

**Pelham School Board Meeting
October 6, 2021
Pelham Elementary School
6:30 pm**

In Attendance:

School Board Members: Megan Larson, Chair (remote); Troy Bressette, Vice-Chair; Thomas Gellar; and Darlene Greenwood

Superintendent: Chip McGee

Assistant Superintendent: Sarah Marandos

Business Administrator: Deb Mahoney

Student Representative Lily Chafe

Absent: David Wilkerson

Also in Attendance: Beth Greenblatt, Beacon Integrated Solutions

1. Call to Order:

Vice-Chair Troy Bressette called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm and requested that everyone stand for The Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair Megan Larson stated her name and mentioned that she was by herself.

a. Public Input @ 6:31 pm:

Krista Day, 3 Castle Hill Road -

Krista Day commented that she is a parent and teacher at PHS. Ms. Day stated that she has a 10th grader and a 12th grader in PHS and she had four other children graduate from PHS. Ms. Day mentioned that PHS also prepared her four other children for college, life, and the workforce. She thanked everyone for their hard, effort, and extra time that they have put in the last couple of years.

Ms. Day said that she came to the meeting to ask the School Board to keep the 4 x 4 Block Schedule. She mentioned that her 12th grader had two years of the A/B Schedule and is in her second year of a 4 x 4 Block Schedule. Ms. Day noted that her four older children and her 12th grader are proponents of the 4 x 4 Block Schedule because it allows the students to focus on four, six, or eight classes at one time. The students can also put all their effort into the courses if they miss a few days.

Ms. Day stated that the 4 x 4 Block Schedule makes it easier for the students to catch up on missed work than the A/B Schedule. She noted that the Teachers are able to provide formative feedback to the students quicker. Ms. Day added that the A/B Schedule was very stressful, and noted how her two oldest children only had 4 x 4 Block Schedules, the third oldest went three years with a 4 x 4 Block Schedule and one year with an A/B Schedule, and she mentioned that her children are better able to learn when using a 4 x 4 Block Schedule.

As a Teacher, Ms. Day said that she has heard from students that juggling eight courses at a time was very stressful. She mentioned that if a student missed a week of school that would be eight courses that the student would be behind. She ended by saying that her family has grown the most by using the 4 x 4 Block Schedule.

Vice-Chair Troy Bressette thanked Ms. Day for her comments regarding the 4 x 4 Block Schedule subject.

Public Input closed at 6:34 pm.

53 b. **Opening Remarks:**
54 **Student Representative:**
55 Lily Chafe commented that the ‘Turning the Lights Out on Pediatric Cancer’ shirts are now being sold at all
56 lunches and in the connector after school. She mentioned that the students and staff should wear the shirt to
57 the ‘Blackout Football Game’ on October 15. Ms. Chafe stated that there are Parent/Teacher Conferences on
58 October 7.

59
60 Ms. Chafe mentioned that the District will have an early release on October 8, and no school on October 11.
61 Ms. Chafe stated that the Junior class is encouraging people to go to the Crack’d Kitchen and Coffee in Salem,
62 NH on Saturday, October 9. A portion of all proceeds will go to the Junior class. She commented that the
63 PSATs will be administered to the Freshmen, Sophomore, and Juniors on October 13 at 7:45 am, and the 12th
64 graders will be allowed to arrive at the start of third block. Ms. Chafe noted that October 14 is Financial Aid
65 Night, and will be a virtual event starting at 6:30 pm.

66
67 A portion of all proceeds will go to the Junior class. She noted that the Pelham Cross Country Invite will occur
68 on October 16 at 1:00 pm. Ms. Chafe mentioned that CRASE training for all PHS students with Corporal Brian
69 Kelly will occur on October 18 – 21, and Parent Voice will happen on October 21 at 6:30 pm in the PHS Library.
70 And finally, the PHS Showcase for 8th graders, new enrollments, and their parents will occur on October 28.

71
72 **Superintendent:**
73 Superintendent Chip McGee commented that the After School Program, that the Feds are calling Learning
74 Loss, and the District is calling Unfinished Learning has started at PES and PMS. Dr. McGee stated that there is
75 a lot complexity in running the program. The complexities include planning for the late bus routes, identifying
76 the right staff, and the scheduling at each school.

77
78 Dr. McGee mentioned that today he was out of his office today and visited the three schools. While he was
79 outside, he heard the band playing and marching. He noted that the band sounded great.

80
81 Dr. McGee commented that last Friday at PES was a fun fitness day. The elementary school panther was out in
82 full regalia. The students were outside with parents and staff being very active.

83
84 **2. Presentations:**
85 a. No Presentations

86
87 **3. Main Issues / Policy Updates:**
88 a. **Solar Energy Task Force Report**

89 Vice-Chair Troy Bressette mentioned that there is a report from the Solar Energy Task Force. He asked
90 Superintendent Chip McGee to provide an overview of the Task Force, then invited Beth Greenblatt from
91 Beacon Integrated Solutions to speak.

92
93 Dr. McGee thanked Beth Greenblatt for attending the meeting. He mentioned that the Solar Energy Task Force
94 was created to review options and provide a report for the School Board regarding Solar Energy options
95 as a part of the FY2023 budget process. He added that the District is nailing the timeline. Dr. McGee thanked
96 the members of the Solar Energy Task Force, and listed off their names.

97
98 Dr. McGee asked Izabella Ivanyi to come up, sit beside Ms. Grennblatt, and introduce herself. Ms. Ivanyi
99 shared a little introduction. Ms. Ivanyi mentioned how she served as a Student Representative on the Solar
100 Energy Task Force, and how she was interested in taking this position when the opportunity arose because she
101 is very passionate about helping the environment and is considering in majoring in Environmental Sciences in
102 college.

103
104 Ms. Ivanyi stated that she was also interested in learning more about solar energy and how it could be applied
105 in the School District. She noted by commenting that as a student she thinks solar panels would be an amazing

106 learning experience to be able to see them up close and in person, and to know that the District is doing their
107 part to reduce the carbon footprint on the earth.

108 Ms. Ivanyi commented that the Task Force met bi-weekly to discuss the options for utilizing solar energy in
109 the District and investigate multiple ownership options and models. The Task Force also discussed how they
110 could use this as a learning opportunity for students.

111
112 Ms. Ivanyi closed by mentioning that she had an amazing time being part of the Task Force and her experience
113 with the Task Force increased her knowledge of solar energy and how it can be implemented into our
114 everyday life.

