

Pelham School Board Meeting
August 19, 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

Also in Attendance: Dawn Mead, PHS Principal
Todd Kress, Athletic Director

Not Present: No one absent

Chair Megan Larson called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm, followed by The Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Hearing on Acceptance of Unanticipated Revenue for Impact Fees - \$5,344.09

The School Board began by holding a hearing per RSA 198:20-b. The Business Administration Deb Mahoney discussed how the school received funds through the town. The unanticipated funds were Impact Fees collected by the town. Ms. Mahoney asked that the School Board members accept the funds into the School District's account. The Public Hearing closed at 6:33 pm.

Public Input:

Ms. Larson informed the public to follow the School Board's BEDH Policy.

Karen Cruz, 26 Jennifer Drive – Ms. Cruz came to the School Board meeting to let the members know how upset she was at the School Board. Ms. Cruz found out on Thursday that a student was diagnosed with COVID-19. The School Board members did not inform her about the diagnosis. She found out about the COVID-19 case from her child's teammate via Snapchat. Ms. Cruz commented that Superintendent Chip McGee wrote an email to the parents of students who were directly affected, but the email was never directly sent to the parents. Some students did not tell their parents. Thus the students did not quarantine for 14 days. The students, who did tell their parents, were required to go through a COVID-19 test, and wait for the results.

Ms. Cruz commented that at no time did the Health Officer Karen McGlynn or Dr. McGee call the families for contact tracing purposes. She wanted to know why there were no safety protocols put in place. Ms. Cruz also wanted to know why no other parents, other than the team member's parents, were informed of the positive COVID-19 case. Ms. Cruz thanked Athletic Director Todd Kress for taking responsibility, but she did not believe it fell entirely on him.

Student Report:

No Report

Superintendent Opening Remarks:

48 Today was the first day for teacher orientation at PHS. Director of Curriculum, Instruction &
49 Assessments Sarah Marandos heads up the new teacher orientation. Twenty-two new teachers were at
50 the orientation. The Pelham School District has adjusted the screening to self-screening. The questions
51 are the same, but the students and staff are required to self-screen.
52 Dr. McGee discussed, generally, the situation of a student-athlete having a definite case of COVID-19.
53 The information was received on Thursday, and within 45 minutes, a decision was made. The Cheer
54 Team was not to practice for two weeks. The School District contacted the parents whose children were
55 in 'close contact' with someone who had a definite case of COVID-19.

56
57 The School District has hit two important deadlines:
58 1. On August 7, 2020, the parents had to choose between remote or in-school learning.
59 2. On August 14, 2020, the professional staff had to let the School District know if they needed
60 any special accommodations or a request for leave.

61
62 The School District will have the teacher assignments for remote students by next week. Dr. McGee will
63 notify parents that the schedules will be delayed.

64
65 **Presentations:**

66 No Presentations

67

68 **Main Issues / Policy Updates:**

69 **Pelham High School Interscholastic Sports Fall 2020**

70 Dr. McGee introduced Mr. Kress, and PHS Principal Dawn Mead. Mr. Kress presented the Pelham High
71 Return to Competition Protocol. The Pelham High Athletic Dept. has considered several factors when
72 deciding whether to return to competition this fall. Safety was the top priority.
73 Currently, statewide athletics and athletic competitions within New Hampshire are allowed under the
74 Governor's Youth Sports NH Guidelines. The School District believes that Pelham student-athletes will
75 benefit more both physically and mentally by playing for PHS.

76

77 **NHIAA'S Three Categories of Risk**

- 78 1. Lower Risk (Golf, Cross Country 'staggered starts', and Sideline Cheer)
79 2. Moderate Risk (Volleyball, Soccer, and Field Hockey)
80 3. Higher Risk (Football, and Competition Cheer)

81

82 The School Board had a discussion. Ms. Mead commented that the coaches have the parent's and
83 student's email and cell phone number. In regards to football and competition cheer, Dr. McGee is in
84 contact with other Superintendents, and Mr. Kress is in contact with other Athletic Directors. Dr. McGee
85 said he wanted to do a District Update based on the sets of decisions that were made. Within the next
86 24 hours, the update will be sent out.

87

88 Ms. Ryan made a motion to accept the Pelham High School Return to Competition Protocol, as written
89 for the fall 2020 season. Troy Bressette seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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96 **Reopening Status Update:**

97

98 **Request 1: Trigonometry (2020-2021 School Year)**

99 Dr. Marandos mentioned that to meet state math requirements for seniors, the School District is
100 requesting to offer Trigonometry as both a ½ credit and a full credit class instead of only a full credit
101 class. The remote students would be able to take Trigonometry as a ½ credit class. The School District
102 recently made a shift to the full credit option, so the curriculum is already well established. A remote
103 student may need the ½ credit Trigonometry class because the student needs a math elective to
104 graduate from high school. The State requires four years of math. The only two math courses available
105 to seniors are Trigonometry and Statistics. The request was made because of limited staffing.

