

1 APPROVED
2 Public Session
3 **Pelham School Board**
4 **Workshop/Business Meeting**
5 **Pelham Elementary School**
6 **January 13, 2010**
7

8 **School Board Members:** Eleanor Burton-Chair, Linda Mahoney,
9 Lorraine Dube; Deb Ryan; Cindy Kyzer
10 **Superintendent:** Dr. Frank Bass
11 **Assistant Superintendent:** Roxanne Wilson
12 **Business Administrator:** Donna Clairmont
13 **Student Representative:** Shannen Perry
14

15 Chairman Burton called the public session to order at 7:09 pm. All those in attendance
16 stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.
17

18 **Public Forum**
19

20 Bill Scanzani – commented on the serious nature of recent emails. He noted that if there
21 is a quorum of the board, then the Right to Know Law is applied. He stated it is not fair
22 to the community and this board once they take a formal position on something and then
23 other members undermine that position. He stated that certain emails could be a violation
24 of state election laws. He demanded, on behalf of Pelham citizens, that any and all
25 emails to board members that constitute public business, come to a stop.
26

27 Linda Kathios - spoke of her disappointment in reading the Letter to Editor in the Tribune.
28 She stated that the School Board has voted to support a new high school and that she
29 finds it disrespectful for a school board member to do this. She feels it is unethical and
30 should be addressed by the whole Board. She stated her children deserve better.
31

32 Mike Oxner – showed appreciation to the school board members that support land and a
33 new school and renovations. He noted that after reading the letter in Tribune, he thinks it
34 was a poor choice to send and feels it is wrong and violates every ethics policy. (Mr.
35 Oxner submitted his highlighted points of the letter for attachment to these minutes dated
36 1/12/2010). He spoke of the oath that each member takes and requested action by the rest
37 of the board with regard to this. Mr. Oxner asked for Mrs. Mahoney’s resignation.
38

39 Deanna Patterson – strongly urged the School Board to unify for the community. She
40 stated when there is a majority agreement that it is imperative that you are unified going
41 forward as a board. She commended Dr. Mohr and her staff and students that currently
42 attend the High School – noting they have been asked to go far beyond what any person
43 should do to educate. She noted her concern about being a risk of losing accreditation.
44 She felt the time to act is now and not lose state aid. She stated that block scheduling is a
45 disservice to students.
46

1 Rob Hardy noted he is a member of the Facilities Committee but that he was speaking as
2 a concerned citizen, homeowner and father. He noted his Committee has worked hard to
3 carry out the Charge of the School Board. He noted they presented their recommendation
4 to the Board and stated they had the same recommendation as the first Committee
5 regarding the High School. He stated he felt that members of his Committee have been
6 treated with disrespect by some School Board members. He is looking to the future and
7 felt this is the time for action, not excuses. He urged the Board to send the warrants to
8 the voters unanimously. He also feels renovations should go before voters.

9
10 Andy Ducharme – talked about solidarity on the Board. He spoke of certain wording on
11 Article 3 “if it passes” and feels this wording should be taken out.

12
13 Jim Patchen – stated the board should go with what the Facilities Committee voted for.
14 He felt they should go for current state building aid. He felt they should get the high
15 school project voted in now and then go back and get land later. He felt they should have
16 a united front.

17
18 PUBLIC HEARNG OPEN AT 7:33PM
19

20 Mr. Scanzani – spoke of Articles 2 & 3 and noted the Budget Committee was specific on
21 the wording of Article 2 which should state “up to \$2million). Dr. Bass noted the DRA
22 prohibits them to not say “up to”. Mr. Scanzani spoke of Article 3 and noted wording to
23 be removed that stated “if and only if Article 2 passes”. He noted that if Article 3 passed;
24 you would have the 60% vote to go forward and getting the land money would be easier
25 to obtain, incase you have to wait to have Purchase and Sales Agreements signed. He felt
26 they could go back and ask for a Special Town Meeting based on an emergency situation.

27
28 Dr. Bass read Articles 2 & 3 into the record.

29
30 Linda Mahoney stated that if voters approved the \$37million project and not the land
31 presented, that it is a clear message that the voters simply do not want that piece of land.
32 She felt it hard to imagine people would vote for a high school without the land.

33
34 Cindy Kyzer felt that taking the wording out of the Articles would give them more
35 flexibility.

