

Pelham School Board Meeting
July 29, 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 (virtual)
Superintendent: Chip McGee
Business Administrator: Deb Mahoney
Director of Curriculum, Instruction & Assessments: Sarah Marandos
Student Representative: Joe Wholey
Not Present: None

1. **Opening:**

1. **Welcome/Call to Order:**

Chair Megan Larson called the meeting to order at 6:37 pm, followed by The Pledge of Allegiance.

2. **Public Input:**

Chair Megan Larson read the following statement, "The Board encourages public participation. Our Policy BEDH guides our approach. The policy includes: Please stay within the allotted three minutes per person. Please give your name, address, and the group, if any, that is represented. We welcome comments on our school board operations and programs. In public session, however, the board will not hear personal complaints of school personnel or complaints against any person connected with the school system. We appreciate that speakers will conduct themselves in a civil manner."

- a. Kelly Fox, 219 Arlene Drive – Ms. Fox thanked the school board, and the administration for their hard work, and recognized that the task is not easy. Ms. Fox read a letter from her nine-year-old son. He will be entering the fourth grade this year. The note read, "Hello, my name is Brady Fox. I will be going into fourth grade. I just started going to PES last year, and I really enjoyed it. I miss the friends I made in the few months of school we had last year. I hope to be able to see them again, and I hope that COVID does not stop me from meeting my new teacher, Mrs. Jacks. Please let us go to school, in-person, in September. I promise to keep my mask on. Thank You, Brady Fox."
- b. Nancy Gray, 45 Bridge Street – Ms. Gray has a neighbor with a special needs son. Ms. Gray wanted to know if the school district was going to do to address his needs. Ms. Gray tried to help the student with his school work. Ms. Gray recognized that helping students with special needs is not easy, but she wanted to know how the district would meet students' needs with special needs. Superintendent Chip McGee commented that usually, the board does not answer questions during public input. He mentioned that he hoped that many of the questions asked tonight would be addressed during the presentation for Reopening the Pelham School District.
- c. Irene Hedlund, 1139 Mammoth Road – Ms. Hedlund said that her son suffers from a dangerous form of asthma. Ms. Hedlund mentioned that as a registered nurse and an

48 employee of the government, she is concerned. Ms. Hedlund heard that the six feet social
49 distancing is not a far enough distance. Her son wants to go back to school, but she is
50 concerned with the liability clauses that school districts require parents to sign. She said that
51 the provision states that the school district is not liable if a student gets sick or dies.
52

53 Superintendent Chip McGee read the following comments that were sent by email:

54 d. Kristin Price, 24 Diamond Hill Drive – The email read, "We love all of our teachers at PES and
55 hope their comfort and safety have been heavily considered in all of this. I also hope that all
56 scenarios have built in the time and resources that our teachers will need to feel supported
57 and equipped for this school year. My kids have been assigned wonderful teachers for this
58 upcoming school year, and keeping them with their assigned teachers may play a role in our
59 decision-making process. Will parents be able to know how, or if, teaching changes will
60 happen in the various scenarios?"

61 "Thank you to the school board, Chip, and the Task Force for what must have been a
62 complicated process in getting this far. Thank you to our amazing teachers for continually
63 adapting on-a-dime for our children and families. #PelhamProud"
64 e. Nicole Curtis, 76 Marsh Road – "What is the schools plan to accommodate students who are
65 at high risk?"

66 f. Sarah Goldsach M.Ed., 123 Cannongate III – "Dear Pelham School Board Members, I would
67 like to thank you for this opportunity to speak on behalf of a very small, but exceedingly
68 vital, part of your community. I am grateful to be the teacher responsible for instructing
69 English Language Learners in all three schools. These students have dedicated themselves to
70 acquiring the English skills necessary for them to be successful in school and in their lives.
71 They are children of new immigrants to America. They are the children who help their
72 parents communicate in English. They are driven by the knowledge of their parents'
73 sacrifices. They are the children who deserve and require 'in-person' instruction."

74 g. Dan Ferg, 11 Livingston Road – "Hi I am not sure if you are going to be doing a video thing or
75 something but if possible can you please email me the answer to my question? Is there
76 going to be temperature checks at the door. Anyone who may be sick from entering?"

