

**Pelham School Board Meeting
May 20, 2020
Pelham Elementary School
6:30 pm**

In Attendance:

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

Chair Megan Larson called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Chair Megan Larson stated that the School Board was meeting in accordance with the Governor's Emergency Order 12, pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04. The Pelham School Board is authorized to meet electronically due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Chair Megan Larson mentioned that the School Board must have a roll call for attendance. If someone is in the room with a board member, the board member must include that information during the roll call.

Chair Megan Larson	– Present by herself
Vice-Chair Debbie Ryan	– Present by herself
David Wilkerson	– Present by himself
Troy Bressette	– Present by himself
Darlene Greenwood	– Present by herself

The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Public Input:

None

Superintendent Opening Remarks:

Seven Senior's received the '12 Season Athlete' Award from the NHIAA. The students played for the Pythons for three seasons in each of their four years. Those students are:

1. Evan Haskins - Football, Wrestling, and Lacrosse
2. Nick Carroll - Football, Wrestling, and Lacrosse (All Varsity)
3. John Elie - Football, Cross-Country, Indoor and Outdoor Track
4. Haley Gilbert - Field Hockey, Cheer, Indoor Track, Lacrosse, and Softball
5. Paige Demmons - Volleyball, Gymnastics, and Tennis
6. Cassie Hemmerdinger - Field Hockey, Indoor Track, and Lacrosse
7. McKenna Williams - Field Hockey, Basketball, and Lacrosse

Superintendent Bill Furbush mentioned that the seven students would be honored at the PHS Boosters Scholarship ceremony on June 1 at 6:30 pm. The students will receive their '12 Season Athlete' certificate from the NHIAA and a new hoodie. Mr. Kress will make sure all the students receive their awards and plaques.

48 Superintendent Bill Furbush thanked everyone that participated in the discussion with the Holocaust
49 speaker. Over 100 people participated in the discussion about the Holocaust. The message the Middle
50 School students received, during the discussion, was not to be victims, but to be survivors.
51 Superintendent Bill Furbush especially thanked Mrs. Preston for taking the time to educate the Middle
52 School students about this time in history.

53

54 **Student Report:**

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56 None

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58 **Presentations:**

59

60 None

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62 **Main Issues / Policy Updates:**

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64 **Action Item-Reimbursement Approval:**

65 Superintendent Bill Furbush commented that based on the District's reimbursement policy, he does not
66 have the authority to rectify the issue. He did mention that the School Board has the authority to
67 remedy the case when there is a change in practice. The change in practice was the teacher pre-paid for
68 a conference on December 3. The District then called a snow day on the day of the conference. The
69 teacher then tried to receive a reimbursement, but the company said they do not reimburse for snow
70 days unless the governor calls a state of emergency.

71 Superintendent Bill Furbush asked the School Board to make an exception to the reimbursement policy.
72 He believed the teacher wanted to go to the conference. The District called a snow day, and the
73 inclement weather made her unable to attend the conference. Darlene Greenwood asked if the
74 reimbursement policy should be something that the School Board looks to adjust. Superintendent Bill
75 Furbush agreed the policy should be amended to allow the Superintendent the authority to look at the
76 situation and make a decision.

77

78 **David Wilkerson made a motion to make an exception to the current reimbursement policy and**
79 **authorize the Superintendent to reimburse the teacher for the money she is out. Troy Bressette**
80 **seconded the motion.**

81

82 **Roll Call:**

83 Chair Megan Larson – Yes

84 Vice-Chair Debbie Ryan – Yes

85 Troy Bressette – Yes

86 Darlene Greenwood – Yes

87 David Wilkerson – Yes

88

89

90 **Remote Learning Update:**

91 Superintendent Bill Furbush commented that Principal Dawn Mead has sent out event dates and
92 reminders to the parents. Scholarship Night and Academic Award Night are still going to occur. The
93 District is still planning on having the devices turned at the end of the school year. A plan is being put

