

1 APPROVED
2 **Pelham School Board**
3 **Public Session**
4 **Pelham Elementary School**
5 **April 14, 2010**
6

7 **School Board Members:** Rob Hardy; Linda Mahoney; Deb Ryan
8 Lorraine Dube; Andy Ducharme

9 **Superintendent:** Dr. Frank Bass

10 **Assistant Superintendent:** Roxanne Wilson

11 **Interim Business Administrator:** Donna Clairmont

12 **Student Representative:** Shannen Perry
13

14 Chairman Hardy called the public session to order at 6:32pm. All those in attendance
15 stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.
16

17 **Public Forum**

18 Clare and Joe Morin addressed the board, representing Pelham Travel Basketball League.
19 They distributed gym rate breakdown and gym usage chart to the board for review. They
20 noted they provide services for Pelham children only in grades 4-8. The cost went up on
21 gym usage fees by 55%. They have looked at fees in surrounding communities. They
22 noted they feel there is a profit to the district based on calculations provided by Mrs.
23 Sargent (previously). They would like the School Board to revise the costs/fee schedules.
24

25 Henry Grimard addressed the board, representing the Pelham Softball League. He
26 questioned what the hourly cost for field usage was being used for. He noted his
27 organization maintains the fields in the town (except for mowing). He stated no
28 electricity, heat or custodians are needed when using outside fields. He would also like
29 the School Board to revisit the costs/fee schedules.
30

31 Deb Ryan noted the current fee for field usage is \$25/hour.
32

33 Bob Cloutier addressed the board, representing a boy's basketball team. He noted his
34 organization uses the gym periodically. He questioned what the intent of the fees was for.
35 He noted that during a weeknight, the school is open and there are custodians there
36 anyway. He also noted he has his own insurance. He noted they set up and clean up
37 when finished. He is confused about the policies and guidelines. He noted the policy on
38 the website differs and is outdated.
39

40 **Gym Fees Presentation**

41 Deb Ryan noted the participation in the Rec. Basketball Program for 2009 was 400. She
42 stated participation rate had fallen this year. She noted the indoor soccer program had
43 reduced their program in order to minimize costs to parents. The charges have increased
44 as follows: \$0 weeknights To \$28 and \$25 weekends To \$41.
45

1 Linda Mahoney stated the reasoning behind the fee schedule was because the district was
2 incurring costs. She noted they had an overtime custodian line in the budget that was cut
3 by the Budget Committee. She stated there are custodians in the buildings at times at
4 night, but they are performing their regular responsibilities. She noted the board had
5 agreed to revisit this matter after a year to see how it was impacting the district.
6

7 Dr. Bass spoke of the districts concerns regarding this. Noting they had concerns about
8 the amount of electricity and heat that was being used at PES. He stated the district tries
9 to balance things out as best as possible. He stated they would certainly revisit this.
10

11 Donna Clairmont will revisit this with a Committee made up of Alan Miller, one
12 Principal and one School Board member along with Adam Steel and herself. She will
13 report back to the board in a few weeks with her proposal. Rob Hardy will serve.
14

15 Deb Ryan noted that Parks and Rec. choose to not charge a fee for their basketball
16 program as this put them in a different category.
17

18 Mr. Hardy invited citizens to email comments and concerns regarding this to him.
19

20 **Good News**

21 Appreciation letter from Mrs. Foster was noted for the board.
22

23 **Consent Agenda**

24 Motion to approve the non public minutes as written of March 24, 2010 was made by
25 Linda Mahoney with a 2nd by Lorraine Dube. Approved 5-0
26

27 Motion to approve the public minutes as amended of March 24, 2010 was made by Linda
28 Mahoney with a 2nd by Lorraine Dube. Approved 5-0
29

30 Motion to approve the public minutes as amended of March 31, 2010 was made by Linda
31 Mahoney with a 2nd by Lorraine Dube. Approved 5-0
32

33 Manifests read aloud by Rob Hardy. Motion to accept the Consent Agenda as read was
34 made by Linda Mahoney with a 2nd by Lorraine Dube. Approved 5-0.
35

