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APPROVED
Pelham School Board
Budget Meeting
Public Session
September 23, 2009

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

Chairman Burton called the public session to order at 6:57 pm. All those in attendance stood for the pledge of allegiance. The non public minutes of tonight have been sealed.

Public Forum

Brian Johnson and Hal Lynde addressed the board to speak of proposed gym fees. They noted that some programs will probably have to go away due to the increased fees. They spoke of the substantial increase in fees. Mr. Lynde noted the Board of Selectman struggled with these issues also. He noted the Board of Selectman was a little surprised at the large increases – adding they do understand the reasoning behind them.

Kevin Kezeminiski from St. Patrick’s basketball program – spoke of using the gym on Thursday nights and how the increase in fees would affect the program.

The board will take their concerns under advisement.

Consent Agenda

The minutes from September 9& 16, 2009 will be tabled to the next meeting.

Motion was made by Deb Ryan to reconsider the decision made last week regarding Facilities Use Fees.

Chairman Burton stated the board typically does not take action during the current meeting with matters involving the public forum. The board takes public forum comments under advisement.

Eleanor Burton read aloud the manifests to be signed.

Motion to accept manifests as read was made by Cindy Kyzer with 2nd by Linda Mahoney. Approved 5-0.

1 **Budgets**

2
3 Pelham Memorial School – Principal Pinsonneault presented the Memorial School
4 Budget. She noted the budget increased substantially because of the huge hit the budget
5 took last year – noting that 55% of last year’s budget was zeroed out. Highlights from
6 the budget: mentoring; repairs to instructional equipment; maintenance contract for three
7 copy machines; repairs to instrumental equipment; Project Connect; supplies related to
8 cost of classrooms.

9
10 The board questioned the large number of shipping and handling costs attached to many
11 items presented in the budget. It was noted that some of these could be removed.
12 Kathleen Sargent will handle this correction.

13
14 Principal Pinsonneault spoke of there being 101 identified students at Memorial School
15 with three more students in the process of being identified. She noted that special
16 education represents 19% of the student population.

17
18 The numbers of items being requested are the same numbers as last year.

19
20 The discussion of increased athletic transportation costs was discussed. Occupational
21 therapy requests reflect incoming student’s needs for the next year. The need for
22 consulting fees was noted as being \$100/hr plus mileage for approximately 30 hours.
23 Periodicals for the library were noted along with online professional development request.

24
25 It was noted that all staff receive handbooks. With regard to the promotion ceremony, it
26 was noted the chair rental fee was dissolved for 2011. They are looking to utilize the
27 bleachers at the high school, among other ideas for seating. It was noted that there is no
28 money in the budget for this year’s promotion ceremony. Deb Ryan questioned if parents
29 could fund the promotion ceremony in some way. Mrs. Mahoney hoped it would not
30 have to go in that direction.

31
32 **Special Education/Preschool Budget**

33
34 Tina McCoy along with Shirley Sullivan (Administrator for the Preschool Program)
35 presented their budget. Highlights included: training stipends for mentoring
36 Instructional Assistants; contracting of consultants when needed for selected areas;
37 special education training; professional development that is required to be able to work
38 with a particular student.

39
40 Linda Mahoney questioned if the Instructional Assistants receive CPI training (restraint
41 training). Mrs. McCoy noted that state laws specifically state that restraints are only to
42 be used in extreme emergencies.

43
44 It was noted that tuition for private schools/day schools are sponsored by the district.
45 Mrs. McCoy estimated there will be 6-7 students who will require such services. It was
46 noted that years ago there were many more students who had out of district placements.

1 Mrs. McCoy and her staff are very inclusive minded. Students with disabilities exit the
2 public school system when they reach the age of 21.

3
4 Cindy Kyzer questioned how many Para-Professionals took part in accessing online
5 courses last year. Mrs. Kyzer suggested this line item request be spelled out in more
6 detail for the Budget Committee in order to justify such a large increase this year.

7
8 The cost to evaluate referred children was discussed. It was noted the Department of
9 Education requires testing within 45 days of a referral. In order to keep up with the
10 number of referrals, services need to be contract out. Mrs. McCoy stated it would be
11 more cost effective for the district to hire a full time school psychologist to work solely
12 for Pelham. She noted if this request were on a Warrant Article and it failed, they would
13 still have to perform this service.

14
15 Cindy Kyzer questioned having the Warrant Article worded with such information
16 regarding savings to the district. Mrs. Sargent will check the legality of such wording.

17
18 Mrs. McCoy noted the district would save about \$9800 if they had one full time speech
19 therapist and a ½ time therapist to perform related services.

20
21 Mrs. McCoy will double check with Occupational Therapy the amount of monies request.

22 23 **Technology Budget**

24
25 Adam Steel presented the technology budget. He spoke of the long range technology
26 plan for the district being approved by voters last March. This year he is requesting
27 exactly what he stated he would be requesting in support of the long range plan. He is
28 trying to be realistic with regard to technology maintenance. He spoke of primary
29 storage of all the districts files – noting the storage is four years old and usually has a life
30 span of only three years. This is the most critical piece of technology for the district. He
31 is requesting 33 laptop replacements.

32
33 With regard to the phone system replacement, Adam noted this request failed last year.
34 The price for replacement has risen slightly this year. A lease/purchase program over 3-5
35 years is an option. At the end of the lease the district would own said phone system. The
36 cost to purchase outright is \$95,000. The cost to lease is \$115,000 (with no upfront
37 money). Mr. Steel stressed that he is not sure the system will make it through the year at
38 the high school.

39
40 Kathleen Sargent noted the phone line budgets have been overspent this year.

41
42 Cindy Kyzer noted she is leaning toward leasing the new system.

43
44 Linda Mahoney questioned if it could be included in the operating budget. Mrs. Sargent
45 noted it could if it is less than \$100,000. The board agreed this is a safety issue.

46

1 Mr. Steel discussed expanding security cameras to the other schools and questioned if he
2 should be exploring this option for future budgets. The board agreed that this could be
3 something to think of in the future.

4
5 **Board Member Reports**

6
7 Deb Ryan noted she attended meetings and the site walk with the Budget Committee.
8 They toured Kindergarten; Memorial School and the High School. She spoke of the
9 breast cancer walk and attending the first cross county meet at PMS.

10
11 Eleanor Burton spoke of attending the first professional development meeting; school
12 council meeting at PMS and their decision to give snacks to students during testing days.
13 There will be a “Got Books” bin which will serve as a fundraiser for the school council.
14 She noted the Facilities Committee would be presenting their findings from the Budget
15 Committee.

16
17 Motion to adjourn public session at 10:27pm was made by Cindy Kyzer with a 2nd by
18 Deb Ryan. Approved 5-0.

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21
22 Respectfully Submitted – Diane Figaro