115
116 Mr. Bressette thanked Ms. Ivanyi for joining the School Board this evening, and being part of the Task Force.

117
118 Beth Greenblatt thanked the School Board for the opportunity, and more importantly for being part of the
119 Solar Energy Task Force. Ms. Greenblatt mentioned that she was at the meeting to present the hard work that
120 the Task Force undertook.

121
122 Ms. Greenblatt stated that the District buys from the grid about 2.61 million kWh of electricity per year, and
123 spends about \$336,000 for the electricity. The electricity that the District buys comes from a competitive
124 supplier, and the District staff worked hard to make sure the pricing is competitive, and market driven.

125
126 Ms. Greenblatt mentioned that the electric costs and usage are expected to increase across the three schools.
127 She also commented that PMS expansion will increase consumption by an estimated 664,000 kWh /year. The
128 costs fluctuate based on the market, and the market is currently volatile.

129
130 The Task Force is proposing a Warrant Article for 2022 for three main objectives.:

- 131 i. Lease roof space across 3 buildings
- 132 ii. Engage a private entity to construct, own, and sell the solar generation that will come from the arrays
133 to the District.
- 134 iii. To achieve Economic, Educational and Environmental benefits

135
136 The estimated savings over 25 years is \$300,000.

137
138 Ms. Greenblatt provided a history of the Solar Energy Task Force. The Solar Task Force established during the
139 summer of 2021. The Task Force was assigned with assessing feasibility of project. The first assessment was
140 deciding if solar generation and installation on the school roofs an appropriate approach to realizing a
141 reduction in their carbon footprint and see the benefit of reduced greenhouse gasses.

142
143 The second assessment was to decide how best to secure the asset. The Task Force needed to research
144 whether to lease or purchase the solar panels. The group reviewed which option provided the best
145 opportunity to achieve their objectives.

- 146 i. Economic benefits: The project needs to benefit the District's budget and thus the taxpayers.
- 147 ii. Educational benefits: The project would be improved if students can learn from it. (STEAM)
- 148 iii. Environmental benefits: The project needs to provide an improvement compared to our current
149 energy usage.

150
151 Ms. Greenblatt reviewed the conceptual designs regarding the solar panels on all three school roofs.

- 152 i. PHS: About 50% of the of electricity could be met from the solar energy.
- 153 ii. PMS: Prior to the renovation PMS could have expected about 30% of the of electricity needs be met
154 from the solar energy. After the renovation, PMS can expect to receive increased benefits.
- 155 iii. PES: About 50% of the of electricity could be met from the solar energy.

156
157 Ms. Greenblatt commented that the Task Force looked into the ownership question. The group discussed the
158 benefits of the District owning the asset versus the advantages and disadvantages of leasing the solar panels

159 from a third-party? She mentioned that the discussion revolved around the risks and benefits of the two
160 options. Ms. Greenblatt reviewed the benefits of both options.

161 Lease vs. Purchase

162 i. Leasing requires no capital outlay, reduces financial and performance risks.

163 ii. Lease Option:

- 164 a. Zero Up-Front Costs
- 165 b. Zero annual maintenance costs
- 166 c. Guaranteed Performance
- 167 d. Leasing company owns green energy credits
- 168 e. Purchased electricity still subject to market volatility
- 169 f. Zero decommissioning costs
- 170 g. Projected savings over 25 years is an estimated \$300,000

171
172 iii. Purchase Option

- 173 a. \$2,400,000 Up-Front Cost
- 174 b. Annual Maintenance Costs
- 175 c. Monitoring required to ensure performance
- 176 d. Pelham School District owns and can sell energy credits
- 177 e. Purchased electricity still subject to market volatility
- 178 f. Must decommission after 25 years
- 179 g. Projected savings over 25 years is \$164,500

180
181 The Task Force came to the conclusion that the higher economic value and benefit from leasing through a
182 third-party ownership model. The private entity would own the assets and the District would lease the roofs to
183 the private entity. The energy would be sold to the School District at a reduced cost.

184
185 Ms. Greenblatt reviewed the three key objectives.

186 i. Economic

- 187 a. Solar provides a hedge against future electricity market volatility
- 188 b. Guaranteed performance
- 189 c. Estimated Annual Savings

190
191 ii. Educational

- 192 a. Production/Consumption data provided from arrays can be integrated into STEAM
193 curriculum
- 194 b. Green energy production becomes 'normal' for all students & staff

195
196 iii. Environmental

- 197 a. 38% offset of power used by the School District
- 198 b. Reduction of 1050 Tons of carbon dioxide per year

199
200 Dr. McGee thanked Ms. Greenblatt for the presentation and acknowledged that her expertise brought the
201 Task Force to this point.

202
203 Draft Warrant Article

204 Dr. McGee presented a Draft Warrant Article that is based on a similar one the Town approved in 2020.

205
206 Shall the District vote to authorize the School Board to enter into a long term lease of School District property
207 and a long term power purchase agreement for the purpose of installing solar panels and supplying power to
208 the District Schools on such terms and conditions as the School Board determines are in the best interest of
209 the district?

212 Next Steps

- 213 i. The Board will consider the Warrant Article at the October 20 School Board Meeting.
214 ii. The Board presents the warrant to voters in March 2022
215 iii. If the Warrant Article is approved by voters, the District will:
216 a. Send project out for formal bids (RFP)
217 b. Evaluate bids against key objectives (Economic, Educational, Environmental)
218 c. If a bid is viable, the District will negotiate favorable terms
219 d. Execute the project

220
221 Darlene Greenwood asked if the School District had to put any money into leasing the solar panels? Ms.
222 Greenblatt mentioned that there is no upfront cost, annual maintenance cost, just a commitment to purchase
223 the electricity from the third-party.
224

225 Thomas Gellar acknowledged that the price for electricity is volatile, and he asked if the cost of electricity in
226 the open market went up, would the School District also have to pay more for the electricity from the third-
227 party? Ms. Greenblatt stated that one of the models has a fixed rate with an annual escalator. The other
228 models index the price of electricity against the utility benefit.
229

230 Mr. Gellar asked what were the risks of getting into a 25-year lease if something was to happen to the roof?
231 He wanted to know who was responsible for the roof and who was responsible for the solar panels. Ms.
232 Greenblatt stated that the contract would allow the District to make repairs on its roof, for a certain period of
233 time, with no financial liability. The third party would be solely responsible for their asset. She added that
234 there is a buyout provision in the contract, to allow the District to own the solar panels.
235