77 h. Jim Patchen, 18 Lyons Way – "Pelham school closures have come with devastating costs to
78 children's education, physical and mental health, and safety. I've witnessed the negative
79 effects first hand. It has been swift and harsh...even harsher on those most vulnerable,
80 already at a disadvantage. Schools must reopen in the fall to stop this damage; There must
81 be real classes, real teachers, and diverse peer to peer interactions. Although there will be
82 some risk, it can be kept relatively low by following a host of recommendations, including
83 creating a culture of health, safety, and shared responsibility; ensuring that students and
84 staff stay at home when sick; and following mask-wearing and social-distancing measures."
85 "Families that feel that the mental and physical health benefits of attending school and
86 having activities such as school clubs, sports, and the arts outweigh the risks have a right to
87 access. They need to be supported and accommodated."

88 "Teachers, staff, and students that are in a high risk group, or have a household with those
89 in a high risk group, or feel that risks outweigh the benefits, have a right to opt out. They
90 need to be supported and accommodated. Online learning/teaching options, although not
91 perfect, can be part of the solution. This solution will take a lot of hard work, creativity, and
92 effort. Let's set a great example for our students and make it work. We can do this. We are
93 all in this together. Thank You."

94 i. Jennifer Paquin, 805 Bridge Street – "Please have a work from home plan for kids with
95 health history problems such as chronic pneumonia and family members compromised

96 immune systems due to cancer treatment. I will NOT send my kids to school, we see and
97 know how fast the Flu spreads every year within a class room. Thank You.”
98 j. Greg and Karla Palmer, 138 Mulberry Lane – “Remote learning is not an ideal solution. It is a
99 disservice to students and families to expect parents, who are not professionally trained, to
100 perform the job of teacher in addition to their own jobs. Virtual learning in any capacity is
101 not a replacement for the full-time in-classroom experience. Parents who lack professional
102 training are not a sufficient replacement for teachers who have received accredited college
103 degrees and actual on-the-job experience.”
104 “In certain cases there is only a single working parent, or a parent who has to go into the
105 office while the other remains at home and tries to manage the job of a teacher in addition
106 to their own job. There is also the example of parents who don't prioritize education and
107 neglect their newly mandated role of teacher, leaving a child to truly fall behind. Most
108 importantly this last spring has proven that the amount of education our children have
109 received through remote learning has decreased significantly from what they were receiving
110 from a dedicated professional in the classroom.”
111 “In addition, a lack of peer socialization can lead to depression for school-age children.
112 School personnel are a great conduit for diagnosing proper nutrition, domestic and
113 psychological abuse, all of which will continue to go undetected if virtual learning continues.
114 In the event that children are not allowed back to school, we would expect a significant
115 decrease in property taxes for school, as we feel our children will not be receiving the same
116 level of education as in-classroom instruction provides. We implore you to please resume
117 school to full-time in-class status this fall.”
118 k. Amanda Muldoon, 68 Litchfield Circle – "Our family has 2 full-time working parents that did
119 our best to keep up with helping our 2 children at the end of last year with remote learning.
120 Unfortunately, we struggled to the point where our kids gave up the last month of remote
121 learning. I saw drastic changes in my normally happy thriving kids. They refused to do any
122 work, there was no effort to learn, play, or even smile. Although Corona is a serious threat
123 to all, depression is all too real to my family as well. For this reason, I hope that my children
124 have the opportunity to go back to 'the new normal' starting in September and attend
125 Pelham Elementary in person."
126

127 3. **Opening Remarks:**

128 **Student Report:**

129 None

130 **Superintendent Opening Remarks:**

131 None

132 2. **Presentations:**

133 None

134 3. **Main Issues / Policy Updates:**

135 1. Karen McGlynn, Public Health Officer

136 Superintendent Chip McGee introduced the Public Health Officer Karen McGlynn. He mentioned
137 that she had been an essential piece of putting together the Reopening Plan. Superintendent
138 Chip McGee asked that Karen McGlynn take a moment to introduce herself. Public Health
139
140
141
142
143

144 Officer Karen McGlynn said that she moved to Pelham about seven years ago, and her son
145 graduated from PHS. When Public Health Officer Karen McGlynn lived in the mid-west, she
146 served as the Deputy Director to the Board of Health during the H1N1 Public Outbreak. Public
147 Health Officer Karen McGlynn mentioned that when Superintendent Chip McGee asked her to
148 help out with the project, she did it wholeheartedly. Public Health Officer Karen McGlynn
149 commented that she taught Public Health at Rivier University.
150

151 2. Reopening Plan

152 Superintendent Chip McGee asked that he be provided 10 to 15 minutes of the board's
153 indulgence to get all the material out. He mentioned that he wanted to make sure the school
154 district does not lose sight that COVID-19 is an unprecedented disruption. The virus has affected
155 New Hampshire, our nation, and the world. He stated that this is a public health crisis that is
156 impacting education and not an education crisis.