36
37 Mr. Scanzani stated there is a lot of false information about the land. He noted the land
38 does not have ledge or water or powerline issues. People who are concerned about the
39 Purchase and Sales Agreements, may be reluctant to vote on the land but would vote on
40 the school building project.

41
42 Linda Mahoney noted that the land consisted of 48 acres with 26.61 being buildable acres
43 – the rest are comprised of wetlands.

44
45 Mr. Scanzani stated there are 38 acres of buildable land and that 9 acres in the back are
46 immediately abutting Golden Brook. He noted there is small portion that comes up in the

1 flood plain. Mr. Scanzani spoke of his experience/knowledge with regard to this piece of
2 land.
3
4 Deb Ryan noted the land has been deemed by Marinace Architects as being the best piece
5 of buildable land they have seen in 30 years.
6
7 Linda Durhr – questioned how many times would they be doing surveys on the land
8 when they already know it is a good option and that we need a new high school.
9
10 Motion to remove Article 3 wording of “if and only if Article 2 passes” and have it read
11 “shall the Pelham School District raise and appropriate the sum..” motion made by Deb
12 Ryan with a 2nd by Cindy Kyzer. Approved 4-1 (Dube in the negative)
13
14 Linda Mahoney would like to link with Article 4 if Article 3 passes.
15
16 Dr. Bass read Article 4.
17
18 Mr. Scanzani requested taking out the wording if and only if Article 2 passes.
19
20 Motion to reword Article 4 and remove Article 2 wording that stated “if and only if
21 Article 3 passes” was made by Deb Ryan with a 2nd by Cindy Kyzer. Approved 5-0.
22
23 Dr. Bass stated per Ed Murdough at the Department of Education, that the current high
24 school could accommodate 6th-8th graders with no issues. Dr. Bass also stated that the
25 Fire Chief agrees.
26
27 Linda Mahoney noted the State Fire Marshall may have an issue with this. Linda
28 Mahoney read a letter from the Fire Marshall’s office regarding a concrete fire wall in the
29 existing building. Dr. Bass noted the local Fire Chief would have jurisdiction. Dr. Bass
30 will get that information in writing. The DOE would defer to local authority. Linda
31 Mahoney stated that mechanical and fire upgrades and sprinklers need to be done. Cindy
32 Kyzer supports doing that.
33
34 Mr. Scanzani does not think the School Board did a good job of explaining the need for
35 these improvements to the Budget Committee. He recommends going back to the Budget
36 Committee with these changes and have them done over the summer months.
37
38 Deb Ryan will explain the timeline and state aid to the Budget Committee.
39
40 Motion to approve Article 2 as written was made by Cindy Kyzer with a 2nd by Deb Ryan.
41 Cindy Kyzer then withdrew her motion after the following discussion.
42
43 Linda Mahoney stated she is not in favor of eminent domain and would suggest adding
44 the wording “purchase contingent upon 100% of owners agreement to sell”.
45

1 Deb Ryan disagreed with this language and noted the land owners were in agreement two
2 years ago. She felt it would be negligent to put that wording in if they are only missing a
3 couple of land owner's approval.

4
5 Dr. Bass noted that if the wording is put in to the Article that Mrs. Mahoney is suggesting,
6 then they would not be able to exercise their right to friendly eminent domain. He noted
7 the value is far less, currently, than what the offer is. He noted the School District could
8 compel the Selectman to take the land if they show need. The process could take 1 week
9 to 6 months to complete with the cost being from \$0 - \$15,000.

10
11 Mr. Scanzani noted that the last time this land was available, the board had all but one
12 signature of an owner that could not be found. He assumes the same thing would happen
13 this time. He noted the board would put that money aside in an escrow account for a
14 period of time until under state laws, the state takes said money. He noted this is not a
15 real eminent domain situation.

16
17 Lorraine Dube stated she does feel there are people who do not want to sell their land and
18 she would not be in favor of taking it from them.

19
20 Deb Ryan stated they are on the School Board to make decisions that are in the best
21 interest of the School District and felt they should not place doubt in the minds of voters.
22 She reminded the board that they have taken an oath of office.

23
24 Dr. Bass noted it is their goal is work with the land owners and all good faith attempts
25 will be made to locate and talk to all owners.

