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APPROVED
Pelham School Board
Business Meeting – Public Session
April 23, 2008
Pelham Elementary School

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School Board Members: Bruce Couture, Chairman; Linda Mahoney;
Cindy Kyzer; Eleanor Burton; Linda Koehler
Superintendent: Dr. Frank Bass
Assistant Superintendent: Roxanne Wilson
Business Administrator: Kathleen Sargent

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Chairman Couture called the public session to order at 7:21 p.m. All those in attendance stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Forum

Lorraine Dube addressed the Board with a request to have the noise factor addressed with regard to landscaping. She requested that gas powered trimmers not be used close to the buildings while students are in session.

Kathleen Sargent will look into the landscaper's time frame regarding this.

Kindergarten Update

Lynn Ober, State Representative, addressed the Board to discuss the Kindergarten Bill. She noted that three amendments were recently presented at the state level. Deadlines were discussed. The state offer of 100% reimbursement versus the 75% reimbursement offers were discussed. The no means no waiver was taken out of the presented new Bill. It was noted that there were no penalties with the proposed bill.

Bruce Couture stated that Kindergarten is in the forefront at the state level because of the *adequate education bill*.

Lorraine Dube addressed the Board noting she had contacted some Kindergartens to get some prices for ½ day programs. She noted their program ran from 9:00 – 12:00 for \$250.00 per month. She noted it might be significant to look at the voucher system.

Lynn Ober responded by stating they are not talking about a voucher system.

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the non-public minutes of April 9, 2008 was made by Cindy Kyzer with a 2nd by Linda Mahoney. Approved 5-0.

1 Motion to approve as amended the public minutes of April 9, 2008 was made by Linda
2 Mahoney with a 2nd by Eleanor Burton. Approved 5-0.

3
4 Chairman Couture read aloud the manifests and noted they were circulated for signatures.
5 Mr. Couture noted the resignation of Kerry Ann Quinn and he wished her well and
6 thanked her for her years of service to the district.

7 Mr. Couture then noted the teacher nomination of Nina Fulerton for grade two.

8
9 Motion to accept the Consent Agenda and accept the resignation of Kerry Ann Quinn
10 along with the nomination of Nina Fulerton was made by Cindy Kyzer with a 2nd by
11 Linda Mahoney. Approved 5-0.

12 13 **Advanced 6th Grade Math**

14
15 Principals LaFrance and Pinsonneault along with Mr. Palmeri discussed piloting a
16 flexible math grouping program in grade 5. They discussed the tests they will be using in
17 determining placement along with criteria that will be needed by students. The pace,
18 structure and commitment of advanced math was noted. It was stated that a letter would
19 be given to all 5th grade parents notifying them of the option.

20
21 Mrs. Mahoney thought this could be a winning situation all the way around.

22
23 Lorraine Dube addressed the Board and stated she loved the program and wondered if
24 two classes could be offered to accommodate more children.

25
26 Mr. Palmeri responded by stating not every student that is excited about math has the
27 background to handle the course and they do not want to see a student struggle or
28 flounder. He noted this would be a pilot year for the program.

29
30 Mr. Palmeri announced that the Chess Club came in 2nd place at a recent chess
31 competition out of 23 competing schools. He noted this was the third year in a row that
32 Pelham had hosted the event.

33 34 **PTA Presentation**

35
36 Ms. McPhee, Ms. Collins and Mr. Boldoc addressed the School Board with their
37 proposals for installing a rock climbing wall and shelter park bench at the elementary
38 school. They discussed student's physical fitness activities and its importance. They
39 noted the PTA endorses the Wellness Policy of the District.

40
41 Mr. Boldoc expressed his desire to have students exposed to new and different activities.
42 He stressed that it is a safe environment and it will challenge the students in a safe way.
43 The proposal for the rock climbing wall was distributed to the Board for their review.

44
45 It was noted that no additional liability insurance was needed for this type of equipment,
46 but the PTA requested that the School Board double check with their insurance carrier.

1 Also noted – the PTA would like to install both the bench and wall this summer. Both
2 projects would be completely funded by the PTA.

3
4 Mrs. Mahoney noted she had requested at previous meetings that any back up
5 information be provided to the Board prior to any presentations, as this would allow
6 members to be more prepared to ask questions. She stated she really appreciated their
7 offers but just requested a little time to read through the proposal.

8
9 The PTA is prepared to give the Board as much time as they need to review proposals. A
10 May 7th response date was noted.

11 12 **Charge for Community High School Committee**

13
14 Chairman Couture noted the Committee will most likely have a broad description of what
15 it will entail and that they will be working under a default budget.

16
17 Linda Koehler stated it would be too narrow saying this is just a high school issue and
18 would like to add to a proposed Charge Order to include the Pelham School District and
19 not just the high school.

20
21 Linda Mahoney agreed that it should include looking at the District as a whole.

22
23 Eleanor Burton also agreed that all facilities should be looked at, but noted her concern
24 that it was too large of an issue for one committee to handle.

