

**Pelham School Board Meeting
January 19, 2022
Pelham Elementary School
6:30 pm**

In Attendance:

School Board Members: Megan Larson, Chair; Troy Bressette, Vice-Chair; Thomas Gellar; Darlene Greenwood; and David Wilkerson

Superintendent: Chip McGee

Assistant Superintendent: Sarah Marandos

Business Administrator: Deb Mahoney

Student Representative: Lily Chafe

Also in Attendance:

1. Call to Order:

Chair Megan Larson called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm and requested that everyone stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Wilkerson requested that the Scouts from Pack 610 lead the group with the Pledge of Allegiance.

a. Public Hearing @ 6:33 pm:

Ms. Larson asked if anyone was present for Public Input or to make recommendations for using the ESSER III funds.

No one was present for Public Input or to make a recommendation on the use of the ESSER III funds.

Public Hearing closed at 6:34 pm.

b. Opening Remarks:

Student Representative:

Lily Chafe commented that on Monday, January 17, the School District was closed in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. She mentioned that the boys' basketball team won their game against Conval on January 18. Ms. Chafe noted that January 19 was the last day of new instruction for Semester One. Ms. Chafe stated that January 20 and 21 were Recovery Days for Semester 1. If a student is satisfied with the work they have completed for all of their courses, then the student does not have to attend school on these days but must call the school and let them know they will be out. Ms. Chafe commented that Monday, January 24, would be the first day of Semester Two. She noted that on January 27, there would be a Parent Voice Meeting.

Ms. Chafe stated that for the fourth year in a row, PHS students received more awards at the Scholastic Art Awards than any other school, of similar size, in the State of New Hampshire. She noted that this year was an especially strong showing, as PHS students accounted for approximately 12% of all the awards given to New Hampshire Art students.

Ms. Chafe commented that PHS received 118 awards, including three Gold Key Portfolios, making this one of PHS' most successful years to date. She said that the 2021 PHS Yearbook, titled "Unmasking 2021", won the second-place award from the American Scholastic Yearbook & Magazine. Ms. Chafe added that PHS is looking for feedback on whether any students would be interested in joining a dance team for the Spring.

The Board congratulated Ms. Chafe on winning several awards at the Scholastic Arts Awards.

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Superintendent:

Superintendent Chip McGee mentioned that the Art recognition was remarkable, and he thanked the Board for their support of the expansion of the Art Program. Dr. McGee noted that PMS girls' basketball is excellent this year, and they are currently 8-1.

Dr. McGee commented that the District had an emergency event at PES. The event affected the SAU Office, where the Pre-School is located. Dr. McGee mentioned that PES went to PMS, but the Pre-School students and staff had to walk down to PHS.

Dr. McGee stated that the District has an optional/drop-in Booster Clinic for students and staff on Friday, January 21, from 3:30 pm until 5:00 pm. Staff and students should check their email to sign-up for the Booster Clinic.

2. Presentations:

Boy Scouts of America – Pack 610 Arrow of Light Den:

Mr. Wilkerson introduced Adam Murphy as one of the leaders of Pack 610. Mr. Murphy said that he was a Den Leader for the Arrow of Light Scouts, and he introduced four fifth-grade student Scout members. The four Scouts were Lucia, Kamdem, Keegan, and Amelia. Mr. Murphy noted that the Den had a vote regarding whom they wanted to interview in the Town with their requirements, and the Scouts came up with the questions on their own.

Lucia asked, "Why did you want to become a School Board member?" Mr. Bressette thanked Lucia for the question and thanked the Scouts for attending the meeting. Mr. Bressette stated that he placed his name on the ballot for the School Board because he wanted to give back to the community. Ms. Greenwood mentioned that she was a teacher at PES for many years, and after she retired, she asked herself, "what is the next step for me?" and the decision was to become part of the School Board. Mr. Gellar stated that he had been a Board member before and chose to become a member again. He added that he also wanted to give back to the community. Mr. Wilkerson commented that he subscribes to the idea that he should always do his best for God and country. He added that he chose to become a School Board member to do his duty to the community.

Lucia then asked, "How did you make the decisions to reopen the schools during Covid?" Ms. Greenwood commented that the decision to reopen the schools was very long and hard. She noted that the School Board worked together for what was in the best interests of the students and staff. Ms. Larson mentioned that the Board received guidance from the NH-DHHS, the health experts. Mr. Gellar stated that the decision is very difficult regarding safely getting the students back into the schools. Mr. Bressette said that he liked the comment about teamwork and collaboration. He added that Dr. McGee, Dr. Marandos, Ms. Mahoney, all the teachers, and parents throughout the District are part of the team.

