

**Pelham School Board Meeting
December 16, 2020
Pelham Elementary School
6:30 pm**

In Attendance:

School Board Members: Megan Larson, Chair, Debbie Ryan, Vice-Chair, Troy Bressette, Darlene Greenwood (virtual due to Covid-19), and David Wilkerson (virtual due to Covid-19)
Superintendent: Chip McGee
Business Administrator: Deb Mahoney (virtual due to Covid-19)
Director of Curriculum, Instruction & Assessments: Sarah Marandos
Student Representative: Joe Wholey

1. Call to Order:

Chair Megan Larson called the meeting to order at 6:31 pm, followed by The Pledge of Allegiance. Ms. Larson asked Ms. Greenwood if she was alone, and she responded, 'yes.'

a. Public Input:

None

b. Student Opening Remarks:

Mr. Wholey mentioned that two students have qualified and will be representing the Pelham School District in the New Hampshire Music Educators Association (NHMEA) All-State. Nicole Paquette is a senior and plays the flute, and Lukas Garcia is a freshman and plays the French horn.

Mr. Wholey commented that this week is 'Spirit Week' for the District and outlined the themes for each day.

Mr. Wholey stated that on January 7, PHS would have a virtual inductee ceremony for the National Honor Society at 6:30 pm. The inductees will watch on YouTube, and the Officers and Advisors will be on a Zoom meeting. The Zoom meeting will be broadcast on PTV. He added that students had submitted fantastic art to the Scholastic Art Awards, and the results will be shared in January 2021.

At 6:36 pm, Ms. Larson asked Mr. Wilkerson if he was alone, and he responded, 'yes.'

c. Superintendent Opening Remarks:

Superintendent McGee mentioned how proud he was of Nicole Paquette, Lukas Garcia, and the entire Music Department at PHS. Dr. McGee commented that the program for the New Hampshire Music Educators Association (NHMEA) All-State Band is very rigorous. He stated that Ms. Paquette would be studying music in college. Dr. McGee commented that the PHS Family Choice Survey for semester two is due by the end-of-the-day Friday, December 18. If one chooses not to answer, remote families will remain remote, and in-school families will stay in-school.

Dr. McGee commented that he received a note from PMS Principal Stacy Maghakian, and the message announced that clubs would begin and would meet remotely. The clubs available are Literacy Circle, Chess Club, Science Club, Logo Club, Math Club, Year Book Club, and Morning Assistants.

Dr. McGee mentioned that he sent out an email to parents before the School Board Meeting. The email informed the parents that a student at PMS has tested positive for Covid-19. The last time Dr. McGee had to send out a similar email was right after Thanksgiving Day. He stated that the District had 19 positive cases of Covid-19 since

52 Thanksgiving, but the cases did not come in contact with other students. Dr. McGee thanked the School Nurse and
53 Principal for making sure that the communication was completed.

54
55 Lastly, Dr. McGee noted that the area would receive a significant amount of snow, and the District has called for a
56 'Snow Day.' He said that he used several resources before deciding to cancel school for tomorrow. Dr. McGee said
57 that he spoke with the Forecasting Services, Road Agent, Bus Company, Director of Maintenance Alan Miller, and
58 the Pelham Police Department. Dr. McGee was also in contact with the regional Superintendents.

59
60 **2. Presentations:**

61 No Presentations

62
63 **3. Main Issues / Policy Updates:**

64 **a. Pandemic Response Update:**

65 Superintendent Chip McGee walked the School Board through the pandemic update. He mentioned that he did not
66 have a new recommendation at this point. Dr. McGee noted that the School Board would be meeting on
67 December 28 to address the recommendation for what to do on January 4 and beyond.

68
69 Dr. McGee reviewed the metrics for the level of community transmission. He provided the School Board with the
70 statistics from December 7 and December 15. The Covid-19 PCR test positivity as a 7-day average was 7.7%
71 (Moderate) on December 7 and is 9.8% (Moderate) on December 15. The number of new infections per 100,000
72 population prior to 14 days was 508.4 (Substantial) on December 7 and is 786.6 (Substantial) on December 15. And
73 the number of new hospitalizations per 100,000 people over the prior 14 days was 0.5 (Minimal) on December 7
74 and is 0.9 (Minimal) on December 15.

75
76 The next metric that Dr. McGee reviewed was the level of school impact. Dr. McGee pointed out that the figures
77 are almost impossible to measure in a meaningful way because they are currently remote learning. He mentioned
78 that since the pivot eight students, from the entire District had reported positive cases of Covid-19. During the
79 same period, 11 staff members reported having a positive case of Covid-19. Dr. McGee noted that the total
80 number of reported positive Covid-19 increased by one as of tonight's meeting. He pointed out that the reported
81 positive Covid-19 cases, since November 25, have not exposed other students.

