

Pelham School Board Meeting
March 4, 2020
Pelham Elementary School
6:30 pm

In Attendance:

School Board Members: Deb Ryan, Vice-Chair, Candice Repici, David Wilkerson,
Troy Bressette
Superintendent: Bill Furbush
Business Administrator: Deb Mahoney
Student Representative: Joe Wholey
Not Present: Megan Larson, Chair

Vice-Chair Deb Ryan called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Pelham School Board Recording Secretary:

Vice-Chairman Deb Ryan, recognized Matthew Sullivan as the new recording secretary for the Pelham School Board. Matthew provided his experience as a recording secretary and Superintendent Bill Furbush mentioned that Matthew was a Pelham resident.

Student Report:

Joe Wholey mentioned the week before February vacation was Spirit Week. The students held a pep rally at the end of Spirit Week. Joe stated the students showed a lot of spirit during the week and the seniors took home the award of Spirit Week Class Champions. Joe informed the School Board that junior Conor Maslanek won the New Hampshire Meet of Champions for the 195-pound weight class. The PHS Winter Spirit Team came in first at the Battle at the Capitol Cheer Competition. Derek Crowley, a senior basketball player, scored his 1,000th high school career basketball point. The high school students received a presentation from Selectman Heather Forde, Selectman Kevin Cote, and School Board member Deb Ryan. The Selectmen informed the students how to register to vote and School Board member Deb Ryan discussed the Warrant Articles that will be voted on this year. The school store is beginning to order some major items needed to open the store. The students are hoping to open the store soon.

Superintendent Opening Remarks:

High School Sports:

Superintendent Bill Furbush mentioned the Pelham High Athletics hosted the D3 wrestling championship last Saturday. Conor Maslanek and senior Nick Carroll had success at the championship. Nick Carroll won the 182- pound weight class. He also secured his 100th win in the finals.

Over the next two weeks, the Pelham High School boys' and girls' basketball will be getting ready for their post-season. Cheer won their championship and will be moving onto the March 12th championship. PHS wants to thank Mr. Currier and the town of Pelham for their willingness to work together to ensure a first-round playoff game while still accommodating voting on March 10th.

Elementary School:

The Pelham Elementary School Heart Challenge just finished their fundraiser for the American Heart Association. The fundraiser was named the Kids Heart Challenge. During the month of February, the students

46 focused on heart, health, and PE. The students raised \$15,792, the goal was to raise \$15,000. Mr. Bolduc
47 promised to be duct-taped to the wall. Thanks to Mrs. Price's challenge, Mr. Bolduc will have to listen to 'Baby
48 Shark' all day on March 6th.

49
50 Read Across America was a great success. 25 members of the community members were involved. The
51 members included past and present staff members. The students listened to the guest readers read a story
52 from Dr. Seuss. Superintendent B. Furbush thanked the readers for volunteering to spend a day with the
53 Pelham Elementary School.

54
55 The Pelham Elementary School is continuing with its Random Acts of Kindness Initiative. The initiative is
56 meant to create empathy and compassion with the students. The initiative is also meant to create kindness
57 within the students, without reward.

58
59 Superintendent B. Furbush read a letter that was sent to Principal S. Maghakian from Keene State College
60 DMA James Chesebrough about the school's music program. Mr. Chesebrough was complimentary of the 6th,
61 7th, and 8th-grade music program. Mr. Chesebrough went on to compliment Band Teacher E. Saunders and
62 how the recognition of Pelham Middle School music program is spreading and acknowledged the school's
63 new rehearsal studio.

64 65 **Main Issues / Policy Updates:**

66 **1. Meal Charging Policy – Kelly Rambeau:**

67 **EFAA (Meal Charging) - 1st Reading**

- 68 a. Director of Nutrition and Wellness K. Rambeau spoke about the changes to the Meal Charging
69 Policy. The first change is at the middle school. The students would be allowed to charge four
70 meals before they are offered an alternate meal. At the high school, the students would be
71 allowed to charge two meals before they are offered an alternate meal. Currently, if an account
72 is in the negative, the school would not accept cash until the account is paid off. The
73 recommended change to this policy is to allow the school to accept cash, even if the student's
74 account is in the negative. K. Rambeau stated that if this policy is approved, she would make
75 sure all of her staff and the school staff would be trained on the policy.

76
77 Board Member C. Repici inquired why the middle school students were allowed to charge four
78 meals and the high school students were allowed to only charge two meals. Superintendent B,
79 Furbush answered the question by saying the school does not want the students to go hungry.
80 With the middle school students, the parents are responsible to deposit money into the
81 student's lunch account. This policy would give parents more time to deposit the money into
82 the student's account. Board Member D. Wilkerson mentioned that he likes the policy because it
83 teaches responsibility. K. Rambeau agreed she has seen parents who have similar beliefs.