236 Vice-Chair Troy Bressette asked Ms. Greenblatt to provide an explanation regarding what would happen to the
237 District's insurance? She stated that the owner of the asset fully insures the asset, and generally has full
238 replacement costs of the equipment. Ms. Greenblatt said that she would defer the question to the District's
239 insurance company.
240

241 Mr. Bressette mentioned that when the School Board explored the Draft Warrant Article a couple of years ago
242 regarding the solar energy, legal counsel or a consultant may have indicated that the District only needs to put
243 the lease of the roof space up for vote, and not necessarily the ability to enter the power purchase agreement.
244 Per the School District's Policy, the Business Administrator has the authority to negotiate those type of
245 competitive agreements.
246

247 Business Administrator Deb Mahoney stated that she had legal counsel review the Draft Warrant Article
248 language and to provide the District with some language, so that the School Board could see what the Draft
249 would look like. Ms. Mahoney added that they asked about the purchase-agreement and whether it should be
250 included. Legal counsel said that it does not hurt to have it in the language for the voters. The next step is to
251 draft the same document and send it to the DRA for review.
252

253 Mr. Gellar asked if there would be a drop off with regards to the efficiency of the solar panels, or would the
254 efficiency remain consistent? Ms. Greenblatt stated that the modular panels degrade at 0.5% a year, and there
255 is a guarantee by the manufacturer that the modules will be at least 80% to 85% efficient by year 25. She
256 added that there will be a performance guarantee in to contract.
257

258 Mr. Bressette thanked Ms. Greenblatt for the informative presentation, and thanked her being part of the
259 Task Force, and for joining the School Board this evening.
260

261 b. **Proposed Pelham High School Schedule for 2022-2023**

262 Vice-Chair Troy Bressette invited PHS Principal Dawn Mead to discuss her proposal on the 4 x 4 Block
263 Schedule.
264

265 Assistant Superintendent Sarah Marandos read the memo into the minutes. The memo read, 'The District is
266 recommending that they maintain the 4x4 Block Schedule for the 2022-2023 school year and beyond. It is the
267 most appropriate Schedule for Pelham High School and allows for student's voice and choice to drive the
268 Master Schedule. The District is making the recommendation now because on October 20 the District will be
269 coming back with our proposed changes to the program of studies and this decision will have an impact.
270

271 Dr. Marandos stated that the 4 x 4 Block Schedule was reintroduced and implemented for the 2020-2021 and
272 2021-2022 school years as a result of the pandemic. The Block Schedule allowed the District to keep students
273 in smaller cohorts with less mixing during the school day, and during the semester. Prior to the pandemic, PHS
274 was in an A/B Block Schedule, and the A/B Schedule was implemented in 2017.
275

276 Dr. Marandos mentioned that it is important to value the voices of the three major stakeholder groups. The
277 District surveyed parents, students, and faculty. The survey was completed in September 2021.
278

279 Dr. Marandos reviewed some of the key takeaways:

- 280 i. 90% of faculty, 86% of students, and 77% of parents prefer the 4 x 4 Block Schedule over the A/B
281 Schedule.
- 282 ii. The 4 x 4 schedule reduces the number of courses a student needs to manage at one time.
- 283 iii. At the same time, the A/B Schedule does allow for full-year courses.
- 284 iv. The placement of the Advisory Block in the bell Schedule will be reviewed at a later date. The
285 Program of Studies and the course selection process is not contingent on the Advisory Block.'
286

287 Dr. Marandos said that the District is looking to answer any questions that the School Board might have
288 regarding the 4 x 4 Block Schedule.
289

290 Mr. Bressette stated that he would open the meeting up for dialogue from the Board.
291

292 Darlene Greenwood asked if the 4 x 4 Block Schedule meant that students would take four classes in the first
293 half of the year, and four new classes in the second half of the year. Ms. Mead said that was correct, she
294 added that there are still quarter classes, and the AP classes will still meet for the entire school year.
295

296 Ms. Greenwood then asked how the AP courses are affected by the 4 x 4 Block Schedule? Dr. Marandos
297 mentioned that the District just changed the AP model during the pandemic to be the two credits. She added
298 that they are speaking with the Dean about continuing to move forward with the AP courses running a full
299 school year. She noted that the College courses are only worth one credit.
300

301 Chair Megan Larson thanked Ms. Day for speaking during Public Input. Similar to Ms. Day, Ms. Larson has two
302 kids who have worked full schedules and both prefer the 4 x 4 Block Schedule. She mentioned how her son
303 picked a college that allowed him to concentrate on smaller number of classes because of the accelerated
304 courses he takes. She talked about her concerns with the 4 x 4 Block Schedule regarding mathematics and
305 languages.
306

307 Ms. Mead mentioned that at the last Parent's Voice meeting parents asked about their children who want to
308 take a continuous math course. She noted that Deputy Assistant Principal Tina Tanguay was passionate about
309 how these are the conversations that should be happening.
310

311 Mr. Bressette commented that he wondered what type of due diligence was done leading into the proposal
312 for a 4 x 4 Block Schedule. He noted that the most important part was that the District considered the input of
313 all the key stakeholders. He mentioned that he spoke with Student Representative Lily Chafe and she also
314 supports the 4 x 4 Block Schedule.
315

316 Mr. Gellar commented that he was part of the School Board when the District moved from the 4 x 4 Block
317 Schedule to the A/B Schedule. The reason given for the change was that the 4 x 4 Schedule went by too quick.

318 He noted that if a student was out for a week the student would only miss about two classes using the A/B
319 Schedule and five classes using the 4 x 4 Schedule.

320
321 Mr. Gellar asked which schedule would provide better opportunity to improve math? Dr. Marandos
322 mentioned that students were restricted to taking only one math course a year, using the A/B/ Schedule, and
323 this limited their ability to take accelerated math courses. The 4 x 4 Schedule allows the student to take
324 accelerated math schedules.

325
326 Mr. Bressette asked for confirmation that the 4 x 4 Schedule would not be detrimental to the intervention
327 process? Dr. Marandos confirmed that Mr. Bressette was correct.