36 **Nomination and Resignations**

37 Motion to accept the nomination of Elizabeth Byrne, First Grade Teacher was made by
38 Deb Ryan with a 2nd by Andy Ducharme. Approved 5-0
39

40 Motion to accept the resignations, with regret, of Barton Stegman and Julie Currier was
41 made by Deb Ryan with a 2nd by Andy Ducharme. Approved 5-0.
42

43 **Superintendent Remarks**

44 Dr. Bass noted the Principals would be presenting to the board at the next meeting. He
45 spoke of grading policies and protocols. Information regarding such was distributed to

1 the board for their review. Dr. Bass stated they would like to have the new grading
2 policy in place for the start of the 2010-2011 school year.

3
4 Introduction of new Assistant Superintendent – Amanda LaCaroz – Mrs. LaCaroz spoke
5 to the board stating she had met with the building Principals at Memorial and the High
6 School. She looks forward to working in Pelham.

7
8 Dr. Bass introduced Adam Steel as the new Business Administrator for Pelham. He
9 spoke of Donna Clairmont’s role as acting BA interim. Mrs. Clairmont will be working
10 with Adam Steel while maintaining oversight of Pelham’s budget. Adam will maintain
11 his position as IT Director while serving as an understudy to Donna Clairmont. They will
12 be looking at a technology integration specialist (existing position). An additional
13 amount of \$7500 will be added to Mr. Steel’s salary. There is no cost to the taxpayers for
14 these additional funds as it being taken from the Business Administrator’s salary line.
15 This saves the district money. Mr. Steel thanked the board for the opportunity.

16
17 Rob Hardy noted, for the record, that Mr. Steel had been offered a job with another
18 district but turned it down to remain in Pelham.

19
20 Lorraine Dube thanked Dr. Bass for his dedication to the students of Pelham. She spoke
21 of his presence at the schools and working with staff, students and administration – while
22 trying to improve the programs.

23
24 **District Calendar** – noted – first day of school will be Wednesday, September 1, 2010.

25
26 Dr. Bass spoke of amending the school start time, but noted conversations would be
27 needed with surrounding districts in order to approve this. He noted that athletics would
28 need consideration. Dr. Bass stated that all research indicates that high school students
29 should start later and elementary schools should start earlier. With regard to the trimester
30 calendar at PES – Dr. Bass stated there were too many issues with regard to this at this
31 time.

32
33 Motion to approve the Pelham School District Calendar for the 2010-2011 School Year
34 was made by Andy Ducharme with a 2nd by Lorraine Dube. Approved 5-0.

35
36 **Graduation Dates** – noted
37 Pelham High School – June 18, 2010; Pelham Memorial School – June 22, 2010-04-18

38
39 **Facilities Committee**

40 Deb Ryan spoke of the Committee’s willingness to take citizens on tours of the existing
41 high school site. Dr. Bass stated the Committee has done a terrific job and are a credit to
42 the community. Rob Hardy noted he would like to see the Committee stay in place until
43 the board sees if they are granted a special election or not. He noted that getting accurate
44 information out to voters is critical.

1 Deb Ryan spoke of the need for a bridge to be built in order to access fields at the
2 existing high school and what that would entail. She noted that wetlands would have to
3 be mitigated. She encouraged the community to take a possible tour of the high school to
4 see for themselves. Mrs. Ryan recommended that the School Board tour the site.

5
6 Brian Carton stated that the Committee will be getting some updated numbers from
7 Marinace Architects and will get that information to the board as soon as possible.
8 Eleanor Burton was also in attendance to speak on behalf of the Facilities Committee.

9
10 Linda Mahoney stated the district had purchased 3.5 acres by the high school which
11 could be used for 140 parking spots. She noted that Marinace had stated that this
12 purchase changes everything with regard to a renovation project. She noted that all the
13 plans done by Marinace for the addition project, was done prior to the purchasing of the
14 parking lot parcel.

15
16 The Facilities Committee will remain in effect for the time being.