25
26 Linda Mahoney stressed the need to know how the question was officially posed to voters
27 in March. Mrs. Sargent will return with that information after checking the minutes from
28 the Deliberative Session.

29
30 Mr. Couture suggested the formation of subcommittees off of the one larger committee.
31 He also noted the land behind the high school would have to be looked at and he also
32 agreed with studying the broader spectrum.

33
34 Eleanor Burton requested setting an application deadline with the Superintendents office.

35
36 Dr. Bass stressed that there were a lot of issues to look at and that everything has to be
37 viewed in its totality.

38
39 The number of potential members of such a committee was discussed – (2 School Board
40 members; Director of Maintenance; Principals; staff; 2 Budget Committee and CIP
41 members). Mr. Couture stated he would be willing to have conversations with said
42 Boards to see if there would be an interest.

43
44 Linda Mahoney stressed that the Board would need to have clear direction for them to
45 follow.

46

1 Dr. Bass will draft a *Charge of the Board* and then present it at a later date for member's
2 review – noting there will need to be a proposed timeline and charge.

3
4 Linda Mahoney will get information to the Board regarding availability of adding on to
5 existing schools.

6
7 Roxanne Wilson added they will need to think about the criteria and what will be asked
8 of them, what their background is and if they sit on other Boards in town.

9
10 The correct balance of potential members was discussed.

11
12 **CIP**

13
14 The following items and their order in which they will keep in the CIP were noted:

- 15 1) Land Purchase
- 16 2) Land Capital Reserve Fund
- 17 3) Pelham High School
- 18 4) Renovation Project of PHS
- 19 5) Preschool Facility for Pelham Students
- 20 6) Kindergarten
- 21 7) Capital Reserve Account Maintenance
- 22 8) Repaving PMS Project
- 23 9) Modular Classrooms for PMS
- 24 10) Modular Classrooms for PHS
- 25 11) SAU Site Options

26
27 Linda Mahoney requested a disclaimer be added to CIP – it reads as follows:

28 *All commentary and/or opinion relative to school district issues do not*
29 *necessarily reflect the opinion of the Pelham School Board.*

30
31 **Warrant Articles**

32
33 Warrant Articles 2-17 were reviewed and discussed. Heavy caseloads and larger class
34 sizes were noted.

35
36 Mr. Couture thanked the Pelham voters for passing the third year of the District Wide
37 Technology Plan.

38
39 Kathleen Sargent noted, regarding PMS paving of parking lot, they will patch to the best
40 of their ability.

41
42 Mr. Couture thanked the Pelham voters for passing the Maintenance Capital Reserve
43 Fund.

44
45 Kathleen Sargent will check on the easement/National Grid.

46
47 Linda Mahoney noted the results of the failed land and school warrant articles.

1 Mr. Couture noted that according to Marinace Architects, that particular building could
2 be built on another suitable site and that he hopes in the long run it does not end up
3 costing the town more.

4
5 Dr. Bass noted that Kathleen Sargent is dealing with the shortfall regarding the defeated
6 operating budget. He noted that she worked hard to keep it so low with only about a 2%
7 increase.

8
9 Mrs. Sargent stated she has asked the Principals to go back to look at the budget and
10 move monies around within the same functions. She noted it would be a very tight year
11 but they are working hard to ensure that it is going to work.

12
13 Linda Koehler noted her concern about fuel costs.

14
15 Linda Mahoney questioned the SAU split with Windham. Dr. Bass will keep Pelham
16 notified as Windham moves forward.

17
18 **Transfers**

19
20 Kathleen Sargent gave an outline of the line items that are being adjusted/moved.

21
22 Motion to authorize the transfer of funds between functions as requested by Kathleen
23 Sargent was made by Cindy Kyzer with a 2nd by Linda Koehler. Approved 5-0.

24
25 **Santastic Landscaping**

26
27 Letter from Santastic requesting their approval for application of materials was
28 distributed to the Board for their review.

29
30 Linda Mahoney noted they will need to get a special permit according to PES 502.06
31 from the State Department of Agriculture first and that she would not even consider
32 granting approval of applications without it. Kathleen Sargent will speak with Santastic
33 about this.

34
35 **School Calendar**

36
37 The updated School Calendar was noted. Roxanne Wilson stated a day was added to the
38 end of the year to correct an error in the previous calendar.

39
40 Motion to approve School District Calendar for the 2008-2009 year as amended was
41 made by Cindy Kyzer with a 2nd by Eleanor Burton. Approved 5-0.

42
43 Eleanor Burton noted some school activities were missing from the distributed activities
44 calendar. Dr. Bass will check with administrators regarding this.

1 **Food Service Policy**

2
3 It was noted this would be the first reading of the proposed Food Service Policy EF. It
4 will be posted on the web site for public comment. EF (Policy) and EFA (Procedure)
5 will be noted.

6
7 Eleanor Burton noted she did not think notification of overdue accounts should come
8 from the school office.