328
329 Ms. Larson mentioned that the 4 x 4 Schedule would allow the District to offer more courses and keep the
330 class size down. She added that now the School District uses Google Classroom and this allows the students to
331 stay on top of their assignments and not get behind. The assignments are posted in real-time before the class.

332
333 Dr. McGee stated that a decision regarding the proposal for a 4 x 4 Schedule does not need to be made
334 tonight. Instead, this is a heads in terms of what the program of studies will be built around.

335
336 Mr. Bressette thanked Ms. Mead for joining the School Board tonight, and Dr. Marandos for setting up the
337 4 x 4 Schedule proposal. Ms. Mead thanked Mr. Bressette for plugging the 'Turning the Lights Out on Pediatric
338 Cancer' project. She added that she was very happy the Athletic Director and her teams are pushing the
339 project.

340
341 c. **The Fiscal Year 2023 Budget:**

342 **School Board FY2023 Budget Items Discussion List**

343 Ms. Mahoney mentioned that she wanted to start the discussion of the reports that were provided to the
344 School Board regarding the budget. Ms. Mahoney commented that the District has been reviewing the
345 Superintendent's Report and making sure that everything is accurate. She noted that there were a few items
346 that are no longer visible in the report because of the way the report was cut.

347
348 Dr. McGee stated that there are five items that are no longer visible in the report, but they are Superintendent
349 Reductions from the meeting last week.

- 350
- 351 ii. PES – Furniture Replacement for art stools. Dr. McGee believes that the District can get through
352 another year without them. The amount of the reduction is \$2,530.
 - 353
 - 354 iii. PMS – Equipment Replacement for Physical Education. The request was for a rolling cart and the
355 amount of the reduction is \$550.
 - 356
 - 357 iv. PMS – Additional Equipment and Technology. There was a request for Promethean Boards and given
358 the reconstruction of PMS, the District has decided to hold off on the Promethean Boards. The
359 amount of the reduction is 9,600.
 - 360
 - 361 v. PHS – Furniture Replacement. PHS was looking for desk replacements in room 105. The amount of the
362 reduction is \$7,300.
 - 363
 - 364 vi. DW – Truck. There was a request for a replacement of truck. Dr. McGee mentioned that when the truck
365 does not pass inspection, the District will do without a truck.

366
367 The total amount from the five reductions is \$57,980.

368
369 Ms. Mahoney mentioned that the \$57,980 was reflected in the budget, but was not reflected in the pages of
370 the budget. She mentioned that she saw two errors when reviewing all the calculations and the personnel

371 budgeting. The two errors will be corrected in the report that she will be finalizing. The errors impact the total
372 dollars that were reported on the General Fund total. The starting amount for the Superintendent Budget,
373 before any changes, is \$38,157,144.76.
374

375 Dr. McGee stated that the \$38,157,144.76 is the bottom line budget that the Superintendent presented to the
376 School Board on September 29. He added that the two clarifications needed to be corrected to show where
377 the School Board is starting with the budget.
378

379 Ms. Larson mentioned that she asked Dr. McGee to send out a report on enrollment. She noted that after
380 reviewing the reports she believes they need to add a Teacher into the Kindergarten, instead of reallocating
381 the Teacher. She then commented that as the District begins to find out actual numbers for next year, if the
382 Board does not feel they need they need the extra Teacher then the Board can reallocate from what they
383 have.
384

385 Mr. Bressette commented that as the Board reviews the Board Level Adjustments, he suggested that the
386 Board work towards a consensus of the Board, and open up the items for dialogue. Dr. McGee and the School
387 Board members reviewed the procedures for going through the Board Level Adjustments. A tie vote would
388 mean no change to the budget item.
389

390 **Superintendent's Budget – General Fund by Location**

391
392 Dr. Marandos stated that the BIMAS 2 Screener K-12 Universal Assessment is used in PES, and a small
393 population of PMS, and PHS. She believes the \$4,000 cut is an adequate amount to support the initiative. The
394 consensus was to reduce the line item by \$4,000.
395

396 Dr. Marandos mentioned that Discovery Education is now free. The consensus was to reduce the line item by
397 \$2,400.
398

399 Dr. Marandos commented that the Analytics Software for Assessment Data is not meeting the needs, and is no
400 longer used. The consensus was to reduce the line item by \$7,562.
401

402 Level 2 Superintendent Cut for Band. \$600 was added instead of reduced, and required a \$1,200 reduction.
403 The consensus was to reduce the line item by \$1,200.
404

405 Level 2 Superintendent Cut for General Music. \$500 was added instead of reduced, and required a \$1,000
406 reduction. The consensus was to reduce the line item by \$1,000.
407

408 Dr. McGee mentioned the Students Reports for SBAC and iREADY. Dr. McGee stated that there was no budget
409 to print the reports. The consensus was to reduce the line item by \$2,000.
410

411 Dr. McGee commented the Cannon Copier Annual Lease Payment Plan. Ms. Mahoney stated that lease is
412 ending and the District will buyout the copier. The consensus was to reduce the line item by \$1,980.
413

414 Dr. McGee mentioned the Google Enterprise Licenses. Ms. Mahoney stated that this was a double budget and
415 has been budgeted with other DW software. The consensus was to reduce the line item by \$7,300.
416

417 Dr. McGee mentioned the vacant position for lunch monitor. Ms. Mahoney commented that they identified
418 this in a previous discussion. She stated that the District has one vacant lunch monitor, and two vacant recess
419 monitors. The adjustments align with what the District budgets for salaries.

420 Dr. McGee commented that he wanted to be clear that Special Education is an area that he is requesting a
421 reduction, but he wants to make sure it is allocated in the right spot. The position that is proposed to be
422 reduced is a vacant Special Education Case Manager. The reduction will not affect any current staff.
423

424 Dr. McGee proposed that one of vacancies be left open, or if the District is able to fill the position that the
425 position be interim.

426
427 Ms. Greenwood asked if the District needed a supervisor position for the students that have been sent out of
428 the District. Dr. McGee stated that the responsibility belongs to the Assistant Director of Student Services.

429
430 Mr. Bressette mentioned that both he and Ms. Larson had spoken to Daily Subs and Long-Term Subs and the
431 amounts proposed. Ms. Larson asked that the District do some work, and Ms. Mahoney provided spreadsheet
432 to the School Board. Mr. Bressette asked Ms. Mahoney to explain what the Board was looking at. Ms.
433 Mahoney stated that she provided the Board with the number of days that were paid for substituting for the
434 Teacher Subs, Para Subs, and other hourly Nursing Subs.