17
18 **Kindergarten Study Group** – Roxanne Wilson has organized this group. Mrs. Wilson
19 stated the district can not lose focus on the state mandate for kindergarten. They have up
20 through the year 2012 to come up with a permanent resolution for the kindergarten
21 program. She noted there is a strict timeline.

22
23 Andy Ducharme feels this is something the board has to get going on right away. He
24 noted the modular is not a permanent solution.

25
26 Dr. Bass noted the state pays for the modular until 2012. He noted they also have the
27 preschool program to think of. Andy Ducharme will sit on the Kindergarten Committee.
28 Rob Hardy will recruit someone from the Budget Committee to also be involved.

29
30 Motion to set up a Kindergarten study group with a six (6) month timeline to come up
31 with the best solution for Pelham was made by Andy Ducharme with a 2nd by Linda
32 Mahoney. Approved 5-0.

33
34 *Discussion followed:*

35 Deb Ryan stated there has to be a land search performed in order to get something on the
36 2011 ballot. She noted the land search should be done simultaneously performed along
37 with Study Groups 6 month work. Roxanne Wilson will draft a Charge Order for the
38 group and get it to the board for their review.

39
40 Rolf Hubert addressed the board, stating that last time he spoke to the board during the
41 public forum, he did not say he was for or against a new high school. He spoke with
42 someone at the state level that commented to him the only way Pelham would be getting
43 money from the state, is if gambling was approved. He questioned if the board had heard
44 the same thing. He questioned what would happen if this was true.

1 Dr. Bass noted the latest information he had heard was that state adequacy was still in
2 place as it was last year. He noted the Senate had passed on it and it is in the house at
3 this time.

4
5 Donna Clairmont stated she had not heard anything with regard to gambling. She noted
6 they had been told that any building project not passed prior to June 30, 2010 would go
7 into a moratorium. Mr. Hubert suggested they speak with Mr. Doherty.

8 9 **Auditor's Report**

10 Donna Clairmont included this report in the board's packet for their review. She noted
11 there were three findings. She noted that measurers are in play to correct the findings.
12 She has followed up with administrators. Mrs. Clairmont needs to respond to the
13 Department of Education to come up with a *correction action plan*. She noted the board
14 would receive a copy of the plan. This is a public document.

15
16 **Transfer Request #3** – noted by Donna Clairmont as a tool needed to make sure they are
17 keeping the budget in balance so that they do not risk overspending.

18
19 Linda Mahoney questioned if they were moving money into the legal line because it is
20 over-expended. Mrs. Clairmont stated they are moving \$52.50 into that line to bring it to
21 a zero balance.

22
23 Rob Hardy requested a total of the amount spent thus far on legal fees. Mrs. Clairmont
24 will get that to the board.

25
26 Motion to approve Transfer Request #3 as presented by Mrs. Clairmont was made by
27 Andy Ducharme with a 2nd by Lorraine Dube. Approved 5-0.

28
29 **Windham School Board Letter** – noted. Shannen Perry read this a letter aloud. (A
30 copy of this letter is attached for the record). Mr. Hardy requested this topic be placed on
31 the next agenda. He sent a letter of appreciation to the Windham School Board.

32
33 Linda Mahoney requested that any time a school board member send a letter on the
34 board's behalf, that all members should receive a copy of said letter(s).

35
36 Linda Mahoney read aloud a recent article from the Tribune which spoke to comments
37 that Mr. Hardy had made. Mr. Hardy responded by stating he had spoken with the
38 reporter of the Tribune article, noting that some items were not stated correctly. Mr.
39 Hardy stated he thought that any member could express their own opinions and that is
40 what he did. Linda Mahoney agreed that members can express their own opinion,
41 however, reminded the Chairman that not one board member can make decisions for the
42 entire board.

43
44 Mr. Hardy mentioned that he did nothing that Mrs. Mahoney has not done in numerous
45 newspaper interviews and letters to the editors to all local newspapers

46

1 Dr. Bass stated the Windham School Board is reaching out to Pelham in order to have
2 conversations with regard to exploring cost savings methods for both towns.