94 together to turn in the devices by grade level. The District is also allowing teachers to come into the
95 school buildings and wrap up the year.
96 The District is looking for students to volunteer and accept the laptops that are turned in to the school.
97 The students who volunteer will earn Community Service Hours credit. School nurses advised the
98 District to allow 72 hours, from when students turn in the laptops before they are touched again. The
99 custodians were thanked for helping to identify the gymnasium as a location to accept the laptops.
100 The District is also going to participate in the WMUR Graduation Event Ceremony. The ceremony will
101 occur during the week of June 8, and more details will follow. WMUR has asked each participating
102 school to nominate a student to speak on the school's behalf. Evan Haskins, class president, was
103 selected to be Pelham High School's representative. Evan Haskins will begin attending the Air Force
104 Academy in the fall of 2020.
105 The eighth-grade students received a gift today. Teachers went out and placed signs on the lawns of the
106 eighth-grade students. Additional surprises are in planning for the transitional students. The elementary
107 school is working on the kindergarten class, and parent AM and PM notifications.
108 Harris Track is open and available to be used by the public. Unfortunately, there has been much trash
109 left at the track. The facilities have been broken into, in particular the bathrooms. The School Board
110 asked that the public use the track properly and be respectful of the facilities. Vice-Chair Debbie Ryan
111 suggested placing a notice on the town website. She recommended this idea because if the school shuts
112 down Harris Track without notification of the problem, the residents of Pelham would be upset. Chair
113 Megan Larson suggested adding cameras to Harris Track. She said that the school could use end-of-year
114 surplus funds to pay for security cameras. Superintendent Bill Furbush mentioned that the school is
115 responsible for the track. The town is not responsible for school property.
116 Vice-Chair Debbie Ryan also asked when the tennis courts would be reopened. Superintendent Bill
117 Furbush stated that similar to how the District and the town agreed to close the courts at the same time,
118 they will decide to reopen the courts at the same time.
119 Superintendent Bill Furbush mentioned that the tickets are all up to date. The bridge project should be
120 completed by Monday, May 25. Tomorrow, the NHIAA will be meeting, and Athletic Director Todd Kress
121 will receive the latest information regarding fall sports.
122 The Food Service has 745 students participating, and the numbers keep increasing. At this time, Pelham
123 does not intend to participate in a summer meal program. One of the reasons why Pelham will not
124 participate is that the District does not qualify for additional waivers. The second reason is that the food
125 staff does not usually work during the summertime.
126 The District is getting ready for the Extended School Year (ESY). The plan is for the ESY to be
127 predominately remote learning. The school staff reached out to the parents who have children that
128 qualify for ESY. The case managers, staff, and parents discussed whether the students would be able to
129 participate in small group gatherings. Superintendent Bill Furbush thanked the staff and case managers
130 for their hard work. The ESY teacher positions have been filled, except for one. Chair Megan Larson
131 asked if Special Education students would not receive face to face interaction this summer.
132 Superintendent Bill Furbush said the District would offer face to face interaction during the summer for
133 students who need it. Only one family chose to have their child be instructed face to face, and that
134 student will be attending an off-site facility. Chair Megan Larson asked B.A. Deb Mahoney if she had any
135 conversations with Pelham School Age Child Care (PSAC). B.A. Deb Mahoney said she had spoken with
136 PSAC, and they were sending out notifications to parents regarding the summer sessions. B.A. Deb
137 Mahoney does not know what PSAC's decision was.

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140

141 School Bus Contracts:

142 B.A. Deb Mahoney commented that she was looking for the School Board to vote on a transportation
143 contract. The current contract for both STA and Durham expires on May 29. She requested that the
144 School Board continue the contract with Durham. The District would continue paying the Durham
145 contract, with a fuel reduction, until June 19. Three Durham busses are being used for the Food Service
146 program.

147 B.A. Deb Mahoney requested the School Board vote to extend the STA transportation contract. The
148 school uses 15 STA busses during the school year. Five busses are currently being used for the Food
149 Service program. The five busses have two employees each, one for driving and one for delivering. B.A.
150 Deb Mahoney requested that the School Board continue the contract until June 19, but take a reduction
151 in wages and fuel. STA spoke with B.A. Deb Mahoney and confirmed that the Pelham School District
152 would provide the employees who help with the Food Service program. Unlike Durham, STA does not
153 work during the summer. The employees are furloughed during the summer months. She mentioned
154 that the sooner the School Board votes to end the bussing contracts, the more money the District will
155 save. STA will furlough the school bus drivers almost three weeks early. STA and Durham will then bill
156 the District separately for the remaining time they help deliver food. The District could then charge the
157 Food Service program for the delivery of the meals.

158 Superintendent Bill Furbush commented that the school bus drivers are annually furloughed during the
159 summer. If the District was to require STA not to furlough the drivers, then the drivers might miss out on
160 other job opportunities and benefits.