84
85 Board Member D. Wilkerson mentioned the policy reads 'These students will also not be
86 allowed to charge a la carte or items, with the exception of water and milk (a la carte) at the
87 Pelham Elementary School for up to \$4.00'. D. Wilkerson wanted to know if the students could
88 only charge up to \$4.00 of water and milk, or does this include the meal. K. Rambeau answered

89 by saying the elementary school does not offer an alternate meal, so the student would receive
90 milk and water in addition to an a la carte meal. Water and milk are considered a la carte. The
91 student is allowed to purchase water and milk up to \$4.00.
92

93 K. Rambeau stated the parents receive emails, every other day, showing the student's account
94 balance. The parents also receive notification of account balances that are under \$10.00. The
95 other off days, account bills that are in the negative are sent home. The school also mails out
96 bills to the parents on Fridays. This mailing occurs if the student owes \$10.00 or more. K.
97 Rambeau mentioned the district is doing well financially with regards to the school meals
98 compared to other districts. She mentioned that the school has seen an increase in charging
99 because of a 2017 RSA that does not allow the elementary school to serve an alternate meal.
100

101 Board Member D. Wilkerson noted that the policy allows for organizations to donate money to
102 the school meal program. Money has been donated in the past and the money has been used
103 appropriately. The School Board wanted to remind families, that if at the end of the year, the
104 school meal program has a positive balance, that money needs to go to pay off student meal
105 accounts that are in a deficit. After paying off any student meal accounts, the excess money goes
106 to improve the school meal program. D. Mahoney asked if it was possible to skip the 2nd reading
107 and implement the policy sooner. The board members felt comfortable skipping the second
108 reading.
109

110 **David Wilkerson made a motion to accept the policy as written with the modifications to the word**
111 **'choose'. Troy Bressette seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**
112

113 D. Mahoney and K. Rambeau will meet and discuss how to disseminate the policy. The parents
114 will be notified of the implementation of the new policy.
115

116 2. **Eco-Friendly Discussion** – Kelly Rambeau

- 117 a. K. Rambeau provided the board members with a document showing the current products
118 versus the new 'green' products. The document also broke down what the District uses versus
119 what the high school uses. The elementary school uses re-usable trays. The trays are used on
120 Tuesdays and Thursdays. The elementary school has 'Throwback Thursday' on Thursdays. The
121 school uses the reusable trays and serves a 'throwback' meal. The middle school and the high
122 school use a chemical-free green wave tray. Because the green wave trays are in high demand,
123 the supplier is short with the trays. The middle school and high school are using foam trays this
124 year because of the lack of green wave trays. The high school also uses a foam soup bowl. The
125 school is looking at removing the foam soup bowls and replacing them with a compostable
126 soup bowl. The high school is using a spoon, fork, and knife dispenser for sanitary purposes.
127 The school will keep using the dispenser until the supplier comes up with a wrapped knife, fork
128 and spoon option. Straws are no longer used in the schools, except for the kindergarteners.
129

130 K. Rambeau indicated that the school needs to purchase items that are able to stand up to heat.
131 She also reminded the board that they need to be cautious about how the items are disposed of.
132 D. Mahoney mentioned that if the district went with the 'green' products, the cost would be an
133 additional \$50,000.00 D. Wilkerson asked that a letter be sent to the students who attended a

134 School Board Meeting last year. The letter would let the students know the board did not forget
135 their questions, and to update the students on the school's progress. D. Wilkerson volunteered
136 to write a letter to the students. C. Repici asked K. Rambeau to confirm, at this time, that the
137 school is only making a change with the soup bowls. K. Rambeau confirmed that was the
138 school's intention. C. Repici also wanted to know what the composting situation looked like for
139 school. D. Mahoney answered the question and said the situation was challenging. The
140 composting contract is negotiated by the town and the school rides on the Transfer Stations
141 work.
142

143 School Board Member Reports:

144 a. IHAM – Health Education and Exemption from Instruction – 1st Reading

145 Superintendent B. Furbush spoke about the IHAM policy. The Pelham School District took a
146 sample from the New Hampshire School Board Association. Superintendent B. Furbush added
147 that the Pelham School District already follows the IHAM policy in practice.

148 b. IMAH – Daily Physical Activity – 1st Reading

149 Superintendent B. Furbush mentioned this policy has nine sections about supporting and
150 encouraging physical activity. Bill mentioned there was a question about how section nine of
151 the policy would look. Section nine requires the school district to install a tracking and
152 evaluation method of all the student's daily activity. The Superintendent has contacted other
153 Superintendents and asked how their IHAM policy looks. Superintendent B. Furbush stated he
154 will further look into section 9 and find an answer. Another concern was with the second to last
155 sentence of the introductory paragraph. The sentence reads that 'The Board recommends
156 students and staff participate in developmentally appropriate physical activity and exercise for
157 at least 30 to 60 minutes each day as a way to minimize these health risks.' The board agreed 30
158 to 60 minutes out of a school day was a lot of time. This policy is required and not one the
159 school district currently has in place.