106

107 **Request 2: Math Lab (2020-2021 School Year)**

108 Dr. Marandos mentioned that to support students in the Pelham Remote Opportunity (PRO), the School
109 District is requesting a 'Math Lab.' The 'Math Lab' will provide support to students that are enrolled in
110 Foundations of Math and Algebra 1 (Full-Year). The School District is not offering either of the courses
111 remotely. The 'Math Lab' will be taught by a math teacher, and earn a general math credit. Members of
112 the School Board agreed with the 'Math Lab' request, as long as the 'Math Lab' was not compromising
113 the other math students and not taking away classes.

114

115 **Request 3: Advisory**

116 Several parents have inquired about the option to have students arrive at school for Block 1 (start time
117 8:50 am) and not have to attend the advisory block if they do not have a teacher request and/or need to
118 be present in advisory (8:00 am until 8:45 am). Mondays would be the "required" day of attendance due
119 to SEL programming and advisory support. Tuesday through Friday will be flexible if the student is in
120 good standing. This does not pertain to students that have a late arrival.

121

122 The families would be responsible for providing transportation if they opted not to utilize the morning
123 bus run. Students will be transported to school on a bus, and will arrive at the beginning of Advisory.
124 School counselors will inform the administration of students who are in danger or are failing courses at
125 the quarter benchmarks. Students at risk of failing will be expected to attend advisory for the remainder
126 of the marking period.

126

127 **Request 4: SAT School Day (12th Graders)**

128 Due to COVID-19, the SAT School Day was not administered to the juniors in the spring. The School
129 District can offer the SAT School Day on September 23 onsite. If the date is approved, the
130 underclassmen will have a "remote" day that teachers are not proctoring, and will be able to provide
131 support on classwork. Note: the SAT requires that students are assessed in school. Students that have
132 chosen remote for semester one can come on that day to take the assessment if they want.
133 The seniors would be the only students onsite. If students are still in school, the School District will have
134 PSAT's in October. If the Pelham School District has to go back to full remote learning, the SAT decision
135 would be made by the college board.

136

137 Ms. Ryan made a motion to approve the changes to programs of study at Pelham High School, as
138 outlined. Mr. Wilkerson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

139

140 **COVID Staffing Needs:**

141 Dr. McGee acknowledged that he was about to make some extraordinary requests. There were three
142 things that he informed the School Board:

143 The first, Dr. McGee was immediately freezing the Operating Budget of the Pelham School District for
 144 the Fiscal Year. Only purchases that allow for the continued safe operation of the Pelham School District
 145 will be processed.

146 The second, Dr. McGee, requested that the School Board support the COVID-19 Emergency Positions
 147 proposed in the memo. Dr. McGee and Ms. Mahoney have identified appropriate offsets in the budget.
 148 The changes would be only for the 2020-2021 school year.

149 The third, Dr. McGee, requested the School Board to allow Instructional Assistants (IA's) providing
 150 services in special education be allowed to also serve in non-special education roles time-to-time.
 151 Although this would cause some special education funding to 'cross-over' into general education service,
 152 it would allow the School District greater flexibility in staffing and potentially reduce staffing needs.

153
 154

<u>COVID Emergency Positions Needed</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u># of Positions</u>	<u>Estimated Salary</u>	<u>Estimated Benefits</u>	<u>Total of All Positions</u>
Add 1 FT Custodial Position for Each Building	PES/PMS/PHS	3	\$26,118	\$25,370	\$154,464
Expand all 8 Recess / Lunch Monitors by 45 minutes	PES	8	\$10,353	\$842	\$11,195
Add 3 PT School Monitor Positions	PES	3	\$31,122	\$2,532	\$33,654
Add 5 PT School Monitor Positions	PMS	5	\$14,265	\$1,161	\$77,130
Add 10 PT School Monitor Positions	PHS	10	\$14,265	\$1,161	\$154,260
Expand 50% Nurse to 100% Nurse	PES	1	\$26,644	\$29,479	\$56,123
Add 1 Floating Nurse to Support PMS/PHS	PMS/PHS	1	\$47,780	\$30,252	\$78,032
Add 1 Floating Nurse to Support PMS/PHS	PMS/PHS	1	\$18,244	\$8,235	\$26,479
Expand PT SAU for Assistance	SAU	1	\$15,444	\$8,006	\$23,450
					\$614,787

155
 156 The Medical/Dental Election estimates for Full-Time positions total \$103,461. (This actual cost
 157 could be as low as \$15,000 depending on individual election)

158
 159 Mr. Bressette asked Dr. McGee, where he intends on finding some of the funds in the existing budget.
 160 Dr. McGee said that he had just started the process of budgeting for Fiscal Year 2022. He is considering
 161 deferred purchases of items, such as furniture.