157 Superintendent Chip McGee thanked the members of the Pelham School District Task Force. The
158 Task Force includes the parents, students, teachers, and administrators. The school district
159 based this plan off of the New Hampshire Back to School and the Center for Disease Control's
160 Guidance, and other resources that are listed in the report. He commented that the plan that is
161 presented today would continue to be adjusted as new information available. Superintendent
162 Chip McGee added that as of July 23, 2020, the NH DHHS reported five current positive cases in
163 Pelham. As of yesterday, the number of cases ticked down to one to four cases.
164

165 1. Communication

166 Superintendent Chip McGee mentioned that communication is critical during this time.
167 Communication needs to frequent, open, and clear. He wanted to clarify that the
168 Superintendent will serve as the primary contact for communications regarding the
169 reopening of schools. The Superintendent has added two new public forums via Zoom.

- 170 i. Staff - July 30 from 3 - 4
- 171 ii. Families - August 3 from 6 -7

172
173 Superintendent Chip McGee commented that, in the case a person is suspected or
174 confirmed to have COVID-19 while at the school, the school district's response will be
175 coordinated with the NH-DHHS. He added that the Reopening Task Force would continue to
176 provide feedback.
177

178 2. Superintendent's Recommendation

179 Superintendent Chip McGee mentioned that the goal is to reopen the Pelham School District
180 in 2020 safely. Based on the Pelham School District's Task Force and working groups' work
181 and the best information available, the Superintendent recommends the Family Choice Plan.
182 The Family Choice Plan means a full reopening of school for most students and staff while
183 providing a remote learning option for students unable to return to school or uncomfortable
184 about returning to school. He is confident that the Pelham School District can carry out the
185 plan safely based on the plan's design.
186

187 3. Family Choice

188 Superintendent Chip McGee commented that Family Choice would allow families to have a
189 choice of full-time in-school instruction or full-time remote instruction for their children.
190 Parents will be required to make the decision, if they are opting in or out of in-school
191 instruction, by August 7, 2020. All families will be provided an electronic form to complete

192 to indicate their choice. The commitment will extend through the first semester for PHS
193 students. The responsibility will continue through the first trimester for PES and PMS
194 students.

195
196 4. Staff Options

197 Superintendent Chip McGee said this was one of the most challenging parts of the
198 reopening plan. He said the Pelham School District is responsible for ensuring the
199 work environment is safe for the staff members. The administration will assign appropriate
200 staff to work remotely. The assignments will be based on need, certification, and
201 experience. Superintendent Chip McGee mentioned that it would be great, but unlikely if
202 the assignments worked out perfectly between the staff and students. The administration
203 will consider the staff needs when planning the assignments. He added that the
204 administration would offer a retirement severance option to the Pelham Education
205 Association (PEA) as an additional option.

206
207 Darlene Greenwood mentioned that she was a teacher for 39 years and is concerned about
208 the teachers. She asked what would happen to a teacher, with an underlying condition, that
209 the administration cannot match up. Superintendent Chip McGee said that the
210 administration discussed creating a flow chart to show the procedures. He
211 commented that because of the staff's rights, he is unable to provide the flow chart. The
212 administration does not know what underlying the health conditions the staff has. And in
213 some cases, it is none of the administration's business. They have planned to send out a
214 notice to the staff. The notice would request that the staff inform the administration of any
215 medical condition that they want to share. If a staff member is not assigned to remote
216 learning, the staff member can select one of four options. The four options are:

- 217 1. Early Retirement (Retirement Severance)
- 218 2. Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504
- 219 3. Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA)
- 220 4. Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA)

221 Because every staff member's circumstances are different, Superintendent Chip McGee
222 could not give Darlene Greenwood a specific answer. He acknowledged that the
223 administration could not guarantee that they will find a home for everyone, but they will
224 work hard to reach that.

225 Darlene Greenwood commented that she is concerned for the single mom who is just afraid.
226 She said that being afraid is not a medical diagnosis. Darlene Greenwood thought that
227 anxiety is a medical diagnosis but admitted that a doctor would need to say one suffered
228 from anxiety. She wanted to know what would happen then, would the staff member just
229 ask to be removed. Superintendent Chip McGee said he would remove the staff member if
230 he could, but added he could not promise that would happen. If the staff member needed
231 to leave, both FMLA and FFCRA have specific leave clauses. Superintendent Chip McGee
232 mentioned that the administration's response needs to be to COVID-19, but recognized that
233 it is tempting to use COVID-19 to fix other things. Chair Megan Larson requested that
234 Superintendent Chip McGee, during his presentation, address the difference between home
235 school and remote learning.

