

1 APPROVED
2 **Pelham School Board**
3 **Business Meeting**
4 **Public Session**
5 **July 29, 2009**
6

7 **School Board Members:** Eleanor Burton-Chair, Linda Mahoney,
8 Lorraine Dube; Deb Ryan
9 **Superintendent:** Dr. Frank Bass
10 **Business Administrator:** Kathleen Sargent
11 **Assistant Superintendent:** Roxanne Wilson
12

13 Chairman Burton called the public session to order at 7:13 pm. All those in attendance
14 stood for the pledge of allegiance.
15

16 Mrs. Burton extended Board condolences to Ron Bartel's family. Mr. Bartel was a loyal
17 district maintenance employee.
18

19 **Consent Agenda**
20

21 Motion to approve the public minutes of July 15, 2009 as amended was made by Lorraine
22 Dube with a 2nd by Linda Mahoney. Approved 4-0.
23

24 Motion to accept the nomination of Karen Cabral Sullivan – Tech Ed at Pelham High
25 School and Mary English Special Education at Pelham Memorial School was made by
26 Linda Mahoney with a 2nd by Lorraine Dube. Approved 4-0.
27

28 Mrs. Burton read aloud the manifests.
29

30 Motion to accept the Consent Agenda was made by Linda Mahoney with a 2nd by
31 Lorraine Dube. Approved 4-0.
32

33 **Lego Robotic Program**
34

35 Jennifer Correa gave a presentation regarding the creation of a Lego Robotic Program
36 League for grades 4-8. She spoke of the 2009 Robotic Challenge and how the program
37 works. It helps children discover the fun in science and technology while building self-
38 confidence, knowledge and life skills. If the league is approved by the Board, BAE
39 Systems will provide the kits and laptops. There is already an interest by coaches and
40 mentors to support such a program – one at Memorial School and one at Elementary
41 School. No district funds will be needed to run the program next year. It was noted that
42 one kit would last approximately 5 years.
43

44 Deb Ryan spoke of her concern regarding the number of students who may sign up for
45 this type of program. Only ten students will be allowed on each team. She wondered if
46 more kits could be ordered.

1
2 Linda Mahoney would like to see this offered at the high school level. It was noted that
3 eventually this may be an option.

4
5 Ms. Correa spoke of the possibility of grants being available for the purchase of more kits.
6 A small fee would be collected from students. Kathleen Sargent would work with Ms.
7 Correa to set up the handling of the collection of said fees.

8
9 Motion to accept the 2009-2010 Lego Robotic Program for Pelham Elementary School
10 and Pelham Memorial School was made by Deb Ryan with a 2nd by Lorraine Dube. 4-0.

11 12 **Transportation Committee**

13
14 Kathleen Sargent spoke of the need to form a Transportation Committee to help assist
15 with the solving of problems regarding transportation routes and timing issues, etc. Mr.
16 Langlois from First Student; Vice Principals, Kathleen Sargent, a parent and a School
17 Board member were all suggested individuals for such a committee.

18
19 Lorraine Dube questioned if part of the transportation problem was the amount of
20 students who could not get into the Afterschool Program at PES. Mrs. Sargent noted that
21 this was part of the problem

22
23 Linda Mahoney spoke of the need to examine going into a cul-de-sac area. She also
24 spoke of the need for unbiased individuals participating on the committee.

25
26 The Board gave direction to Mrs. Sargent to develop a charge and bring it before the
27 Board at the next meeting.

28 29 **School District Updates**

30
31 Facilities Committee – Mr. Minutti was present to discuss plans to get information out to
32 the community regarding the high school proposal. He noted his group would like to get
33 the approval of the Board regarding the current information they have. He will provide
34 Dr. Bass with a summary of all their information they plan to distribute.

35
36 Linda Mahoney requested getting copies of the minutes of the Facilities Committee
37 meetings to the School Board via email.