26
27 Motion to add the wording to Article 2..."said purchase contingent upon owner to sell."
28 made by Linda Mahoney with a 2nd by Lorraine Dube. Fails 2-3

29
30 Motion to accept Article 2 as written was made by Cindy Kyzer with a 2nd by Deb Ryan.
31 Approved 3-2 (Mahoney and Dube in the negative)

32
33 Article 5 – read by Dr. Bass

34
35 Donna Clairmont spoke of an appropriation that needed to be put into the proposed
36 budget. She noted they are required to do gross budgeting. This amount does include the
37 bond payment. She also noted she made a correction to estimated revenues with regard
38 to impact fees as being increased to offset this expenditure. She also discovered an
39 oversight in terms of the grant revenues and made that increase to match the expenditure.
40 The tax impact would be \$.12.

41
42 Donna Clairmont responded to a question by the Budget Committee asking what
43 constitutes a one time cost – i.e. the appropriation for books at Pelham Elementary
44 School, she noted there is no clear answer – noting it is interpretation. She calculated
45 \$48,000 for this.

1 Donna Clairmont questioned \$25,000 for Preschool in the default budget.
2
3 Cindy Kyzer noted this is rent for the Preschool that has to be paid to the state for using
4 part of the kindergarten modular. Donna Clairmont noted the revenues from the state for
5 kindergarten will offset this amount. Donna Clairmont will check into this again.
6
7 Article 6 – read by Dr. Bass
8 Article 7 – read by Dr. Bass
9
10 Motion to accept Articles 5, 6, & 7 as written was made by Cindy Kyzer with a 2nd by
11 Deb Ryan. Approved 5-0.
12
13 Article 8 – read by Dr. Bass
14
15 Deanna Paterson – asked for clarification for the Dean of Students position and
16 questioned if that included 100% health benefits. Cindy Kyzer noted that amount is for
17 all taxes; FICA; Social Security; health; workman’s compensation and mandatory state
18 retirement.
19
20 Linda Mahoney recommended breaking that amount out for voters to better understand.
21
22 Motion to approve Article 8 with amendment that total amount to be raised and
23 appropriated is \$193,992.00 was made by Linda Mahoney with a 2nd by Lorraine Dube.
24 After further discussion, Linda Mahoney withdrew this motion.
25
26 Donna Clairmont will clarify with the Dept. of Education if a single warrant article can
27 be voted on each part separately.
28
29 Motion to accept Article 8 as written unless otherwise so directed by the DRA was made
30 by Cindy Kyzer with a 2nd by Deb Ryan. Approved 5-0.
31
32 Article 9 – read by Dr. Bass
33 Motion to accept Article 9 as amended to remove the “note” at the bottom was made by
34 Linda Mahoney with a 2nd by Lorraine Dube. Approved 5-0.
35
36 Article 10 – read by Dr. Bass
37 Linda Dart-Kathios questioned why the Budget Committee did not recommend the
38 English teacher. Deb Ryan stated they would have to look at the minutes of that meeting.
39
40 Motion to accept Article 10 pending approve by the DRA was made by Lorraine Dube
41 with a 2nd by Cindy Kyzer. Approved 5-0.
42
43 Article 11 – read by Dr. Bass
44 Motion to accept Article 11 as written was made by Cindy Kyzer with a 2nd by Deb Ryan
45 Approved 5-0.
46

1 Article 12 – read by Dr. Bass
2 Motion to accept Article 12 as written was made by Cindy Kyzer with a 2nd by Deb Ryan
3 Approved 5-0.

4
5 Article 13 – read by Dr. Bass
6 Motion to accept Article 13 as written was made by Cindy Kyzer with a 2nd by Deb Ryan
7 Approved 5-0.

8
9 Article 14 – read by Dr. Bass
10 This is a citizen’s petition – the school does not take action.

