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APPROVED  
**Pelham School Board**  
**Business Meeting – Public Session**  
**March 26, 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  
**Student Representative:** Scott Cloutier

22  
23  
24

Chairman Couture called the public session to order at 7:08 p.m. All those in attendance stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

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Bruce Couture welcomed back Linda Mahoney and new member Linda Koehler

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**School Board Nominations**

Cindy Kyzer nominated Bruce Couture to the position of Chairperson with a 2<sup>nd</sup> by Eleanor Burton. Approved 5-0.

Linda Koehler nominated Cindy Kyzer to the position of Vice Chair with a 2<sup>nd</sup> by Eleanor Burton. Approved 5-0.

Linda Koehler – Budget Committee  
Cindy Kyzer and Linda Koehler – PHS School Council  
Eleanor Burton – PMS School Council  
Linda Mahoney – PES School Council  
Cindy Kyzer – Parks and Recreation  
Linda Mahoney – SERESC  
Cindy Kyzer – NH School Boards Association  
Bruce Couture – CIP  
Linda Mahoney – Technology Committee  
Bruce Couture – Performance Compensation Model  
Cindy Kyzer and Eleanor Burton – Policy Review Committee  
Linda Mahoney – Pelham School Aged Childcare  
Bruce Couture and Cindy Kyzer – PEA Negotiations/Medical Committee  
Eleanor Burton – Professional Development

1 **Impact of Warrants**

2  
3 Bruce Couture made reference to the defeated warrants, noting the Board will have to  
4 figure out the next plan of action.

5  
6 Dr. Bass noted they will have their work cut out for themselves and that class sizes will  
7 increase across the board. He noted they have good programs that will continue to thrive.  
8 He stated he understood the community's position and that they will provide the best  
9 education possible for the children. He noted he has begun work on the default budget  
10 and that no programs will be hurt and that there will be no layoffs.

11  
12 Kathleen Sargent noted she has moved some monies around that needed covering while  
13 keeping the dollars in the budget the way they were. She noted specific changes can be  
14 revisited.

15  
16 Linda Mahoney noted the community will want comment from the School Board with  
17 regard to how they will be moving forward.

18  
19 **Teacher Openings/Recruitment**

20  
21 Dr. Bass noted the number of retirements in the District and that they are looking forward  
22 to the recruitment process. He noted he will be coming back to the Board as the positions  
23 need to be filled.

24  
25 **Public Forum** – none noted.

26  
27 **Board Buddies**

28  
29 Principal LaFrance introduced a student leadership group made up of elected 5<sup>th</sup> grade  
30 students. The students described the election process noting that each class voted for one  
31 boy and one girl student leader. The group spoke of a school store which is held during  
32 lunch periods, noting the money raised will go to community service and hopefully a  
33 school gift at the end of the year. This group also delivered cookie gift baskets to police  
34 and fire departments along with the service men and women and the American Legion.

35  
36 **Good News**

37  
38 *Pelham Elementary School* – Linda Mahoney spoke of the reading incentive program,  
39 noting students have read 9,720 hours since the beginning of the program.

40  
41 *Pelham Memorial School* – Eleanor Burton spoke of a very successful March 11<sup>th</sup> teacher  
42 workshop sponsored by NH Reads. The workshop dealt with teacher reading in the  
43 content area.

1 *Pelham High School* – Cindy Kyzer congratulated Roger Lyder, Social Studies teacher at  
2 *Pelham High School*. Mr. Lyder has recently completed reviewing two chapters of the  
3 textbook *Introduction to Business*  
4

5 **Approval of Minutes**  
6

7 Motion to approve the non public minutes from February 20, 2008 was made by Cindy  
8 Kyzer with a 2<sup>nd</sup> by Eleanor Burton. Approved 4-0-1 (Linda Koehler abstained)  
9

10 Motion to approve the public minutes as amended from February 20, 2008 was made by  
11 Linda Mahoney with a 2<sup>nd</sup> by Cindy Kyzer. Approved 4-0-1 (Linda Koehler abstained)  
12

13 **Manifests**  
14

15 Chairman Couture read the Manifests aloud along with noting the contracts to be signed.  
16

17 Motion to accept the Consent Agenda was made by Cindy Kyzer with a 2<sup>nd</sup> by Linda  
18 Koehler to include nominations of teachers and administrators. Approved 5-0.  
19

20 **District Calendar**  
21

22 This was distributed to the Board for review. Linda Mahoney questioned DO (delayed  
23 opening) day. It was noted that this would be instead of having an early release day.  
24

25 Mrs. Mahoney questioned if early release days were in the teacher’s contract. She  
26 questioned how much students can accomplish during such a day. Dr. Bass responded,  
27 noting this is used to keep the number of required school days while creating a valuable  
28 opportunity for teachers to connect. He noted it has proven to be valuable to the teachers.  
29