236
237 5. Reopening Surveys – July 13, 2020

- 238 1. Parents – PSD
- 239 a. Return to school – 48%

- 240 b. Prefer Remote – 22%
- 241 c. Prefer Limited – 30%

242 2. Staff

- 243 a. Return Full Time – 26%
- 244 b. Prefer Remote – 39%
- 245 c. Prefer Limited – 35%

246
 247 Superintendent Chip McGee mentioned he believes surveys are beneficial, and he will keep
 248 sending surveys out. While reviewing the Parent – PSD survey, Superintendent Chip McGee
 249 said that between 48% and 78% (48% + 30%) would likely return to school, if given the
 250 option. He is just unsure how much of the 30% would genuinely return to school if given a
 251 choice.

252 Referring to the Staff survey, he mentioned that 26% would return full time. Superintendent
 253 Chip McGee said that between 26% and 61% (26% + 35%) would likely return full time if
 254 given the option.

255
 256 3. Parent - By School

- 257 a. PES:
- 258 i. Return to School – 202
- 259 ii. Prefer Remote – 83
- 260 iii. Prefer Limited – 116
- 261 iv. Blank – 1

- 262
- 263 b. PMS:
- 264 i. Return to School – 77
- 265 ii. Prefer Remote – 56
- 266 iii. Prefer Limited – 53
- 267 iv. Blank – 1

- 268
- 269 c. PHS:
- 270 i. Return to School – 115
- 271 ii. Prefer Remote – 43
- 272 iii. Prefer Limited – 84
- 273 iv. Blank – 7

274
 275 4. Extra-Curricular Activities

- 276 a. School Sports:
- 277 i. Before COVID19 – 115
- 278 ii. Plan to if safe – 119

- 279
- 280 b. Theater Arts/Music:
- 281 i. Before COVID19 – 39
- 282 ii. Plan to if safe – 35

- 283
- 284 c. Clubs:
- 285 i. Before COVID19 – 73
- 286 ii. Plan to if safe – 60

287

- 288 d. Other:
- 289 i. Before COVID19 – 1
- 290 ii. Plan to if safe – 14

291

292 6. Health and Safety Plan

293 Screening

- 294 a. Before entering the school, everyone will be required to self-screen.
- 295 b. Those not screened, who answer yes to any screening question, or have a fever
- 296 at or above 100.0 degrees will not be allowed to enter the school and sent
- 297 home.
- 298 c. Students who are unable to return home on their own will be kept in a space
- 299 separate from the nurse’s main office until they can be brought home by a
- 300 parent or guardian.
- 301 d. The school nurse will direct this process.
- 302 e. Visitors are discouraged.

303

304 Wearing a face covering

- 305 a. Anyone entering and moving through the school is required to wear a face
- 306 covering. Exceptions will be rare based on specifically required accommodations
- 307 needed for students and staff.
- 308 b. Students in grades 2 through 12 are required to wear face coverings. We
- 309 recognize that younger students will have a learning curve getting accustomed
- 310 to face coverings, so students in grades Pre-K through 1 are encouraged to wear
- 311 face coverings.
- 312 c. Teachers will build in breaks and outdoor time, as needed. This will include
- 313 continued recess at the elementary and middle schools.
- 314 d. The district will provide five cloth face coverings to all staff and students at the
- 315 start of the school year. For situations where face coverings are not viable, the
- 316 district will provide additional appropriate personal protection equipment (PPE).

317

318 Handwashing

- 319 a. Staff and students will incorporate multiple daily hand washing routines
- 320 whenever possible or use hand sanitizer. The district will provide additional
- 321 sanitizer and sanitizer dispensers for PMS, due to the of an adequate amount of
- 322 handwashing stations.

323

324 Physical Distancing

- 325 a. Whenever possible, students and staff will maintain six feet of separation.
- 326 b. Student transitions between classes will be limited. When transitions are
- 327 necessary, students will maintain a single direction flow where possible.
- 328 c. When physical distancing is limited to three to six feet, face coverings are
- 329 required.