11
12 **PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED AT 8:57PM**

13
14 The following members will speak to each article as follows:

- 15
16 Articles 2, 3, & 4 = Cindy Kyzer
17 Article 5 = Eleanor Burton
18 Articles 6 & 7 = Linda Mahoney
19 Article 8a = Deb Ryan
20 Article 8b = Eleanor Burton
21 Article 8c= Lorraine Dube
22 Article 8d= Linda Mahoney
23 Article 8e = Deb Ryan
24 Article 9 = Deb Ryan
25 Article 10a= Linda Mahoney
26 Article 10b= Lorraine Dube
27 Article 11 = Linda Mahoney
28 Article 12 = Eleanor Burton
29 Article 13= Cindy Kyzer

30
31 **Pelham Elementary First Grade Class Size**

32 Principal LaFrance addressed the board speaking of a proposal to discontinue with the
33 Readiness Program next year – for one year and then review such. She noted the
34 Readiness Teacher would then teach a first grade class with no impact to the budget.
35 Public kindergarten prepares students for first grade curriculum. Having another first
36 grade teacher would reduce class sizes. The board supports this proposal with Principal
37 LaFrance reporting back to the board in one year.

38
39 RTI – Response to Intervention Program
40 Principal LaFrance spoke of starting with first graders and looking closely at reading
41 skills – this program will provide continued assessment of students

42
43 Mrs. LaFrance spoke of bringing parents and students together at a recent presentation
44 and providing reading strategies and books for students. It was well attended.

45

1 The Board directed Principal LaFrance to remove the Readiness Program next year based
2 on facts outlined above.

3
4 **Superintendent Remarks**

5 Dr. Bass spoke of bringing information to the board at an upcoming meeting about
6 grading philosophy and how attendance ties into this. He stated they have some issues in
7 all the schools with regard to attendance and that they are looking at grading policies and
8 procedures across the board along with how homework is graded and factored in.

9
10 **Consent Agenda**

11 Manifests read aloud by Eleanor Burton.

12
13 Motion to accept the manifests as read by Eleanor Burton and Donna Clairmont Totaling
14 \$1,761,622.80 was made by Linda Mahoney with a 2nd by Cindy Kyzer. Approved 5-0.

15
16 Motion to accept the public minutes of December 16,2009 as amended was made by
17 Linda Mahoney with a 2nd by Cindy Kyzer. Approved 5-0.

18
19 Motion to accept the consent agenda was made by Cindy Kyzer with a 2nd by Deb Ryan
20 Approved 5-0.

21
22 **Review of Marinace Presentation**

23 Linda Mahoney spoke of her concern about what was presented to the Budget Committee.
24 She noted she would like to ask questions of the architect but feels it may be too late.

25
26 Dr. Bass suggested the board write their questions for the architects down on paper and
27 he will forward to Marinace for review. He will invite Mr. Marinace to the next board
28 meeting to address said questions.

29
30 Linda Mahoney noted she has asked Marinace to provide in writing the reasoning behind
31 all the changes they made and why they weren't addressed with the board. She felt this is
32 all about process and she respects the Budget Committees decision. She would like to
33 understand why and how this all happened and who made the decision to do this. She
34 noted the school board had no input on any bond schedule.

35
36 Lorraine Dube noted they are cutting the original proposal from 1000 students to 850
37 students and questioned if they will be able to add onto the building in the future. She
38 stated she has been coming to school board meetings since 2003 and that she cares about
39 the children of Pelham. She expressed concern with the current proposal as having
40 classrooms in a crowded area – noting she would like to see more open space.

41
42 Cindy Kyzer noted that adding onto the current high school was only a viable option until
43 the elementary school was built. Now that option is too late. She stated the reason for
44 there not being board input before Marinace presented to the Budget Committee was
45 probably that the former Business Administrator had conversations with Marinace, but
46 that she is not here to respond to Mrs. Mahoney's questions.

1
2 Linda Mahoney spoke of not being in favor of paying a high markup for a piece of land
3 and that she would never tell anyone not to vote for a new high school – she reserves her
4 right to be able to explain why she is not in favor of it.

5
6 Eleanor Burton spoke – and noted that she gathered from Marinace’ presentation that the
7 changes they made were probably to keep costs lower. She thinks they made adjustments
8 in their favor.

9
10 Donna Clairmont noted, in terms of the warrants for the bond, the interest is based on a
11 25 year schedule for the three articles. The warrant article stipulates that you have the
12 authority to negotiate the best bond possible for the district. Mrs. Clairmont noted the
13 norm has always been level principal. She also spoke of “reversal of level principal” but
14 cautioned the board with that option. She noted that if they did a 10 year bond, the first
15 year of interest would be about \$48,000.