160 c. EBBC/JLCE – Emergency Care and First Aid PSD Policy – 2nd Reading

161 The Superintendent took the feedback from the 1st reading and the only change made was about
162 mentioning how many staff members need to be CPR certified. The policy now reads that at
163 least two other staff members, aside from the school nurse have a current first aid
164 cardiopulmonary resuscitation certification. Currently, the elementary school has 36 staff
165 members trained in CPR. The middle school has 27 staff members who will be trained or
166 recertified. Superintendent B. Furbush thanked Lieutenant Robert Horne for his assistance with
167 CPR training.

168 d. EB/JLI – Safety Program – 2nd Reading

169 The Superintendent mentioned that he took the feedback from D. Mahoney and changed the
170 last sentence in the last paragraph. The sentence reads 'The building's emergency plan
171 management plan shall be kept on file at each school and a copy shall be filed in the
172 superintendent's office.'

173 e. JLCK – Special Physical Health Needs of Students - PSD Policy – 2nd Reading

174 The Superintendent mentioned there were no recommendations from the 1st reading.

175 **Troy Bressette made a motion to approve EBBC/JLCE, EB/JLI, and JLCK. David Wilkerson seconded the**
176 **motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

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Superintendent Search Update:

Troy Bressette updated the School Board on the search for a new superintendent. The committee believes they have a great pool of 12 applicants for the position. The candidate packages are located in the SAU building. The search committee has put together a schedule to review the candidates. The committee meets again on Tuesday, March 10. The search committee has put together focus groups for the staff, community members, and parents. The two staff sessions are on Thursday, March 12 at 6 pm in the Media Center.

Committee Reports

Vice-Chair D. Ryan took a moment to mention that tonight will be Candice Repici’s last meeting as a member of the School Board. Vice-Chair D. Ryan spoke about how great it has been to work beside C. Repici. Vice-Chair D. Ryan mentioned how C. Repici made the board better. C. Repici thanked the School Board for the last three years. She mentioned that working on the School Board was an honor and a privilege, C. Repici believes the board is in good hands. The School Board gave Candice three gifts. The first gift is a candy bowl with an inscription that reads ‘Pelham School District, Thank you for caring enough to ask clarifying questions. Pelham School Board 2017 – 2020’. The second gift was a bag of chocolate. The third gift was a beach bag with a beach towel.

Staffing Updates:

1. None

Housekeeping:

1. **Consent Agenda:**

Adoption of Meeting Minutes:

Motion: Troy Bressette made a motion to approve the February 19, 2020, Public Minutes. David Wilkerson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion: Troy Bressette made a motion to approve the February 19, 2020, Non-Public Minutes (Session One). David Wilkerson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion: Troy Bressette made a motion to approve the February 19, 2020, Non-Public Minutes. (Session Two). David Wilkerson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2. **Vendor and Payroll Manifests:**

a. AP030420	\$462,077.70
b. PAY019P	\$259,214.10
c. 019	\$548,213.55

Motion: Troy Bressette made a motion to approve the Vendor and Payroll Manifests. Candice Repici seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3. **Correspondence & Information:**

- a. December Financial Report – Deb Mahoney had nothing to add.

- 220 b. February Enrollment Numbers – The enrollment numbers are staying stable. Superintendent
221 Bill Furbush mentioned that next year 36 additional kindergartners are enrolled. The
222 Superintendent will get confirmation on the number of enrolling kindergartners.
223

224 4. Election – March 10, 2020:

- 225 a. Vice-Chair, D. Ryan reminded the residents of Pelham about the election on March 10. The high
226 school will be open from 7 am until 8 pm. She reminded the residents that they should have
227 received a voter’s guide in their mailbox.
228 b. Superintendent B. Furbush mentioned that both the front and side door should be open. The
229 town prefers voter’s park in the student parking section and enters through the side doors.
230 c. T. Bressette reminded anyone who painted a tile during the ‘Tiles and Tours’, the tiles will be on
231 display.
232 d. Students do not have school on election day.
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235 Meeting Adjournment:
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237 **David Wilkerson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:38 pm. Candice Repici seconded the motion.**
238 **The motion passed unanimously.**
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240 Future Meetings:

- 241 1. 03/18/2020 – 6:30 pm School Board Meeting at Pelham Elementary School
242 2. 04/01/2020 – 6:30 pm School Board Meeting at Pelham Elementary School
243

244 Submitted by Matthew Sullivan