330

331 Vice-Chair Debbie Ryan asked if the administration had a plan to separate someone who did not

332 pass the screening test. Superintendent Chip McGee said the administration has picked out the

333 locations, but he did not believe the detail level was needed at this point. Darlene Greenwood

334 asked how the administration would keep track of the students who self-screen. Superintendent

335 Chip McGee said that the parents' responsibility is to make sure the students self-screen and the

336 schools do not have a way to track a student's self-screening. If a student did not self-screen,
337 then they are expected to tell the administration that they did not self-screen. Chair Megan
338 Larson pointed out that if COVID-19 enters the school, students will no longer be in school. The
339 schools will not do temperature checks at the door. Joe Wholey asked if students in grades 2
340 through 12 would have to wear their masks all day. Superintendent Chip McGee said that the
341 students have to wear masks, but there have to be mask breaks. The default position is wearing
342 masks. Vice-Chair Debbie Ryan asked if students were unwilling to wear a mask, would they
343 have to choose remote. Superintendent Chip McGee confirmed that the student would have to
344 select remote.

- 345
- 346 7. Possible COVID Cases While at School
- 347 1. The staff will immediately refer students that present with any symptoms, to the school
348 nurse.
 - 349 2. The school nurse will keep them in the separate COVID-related area until they can go
350 home.
 - 351 3. They will be directed to see their health care provider and to self-isolate at home.
 - 352 4. Any person with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 should be reported immediately to
353 the New Hampshire Public Health.
 - 354 5. The nurse will consult with the Pelham public health official and the Superintendent to
355 determine the next step. If the student or staff member is determined to have COVID-
356 19, the classrooms and spaces will be closed for up to three days to allow for cleaning.
 - 357 6. If public health investigation determines any students or staff to have been in 'close
358 contacts' with a person who was diagnosed with COVID-19, or otherwise identifies
359 students or staff to be at risk for exposure, they will be required to quarantine for 14
360 days.
 - 361 7. If any students and staff are isolated or quarantined, they will switch to remote learning.
 - 362 8. The student or staff member with possible COVID-19 can return to school only after
363 appropriate documentation from a healthcare provider that symptom-based criteria
364 have been met to discontinue isolation.

365

366 Vice-Chair Debbie Ryan asked what the plan was if someone is suspected of having COVID-19.
367 She wanted more clarification regarding what the administration is going to do while waiting for
368 the results of the COVID-19 test. Superintendent Chip McGee was in full agreement with Vice-
369 Chair Debbie Ryan, but the timing has not been specified yet. He added there are two scenarios
370 where the schools would be forced to close and move to remote learning. One situation is a
371 case of COVID-19 in the schools. The schools would need to be responsible for transitioning to
372 remote learning. The other scenario is a false case of COVID-19, and fear and anxiety lead to
373 having to close the schools. Communication and trust are essential during the pandemic.
374 Darlene Greenwood asked what the plan was if a teacher received a positive test for COVID-19.
375 She also wanted to know if an in-school teacher would then be moved to remote learning.
376 Superintendent Chip McGee said that if the test were positive, the teacher and the students
377 would be quarantined, and a teacher may have to be moved to remote learning.

- 378
- 379 8. Operations
- 380 1. Cleaning
 - 381 i. Custodial staff will routinely clean the schools and workspaces, including high
382 touch surfaces during the day, according to the CDC guidelines.

- 383 ii. We will reassign/hire additional custodial staff to be available during the day to
384 complete this work.

385
386 Darlene Greenwood asked if the custodial staff would be cleaning during the day, especially the
387 bathrooms. Superintendent Chip McGee said that the custodians would clean during the day,
388 but they would not be alone. The students and staff would need to clean their own space and
389 items that they used. Troy Bressette asked Superintendent Chip McGee to address the issues
390 with the ventilation. Superintendent Chip McGee said that the district has started working with
391 contractors to look at ventilation options. Because the district will have to limit the use of fans,
392 they are looking at air conditioners. B.A. Deb Mahoney is working with a contractor to fine-tune
393 the ventilation systems. Superintendent Chip McGee mentioned that his staff is waiting for the
394 plan's approval to create a tracking system.

- 395
396 2. Food Service
- 397 i. Lunch will be provided in the classroom instead of the cafeteria to reduce student
398 interactions. This will require us to limit student food choice options.
 - 399 ii. Breakfast will be a 'grab-and-go' service.
 - 400 iii. We will restart our remote meals program for families who have chosen to learn
401 remotely and qualify for free or reduced-price meals.
- 402 3. Transportation
- 403 i. Families will be required to self-screen, including taking temperatures before
404 getting on the school bus.
 - 405 ii. Students will be required to wear face coverings on buses.
 - 406 iii. Windows will be open as the weather allows.
 - 407 iv. Buses will be limited to one student per seat, which translates to 24 to 26 students.
408 Students in the same family will sit together.
 - 409 v. Students will load from back to front, and unload from front to back to provide
410 additional physical distancing.
 - 411 vi. The district will not allow for changes to student routes for playdates.
- 412 4. For ventilation, the district will double our outside airflow in our buildings, run the
413 system 25% more time daily, and improve our air filtration system. The district will also
414 monitor the systems so as not to create unintended ventilation problems.
- 415 5. The district is researching space to store furniture to be removed to enable greater
416 physical distance in classrooms.
- 417 6. The district will turn off all bubblers and not use lockers because they are high touch
418 areas that tend to have students congregate.
- 419 7. The district will purchase necessary PPE, signage, and cleaning supplies for staff and
420 student use.

