having two unused co-curricular positions that the Athletic Director
27 would like to use for an Assistant Varsity Track Coach and Assistant Track coach at
28 Memorial School. The stipends for Cheerleading and Freshman Lacrosse will not be of
29 service. Linda Mahoney mentioned this change would have to be reflected in the
30 teacher's contract.

31
32 Motion to allow the Athletic Director to use existing stipends as presented was made by
33 Rob Hardy with a 2nd by Andy Ducharme. Approved 5-0.

34
35 **Monthly Reports – noted**

36 Linda Mahoney questioned St. Patrick's students being included in monthly enrollment
37 numbers. She questioned the per pupil cost. Dr. Bass stated they take the whole number
38 of students and put it into a system in order to come up with the per pupil cost.

39
40 **Correspondence/Information**

41 Linda Mahoney questioned if a letter, sent via email, should be read in public and
42 questioned how the board members would know if the senders have been responded to
43 appropriately. Dr. Bass responded by stating he usually will call or write to the person
44 himself.

1 Lorraine Dube stated that people who wish to email board members should remember to
2 put in a subject line so it will not go to SPAM.

3
4 **Board Member Reports**

5 Lorraine Dube spoke of her concern about receiving a report on the negative effects of
6 high fructose corn syrup on children. She is concerned about the nutritional value in
7 school food and would like to look at this more.

8
9 Deb Ryan requested that the Chairman outline for the board how he would like to receive
10 items to be place on future agendas from board members. Mr. Hardy responded by
11 stating he will put something formal together after working with Dr. Bass and let the
12 board know at the next meeting.

13
14 Andy Ducharme requested having non public sessions at the end of board meetings.

15
16 Linda Mahoney cautioned that they some times have long public meetings that may
17 require discussions about what took place during non public sessions. Thus having non
18 public session first would make more sense. Lorraine Dube agrees.

19
20 Mr. Hardy stated that if there is something pertinent, they can start with non public first if
21 a particular item is on the agenda.

22
23 Linda Mahoney would like to have public meetings start at 6:30pm

24
25 Motion to start public meetings at 6:30pm with non public immediately following was
26 made by Andy Ducharme with a 2nd by Deb Ryan. Approved 5-0.

27
28 Motion to go into non-public session under RSA 91-A: 3II (a)(b)(c) at 9:12pm was made
29 by Deb Ryan with a 2nd by Andy Ducharme. Approved 5-0.

30 Deb Ryan – yes; Andy Ducharme – yes; Lorraine Dube – yes; Linda Mahoney – yes; Rob
31 Hardy – yes.

32
33
34 Respectfully Submitted – Diane Figaro
35