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APPROVED
Pelham School Board
Workshop Meeting – Public Session
August 27, 2008
Pelham Elementary School

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School Board Members: Bruce Couture, Chairman; Linda Mahoney;
Linda Koehler; Eleanor Burton

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Superintendent: Dr. Frank Bass

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Assistant Superintendent: Roxanne Wilson

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Student Representative: Courtney Perry

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Chairman Couture called the public session to order at 7:10 p.m. All those in attendance stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

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Public Forum – None noted.

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Consent Agenda

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Chairman Couture read aloud the manifests and expressed the School Board's regret in accepting the resignation of Susan Hansen.

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Motion to accept the resignation with regret of Susan Hansen was made by Linda Mahoney with a 2nd by Eleanor Burton. 4-0

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Chairman Couture spoke of the nominations of Molly Wyatt and Michael Chew.

Motion to accept the Consent Agenda as presented was made by Linda Koehler with a 2nd by Eleanor Burton. 4-0.

Superintendent's Remarks

Dr. Bass stated how pleased they were with the opening of school. He spoke of being present at PES, PMS and PHS on opening morning. Dr. Bass noted that he and Assistant Superintendent, Roxanne Wilson, tested the new security systems at all three buildings – stating they were pleased with the safety and security it provided.

Regarding oil prices, Dr. Bass stated that Mrs. Sargent did a survey involving other SAU's around the state, and noted they were over \$4.00 a gallon. He stated the Pelham School District was very fortunate they were able to lock in at a \$3.42/gallon rate with a rise to \$3.58/gallon later in the school year.

Other good news noted - a substantial savings in the salary account. Opening day enrollment numbers were noted – stating overall the numbers were down.

1 Alicia LaFrance – PES Principal – spoke of an exciting start to their school year. She
2 stated their new security system worked very well and people were getting used to it.
3 Her plan is to lock the door by 9:00 am every morning. She also talked about the amount
4 of technology - with the tech lab being fully outfitted. Mrs. LaFrance conveyed that band
5 would be offered to 4th graders.
6

7 Cathy Pinsonneault – PMS Principal – spoke of a smooth opening at her school. She
8 stressed that the custodial staff did a tremendous job getting the school ready. Five new
9 teachers started off the school year – with a total of 553 students in the school. A full
10 training session for the Instructional Assistant’s was held prior to opening day which was
11 sponsored by SERESC. Work will begin with Mr. Adam Steel on student technology
12 portfolios. Principal Pinsonneault spoke of submitting their plan to the State regarding
13 being a school in need of improvement. NECAP testing will begin in October followed
14 by NWEA.
15

16 Dorothy Mohr – PHS Principal – spoke of the high school’s opening day excitement
17 along with experiencing the annual senior class parade which was accompanied by the
18 high school marching band. Freshman orientation was held sponsored by leadership.
19 She noted all freshmen attended this orientation. Ten new faculty members were noted
20 with four of them being PHS graduates. Work will continue improving school climate
21 and developing a community that respects student’s differences. She noted they are
22 committed in these efforts to make those things happen.
23

24 Eleanor Burton made note that the reason a new faculty member choose to work in
25 Pelham was because of the High School’s Mission Statement.
26

27 **More Than Spanish**
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29 Alicia LaFrance and Jane Johnson gave an overview of a potential after school program
30 called More Than Spanish. Mrs. Johnson stated she represented a small company which
31 provides enrichment programs up through grade 8 in Spanish with primary work being at
32 the elementary level. She stressed that it is a natural approach to the language. The
33 program would be an hour long, once a week after school total immersion class which
34 will meet with each group of students who choose to participate. She stated they want it
35 to be fun for children.
36

37 Linda Mahoney questioned if it was appropriate for this private company to use space at
38 one of their schools free of charge. It was also noted that parents would be responsible
39 for cost of the program. Her concern was that they will be using the school and making a
40 profit. She also questioned how this offering would align with Spanish curriculum being
41 offered at Pelham Middle School – questioning if this might create a problem.
42

43 Mrs. Johnson noted that it is becoming more common for parents to want this type of
44 enrichment after school for their children. It was stated that students would receive more
45 of the conversational aspect of the language. It is not an extension to the school district’s
46 Spanish curriculum.