421
422 Chair Megan Larson asked if Superintendent Chip McGee expected to have bus monitors on the
423 buses. Superintendent Chip McGee commented that was his hope. The administration is looking
424 to solve the logistics of getting a bus monitor onto the bus. Darlene Greenwood asked if the bus
425 would have to do a second run if they had more than 24 to 26 students? Superintendent Chip
426 McGee confirmed that the bus would need to do another run. Troy Bressette asked if the district
427 was looking for a binding agreement on whether students will take the bus or opt-out of taking
428 the bus? Superintendent Chip McGee confirmed that was what he was looking for. Vice-Chair
429 Debbie Ryan asked if the administration had received procedures on how to clean the buses.
430 Superintendent Chip McGee said there is a draft that is going back and forth between STA and

431 the PSD. Chair Megan Larson asked if parents opt-out of using the bus, then things change, and
432 the student needs to take the bus, is the student able to take the bus. Superintendent Chip
433 McGee said that he was not sure, and the buses are tight with capacity. The district has a
434 transportation responsibility with regards to the students in grades K through 8. Chair Megan
435 Larson suggested that parents err on the side of caution and choose the bus. Joe Wholey asked
436 that the administration not make Juniors wait until late September, early October, for the
437 parking spot lottery. He suggested having Juniors apply for a parking spot by August 7.
438 Superintendent Chip McGee said the administration is already exploring that option.
439

440 9. Teaching and Learning

- 441 1. All planning and preparation will be in Google Classroom to enable a quick switch to
442 remote learning, if necessary.
- 443 2. Maintain student sets of instructional materials for high touch activities. Darlene
444 Greenwood asked if a teacher would have a bin for each student. Superintendent Chip
445 McGee confirmed the students would have a bin.
- 446 3. Promote classes to be held outside, as possible.
- 447 4. Provide training on health and safety, new procedures, social-emotional impacts, and
448 technology on the additional four professional development days.
- 449 5. Offer both live and virtual training sessions on Google Classroom for parents.

450 10. Special Education

- 451 1. The needs of the students with disabilities and the process to address those needs are
452 the same.
- 453 2. Changes to the overall instructional program will impact Individual Education Plans
454 (IEP's) when written before the completion of the plan. As a result, some IEP teams may
455 need to discuss some amendments to IEP's.
- 456 3. Families who determine remote learning are the best for them and may, through the IEP
457 process, discuss special education services or related services to be delivered in school.
- 458 4. Additional information regarding the reopening plan's impact on special education will
459 be provided directly to those students, staff, and parents affected.

460
461 Darlene Greenwood asked what the administration would do if a student had something in his
462 or her IEP that reads the student takes frequent breaks or walks. Would this be something that
463 is done individually with families? Superintendent Chip McGee confirmed that this would be
464 done separately, in the classroom, with the student and families. She then asked if Speech and
465 PT services would go to the classroom or would the student go to the Speech, or PT room.
466 Superintendent Chip McGee said that it would depend on the service.
467

468 11. Pelham Elementary School

- 469 1. Preschool – The three-year-olds will attend school on Monday, and Tuesday. The four-
470 year-olds will attend school on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday.
- 471 2. Kindergarten – Full days for two days a week.
 - 472 i. AM Group – Tuesday and Wednesday
 - 473 ii. PM Group – Thursday and Friday
- 474 3. In-School – Universal guidelines with Unified Arts in the classroom. The teachers will go
475 to the classroom instead of students changing classrooms.
476

- 477 4. Remote – Using Google Classroom with teachers establishing classroom routines that
478 mirror the schedule happening at school. Students learning remotely will have the same
479 schedule as students learning in school.
480