30 Bruce Couture stated his concern over spending so much time testing that it is creating a  
31 loss of valuable classroom time. He noted he would like to consider reducing the number  
32 of vacations and thus create longer weekends instead. He stated he did not want early  
33 release days.  
34

35 Dr. Bass stated that if the Board wanted to go in that direction, he would support that, but  
36 noted the problem is the teacher’s contractual year and having the required number of  
37 school days met.  
38

39 Linda Mahoney requested that this be looked at, noting there are other districts that do  
40 not have early release days.  
41

42 Linda Koehler noted her concern as a parent, has always been the week of January 12<sup>th</sup>  
43 early release day, suggesting that it be moved to Friday the 16<sup>th</sup> as this would allow  
44 parents to take a long weekend and might alleviate parents taking children out of school.  
45

1 Dr. Bass stated he will look at those suggestions and will look at contractual obligations  
2 and report back to the Board.

3  
4 **Superintendent Remarks**

5  
6 Dr. Bass would like to have 4-5 RSA's and their impacts discussed at an upcoming Board  
7 meeting. He thought it would be a nice opportunity to understand them as a new board  
8 and how to streamline our responsibilities. The Board members discussed a possible date  
9 for such a meeting.

10  
11 The Board directed Dr. Bass to set up a meeting off camera for a workshop meeting. The  
12 fee is about \$250 to hire an outside attorney to come in to speak with the Board.

13  
14 **Safety and Security Update**

15  
16 Lieutenant Fisher addressed the Board to discuss the Pelham Elementary School recent  
17 lockdown situation. He noted the time the school went into lockdown and for how long.  
18 He noted the suspicious individual was apprehended. He also noted that the school staff  
19 and students did a great job during this.

20  
21 Linda Mahoney questioned what other departments were involved. Lieutenant Fisher  
22 responded by stating Salem responded with a canine unit, the Hillsborough County  
23 Sheriff's Department and State Police. He also noted the Pelham Police Department was  
24 short staffed that particular morning, stating it was extremely unusual for that to happen,  
25 which is why they called for assistance.

26  
27 **High School Program Update**

28  
29 Dr. Mohr discussed music performance opportunities, noting that music interest has  
30 tripled at Pelham High School. Dr. Bass noted that the program is up and running and  
31 the students are very excited about it. Dr. Mohr added that they will be offering a  
32 summer band camp this year.

33  
34 Dr. Mohr spoke of other opportunities for leadership team building along with UNH.

35  
36 Roxanne Wilson discussed International Baccalaureate. She stated the Windham High  
37 School Curriculum Committee had recommended this and that she is starting to research  
38 it.

39  
40 Linda Mahoney requested that any information regarding this be submitted for the Board  
41 to review prior to a discussion.

42  
43 Linda Koehler questioned if it could fit into a high school structured block schedule.  
44 Mrs. Wilson responded stating that it is supposed to be able to fit into any type of  
45 structure you have.

1 Dr. Bass noted that AP classes are losing some of their significance at some colleges.

2  
3 **Art Festival Review**

4  
5 Administrators from Pelham Elementary, Memorial and High School spoke of the  
6 festival and how well attended it was. They noted it was a two night community event.

7  
8 **Assistant Superintendent's Report**

9  
10 Roxanne Wilson discussed the closing up of some grant work and gearing up for the next  
11 year. Mrs. Wilson discussed the Science Grant through Rivier College. She noted it was  
12 a three year grant.

13  
14 Linda Mahoney questioned if the Student Handbook was still being worked on.

15  
16 Eleanor Burton spoke of the procedure regarding citizens that come before the Board,  
17 noting the Board should take what they say under consideration. She spoke of her  
18 concern regarding the immediate action the Board took at a recent meeting to allow  
19 \$5,000 for the Kimball Farm end of year trip for 5<sup>th</sup> graders.

20  
21 Bruce Couture noted that the Board can decide upon items at a meeting, but he cautioned  
22 the Board to wait and take discussions under advisement. Mrs. Burton's comments were  
23 duly noted.

24  
25 **Foreign Exchange Student**

26  
27 Information regarding a foreign exchange student was distributed to the Board for their  
28 review.

29  
30 Motion to allow foreign exchange student from ISE Company to attend Pelham High  
31 School was made by Linda Koehler with a 2<sup>nd</sup> by Cindy Kyzer. Approved 5-0.

32  
33 **Graduation Date**

34  
35 Dr. Bass noted the date of graduation to be Friday, June 13, 2008.

36  
37 Motion to approve graduation date of Friday, June 13, 2008 and to request the waiver  
38 from the State was made by Cindy Kyzer with a 2<sup>nd</sup> by Linda Mahoney. Approved 5-0.

39  
40 **Last Day of School**

41  
42 Dr. Bass requested to have one day waived due to excessive snow days. The last day will  
43 be Friday, June 20, 2008. He assured the Commissioner and the Board that instruction  
44 has been met.