435
436 The spreadsheet showed several years to allow the Board to see a trend. Ms. Mahoney acknowledged that
437 2020 and 2021 were different years because the District was not bringing in substitutes.

438
439 Mr. Bressette asked for Ms. Mahoney's recommendation based on the review? He mentioned that the Board
440 has a couple of different proposals. One proposal is for a \$50,000 reduction and another proposal is for a
441 \$65,000 reduction.

442
443 Ms. Mahoney suggested that the District should plan for 1,000 days of Daily Subs which is \$110,000 a year,
444 and is a \$15,000 reduction. As for Long-Term substitutes, she suggested budgeting for \$90,000. Ms. Larson
445 agreed with the reduction of \$15,000 for Daily Subs and a reduction of \$35,000 for Long-Term Subs. The
446 consensus was a reduction of \$15,000 for Daily Subs and a reduction of \$35,000 for Long-Term Subs. The
447 consensus was to reduce the line item by \$7,300.

448
449 Ms. Mahoney commented that the related Social Security reduction would be \$3,825, and the Teacher
450 reduction would be \$7,357.

451
452 Ms. Larson stated that she wanted to level-fund both 890 Miscellaneous on pages 9, 18, 64 and 79. Ms. Larson
453 added that she wanted to level-fund Textbooks - Additional. Mr. Bressette stated that he would like to see the
454 \$2,000, from page nine, and \$3,000, from page 18, stay in the budget to help with Teacher appreciation. He
455 added that a little bit of spending that can go a long way to enhance climate and culture. The consensus of the
456 Board was to go level funded. Mr. Bressette went on the record as not supporting the reductions.

457
458 Ms. Larson stated that she wanted to level-fund 335 Legal Services on page 91, and she asked if next year was
459 a contract year? Ms. Mahoney confirmed that they will be negotiating with the support staff. Dr. McGee
460 supported the reduction of \$5,000 for legal services. The consensus was to reduce the line item by \$5,000.

461
462 Ms. Larson commented that she wanted to correct the over budget for 291 TSA Match, page 92. The
463 correction reduced the budget by \$7,180.65.

464
465 Ms. Larson mentioned that she wanted to correct the estimate for 610 Supplies, page 110. She proposed
466 reducing the budget by \$5,000. The consensus was to reduce the line item by \$5,000.

467
468 The Board discussed adding a 1.0 FTE Teacher for Kindergarten. The addition of a full-time Kindergarten
469 Teacher would increase the budget by \$47,916 for the salary and \$37,054.29 for benefits. Mr. Gellar was
470 comfortable adding the full-time Kindergarten Teacher with the understanding that the Teacher might be
471 reallocated if not needed. The consensus was to add the line item by \$47,916 for salary and \$37,054.29 for
472 benefits.

473
474 Ms. Mahoney mentioned moving the lunch room tables from line 734 to 737. The correction was made.

475
476 Ms. Mahoney mentioned adding a note regarding what remaining \$3,300 is for. The note was added.

477
478 Mr. Bressette mentioned the 738 Equipment Replacement for the Music budget. He added that the Music
479 budget is already minimal. Ms. Larson commented that if it is really important to the Music program, they will
480 go out and purchase it The vote was two to two; no change was made.

481
482 Mr. Bressette mentioned the 610 Supplies for the STEAM budget in PES. He commented that he wanted the
483 STEAM budget to be approached with a level of consistency. Ms. Mahoney mentioned that if the supplies are
484 important the STEAM program will go out and purchase the supplies. Mr. Bressette asked for Ms. Mahoney to
485 describe the type of reconciling process that the District uses. Ms. Mahoney commented that the District was
486 focusing on starting a new program at PMS regarding supplies for the STEAM program. The amounts are not
487 proportional because the startup cost for the PMS STEAM program is part of the Fiscal Year 2023 budget. The
488 vote was two to two; no change was made.

489
490 Mr. Bressette mentioned line 640 Textbook – Replacement. He noted that the textbooks are not being
491 replaced. He asked that a note be placed in the budget indicating that this is a six-year license.

492
493 Mr. Bressette mentioned line 640 Textbook – Replacement. He noted that the textbooks are essential for
494 continuity from grades two through five. He also wants to have consistency with the Teachers across the grade
495 level. He asked Dr. Marandos if she wanted to add context to the Wonder Program? Dr. Marandos mentioned
496 that the Administration from PES is looking for some consistency amongst Teachers who are supplementing
497 with different material. She added that this would enrich the LEA program.

498
499 Mr. Bressette pointed out that getting comprehension built at an early grade level is key to not having math
500 issues later on. He requested that Ms. Greenwood describe what it is like to come up with her own materials,
501 and asked if it would be fair to say that there would be significant efficiencies to be gained by instituting this in
502 the second grade? Ms. Greenwood acknowledged that she spent a lot of time coming up with her own work,
503 and comprehension is very important. Mr. Bressette added that the six-year license costs \$24,090 and is
504 around \$4,000 a year for the program.

505
506 Ms. Larson noted that the budget is steep already, and the addition of a Kindergarten teacher should take
507 precedence over the six-year reading program. She suggested preparing the Teachers to get ready for the six-
508 year reading program. Dr. McGee mentioned that this was one of the most difficult cuts, but he reminded the
509 Board that the program was part of the Superintendent’s cut list. The consensus was to increase the line item
510 by \$24,090.

511
512 Mr. Bressette mentioned on line 640 Textbooks – Replacement. He noted that the line should be corrected so
513 that the notes reconcile with the budget amounts.

514
515 Mr. Bressette commented on line 610 Supplies, from page 24. He said that the Board could make a cut for
516 Cricut and 3D printing materials. The consensus was to reduce the line item by \$1,000.

517
518 Mr. Bressette commented on line 325 Testing Protocols, from page 45. He stated that the cut was for
519 consistency. Ms. Mahoney noted that the District is using an online service for most of the testing protocols.
520 The reductions should not impact the District’s ability to perform their evaluations. The consensus was to
521 reduce the line item by \$1,000.

522
523 Mr. Bressette commented on line 332 Tutor Services, from page 45. Mr. Bressette mentioned that he would
524 like to level-fund the Tutor Services. Ms. Mahoney stated that this was for ESY, and Special Education
525 Tutoring. She added that the District is going to significantly go over the budget for ESY, this year. Mr.
526 Bressette withdrew his request for a reduction.