481 Darlene Greenwood suggested that Superintendent Chip McGee add the days that the
482 kindergarten students would attend school. Chair Megan Larson asked if kindergarten students
483 would be able to ride the bus. Superintendent Chip McGee confirmed that they would be
484 allowed to ride the bus. David Wilkerson asked what the impact would be on the curriculum,
485 based on teachers and students having to learn a new approach. Superintendent Chip McGee
486 said that safety comes first. The students will not learn if they do not feel safe. David Wilkerson
487 then asked, how do parents access Google Classroom without logging in as a student?
488 Superintendent Chip McGee did not have an answer to the question. Director of Curriculum,
489 Instruction, and Assessment Sarah Marandos said this would be gone over at the parent
490 training. Chair Megan Larson added that parents need to sign in as the student to receive all the
491 information. Darlene Greenwood asked how the one Unified Arts teacher would teach in-school
492 and remote. Superintendent Chip McGee mentioned there is more than one art teacher in the
493 district. He will have to see which art teacher would be remote.
494

495 12. Pelham Memorial School

- 496 1. Terms will be on a trimester schedule for both core classes and Unified Arts.
497 2. In-School – Universal guidelines are in place with Unified Arts in the classroom.
498 3. Remote –
499 i. Using Google Classroom with teachers and establishing classroom routines that
500 mirror the schedule happening at school.
501 ii. Students will be expected to attend all classes, and attendance will be taken each
502 period.
503

504 Chair Megan Larson asked Superintendent Chip McGee what he thought this would look like at
505 each school. She asked if he expected the PHS students to follow the schedule, and what he
506 thought it would look like for second graders. Superintendent Chip McGee said 'yes' he expects
507 the PHS students to follow their schedule. He expects that the second-grade teacher to be the
508 absolute commander of the remote classroom.
509

510 13. Pelham High School

- 511 1. In-School – Use a 4 x 4 block schedule – students take the same four classes every day in
512 the first semester, and four different courses in the second semester. This will reduce
513 contact among peers because there will be less switching, improved access to materials,
514 and a more natural pivot to remote learning, if necessary.
515 2. Remote – Use Google Classroom with teachers and establishing classroom routines that
516 mirror the schedule happening at school. Students will be expected to attend all classes,
517 and attendance will be taken each period.
518 3. Some courses, particularly advanced courses, will not be available online. Virtual
519 Learning Academy Charter School (VLACS) could be used as an alternative to this.
520

521 Superintendent Chip McGee mentioned that the 4 x 4 block schedule was something tried in
522 Pelham five-years ago. He also commented that the 4 x 4 block schedule is a result of COVID-19.
523 The change is temporary. Joe Wholey said that most students picked their fall classes in March
524 and April. He mentioned that students might select eight to sixteen different courses to take

525 over a school year. Joe Wholey asked how the administration knows what classes the student
526 wants to take or don't want to take. He asked how much of a challenge is this, with less than
527 thirty days before the students' schedules go out. Superintendent Chip McGee said that this is a
528 big challenge. He pointed out that instead of taking eight courses every other day, the student
529 would take the same four classes this semester, and another four classes next semester. The
530 semester courses will now be quarterly. Joe Wholey then asked if this meant taking all blue-
531 courses the first semester and all white-courses the second semester.

532 Superintendent Chip McGee agreed with the example. Chair Megan Larson said that she had the
533 same question earlier and commented that a student could take ten to twelve, ½ credit courses,
534 in a school year. Superintendent Chip McGee believes the plan will allow the district to have
535 more sections in total, and keep class size down. The 4 x 4 block schedule will increase the
536 safety at PHS.

537 Joe Wholey asked about the AP courses. He wanted to know if a student takes an AP course in
538 the first semester, would they have to wait until May to take the exam. Director of Curriculum,
539 Instruction, and Assessment Sarah Marandos said that the district was moving the AP courses to
540 a full year. The AP courses would take up two credits. Joe Wholey asked what would happen if a
541 student chose five AP courses, which would get bumped down, how would they go about
542 getting the courses changed for the student. Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and
543 Assessment Sarah Marandos said the plan is to complete the new schedule if the plan is
544 approved. Then, students would have time to meet with their guidance counselor to change
545 classes.

546 Vice-Chair Debbie Ryan asked if a student chose to take advantage of online schooling, micro-
547 schooling does the student need to withdraw from the Pelham School District. And once COVID-
548 19 passes, would the student need to enroll back into the Pelham School District.

549 Superintendent Chip McGee said that this adds another level to the complexity. He said that a
550 student might select remote learning, but the student is still part of the Pelham School District.
551 If a student chooses to be homeschooled, then the student would need to withdraw. Otherwise,
552 he would prefer to keep the students engaged with the Pelham School District. Darlene
553 Greenwood wanted to know if other schools are still accepting Pelham students for the Career
554 and Technical Education (CTE) program. Superintendent Chip McGee said that Hudson and
555 Pinkerton Academy are currently discussing their reopening plans.