1 Motion to request the waiver from the State to have the last day of school be June, 20,  
2 2008 was made by Cindy Kyzer with a 2<sup>nd</sup> by Linda Mahoney. Approved 4-1 (Bruce  
3 Couture in the negative).

4  
5 **Monthly Reports**

6  
7 Business Administrator, Kathleen Sargent noted that everything was in order for the  
8 month.

9  
10 Linda Mahoney questioned how much money was left in the \$350,000 warrant article  
11 from 2007 regarding the high school. Mrs. Sargent noted that everything had been  
12 encumbered. She will go back and see if there is an itemization on the contract and  
13 report back to the Board regarding such.

14  
15 **Information/Correspondence**

16  
17 Bruce Couture noted the NHSBA Scholarship

18  
19 Roxanne Wilson noted that the Rivier College Science Grant will include some  
20 professional development.

21  
22 Dr. Bass spoke of a letter issued to Santastic Landscaping, drafted by Kathleen Sargent,  
23 which outlined what is expected of their services. He noted they have met and are well  
24 on their way to the next season.

25  
26 Linda Mahoney noted her concern regarding the use of pesticides on all school property.  
27 She noted that the School Board stated landscapers were not allowed to use any  
28 pesticides unless they received approval from the School Board first. This will be  
29 clarified in a follow-up letter to Santastic.

30  
31 Dr. Bass noted that this issue came up at the meeting and that Dr. Mohr made it clear that  
32 no pesticides could be used.

33  
34 Scott Cloutier noted that work performed by landscapers can be very disruptive to  
35 students when performed during school hours.

36  
37 NHSBA Workshop – Bruce Couture noted the registration form was included in  
38 member’s packets.

39  
40 **Board Member Reports**

41  
42 Eleanor Burton – expressed that she wished both towns were included in the meeting Dr.  
43 Bass attended at the State regarding kindergarten. Bruce Couture responded by stating  
44 both towns were included in the meeting.

45

1 Dr. Bass addressed the issue of kindergarten, by stating it is up to the House now and that  
2 the Senate is still very interested in working with Pelham. He noted favorable  
3 amendments were made. But that the bill still has a long way to go.

4  
5 Linda Mahoney questioned what would happen if Pelham did not institute kindergarten  
6 when it is mandated and what the outcome of that would be. Bruce Couture responded  
7 by stating he asked that exact question at the meeting but did not receive a response.

8  
9 Eleanor Burton read a note from a 5<sup>th</sup> grade student thanking the School Board for  
10 sponsoring their end of year trip. She also spoke of professional development; the Read  
11 Across America Program and the fact that there were errors in the Town Reports. She  
12 also questioned who paid for the printing of the school ballots. Mrs. Sargent responded  
13 by noting the School District is responsible for this expense.

14  
15 Cindy Kyzer spoke of Pelham High School Council and their presentation from the  
16 Pelham Police Department to be held on April 16, 2008 regarding the warning signs of  
17 drug and alcohol abuse and use.

18  
19 Linda Mahoney spoke of Pelham Elementary School Council meeting. She also noted  
20 that due to Box Tops for Education Program they were able to bring in a children's  
21 author for three days and that every grade benefited. She encouraged parents to continue  
22 to clip and send in box tops.

23  
24 Bruce Couture noted the PTA from Pelham Elementary School requested to be placed on  
25 an upcoming agenda for the month of April. He noted this will be granted on April 23,  
26 2008. Linda Mahoney requested the PTA's proposal ahead of the meeting so that  
27 members can review it. Mr. Couture will contact them regarding this request.

28  
29 Mr. Couture then noted the Board will need to get the Superintendents reviews to the  
30 SAU as soon as possible. He thanked the community for coming out to vote. He also  
31 noted it was important to state that sportsmanship has developed at all our schools.

32  
33 **Future Meetings**

34  
35 April 9, 2008 Business Meeting 7:00 PES  
36 April 23, 2008 Business/Workshop Meeting 7:00 PES

37  
38 Dr. Bass will set up a meeting with the attorney for May 14, 2008 regarding RSA  
39 discussions.

40  
41 Eleanor Burton noted the final article to pass this year was to create a committee to study  
42 the high school. She requested that the Board formally ask the public to contact the SAU  
43 with their intent to serve on such a committee. She suggested that it be made up of some  
44 members of the Board of Selectman and the Budget Committee along with the general  
45 public. It was noted that it would be no more than seven (7) people and that the deadline  
46 for submitting intent would be April 30, 2008.

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Linda Koehler questioned what the committee’s mission and guidelines would be.

Chairman Couture suggested placing this on the agenda for further discussion.

Scott Cloutier noted the hard work and preparation that has gone into the accreditation visit and thanked all of the staff and students for their efforts.

Motion to adjourn under RSA 91-A: 3II at 9:28 p.m. was made by Linda Mahoney with a 2<sup>nd</sup> by Cindy Kyzer.

Respectfully submitted  
Diane Figaro