82
83 The final metric reviewed was staff capacity. Dr. McGee stated that the District has reached out to the staff to see
84 if a staff member requires an exception to come to work. The District has requested the information because the
85 District needs to know that the staff will be available and ready to work. The staff capacity on December 7 was
86 considered 'Strained Medium,' and on December 15 was considered 'Strained Medium.' Dr. McGee provided an
87 example that today's positive case of Covid-19 has exposed six staff members at PMS.

88
89 Dr. McGee said that he met with Public Health Officer Karen McGlynn today. One of the topics that they discussed
90 was if Pelham was different from the other communities. He mentioned that Ms. McGlynn provided data that
91 showed Pelham has guidelines in place that have slowed the spread of Covid-19. Ms. McGlynn showed that the
92 rate of increase in positive cases of Covid-19 had increased significantly. Dr. McGee reminded the School Board
93 that his top priority is safety for the staff and students.

94
95 Mr. Bressette asked Dr. McGee where the District stood concerning the quarantine period, in light of the revised
96 CDC guidelines and the State of New Hampshire following suit. Dr. McGee stated that the Pelham School District is
97 following the NH-DHHS revised quarantine guidelines. As of December 3, the State of New Hampshire revised their
98 required quarantine timeframe down from 14 days to 10 days if they did not show any symptoms. Dr. McGee
99 commented that the CDC said that the quarantine timeframe could go down to seven days, but the State of New
100 Hampshire requires ten days.

101
102 Ms. Ryan asked Dr. McGee if the District was having any success in recruiting new substitute teachers. Dr. McGee
103 mentioned that Dr. Marandos has taken on the work of calling references for the substitute list. Dr. Marandos
104 noted that she was able to move through eight to ten substitutes. Dr. McGee stated that Principal VanVranken and

105 HR Director Joan Cote had put the word out that the substitute pay was increased and informing interested
106 persons that remote learning does not mean the entire District is remote.

107

108 **b. School Building Aid:**

109 Business Administrator Deb Mahoney presented the School Building Aid Process. Ms. Mahoney mentioned that
110 there is a process for the Pelham School District to apply for building aid regarding renovating PMS. She stated the
111 District submitted a Letter of Intent to apply for building aid before January 1, 2020. The District then worked with
112 Trident and Harrimon to submit a detailed application with preliminary drawings, design specs, and condition
113 evaluation form in late June 2020.

114

115 The Department of Education (DOE) reviewed the documentation and toured PMS on November 19, 2020. While
116 on-site, the DOE provided a packet of information about New Hampshire Building Aid. The DOE informed the
117 District that Pelham was one of fourteen projects that have been submitted for consideration. Based on the
118 median family income level in Pelham, the District could receive as much as 30% of the project costs.

119

120 Currently, the State is in the process of ranking all the projects that they received. Once the State has completed
121 the projects' ranking, they will contact the Pelham School District and inform them of where they ranked. Ms.
122 Mahoney mentioned that if the District falls in one of the top three projects, the District could receive funding. The
123 State has extended the deadline for publishing the ranked list until May 15, 2021. The State will set its budget on
124 July 21, 2021. If the Pelham School District receives funding, they will find out between May 15 and July 2021. Ms.
125 Mahoney said that she would update the Board if she receives additional information.

126

127 Ms. Ryan asked if only the top three projects would receive funding. Ms. Mahoney stated that the top three would
128 have first access to the funding. She added that the goal is to be in the top three, if not the top three, then as close
129 as the District can get. Dr. McGee pointed out that a District ranked in the top three also needs to have their
130 Warrant Article for the project to pass. If the Warrant Article does not pass, then the District would be moved
131 down the list. Dr. McGee stressed that if the School Districts Warrant Article passes in March 2021, then the School
132 District will continue to move ahead. The timeframe of renovating PMS will not be affected if the District receives
133 Building Aid.

134

135 **c. KABC Schedule Adjustment:**

136 Superintendent Chip McGee walked the Board through the change to the Kindergarten Activity-Based Curriculum.
137 (K-ABC) that is starting on January 4. The primary change is the increase in the hours from 17.5 hours per week to
138 24.5 hours per week. The students' IEPs drive the change.

139

140 Dr. McGee said that Kindergarten Activity-Based Curriculum (K-ABC) is an integrated, tuition-based program that
141 affords some students an extended kindergarten experience. K-ABC is a version of full-day Kindergarten. K-ABC
142 focuses on social and activity-based activities while reinforcing necessary academic skills.

143

144 Dr. McGee commented that because of the pandemic, students in K-ABC attend Tuesday-Wednesday Kindergarten
145 and Thursday-Friday Kindergarten. The District realized that the students in K-ABC are repeating the same work
146 later in the week. In the proposal, K-ABC would continue to focus on social and activity-based activities. The
147 District will add seven hours of teacher time with students on Thursday and Friday. A Special Educator will provide
148 supplemental instruction to the classroom. Dr. McGee mentioned that families would choose to continue with the
149 afternoon small group work or stay in the Thursday and Friday general Kindergarten Program. Dr. McGee added
150 that because the program has a budget impact and a little change, he informed the School Board.