38
39 Land Acquisition – Dr. Bass spoke of this ongoing process and looking at a variety of
40 options. He noted kindergarten and preschool programs were on time. He reminded the
41 Board that these are temporary solutions.

42
43 Fire Safety/PHS – Dr. Bass spoke of exploring options with regard to the State Fire
44 Marshall's findings. The Pelham Fire Chief is in constant communication with State.

1 NEAC/PHS – Dr. Bass noted this is an ongoing process with the Department of
2 Education. They are responding to issues regarding the High School. He feels confident
3 the issues will be addressed.

4
5 Linda Mahoney noted that most fire safety issues have already been addressed.

6 7 **Preliminary Budget Discussions**

8
9 Last years Warrants were distributed in preparation for next year’s budget discussion.

10
11 Eleanor Burton noted most/all of the teaching positions were still needed. Administration
12 will discuss if all positions are still needed and how the year has gone without those
13 positions being filled.

14
15 Dr. Bass stated they need to find a better way to present those items. He suggested
16 having actual data to show what has happened over the last two or three years and show
17 the ramifications of not having filled those positions. Population trends would need to
18 also be discussed.

19 20 **School Board Goals**

21
22 Linda Mahoney – would like to start the budget process earlier and not be rushed.

23
24 Lorraine Dube – would like a bit more communication with the board and some more
25 information on some of the reports received. She would like to see the data from any
26 presentation that is being made before the Board, prior to the start of a meeting. She
27 would like to see data regarding special education children and look to how a program
28 should be modified to help those students succeed in a more demanding subject. Mrs.
29 Dube suggested purchasing software for students with pointers on how to write research
30 papers. She would also like to see high school students receiving credit for on-line
31 classes.

32
33 Deb Ryan – discussed being a new school board member and suggested the institution of
34 an orientation program for new members. She would like to have a refresher course for
35 members regarding school board ethics and their role as a member. She would like to see
36 a possible mentor relationship with a seasoned school board member. She would like
37 regular and consistent communication with parents through a Communication Committee.
38 She suggested an electronic link from the district website explaining why we are asking
39 for warrant articles etc.

40
41 Dr. Bass suggested sending out a survey asking what the public wants from the School
42 Board.

43
44 Linda Mahoney spoke of the need of two separate surveys – with one addressing Cindy
45 Kyzer’s request regarding school vacations.

1 Roxanne Wilson spoke of the need to prioritize short term and long term goals.

2

3 **Board Member Reports**

4

5 Lorraine Dube requested seeing old business on agendas or on a separate sheet of paper –
6 a checklist of sorts.

7

8 Linda Mahoney requested a follow up presentation by Roxanne Wilson for late
9 September. She would like to have Kathleen Sargent prepare a contract by the next
10 meeting in draft form regarding the Pelham Afterschool Program; would like to see the
11 Agreement between the District and Landscaping Company; and have a presentation
12 made by Alan Miller at an upcoming meeting regarding all the life safety issues that were
13 done at the high school over the summer.

14

15 Mrs. Mahoney requested having a Facilities Committee update on the agenda at each
16 meeting. Dr. Bass will have the old Facilities Committee report from 2002 removed from
17 the website, as it is outdated.

18

19 Eleanor Burton noted that the request for use of any school facilities will need to be made
20 and approved through the maintenance office at 85 Marsh Road (635-2752).

21

22 Roxanne Wilson spoke of having a three day math curriculum meeting with Windham in
23 the coming month. She spoke of training for Administrators; guidance counselors and
24 new teacher orientation on August 24th.

25

26 Linda Mahoney noted that freshman orientation will be held August 26th at PHS.

27

28 **Future Meetings**

29

30 August 12, 2009 Business Meeting 7:00pm PES

31 August 26, 2009 Workshop/Business 7:00pm PES

32

33 Motion to adjourn the public session at 8:45pm was made by Lorraine Dube with a 2nd by
34 Linda Mahoney. Approved 4-0.

35

36

37 Respectfully submitted,

38 Diane Figaro