527

528 Ms. Larson requested the Board go back to line 325 Testing Protocols, from page 45. She asked Ms. Mahoney
529 if \$1,000 was the correct amount to cut from the budget. Ms. Mahoney asked for a minute to review the FY
530 2019 budget information regarding Testing Protocols. Mr. Bressette withdrew his request for a reduction.
531

532 Mr. Bressette commented on line 810 Dues and Fees (Athletics), from page 57. He mentioned that the
533 historical spending did not support spending \$30,000. Ms. Mahoney acknowledged that the last couple of
534 years the District has not been participating in athletics the way they were in prior years. She added that
535 swimming, and hockey contracts have increased their fees. Mr. Bressette withdrew his request for a
536 reduction.
537

538 Mr. Bressette asked Ms. Mahoney if she wanted to go back to the Ms. Larson's question. Ms. Mahoney stated
539 that in FY2019 the District did not have a budget for Testing Protocols. Ms. Mahoney commented that she did
540 not have an answer for Ms. Larson as she does not know how much each Testing Protocol costs. Ms. Larson
541 stated that she was fine with the reduction, but would like to have a note added to see where the District ends
542 up regarding spending on Testing Protocols. The consensus was to reduce the line item by \$1,000.
543

544 The Board took a moment to review the decisions regarding 332 Tutor Services and 810 Dues and Fees
545 (Athletics). Mr. Bressette agreed to withdraw his requests for deductions with both budget items.
546

547 Mr. Bressette commented on line 550 Social Work Printing, from page 59. He asked what the justification was
548 to budget for PMS and not PES? Ms. Mahoney stated that it was Social Work Printing and Supplies at the
549 different school levels. It was determined that the need at PES did not require a budget for printing. Mr.
550 Bressette withdrew his request for an addition.
551

552 Mr. Bressette commented on line 610 Supplies, from page 59. He stated that historical spending appeared to
553 justify the \$550 budget, and would level fund the budget. Dr. McGee mentioned that the Social Worker has
554 received a lot of donated supplies. Mr. Bressette withdrew his request for an addition.
555

556 Mr. Bressette commented on line 610 Supplies, from page 73. He stated that historical spending appeared to
557 justify the \$550 budget, and would level fund the budget. Dr. McGee mentioned he was proposing a \$220
558 reduction based on historical spending. The consensus was to reduce the line item by \$220.
559

560 Mr. Bressette commented on line 610 Occupational Therapy Supplies, from page 77. He stated that OT has
561 zero historical spending for OT Supplies, and proposed a reduction of \$1,000. Ms. Mahoney provided the
562 FY2019 budget for the OT Supply line and the amount was \$2,505.86. The consensus was to reduce the line
563 item by \$1,000.
564

565 Mr. Bressette commented on line Occupational Therapy Equipment – Additional, from page 77. He stated that
566 OT has zero historical spending for OT Equipment – Additional, and proposed a reduction of \$1,000. Ms.
567 Mahoney provided the FY2019 budget for the OT Equipment - Additional line and the amount was \$596.33.
568 The consensus was to reduce the line item by \$1,000.
569

570 Mr. Bressette commented on line 110 Salaries, from page 78. He mentioned that he looked at this budget line
571 earlier and stated that he confused the Responsibility Pool with the Extra-Curricular Pool. He was expecting an
572 itemized list for the \$76,000. Mr. Bressette withdrew his request for a correction.
573

574 Mr. Bressette commented on line 641 Textbooks-Additional, from page 79. Mr. Bressette stated that he was
575 proposing to level-fund the budget. The consensus was to reduce the line item by \$100.

576 Mr. Bressette commented on line 550 Printing, from page 96. He stated that agenda books are essential
577 organizational tools for for fourth and fifth grade students. Me. Bressette proposed adding \$650 to the budget.
578 The consensus was to increase the line item by \$650.
579

580 Mr. Bressette commented on line 442 Rental/Lease Equipment, from page 99. Mr. Bressette stated that he did
581 not hear the support for an additional copier in the PHS library. Ms. Mahoney mentioned how old the copier
582 is, how at times the copier stops working, and by FY2023 the copier will no longer be functioning. The
583 consensus was to reduce the line item by \$4,700.

584
585 Mr. Bressette commented on line 650 Software, from pages 124 and 125. Mr. Bressette mentioned that it
586 would be more appropriate to level-fund the line. Ms. Mahoney stated that the Google item was thought to
587 be a new Google Suite, but it is one that the School District has used for many years The consensus was to
588 reduce the line item by \$1,900.

589
590 **Superintendent's Budget – General Fund 10**

591
592 The total adjustment for the School Board is \$129,470.22, as a reduction.

593
594 The total budget that would be voted on is \$38,027,674.54 (General Fund).

595
596 Mr. Gellar made a motion to approve the General Fund Budget number at \$38,027,674.54.; Ms. Greenwood
597 seconded the motion. The motion passed (4-0-0)

598 **Roll Call Vote:**

599 Chair Megan Larson - Yes
600 Vice-Chair Troy Bressette - Yes
601 Thomas Gellar - Yes
602 Darlene Greenwood - Yes

603
604 **Superintendent's Budget – Nutrition Services Fund 21**

605
606 The Nutrition Budget for Fund 21 is \$1,157,875.

607
608 Mr. Gellar made a motion to approve the Nutrition Budget at \$1,157,875.; Ms. Greenwood seconded the motion.
609 The motion passed (4-0-0)

610
611 **Roll Call Vote:**

612 Chair Megan Larson - Yes
613 Vice-Chair Troy Bressette - Yes
614 Thomas Gellar - Yes
615 Darlene Greenwood - Yes

616
617 **Superintendent's Budget – Grants Fund 22**

618
619 The Grants Fund is \$705,865.