161

162 **Troy Bressette made a motion to approve the Durham contract extension until June 19 with a fuel**
163 **reduction. David Wilkerson seconded the motion.**

164

165 **Roll Call:**

166 Chair Megan Larson – Yes
167 Vice-Chair Debbie Ryan – Yes
168 Troy Bressette – Yes
169 Darlene Greenwood – Yes
170 David Wilkerson – Yes

171

172 **Troy Bressette made a motion to approve the extension of the STA contract until June 19 with a wage**
173 **and fuel reduction. David Wilkerson seconded the motion.**

174

175 **Roll Call:**

176 Chair Megan Larson – Yes
177 Vice-Chair Debbie Ryan – Yes
178 Troy Bressette – Yes
179 Darlene Greenwood – Yes
180 David Wilkerson – Yes

181

182 PHS London Trip Update:

183 Superintendent Bill Furbush discussed how Deb Jarvis was working with the parents and EF Tours. EF
184 Tours is the company that schools use to set up tours and educational travel. EF Tours has offered PHS
185 students vouchers, and these vouchers are transferable within the family. Juniors who were scheduled
186 to go to London this year may go next year. The Seniors are the students who are being affected the
187 most.

188 EF Tours is not offering a refund to the students, and they are only offering vouchers. Deb Jarvis and the
189 families that are impacted have recommended postponing the trip to London until April 2021. Chair
190 Megan Larson confirmed that EF Tours would not offer refunds to the students, and the company has
191 only provided vouchers to students across the country. When Deb Jarvis has a date for the London trip,
192 she will come back to the School Board to receive their approval.
193

194 2020-2021 School Board Meeting Agenda Calendar:

195 The July 1 meeting will be Dr. Chip McGee's first meeting as the Pelham Superintendent. This meeting
196 will go over what the fall will look like for the School District. Dr. Chip McGee will present the scenario of
197 how he sees the fall semester. Chair Megan Larson mentioned that it is unlikely people will be traveling
198 this summer, but if they do, they can attend the School Board meetings using Zoom. The School Board
199 meeting on September 23 will be moved to September 30. School Board members did not have a
200 conflict of interest with any of the other meeting dates. September will have four meetings because of
201 the School District's budget. No vote was needed to make the change to the schedule.
202

203 FY22 Budget Preparation Proposed Schedule:

204 B.A. Deb Mahoney is looking to consolidate the Salaries & Benefits Budget and the Superintendent's
205 Budget to one meeting, and the meeting would occur on September 30. The board would then take
206 their vote on October 7. The Budget Committee is looking at the board to present their budget to the
207 Budget Committee on Friday, October 16. Once the board knows the Budget Committee's schedule,
208 they will be able to make their schedule official.
209

210 **Policy Reading:**

211 A. Second Reading:

- 212 a. ILD – Non-instructional / Non-Academic Questionnaires, Surveys, and Research
213 No changes to the policy.
214
215 b. IFA – Instructional Needs of Students with Different Talents
216 No changes to the policy.
217

218 **David Wilkerson made a motion to approve policies ILD and IFA. Vice-Chair Debbie Ryan seconded the**
219 **motion.**
220

221 **Roll Call:**

222 Chair Megan Larson – Yes
223 Vice-Chair Debbie Ryan – Yes
224 Troy Bressette – Yes
225 Darlene Greenwood – Yes
226 David Wilkerson – Yes
227

228 B. First Reading:

- 229 a. DFA - Investment
230 The DFA – Investment is a policy that requires annual approval from the School Board.
231 There have been no changes to the policy.
232

233 **David Wilkerson made a motion to approve policies DFA, as is. Vice-Chair Debbie Ryan seconded the**
234 **motion.**

235 **Roll Call:**

- 236 Chair Megan Larson – Yes
- 237 Vice-Chair Debbie Ryan – Yes
- 238 Troy Bressette – Yes
- 239 Darlene Greenwood – Yes
- 240 David Wilkerson – Yes

241

242

243 b. EHAA – Computer Security, Email and Internet Communications

244 The District has established this policy concerning access and disclosure of electronic
245 data composed, stored, sent, or received by employees using the District computer
246 system. This policy is designed to protect the safety and security of the District's
247 computer systems, including Email and Internet use. This policy has some minor changes
248 in legal references.

249 Troy Bressette suggested that the School Board review the word ‘rules’ that are written
250 in the policy.

251

252 **Old Business:**

253 A. Board Member Reports:

254 1. Darlene Greenwood – She commented that she and Debbie Ryan were on a webinar
255 with the Department of Education (DOE). The webinar discussion was about the
256 reopening of schools in the fall. The DOE is looking at three different options. The first
257 option is to open full-time. The second option is to open part-time with remote learning,
258 and the third option is to go back to remote learning full-time.