3
4 Andy Ducharme noted he would also like to have discussions with the town to see if
5 there are cost savings methods with them as well.

6
7 Deb Ryan noted they could revisit the letter later to see if there is a consensus. She noted
8 they are meeting with Windham on May 11th during their joint SAU meeting.

9
10 Linda Mahoney does not feel they need to wait until the special election in order to start
11 seeking ways to save money through collective buying power with Windham. She stated
12 this is a nice opportunity to sit down with Windham to discuss this. She feels they need a
13 special meeting with Windham. A future meeting date will be discussed during the May
14 11th, meeting.

15
16 Lorraine Dube stated the board should keep an open mind and that she looks forward to
17 the discussion with Windham.

18
19 Rob Hardy requested having this on the agenda for the next PSB meeting next week. He
20 would like to put together some plans of everything they could possibly do with
21 Windham.

22 23 **Special Election**

24 Dr. Bass noted the Letter to the Commission had been signed and is now in the hands of
25 the DRA and will be delivered to the judge on April 15th. He noted the clerk would give
26 us a hearing date at that time. Dr. Bass will get that date out to the community, by
27 posting notices in two newspapers, posting at Central Office and Town Hall. The
28 Petition is a public document. Dr. Bass will have this placed on the district website as
29 well when it contains all appropriate signatures. Dr. Bass will be requesting a meeting
30 with the Budget Committee.

31
32 Linda Mahoney questioned where funds would come from for legal fees. Donna
33 Clairmont responded by stating monies will be available in the benefit lines. She is
34 anticipating \$2500 in fees, per Attorney Eggert.

35
36 **Monthly Reports** – noted

37
38 **Information and Correspondence** – noted

39 **Letter from Mr. Currier** – noted. Deb Ryan noted it takes a lot of volunteers to hold an
40 election and a recount. She thanked the custodians and ballot clerks for their time.

41
42 **Letter from Parent** – noted

43 **Relay for Life Letter** – noted

44
45 **Board Member Reports**

1 Shannen Perry spoke of the high school's drama club performance last week as being
2 very successful. She noted a blood drive to take place at PHS on 4/21/10.

3
4 Andy Ducharme requested the Relay for Life letter and Blood Drive be posted on PTV.

5
6 Linda Mahoney spoke of the high school play; she questioned the status of block
7 scheduling (Deb Ryan will update); she noted they are all public officials and would like
8 the SAU staff to know it is ok to release their private phone numbers to anyone who
9 requests them.

10
11 Lorraine Dube noted PCM had met with faculty. She stated there will be a three day
12 workshop for PHS staff and that teachers are excited about going forward with the
13 requirements set by the state. She questioned what colleges take or do not take students
14 from a non-accredited high school. She requested an actual list of colleges.

15
16 Deb Ryan spoke of a successful play presentation at the high school. She stated she is
17 amazed what the students do with set changes considering the conditions they have to
18 work in. She was very impressed. She spoke of attending Memorial School's choral and
19 band competition in Bow and what a great job the students had done. She noted PHS
20 Council is ready to make a presentation regarding block scheduling. This will be made
21 the first meeting in May.

22
23 Rob Hardy spoke of golf tryouts at Memorial School. He noted the coach did a fantastic
24 job handling the 27 kids that tried out. He stated that everyone that did not make the
25 team should still be very proud of themselves.

26
27 **Future Meetings**

28 April 21, 2010 Business/Workshop PES 6:30pm
29 May 11, 2010 Annual District Meeting SAU 6:00pm

30
31 Motion to go into non public session at 8:31pm under RSA 91-A:3II (a)(b)(c) for
32 nominations, resignations, leave request and School to Career Coordinator was made by
33 Linda Mahoney with a 2nd by Lorraine Dube. Linda Mahoney – yes; Lorraine Dube –
34 yes; Deb Ryan – yes; Andy Ducharme – yes; Rob Hardy – yes.

35
36 The board returned to public session at 9:22pm. Motion to adjourn was made by Linda
37 Mahoney with a 2nd by Lorraine Dube. Approved 5-0

38
39 Respectfully Submitted – Diane Figaro