620
621 Mr. Gellar made a motion to approve the Grants Budget at \$705,865.; Ms. Greenwood seconded the motion. The
622 motion passed (4-0-0)

623
624 **Roll Call Vote:**

625 Chair Megan Larson - Yes
626 Vice-Chair Troy Bressette - Yes
627 Thomas Gellar - Yes
628 Darlene Greenwood - Yes

629
630 **Superintendent's Budget – Other Special Revenue Fund 25**

631

632 The Special Revenue Fund 25 is \$52,000.

633

634 Mr. Gellar made a motion to approve the Special Revenue Fund at \$52,000.; Ms. Greenwood seconded the
635 motion. The motion passed (4-0-0)

636

637 **Roll Call Vote:**

638 Chair Megan Larson - Yes

639 Vice-Chair Troy Bressette - Yes

640 Thomas Gellar - Yes

641 Darlene Greenwood - Yes

642

643 The total for all funds is \$39,943,414.54. This reflects a 9.7% increase from the approved FY 2022 budget.

644

645 Vice-Chair Troy Bressette mentioned that during the last meeting the Board had a conversation regarding
646 what percentage of the budget would likely be part of the Default Budget. The amount was well over 90%, and
647 the District can begin to work on the Default Budget.

648

649 Business Administrator Deb Mahoney noted that the next step is to prepare the School Board Packet for the
650 Budget Committee. The report is due on Friday, October 15.

651

652 Mr. Bressette stated that he was very grateful for all the hard work that went into getting the budget to this
653 point.

654

655 **Updated Annual Election Calendar**

656

657 Business Administrator Deb Mahoney stated that legal counsel informed her that the Deliberative Session
658 needed to be moved into the second week of February 2022.

659

660 She noted that the Deliberative Session date is Wednesday, February 9, 2022.

661

662 Mr. Gellar made a motion to accept the 2022 Annual Meeting and Election calendar, as presented.; Ms.
663 Greenwood seconded the motion. The motion passed (4-0-0)

664

665 **Roll Call Vote:**

666 Chair Megan Larson - Yes

667 Vice-Chair Troy Bressette - Yes

668 Thomas Gellar - Yes

669 Darlene Greenwood - Yes

670

671 d. **Pandemic Response:**

672 i. **Key Takeaways Regarding the Pandemic**

673 Superintendent Chip McGee mentioned that he was grateful to the staff and the families that the school
674 building are still open. He noted that the onsite PCR Clinic was today, and is open to all who are interested on
675 a weekly basis. The testing is bi-weekly for the students having the test during the school day.

676

677 He added that the current rule for facemasks is anyone within three feet of another person for more than an
678 incidental amount of time must wear a mask. Otherwise, the masks are recommended, but not required.

679

680 Mr. Gellar asked if the District had performed 347 tests or were 347 student's tested? Dr. McGee noted that
681 347 tests were performed. He commented that last week he saw an increase in the number of tests
682 performed, and added that the test is open and very convenient.

683

684 ii. **Hillsborough County**
685 The Covid-19 PCR test positivity as a 7-day average was 4.2% (Minimal) on September 29 and was 4.0%
686 (Minimal) on October 6. The number of new infections per 100,000 population for the prior 14 days was 439
687 (Substantial) on September 29 and was 430 (Substantial) on October 6.
688
689 iii. **Town of Pelham**
690 The Covid-19 PCR test positivity as a 7-day average was 5.1% (Moderate) on September 29 and was 4.5%
691 (Minimal) on October 6. The number of new infections per 100,000 population for the prior 14 days was 643
692 (Substantial) on September 29 and was 692 (Substantial) on October 6. 692 equates to 98 people in Pelham
693 with new positive cases of Covid-19.
694
695 iv. **Level of School Impact**
696 The next metric that Dr. McGee reviewed was the Level of School Impact. Dr. McGee mentioned that the
697 transmission within schools on September 29 was 'Medium' and was 'Medium' on October 6. He noted that
698 the level of student absenteeism was 9.0% (Low) on September 29 and 8.5% (Medium) on October 6. The staff
699 capacity on September 29 was considered 'Normal' and was considered 'Normal' on October 6.
700
701 v. **Transmission Within Schools**
702 Dr. McGee commented that he was decided to adjust his community-wide announcement. Instead of sending
703 out an email out every day if there was a positive case of Covid-19, he will now send out one email a week on
704 Thursday. Vice-Chair Troy Bressette thanked Dr. McGee for adapting his approach with community
705 notification. Mr. Bressette noted that if the District continued with sending daily announcements, the concern
706 would be that the information would become diluted.
707
708 vi. **The Big Seven**
709 The District will continue to follow the big seven mitigation steps:
710 a. Masks
711 b. Distancing
712 c. Hand Sanitation
713 d. Screening
714 e. Ventilation
715 f. Vaccines
716 g. PCR Testing
717
718 a. **Pelham Memorial School Building Project:**
719 Superintendent Chip McGee presented the School Board with a new presentation of the Memorial School
720 Renovation. The report regarding the PMS Building Project will be a monthly report. There are five phases to
721 the reconstruction of PMS. The five phases are:
722 i. Phase 1 – Construct all additions, temporary drop-off, and relocate the portables.
723 a. Base pavement of new parking lot has been installed, and is getting striped.
724 b. New septic system is underway.
725 c. Site work east of classroom wing is underway.
726 d. The groundbreaking ceremony took place on Saturday, September 25. A time capsule from the 1970's
727 was unveiled.
728 ii. Phase 2 – Begin gym renovation to the cafeteria, additions to continue
729 iii. Phase 3 – Library, Main Entrance, and the additions are completed
730 iv. Phase 4 – Renovations
731 v. Phase 5 – Renovations, Remove Portables, and restore the site
732 The Total Hard Cost for the project was \$26,995,000, the year-to-date expended is \$(35,342.47), and the
733 remaining amount is \$26,959,657.53. The Total Soft Cost for the project was \$3,485,000, and the remaining
734 amount is \$3,039,723.81. The owner contingency amount was \$1,500,000, and the remaining contingency
735 amount is \$1,500,000.
736

737 Dr. McGee mentioned that the School District is facing big challenges regarding the supply chain. Dr. McGee
738 noted that he talked to the School Board about the bar joist, and the lead time on the bar joist is over one
739 year. The Project Management Team is working overtime on some value engineering ways of getting the same
740 product.

741
742 Vice-Chair Troy Bressette requested that Dr. McGee provide a high-level overview of how the impact from the
743 supply chain issues, not only in cost and timing, factor into the maximum guaranteed budget? His concern is
744 that the community will have inflation in the forefront of their minds. Dr. McGee stated that the guaranteed
745 maximum price that the community voted on is a contractual obligation with Trident. They are obligated to
746 deliver the school as conceptually designed for that price.