259

260 2. Vice-Chair Debbie Ryan – She commented that she took away from the webinar that
261 the education system has to slow down. Technology is showing the DOE new ways to
262 educate students, but to revamp the education system would not be prudent.

263 **Housekeeping:**

264 Consent Agenda:

265 A. Adoption of Meeting Minutes:

266 May 6, 2020 – **Troy Bressette made a motion to approve the May 6, 2020, Meeting Minutes. David**
267 **Wilkerson seconded the motion.**

268 **Roll Call:**

- 269 Chair Megan Larson – Yes
- 270 Vice-Chair Debbie Ryan – Yes
- 271 Troy Bressette – Yes
- 272 Darlene Greenwood – Yes
- 273 David Wilkerson – Yes

274

275 B. Vendor and Payroll Manifests:

- 276 1. 025 \$688,484.06
- 277 2. PAY025P \$249,652.45
- 278 3. AP052020 \$325,229.78

279

280 **Vice-Chair Debbie Ryan made a motion to approve the Vendor and Payroll Manifests as written. David**
281 **Wilkerson seconded the motion.**

282

283 **Roll Call:**

284 Chair Megan Larson – Yes

285 Vice-Chair Debbie Ryan – Yes

286 Troy Bressette – Yes

287 Darlene Greenwood – Yes

288 David Wilkerson – Yes

289

290 C. Correspondence & Information:

291 B.A. Deb Mahoney mentioned that she did not have much to report. She just sent out the report
292 Today, and was unsure if the School Board members were able to review the documentation. In
293 the report she tried to consolidate the number of grants the District has received. The CARES Act
294 Grant number is \$119,000. These funds must be used by September 2021. The District also
295 received \$9,000 for the IDA. The IDA money must be spent by September 30, 2020, and may
296 only be used on remote learning.

297

298 Chair Megan Larson commented that I.T. Director Brenda Colameta is transitioning the District's
299 information over to a new website. The website will also have a mobile app. The new website
300 should be available within the next six weeks.

301

302 D. Staffing Updates:

303

304 Nominations –

305 Superintendent Bill Furbush nominated five teachers for employment.

306

307 1. Lauren Gabriel PES Speech Pathologist

308 2. Marie Sawyers PES Health Teacher

309 3. Emily Sharpe PES Special Education Teacher

310 4. Kaitlyn Carmody PHS Special Education Coordinator

311 5. Jennifer Wrath PMS Grade 8 English/SS Teacher

312

313 **Vice-Chair Debbie Ryan made a motion to accept the nominations, as presented. David Wilkerson**
314 **seconded the motion.**

315

316 **Roll Call:**

317 Chair Megan Larson – Yes

318 Vice-Chair Debbie Ryan – Yes

319 Troy Bressette – Yes

320 Darlene Greenwood – Yes

321 David Wilkerson – Yes

322

323

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325

- 326 **Resignations** –
327 1. Deborah Thomas PMS Health Teacher
328 2. Debbra A, Uttero PHS Reading Specialist
329 3. Lauren DiRenzo PES Health Teacher
330 4. Rachel Collins PES Title 1 Tutor
331 5. Samantha Lee PES School Psychologist

332
333 Superintendent Bill Furbush requested a vote from the School Board to accept the resignations.

334
335 **Vice-Chair Debbie Ryan made a motion to accept the resignations, as presented. David Wilkerson**
336 **seconded the motion.**

337
338 **Roll Call:**

- 339 Chair Megan Larson – Yes
340 Vice-Chair Debbie Ryan – Yes
341 Troy Bressette – Yes
342 Darlene Greenwood – Yes
343 David Wilkerson – Yes

344
345 **Future Meetings:**

- 346 1. 06/03/2020 – 6:30 pm School Board Meeting at Pelham Elementary School
347 2. 06/17/2020 – 6:30 pm School Board Meeting at Pelham Elementary School

348
349 **Meeting Adjournment:**

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351 **David Wilkerson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 pm. Troy Bressette seconded the**
352 **motion.**

353
354 **Roll Call:**

- 355 Chair Megan Larson – Yes
356 Vice-Chair Debbie Ryan – Yes
357 Troy Bressette – Yes
358 Darlene Greenwood – Yes
359 David Wilkerson – Yes

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361
362 Submitted by Matthew Sullivan