1
2 It was also noted that the schools do charge for after school programs – a rental fee.

3
4 Mrs. Johnson stated they could take a rental fee into consideration in the pricing schedule
5 and stressed her company wants to work with the Pelham School Board.

6
7 Linda Koehler questioned if most other schools offer their space for free. The response
8 was yes they do. It was also noted that, depending on enrollment numbers in the program,
9 they could provide a scholarship program to some.

10
11 Dr. Bass stated their past practice was to utilize a fee for programs. He reminded the
12 Board that they have jurisdiction over what goes on in the buildings.

13
14 Mrs. Johnson stated their preference is to have 10 students per class – keeping grades 1 &
15 2 together – then separating grades 3, 4 and 5. A background check is performed on each
16 of the teachers of the program. The School District would not absorb this cost. An
17 October start up time was also noted.

18
19 Linda Mahoney questioned if this would be opened up to children other than those
20 attending Pelham Elementary School. It would be opened up to other children in the
21 town.

22
23 Eleanor Burton noted her concern about asking Principal LaFrance to be in charge of
24 something else after school. Mrs. LaFrance responded by stating the program would
25 have a designated room in the enrichment space and would begin promptly at 3:15 and
26 ending at 4:15. This is the time the office would be open. Parents would have to pick up
27 their children promptly at 4:15 pm.

28
29 Linda Koehler stated her expectation would be that parents would contact the teacher in
30 charge of the program and not go through the office. It was noted the office would be
31 used in case of emergencies.

32
33 Chairman Couture stated this item would be placed on the September 10th agenda for
34 further consideration.

35
36 **PESPA Negotiations**

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38 A time and date schedule was discussed. A date of 8/4/08 at 3:30 pm at PES was noted.

39
40 **Girls Field Hockey Position**

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42 Dr. Bass conveyed that a School Board member, Mrs. Linda Koehler, was hired as the
43 girl's field hockey coach. He stated he researched the legality of this and stated there was
44 nothing in the statute prohibiting a member of the School Board to also be a coach. The
45 position was posted with two applications being received. The first application did not

1 have enough experience. Mrs. Koehler was offered the position in June, 2008. The
2 posting of the position was not in violation of the teacher's contract.

3
4 Linda Mahoney stated her concerns about this being a violation of a State RSA and
5 School Board policy. She stated she wished the Board knew of this in advance of the
6 application and is concerned there would be conflict of interest. She stated she is sure
7 she is a great coach, but does not want to create any problems for the School Board. She
8 would like to know what issues Mrs. Koehler would need to abstain from voting on as a
9 School Board member.

10
11 Bruce Couture noted this would be similar to the voting by Mrs. Cindy Kyzer, regarding
12 matters that involve St. Patrick's School. Mrs. Kyzer abstains from those types of votes
13 and discussion. He also stated he thinks it is hard to find really good, dedicated coaches
14 and that the School Board will need to personally rely on Linda Koehler as being an
15 upstanding person who would know what she can and cannot vote on.

16
17 Dr. Bass suggested that Mrs. Koehler abstain from the whole umbrella of athletics.

18
19 Mrs. Mahoney noted her concern that there may be a vote of 2-2 on some issues that
20 would require the 5th person to vote.

21
22 Bruce Couture commented about only accepting one stipend from either the School
23 Board or the Coaching position.

24
25 Linda Koehler stated she will do the ethical thing.

26
27 **FIVE MINUTE RECESS**

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29 Dr. Bass stated Linda Koehler has a clear understanding that there may be conflicts
30 involving athletics; budgeting of athletics; hiring of coaches; and ground & field matters
31 and is aware of those matters she will have to abstain from.