162
 163 Mr. Bressette made a motion to approve the COVID staffing needs, as presented. But, also stressing the
 164 importance of the conditional nature of this appropriate offset to the budget. Mr. Wilkerson seconded
 165 the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

166
 167 **Memorandum of Agreement:**
 168 The Pelham School Board reviewed a tentative agreement between the Pelham Education Association
 169 (PEA) and management. Dr. McGee commented the deal was a collaborative process with the Pelham
 170 Education Association and included some significant changes to the instructional program. The Pelham
 171 Education Association members approved the agreement this afternoon. 71% of the members voted to
 172 approve the deal.

173 The School Board discussed specific protocols and safety plans outlined in the agreement. Dr. McGee
174 noted that the schools would not be using fans. If the weather gets too hot to have class, he will call a
175 'Heat Day.' A 'Heat Day' is similar to a 'Snow Day.' Dr. McGee said that the agreement came together
176 through Impact Bargaining. The deal is temporary and will only be in effect for the 2020-2021 school
177 year.

178
179 Ms. Ryan made a motion to approve the PEA Memorandum of Agreement with the Pelham School
180 Board for the 2020-2021 school year. Mr. Wilkerson seconded the motion. The motion passed
181 unanimously.

182

183 **Donation:**

184 Pelham High School is taking part in a five-year Science Education Partnership Award (SEPA) grant
185 program through Dartmouth College, and the Mount Desert Island Biological Laboratory (MDI) titled
186 "Data to Action" providing additional free well water testing to Pelham residents. High School students
187 distributed free well water test kits during the elementary school parent conferences. The well water
188 has been delivered to MDI Lab, who will process the registration forms from parents and will send the
189 water vials to Dartmouth for processing. Residents will receive a letter outlining their water results and
190 highlighting any metal that is above EPA limits. The \$500 is part of the grant to cover the costs of
191 purchasing water vials, shipping the vials, and eventually printing posters to be put up in the Town Hall
192 and other offices.

193

194 Mr. Bressette made a motion to accept the donation to PHS in the amount of \$500 to be used to cover
195 the costs of purchasing water vials, shipping the vials, and eventually printing of posters to be put in
196 Town Offices. Mr. Wilkerson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

197

198 **Vote to Accept Unanticipated Revenue:**

199 Mr. Bressette made a motion to accept an additional \$5,344.09 from Impact fees to be applied to the
200 PHS Bond Principal payment. David Wilkerson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

201

202 **Old Business:**

203 **Board Member Reports:**

204

205 1. Mr. Bressette thanked the PES PTA. Mr. Bressette mentioned that he noticed that the adaptive
206 swings had been installed. Mats were placed under all of the swings to ensure that the swings
207 are used more consistently.

208 2. Mr. Wilkerson thanked everyone for the management of the audio portion of the meeting.

209

210 **Housekeeping:**

211

212 **Adoption of Meeting Minutes:**

213 1. July 29, 2020, School Board Meeting

214

215 Ms. Ryan made a motion to accept July 29, 2020, School Board Meeting Minutes, as amended. Mr.
216 Bressette seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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219

220 2. August 5, 2020, School Board Meeting

221 Ms. Ryan made a motion to accept August 5, 2020, School Board Meeting Minutes, as amended. Mr.
222 Wilkerson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

223

224 **Vendor and Payroll Manifests:**

225	1.	APO81920	\$208,331.48
226	2.	105	\$156,928.13
227	3.	PAY105P	\$68,012.85

228

229 Ms. Ryan made a motion to accept the Vendor and Payroll Manifests, as written. Mr. Wilkerson
230 seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

231

232 **Correspondence & Information:**

233 1. No Correspondence & Information

234

235 **Staffing Updates:**

236

237 **Nominations:**

238	1.	Greta Frost	PHS	Life Science Teacher
239	2.	Kerry Struth	PES	Interim Assistant Principal

240

241 Mr. Bressette made a motion to approve the nomination of Greta Frost as a Life Science Teacher at PHS.
242 Mr. Wilkerson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

243

244 Mr. Bressette made a motion to approve the nomination of Kerry Struth as Interim Assistant Principal at
245 PES for the 2020-2021 school year. Mr. Wilkerson seconded the motion. The motion passed (3-1-1). (Ms.
246 Greenwood voted no; Ms. Ryan abstained)

247

248 **Resignations:**

249 1. None

250

251 **Future Agenda Planning:**

252

253 **Future Meetings:**

- 254 1. 09/02/2020 – 6:30 pm School Board Meeting
- 255 2. 09/09/2020 – 6:30 pm School Board Meeting

256

257 **Adjournment:**

258 Ms. Ryan made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:47 pm. Mr. Wilkerson seconded the motion. The
259 motion passed unanimously.

260

261

262 Submitted by Matthew Sullivan