9
10 Consensus of the Board was made to change the wording “school” to say “office”.

11
12 **Superintendent Remarks**

13
14 Dr. Bass spoke of the upcoming challenge by the 5th grade to have them name every
15 capital in Europe. He also spoke of the students challenge to come up with alternative
16 energy ideas and make a presentation to the School Board regarding such. Dr. Bass will
17 be having a lunch opportunity for students with himself as a way to hear student’s ideas
18 and stay connected with them.

19
20 Regarding the budget and paper, Dr. Bass stressed that there is plenty of paper for the rest
21 of the school year and that nothing the teachers need will be denied. He also stressed that
22 there is a concern about the budget and that they need to be mindful as they approach the
23 end of the year.

24
25 Dr. Bass spoke of the following: preschool tuition expenses have increased substantially;
26 emergency facilities expenses and prior year expenditures paid (including retirement). It
27 was noted that Kathleen Sargent has had to absorb those expenses and has done so – there
28 will be a small surplus at the end of the year.

29
30 Regarding paper, Mrs. Sargent stated the last order of paper took a bit longer to be
31 received. She noted that for the coming year, each school will order their own paper
32 through a contract with WB Mason. Mason will deliver it as needed. It was also noted
33 that communication regarding paper never came out of the SAU office notifying parents
34 that there was a shortage.

35
36 Dr. Bass discussed some communications with his office from parents regarding
37 tutoring students to Windham, Hudson or Salem.

38
39 Mr. Couture stated he hoped this would not occur.

40 Mrs. Mahoney noted it would cost about \$9,000 per student to do so.

41
42 **Other Business Items**

43
44 The security camera update was made by Kathleen Sargent. She noted the project was
45 completed. Implementation of the project was discussed.

1 Mrs. Sargent distributed and noted Marinace Architects materials for the Board's review.
2 She noted she has requested a financial breakdown of any monies spent for site
3 engineering. This will be presented when received. It was noted that Lorraine Dube
4 questioned if services were paid to Marinace for site engineering.
5

6 **Monthly Reports**

7
8 *Budget Report* - Mrs. Sargent stated she is looking to release some monies from the
9 oil/fuel budget along with monies from grants. She stated at this time of year there is a
10 lot going on and that the bottom line can fluctuate.
11

12 Dr. Bass stressed that they will watch the budget was they proceed forward. He noted
13 that if things get better going forward with regard to the budget, they will top off their oil
14 tanks at the \$2.19 a gallon price that was obtained last year by the District.
15

16 *Assistant Superintendent Report* – Mrs. Wilson noted AYP would be released on May 7th.
17 She stressed that it is coming out very late and that they will have little time to prepare.
18 She noted she is not optimistic this year as targets go up each year. More and more
19 schools will miss their targets as prescribed by the No Child Left Behind Act.
20

21 **Information/Correspondence**

22
23 May event calendar; NH DOE cost per pupil report and Emergency Repairs Report were
24 noted.
25

26 Linda Koehler questioned the inappropriate use of a handicap chairlift by maintenance.
27 She also questioned repair cost to a service pole wherein damage was made by a motorist.
28 It was stated they do not know who the motorist was; therefore the district will have to
29 absorb the cost of repairs.
30

31 **Board Members Reports**

32
33 Eleanor Burton – Professional Development continues and is coming along well. PHS
34 Council sponsored a drug and alcohol presentation and it was poorly attended. PMS
35 Council is still collecting box tops. Teacher appreciation breakfasts will be held on the
36 next early release day. She spoke of Future Educators of America.
37

38 Cindy Kyzer – Spoke of the new curriculum preview replacing I Care.
39

40 Linda Mahoney – Spoke of the Boards Policy that states they should have information
41 prior to a presentation – noting she would like to have that in advance of a presentation in
42 order to move things along. She questioned monies expended for a generator at the high
43 school – noting schools lost power on April 12th. Kathleen Sargent noted the generator
44 will be installed next week. Mrs. Mahoney requested information regarding a generator
45 at Pelham Memorial School (if there was one at that school).
46

1 Linda Koehler – Attended a meeting at SERESC, noting it was very informative. She
2 noted her concern about schools putting on great presentations for the community but that
3 people do not show up to see them.

4
5 Bruce Couture – Regarding Committees, he requested that the community keep apprised
6 of the situation and hope that people will volunteer for such committees. He stressed that
7 students be safe over vacation week and during prom night. He requested an update on
8 the grading and music program at the High School.

9

10 **Future Meetings**

11

12 May 13, 2008	SAU Meeting	7:00 SAU
13 May 14, 2008	Business Meeting	7:00 PES
14 May 28, 2008	Business/Workshop	7:00 PES

15

16

17 Motion to adjourn under RSA 91-A: 3II at 10:50 p.m. was made by Linda Mahoney with
18 a 2nd by Cindy Kyzer. 5-0

19

20

21 Respectfully Submitted – Diane Figaro