32
33 **Presentation of Policies/Reports**

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35 Fields and Grounds Update – Dr. Bass stated the Board of Selectman opted to
36 discontinue with the landscaper contract. The School District is a part of this contract.
37 He stated the district will be exploring short term landscaping options through the fall
38 season – the School Board will then discuss other options. He also noted they will be
39 cognizant of the financial costs. They are looking forward to a great fall season at PHS.

40
41 Assistant Superintendent, Roxanne Wilson, shared recent initiatives such as curriculum
42 mapping and new teacher training. She also stated that through grant monies, they were
43 able to send some teachers to workshops over the summer.

1 **Local Government Center Certificate Authorization**

2
3 Dr. Bass stated the Board would need to grant authority to the Business Administrator to
4 act as our agent with regard to resolutions for offerings of health insurance products and
5 other insurances.

6
7 Motion to allow Kathleen Sargent to sign for certification for authorizing resolution and
8 act as our agent was made by Linda Koehler with a 2nd by Eleanor Burton. 4-0.

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10 **Monthly Reports**

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12 Enrollment – final numbers will be given at a later date. Chairman Couture noted he
13 would like to receive reports from administrators stating reasons for withdrawals.

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15 **Information and Correspondence**

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17 A letter from Mr. Laplant was noted, asking the School Board to consider moving to a
18 extended four day school week and eliminating the 5th day in order to save on utility costs.
19 Chairman Couture responded by thanking Mr. Laplant and noted there would have to be
20 a lot of coordination made in order for this type of schedule to occur.

21
22 Letter from Judy Hayes and Angele Diack was noted – thanking the District and Police
23 Department for the installation of security system at the schools. They suggested that a
24 \$1.00 be added to the school’s budget for school security upkeep.

25
26 **Board Member Reports**

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28 Eleanor Burton – spoke of attending the staff breakfast and wished everyone an enjoyable
29 year.

30
31 Courtney Perry – spoke of senior parade.

32
33 Linda Mahoney – questioned if Alan Miller received a value on the tractor. Dr. Bass
34 responded by stating there is no real value to the piece of equipment. He will see if other
35 town departments may have a use for it. Mrs. Mahoney questioned if there was any word
36 yet on the NEAASP report. It was noted not at this time. Mrs. Mahoney requested
37 seeing the minutes from the Building Committee meetings. Chairman Couture stated he
38 would forward them to School Board members.

39
40 Dr. Bass stated he attended the last Building Committee meeting and noted it was a great
41 group of people with many great ideas – they are looking at a variety of issues and no one
42 has any preconceived notions – they are taking it very seriously. It was noted that
43 Eleanor Burton would be the backup School Board member for this committee.

1 Linda Mahoney acknowledged the tragic death of a young man from Pelham, Robby
2 Maille, from the class of 2005 at PHS. He was going to Merrimac College. The whole
3 School Board extended their deepest sympathies to his family.

4
5 Bruce Couture – welcomed everyone back to school and encouraged students to get
6 involved in some activity. He was very happy to see so many band members in the
7 program. Chairman Couture spoke of alternate ways of saving on fuel and adjusting
8 school days. Dr. Bass responded by stating you could construct a school year in this way
9 and adjust the days but would have to make sure you met all regulations.

10
11 Linda Mahoney requested that Dr. Bass speak with the Band Director and ask them to
12 participate in the Old Home Day parade – stating it would be great to see PHS students as
13 well as PMS students perform. Courtney Perry stated she believed the flag team would
14 be marching. Linda Koehler noted the athletes support Home Day by running an early
15 morning race.

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17 **Future Meetings**

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19	September 3, 2008	Workshop/Kindergarten	7:00 pm PHS Library
20	September 10, 2008	Business Meeting	7:00 pm PES
21	September 24, 2008	Business/Workshop	7:00 pm PES
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25 Motion to adjourn under RSA 91-A: 3II at 9:00 p.m. was made by Linda Mahoney with a
26 2nd by Linda Koehler 4-0

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29 Respectfully Submitted – Diane Figaro