151 Mr. Bressette asked if the additional seven hours on Thursday and Friday meant that the students would be in the
152 classroom for more time. Dr. McGee stated that the extra seven hours would be used for co-teaching the students.
153 Ms. Greenwood noted that adding the seven hours would be a good thing for the students.

154

155 **d. Policy Revision:**

156 **Policy Revision – First Reading:**

157 Dr. McGee mentioned that he was only bringing one Revised Policy to Board. He stated that the Revised Policy was
158 moving the Ethics Policy, which was considered Procedure, to Policy. Dr. McGee did not believe the
159 Superintendent should oversee the Ethics of School Board Members.

160
161 a. Policy BCA – School Board Member Ethics (Revised Policy)

162
163 **Policy Revision – Second Reading:**

164 The School Board revisited the policies listed below.

165
166 a. Policy BA – School Board Self Evaluation and Goal Setting (Revised Policy)

167
168 b. Policy BAA – Evaluation of the Board (Proposed Rescission of Full Policy)

169
170 c. Policy BB – School Board Legal Status (Revised Policy)

171
172 d. Policy BBA – School Board Powers and Duties (Revised Policy)

173
174 e. Policy BBAA – School Board Member Authority (Revised Policy)

175
176 f. Policy BBB – School Board Elections (Revised Policy)

177
178 g. Policy BBBC –Board Member or District Officer Resignation (Revised Policy)

179
180 h. Policy BBBD –Board Member Removal from Office (Revised Policy)

181
182 i. Policy BBBF – Student Members of the School Board (Revised Policy)

183
184 j. JLDBB – Suicide Prevention and Response (Revised Policy)

185 Dr. McGee mentioned that the Policy Committee wordsmithed the Policy to correct the dates that had passed.

186
187 Mr. Bressette motioned to approve Policies BA, BAA, BB, BBA, BBAA, BBB, BBBC, BBBD, BBBF, and JLDBB. Ms.
188 Greenwood seconded the motion. The motion passed (5-0-0)

189
190 **4. Old Business**

191 a. **Board Member Reports:**

192 i. Ms. Ryan – Ms. Ryan mentioned that ACES (Awareness for Community and Educational Support) would
193 have a virtual meeting on Thursday at 6 pm to discuss the Middle School Project's promotion. The
194 Memorial Renovation Project Facebook page, the Pelham Proud Facebook page, and PelhamSD.org will
195 have a link to the meeting.

196
197 **Housekeeping:**

198 a. **Adoption of Meeting Minutes:**

199 i. December 2, 2020 – School Board Meeting Minutes
200 ii. December 7, 2020 – School Board Special Meeting Minutes

201
202 Ms. Ryan made a motion to approve the School Board Meeting Minutes of December 2, as written. Mr. Bressette
203 seconded the motion. The motion passed (5-0-0)

204 Ms. Ryan made a motion to approve the School Board Special Meeting Minutes of December 7. Mr. Bressette
205 seconded the motion. The motion passed (5-0-0)

206
207 b. **Vendor and Payroll Manifests:**

208 i. 113 \$593,130.80

209	ii.	PAY113P	\$21,383.09
210	iii.	113M	(\$1,675.89)
211	iv.	AP121620	\$322,734.39

212

213 Ms. Ryan made a motion to approve the Vendor and Payroll Manifests, as written. Mr. Bressette seconded the
 214 motion. The motion passed (5-0-0).

215

216 c. **Correspondence & Information:**

217 i. Ms. Larson mentioned that the Tax Rate information was released last week. The Tax Rate was increased
 218 to \$20.20 per thousand.

219

220 d. **Staffing Updates:**

221 i. **Resignation:**

222 i. Alan Miller - SAU - Facilities Director

223

224 Dr. McGee commented that Director of Facilities Alan Miller provided his resignation. Mr. Miller accepted the
 225 position of Director of Facilities with the Londonderry School District. The responsibility is increased because of the
 226 size of the Londonderry School District but offers a salary increase. Dr. McGee mentioned that Ms. Mahoney and
 227 he tried to keep Mr. Miller, but Londonderry has eight schools compared to Pelham's three. Mr. Miller will remain
 228 with the Pelham School District until the end of June 2021. The School Board thanked Mr. Miller for his years of
 229 service to the Pelham School District.

230

231 5. **Future Meetings:**

- 232 a. 12/28/2020 – 6:00 pm Monday - School Board Meeting @ PES Library
- 233 b. 01/06/2021 – 6:30 pm School Board Meeting @ PES Library
- 234 c. 01/20/2021 – 6:30 pm School Board Meeting @ PES Library

235

236 6. **Non-Public:**

237 No Non-Public Session

238

239 7. **Adjourn Meeting:**

240 Mr. Wilkerson made a motion to adjourn the public session at 7:22 pm. Mr. Bressette seconded the motion. The
 241 motion passed (5-0-0).

242

243

244 Submitted by Matthew Sullivan