747
748 Mr. Gellar asked stated that at the last construction update, on September 1, the remaining amount for the
749 Owner's Contingency Fund was \$550, and wanted to know if it was taken back out. Ms. Mahoney mentioned
750 that she and David Mermelstein reviewed the budgets and made sure that all the expenditures were aligned
751 with the contracts. She noted that she may have moved an expenditure from one line to where it belonged.

752
753 **b. Donations:**
754 **a. United Way of Greater Nashua**
755 Business Administrator Deb Mahoney commented that the District received 20,000 disposable 3-ply
756 masks from the United Way of Greater Nashua. The 3-ply masks were provided at no charge to School
757 Districts in the State of New Hampshire. The estimated value of the masks at .06 cents each is \$1,200. She
758 asked that the Board accept the masks, as the District has already provided some of the masks to the bus
759 company.
760

761 Mr. Gellar made a motion to accept the donation of 20,000 disposable masks from the United Way of Greater
762 Nashua.; Ms. Greenwood seconded the motion. The motion passed (4-0-0)

763
764 **Roll Call Vote:**
765 Chair Megan Larson - Yes
766 Vice-Chair Troy Bressette - Yes
767 Thomas Gellar - Yes
768 Darlene Greenwood - Yes

769
770 **b. PHS Baseball Field Improvement**
771
772 Business Administrator Deb Mahoney commented that the Pelham High School Baseball program
773 received a donation from a community member for \$15,000 for baseball field improvements. Mr. Ralph
774 Judkins has attended our baseball games and chose to donate funds to support the program.

775
776 Athletic Director Todd Kress has been working with the Director of Facilities Brian Sands to assess the
777 infield conditions and how they can go about improving the fields. The District has started to receive
778 quotes to improve the field with the use of the funds. She asked the Board to accept the funds. Mr.
779 Bressette agreed the donation was very generous. He added that the donation made him proud to be
780 member of the community, and the impact that the community members can have for the betterment of
781 the District.

782
783 Mr. Gellar made a motion to accept the generous donation of \$15,000 by Mr. Ralph Judkins Jr.; Ms. Greenwood
784 seconded the motion. The motion passed (4-0-0)

785
786 **Roll Call Vote:**
787 Chair Megan Larson - Yes
788 Vice-Chair Troy Bressette - Yes

789 Thomas Gellar - Yes
790 Darlene Greenwood - Yes

791

792 **c. Policy Revision:**

793 The Board reviewed the below policies.

794

795 **i. First Reading:**

796 a. No First Reading

797

798 **ii. Second Reading:**

799 a. JI – Student Rights and Responsibilities

800 b. JIA – Due Process Procedures

801 c. JIC – Student Conduct

802 d. JICD – Student, Discipline and Due Process

803 e. BID – Payment for Services Rendered by School District Officers

804 Mr. Gellar made a motion to accept the policies, as presented.; Ms. Greenwood seconded the motion. The motion
805 passed (4-0-0)

806

807 **Roll Call Vote:**

808 Chair Megan Larson - Yes

809 Vice-Chair Troy Bressette - Yes

810 Thomas Gellar - Yes

811 Darlene Greenwood - Yes

812

813 **4. Board Member Reports:**

814 i. Thomas Gellar – Mr. Gellar gave a shout out to the Pelham PD. He mentioned that he lives close-by and
815 he sees the police officers checking on speeding vehicles, while the Town has School Zone lights flashing.

816

817 Mr. Bressette thanked Mr. Gellar for his comments.

818 **5. Housekeeping:**

819 a. **Adoption of Minutes**

820 i. September 29, 2021 – Draft Public Minutes

821

822 Mr. Gellar made a motion to adopt September 29, 2021, Public School Board Minutes, as stated.; Ms. Greenwood
823 seconded the motion. The motion passed (4-0-0)

824

825 **Roll Call Vote:**

826 Chair Megan Larson - Yes

827 Vice-Chair Troy Bressette - Yes

828 Thomas Gellar - Yes

829 Darlene Greenwood - Yes

830

831 ii. September 29, 2021 – Draft Non-Public Minutes

832

833 Mr. Gellar made a motion to accept the two September 29, 2021, Non-Public School Board Minutes, as stated.; Ms.
834 Greenwood seconded the motion. The motion passed (4-0-0)

835

836 **Roll Call Vote:**

837 Chair Megan Larson - Yes

838 Vice-Chair Troy Bressette - Yes

839 Thomas Gellar - Yes
840 Darlene Greenwood - Yes

841
842 b. **Vendor and Payroll Manifests**
843 i. 207M \$36.96
844

845 Business Administrator Deb Mahoney mentioned that the Vendor and Payroll Manifest was intended for the next
846 School Board meeting. She asked the School Board withdraw the manifest.
847

848 c. **Correspondence & Information**
849 i. None
850

851 d. **Enrollment Report**
852 Dr. McGee mentioned that the enrollment report offers two things:
853 i. **Official October 1 Enrollment**
854 a. Dr. McGee mentioned that the report referenced the data from the beginning of the year, but also
855 referenced the end of last year's same grade.
856
857 ii. **Enrollment Projections**
858 a. The report gives the School Board the District's best guess at what the FY 2023 enrollments will be,
859 and the FY 2024 will be done by grade. The report also shows the Superintendent's recommendation
860 regarding class size.
861

862 Mr. Bressette asked if the District would update the Superintendent Recommendation according to the
863 budget this evening? Dr. McGee stated that he could change it, but it still represents his recommendation.
864

865 e. **Staffing Updates**

866 i. **Leaves:**
867 a. None
868

869 ii. **Resignations:**
870 a. None
871

872 iii. **Nominations:**
873 a. None
874

875 6. **Future Agenda Planning:**

876 a. None
877

878 7. **Future Meetings:**

879 a. 10/20/2021 – 6:30 pm School Board Meeting @ PES Library
880 b. 11/03/2021 – 6:30 pm School Board Meeting @ PES Library
881

882 8. **Adjournment:**

883 Mr. Gellar made a motion to adjourn the School Board Meeting at 8:49 pm; Ms. Greenwood seconded the motion.
884 The motion passed (4-0-0).

885 **Roll Call Vote:**

886 Chair Megan Larson - Yes
887 Vice-Chair Troy Bressette - Yes
888 Thomas Gellar - Yes
889 Darlene Greenwood - Yes
890

891
892 Respectfully Submitted,
893 Matthew Sullivan
894 School Board Recording Secretary