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APPROVED
PELHAM SCHOOL BOARD
Business Meeting – Public Session
January 28, 2009
Pelham Elementary School

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

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Bruce Couture opened the public hearing at 7:12 pm for the acceptance of donation to track fund for \$20,187.84. This money is donated by Mr. Harris for use toward the construction of a snack bar and bathroom(s)

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Bruce Couture called the public session to order at 7:22p.m. All those in attendance stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Forum – none noted at this time.

Consent Agenda

Motion to accept the January 5, 2009 public minutes as written was made by Linda Koehler with a 2nd by Eleanor Burton. Approved 4-0-1 (Bruce Couture abstained)

Motion to accept the January 14, 2009 non public minutes as written was made by Linda Koehler with a 2nd by Eleanor Burton. Approved 4-0-1 (Bruce Couture abstained)

Motion to accept as amended the January 14, 2009 public minutes was made by Linda Koehler with a 2nd by Eleanor Burton. Approved 4-0-1 (Bruce Couture abstained)

Manifests were read aloud by Bruce Couture.

Motion to accept the Consent Agenda as written was made by Linda Koehler with 2nd by Linda Mahoney. Approved 5-0.

Superintendent Remarks

Dr. Bass spoke of snow days, noting 4 out of the 5 allotted snow days have been used already. A waiver has been requested for the three power outage days. Dr. Bass spoke of the need to have a plan in place in the event more snow days are needed. It was noted there has to be 180 days or 991 contact hours with students/995 hours for middle and secondary students.

1 The board discussed the options of taking days out of February or April vacation; going
2 to school late in June or using one teacher workshop day. The pros and cons of each
3 option were discussed. The Board agreed to leave February vacation alone. Dr. Bass
4 will speak with the Principals. Concerns about adding onto the length of the school day
5 were also noted.

6
7 **Spelling Bee Winners** - Pelham Elementary School – Principal LaFrance introduced
8 Colin Lauren a 5th grader who won 1st place along with Amanda Barton who came in 2nd
9 place. Colin will advance to regionals in Derry on March 4th. Both students did an
10 amazing job.

11
12 **Sanding** – Kathleen Sargent spoke of her concern regarding sand supplies. She noted that
13 the town offered additional sand for the remaining winter months at no cost to the school
14 district.

15
16 Dr. Bass spoke of Pelham High School participating in the Granite State Challenge and
17 how proud they were of the students.

18
19 **Amnesty International Club** – It was noted there would be no cost to the district to run
20 the club and no stipends. Dr. Bass stated they would make sure nothing political in
21 nature would come out of the club.

22
23 Motion to approve the PHS Chapter of Amnesty International as a student sponsored club
24 was made by Linda Koehler with a 2nd by Cindy Kyzer (Eleanor Burton abstained)

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26 **Cameras Policy**

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28 Dr. Bass noted that cameras could be used in disciplinary actions at times. Therefore, a
29 policy is needed.

30
31 Linda Mahoney noted the word(s) “audio” should be removed from any proposed policy.
32 Mrs. Mahoney questioned if they ever take advantage of free legal opinions offered by
33 the NHSB. Dr. Bass will look into that.

34
35 Cindy Kyzer added the wording “the School Board will approve the location of the
36 devices”. She also questioned if other students in a video could be blocked out if needed
37 for privacy issues.

38
39 The proposed policy will be revised and brought forward again.

40
41 Dr. Bass stressed the purpose of the cameras is not for watching students, but for the
42 security of the building after hours. They will not be posting the hours the cameras will
43 be in operation. The cameras will be directed toward the side doors.

1 **Records Check Fee Increase**

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3 Kathleen Sargent distributed the fee increase for employee and volunteer background
4 checks. The Board will take this under advisement.

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6 **Preschool Update** – This is tabled to the next meeting.

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8 **Warrant Articles**

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10 The following Articles will be addressed by the following Board members:

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12 Article #2 – Bruce Couture; Article #3 – Linda Mahoney & Cindy Kyzer; Article #4 –
13 Linda Koehler; Article#5 – Cindy Kyzer; Article #6 – Eleanor Burton; Bruce Couture
14 and Linda Koehler; Article #7 – Cindy Kyzer & Linda Koehler; Article #8 – Linda
15 Mahoney; Article #9 – Linda Mahoney; Article 10 – Cindy Kyzer; Article #11 – Bruce
16 Couture; Article #12 – Eleanor Burton; Article #13 – Bruce Couture; Article #14- Linda
17 Mahoney; Article #15 – Linda Koehler; Article #16 – Bruce Couture.