16
17 **Monthly Reports**

18 Donna Clairmont noted that after meeting with building administrators she has put a
19 freeze on spending at this time beyond contractual obligations. She stated she did not see
20 a surplus in the current budget – noting she has gone through the entire budget line by
21 line.

22
23 Linda Mahoney commented that there are a lot of over expenditures and it is only
24 January.

25
26 Donna Clairmont stated she is working with the Pelham Bookkeeper now and stated they
27 haven’t encumbered for all of the utilities needs and contractual obligations. She noted
28 that in Windham, she does not allow accounts to go into the negative so that when she
29 looks at the expenditure reports she knows everything has been accounted for. She has
30 implemented this process on paper.

31
32 Lorraine Dube hoped they could continue to do Pelham’s books this way. The board
33 thanked Donna Clairmont.

34
35 Shannen Perry – spoke of students preparing for finals; noting sports have started; a sign
36 is up for Relay for Life over next summer. She noted that some groups in school have
37 funded a new sign for the High School.

38
39 Reconsideration – Dr. Bass stated that Donna Clairmont felt there would be no
40 reconsiderations. Deb Ryan questioned food service equipment.

41
42 **Updates**

43 H1N1 – Dr. Bass noted the state is looking at one more wave coming through.

44
45 Lorraine Dube asked for Withdrawal Codes that are used when a student leaves the
46 district and what those codes mean.

1
2 Roxanne Wilson – noted NECAP test results will be returned at the end of January.

3
4 Deb Ryan questioned if there was some preliminary information that they could have to
5 know if they have met AYP or not so that they could bring that information to
6 reconsideration. Roxanne Wilson stated AYP information is not available until February
7 or March.

8
9 **Correspondence**

10 Dr. Bass noted he is waiting for a letter from Chief Midgley and the State Board of
11 Education. He is also waiting for a letter from land owners.

12
13 Cindy Kyzer spoke of NHSBA Delegate Assembly on 1/16/10. She noted they have sent
14 a sample warrant article with regarding the NHSBA Evergreen Survey Document. She
15 stated this law does affect their ability to negotiate. Dr. Bass will see if this can be added
16 on as a nonbinding referendum.

17
18 **Reports**

19 Linda Mahoney attending Elementary School Council Meeting and stated they are
20 working on exciting things. She spoke of the difficulty of the logistics involved in having
21 assemblies at this school and how much those costs. She stated it is a challenge
22 organizing such events. She spoke of the idea to have a senior breakfast and noted the
23 Boxtop for Education Program brings in a lot of money for the school. Mrs. Mahoney
24 stated that they have reached in impasse with regard to the teacher’s contract – it went
25 into mediation. The contract will not be on the ballot this year.

26
27 Lorraine Dube noted Memorial School students were working on their Egypt studies and
28 spoke of all the wonderful ideas of the teachers and the students. She spoke of receiving
29 several calls about the impact fees and who controls the impact fees. Dr. Bass stated the
30 individual town has the right to bring them forward.

31
32 Linda Mahoney – spoke of her understanding that the developer of a new home bills the
33 new owner for impact fees. She stated it is not coming out of the tax base and that it has
34 to be used to go towards a bond.

35
36 Dr. Bass stated a pool of money had built up and they are in a position to bring over the
37 money to offset the rest of the PES bond payoff.

38
39 Deb Ryan spoke of putting the Marinace PowerPoint presentation on the district website.
40 She stressed the need to get the Facilities Committee back up and running to promote and
41 engage voters; speak of teacher warrant articles on respective school websites; play the
42 Marinace version on public TV; get information out to newspapers and through
43 AlertNow to remind people to vote; distribute a brochure to residents; hold another open
44 forum in February and March and tour Windham High School and exchange some
45 information about what it’s like to have a new school in Windham.

1 Dr. Bass cautioned against using AlertNow. Deb Ryan would like to use email in non-
2 emergency type ways.

3
4 Eleanor Burton stated that once they get through Deliberative Session, they can capitalize
5 on some of those ideas. Cindy Kyzer stated the Marinace PowerPoint could easily be put
6 on the website now and open forums could be scheduled.

7
8 Motion to adjourn the public meeting at 10:40 pm was made by Cindy Kyzer with a 2nd
9 by Deb Ryan. Approved 5-0.

10
11 Respectfully Submitted – Diane Figaro