556

557 14. Social-Emotional Impacts

- 558 1. The social, emotional impacts of the pandemic and time away from school are a priority
559 for students who return to in-school and remote.
- 560 2. Programming needs to be evidence-based, readily available, and familiar.
- 561 3. Given the intensity of the need and the short time frame, we have selected the
562 Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning's (CASEL's) Three Signature
563 Practices. Teachers can do the three signature practices. The exercises help teachers to
564 reconnect with students and to help students.

565

566 Darlene Greenwood asked what happens when a student chooses to be in school and decides to
567 opt-out of the in-school program. She provided an example of a high school student not wearing
568 a mask in school. Superintendent Chip McGee said that the student would be expected to
569 attend the in-school program for a semester unless there are extenuating circumstances. If the
570 student is unwilling to wear a mask, then the student cannot attend in-school. He added that
571 the student has until August 7 to make a decision. Then the student has a month to prepare for
572 wearing a face covering.

573 Chair Megan Larson asked if a PES, PMS, or a PHS student, while in school, ripped off his or her
574 mask, would they be sent home. Superintendent Chip McGee mentioned the statement
575 'everyone will wear a mask, with rare exception' will give the principals all the guidance they will
576 need to put age-appropriate consequences in place. Troy Bressette commented that
577 'communication' is so integral to this plan, or any plan. He suggested that the 'communication'
578 section should be moved forward within the reopening plan. Superintendent Chip McGee
579 agreed with Troy Bressette. Darlene Greenwood mentioned that the budget would need to be
580 expanded, but she suggested that adding staff would be beneficial. She commented that
581 instructional assistants could go between classes, or serve a grade level at PMS. Superintendent
582 Chip McGee said that the general need for help is on his list. He added that substitute teachers
583 are difficult to find, even before the pandemic.

584 Vice-Chair Debbie Ryan asked why the district does not start with remote learning if all roads
585 have the district ending up in remote learning. Superintendent Chip McGee appreciated her
586 directness, but he did not believe that all roads lead to remote learning. Superintendent Chip
587 McGee thinks that students can be safely taught in school. He added that no one wanted the
588 Coronavirus; he appreciates all the emails and feedback from parents. Vice-Chair Debbie Ryan
589 asked what the next steps are if the School Board votes to approve the reopening plan. He
590 responded by saying that communication is critical. The School Board has a meeting on August 5
591 to discuss any updates. If approved, he will be sending out the reopening plan to the residents
592 of Pelham. Darlene Greenwood commented that she liked the Family Choice option; she just
593 wished that teachers had a choice. She wanted to know what the administration will do if half
594 the teachers say they are not coming back. She added that she has to trust that Superintendent
595 Chip McGee will make every effort to place teachers with an underlying medical condition, over
596 60 years of age, and family member, to a remote learning position, if possible. Chair Megan
597 Larson mentioned that they need to develop a plan to keep the students and staff safe. There
598 are going to be students and faculty that decide not to return. She also pointed out that the
599 positive cases of COVID-19 in New England are low. If the School Board does not vote to
600 approve the reopening plan, then when would the School Board vote approve the reopening
601 plan? Darlene Greenwood asked if things changed for the worst, would the School Board vote
602 no on in-school learning? Chair Megan Larson and Superintendent Chip McGee agreed that the
603 board would vote 'no' if things changed.
604

605 **Troy Bressette made a motion to approve the Pelham District Plan for Reopening Schools and move**
606 **forward with the Family Choice Option to reopen in the fall. David Wilkerson seconded the motion.**
607 **The motion passed 4-1-0. (Darlene Greenwood voted 'no')**

- 608
- 609 3. **Old Business:**
610 Board Member Reports:
611 a. None
612
- 613 4. **Housekeeping:**
614 a. Adoption of Meeting Minutes:
615 None
616
- 617 b. Vendor and Payroll Manifests:
618 None

619
620 c. Correspondence & Information:

621 None

622 d. Summer Hours:

623 None

624

625 e. Staffing Updates:

626 **Nominations** –

627 None

628

629 **Resignations** –

630 None

631

632 **Future Meetings:**

633 1. 08/05/2020 – 6:30 pm School Board Meeting

634 2. 08/19/2020 – 6:30 pm School Board Meeting

635

636 **Adjournment:**

637 **Vice-Chair Debbie Ryan made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:58 pm. Troy Bressette seconded**
638 **the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

639

640

641 Submitted by Matthew Sullivan