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19 Public Hearing Closed at 8:13 a.m.

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21 Motion to accept the donation to the Track Fund of \$20,187.84 towards the construction
22 of a snack bar and bathrooms from George W. Harris was made by Cindy Kyzer with a
23 2nd by Linda Koehler with much gratitude for his continued support. Approved 5-0.

24
25 Dr. Bass will write a letter of gratitude on behalf of the School Board.

26
27 Linda Mahoney questioned why the votes are listed on Article #16 –noting her concern
28 that it could lead voters and negatively impact the Article. Kathleen Sargent noted the
29 votes are listed because it is considered a special warrant article and by law they have to
30 be put in. It cannot be changed now that it has been posted.

31
32 **Pelham School District Dress Code**

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34 Linda Mahoney spoke of her concern regarding the Washington DC trip dress code that
35 was sent home with students. She feels parents are being taken advantage of and may
36 feel intimidated by the dress code. Mrs. Mahoney feels that jeans should be acceptable.
37 She feels this places further financial obligations on the parents.

38
39 Linda Koehler stated she did not have a problem with the dress code and felt there needs
40 to be a dress code that differs from their normal routine. She felt this information was
41 made very clear to parents and the handout provides a great guideline for parents.

42
43 Bruce Couture stated he felt the dress code reflects the school and the community. He
44 noted the trip and dress code has been in place since 1973.

1 Eleanor Burton noted that Pelham’s student conduct is always complimented on the trip
2 and feels the dress code shows respect.

3
4 Cindy Kyzer noted that if there are problems financially, parents can always contact
5 administration.

6
7 Principal Pinsonneault addressed the Board noting they hold a parent meeting and discuss
8 the dress code at length. She gave the history of the trip and noted students feel more
9 responsible and behave appropriately as a direct correlation to the imposed dress code.
10 Teachers gave documentation to Principal Pinsonneault about the importance of having a
11 dress code for the trip.

12
13 Dr. Bass noted that when something occurs year after year it becomes practice.

14
15 Principal Pinsonneault noted her teachers have made it clear to her that they will not
16 chaperone if there is no dress code for the students to follow.

17
18 Linda Koehler stated it may be in the best interest to add wording to the Policy “the
19 Principal(s) of the schools have the discretion to be able to change the dress code as long
20 as students and parents are notified in writing to our policy.” - any changes would be
21 reviewed by legal counsel.

22 23 **Monthly Reports**

24 Linda Mahoney noticed some lines were over expended in the area of support services.
25 Mrs. Sargent noted these items were in the wrong line originally and now are where they
26 are supposed to be. She noted they are working with a default budget.

27 28 **St. Patrick’s Warrant Article**

29 Kathleen Sargent spoke of the wording of the Article. Mrs. Mahoney noted the wording
30 seemed to have changed from what was given to the Board originally. Cindy Kyzer
31 noted the Board is responsible for the wording and that St. Patricks gives the breakdown.
32 Eleanor Burton noted it is almost \$20,000 less this year.

33 34 **Board Member Reports**

35 Eleanor Burton – Professional development has met. Student Council has not met due to
36 weather conditions. Deliberative Session is next week. She noted her concern over the
37 lack of interest in the School Board openings.

38
39 Linda Mahoney – noted the new speed signs are up and running. Requested the Board
40 give Lynne Ober their input regarding any state bills that may impact the district. Linda
41 Mahoney noted PHS Booster Club fundraising recently is a real solicitation.

42
43 Bruce Couture – noted Deliberative Session is next week at PES in the cafeteria.

44 45 **Future Meetings**

46 February 4, 2009 Deliberative Session 7:00 pm PES

1 February 18, 2009 Business/Workshop 7:00 pm PES
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3 Motion to adjourn the public meeting @9:15 pm by Cindy Kyzer with 2nd Linda Koehler.
4 Respectfully submitted – Diane Figaro