Kamden asked, "How many members are on the School Board?" Ms. Larson mentioned that there are five members on the Board. Each member is elected to three-year terms, but the terms are staggered. She noted that there are two positions on the ballot this year. Ms. Larson mentioned that the terms are staggered so that the entire Board does not turn over simultaneously. Mr. Bressette commented that the Board has an odd number of members so that the Board will not have a tie vote.

Kamden then asked, "Do you each have a special position?" Ms. Larson stated that she is the Chair of the School Board, and Mr. Bressette is the Vice-Chair. She added that each member has responsibilities outside of the Board and sits on other Committees that are formed within the District. Mr. Wilkerson mentioned that the main job of the Chair is to work with the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, and Business Administrator to define the agenda. He noted that the agenda has to be posted before the School Board can meet. Mr. Gellar commented that the decisions made by the Board have to be public, and the Board can only make decisions in non-public under specific legal reasons. Mr. Bressette stated that many fun things are going

106 on in the District. He noted that the District has the PMS renovation, and some committees oversee the
107 renovation.
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109 Kamden asked, "What do you see as a major issue facing the Pelham School District?" Ms. Greenwood stated
110 that Covid is a significant issue. Mr. Bressette noted that Covid is an issue in Pelham, New Hampshire, the
111 United States, and worldwide. He said that one of the questions on the ballot this year is about having a full-
112 day Kindergarten. Mr. Bressette commented that he hoped the Board would be able to provide a full-day
113 Kindergarten to the community. Mr. Gellar mentioned that he wanted to improve the math program, and the
114 Board would receive a presentation later in the meeting regarding how to improve the math program.
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116 Keegan asked, "How do you determine the type of healthy food to serve to the students?" Ms. Larson stated
117 that the District has a Food Service Director in charge of the nutrition program. The Food Service Director has
118 a specific certification to hold that position, and they oversee all the Food Service and the food that is served.
119 She added that PHS surveyed the students to ask what foods the students would like. The same thing will
120 happen at PMS when the renovation of the school is complete.
121

122 Keegan then asked, "How do you hire qualified teachers and substitute teachers?" Mr. Gellar stated that the
123 School Board does not do the hiring; the Board talks about the contracts regarding pay and benefits, and the
124 Administration does the hiring. Ms. Larson noted that the Administration brings the teachers to the Board and
125 the Board makes the final decision. She added that many of the substitutes live in the community and are
126 moms and dads that want to help the School District.
127

128 Mr. Murphy thanked the Board for time out of their meeting to help the Scouts learn some things. The Board
129 thanked the Scouts for choosing to ask the School Board questions.
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131 **3. Main Issues / Policy Updates:**

132 a. **Math Task Force Report:**

133 Assistant Superintendent Sarah Marandos introduced some of the members of the Math Task Force:

- 134 i. Dawn Mead, PHS Principal
- 135 ii. Kimberly Dexter, PHS Dean of Math
- 136 iii. Jessica Makara, PHS Math Teacher
- 137 iv. Karena Carten, PMS Math Coach, Department Head
- 138 v. Eileen Kelly, PMS Grade 8 Math Teacher
- 139 vi. Beth Philcrantz, PES Grade 5 Teacher
- 140 vii. Wendy Henderson, PES Grade 1 Teacher

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142 Dr. Marandos mentioned that the Math Task Force met after the School Board provided the charge to create
143 the goal. The Task Force met five times. One of the goals of the Task Force was to gather information to give
144 an overview of where the District currently is at regarding mathematics. She added that the presentation
145 would be broken up into three parts:

- 146 i. Overview
- 147 ii. Goals
- 148 iii. Recommendations

149
150 **The Task Force determined the following:**

- 151 i. The current curriculum map covers the key state standards for math concepts.
- 152 ii. The District offers a variety of assessments across grade levels, including Diagnostic Assessments (i-
153 Ready), Benchmark Assessments, and State-Mandated Assessments (PSATs, SATs, and SAS).
- 154 iii. The District's core instructional program and textbooks are reasonably selected and adopted. The Task
155 Force offered several interventions for students who struggle. The intervention is typically provided
156 outside of the class-time, in a period called "What I Need" or (WIN).
- 157 iv. The District's professional development efforts appear insufficient. The District needs to provide more
158 professional development for our elementary level teachers.

159
160 Mr. Wilkerson asked what the meaning of “reasonably” regarding curriculum is. Dr. Marandos stated that the
161 textbook programs that the District is using had been used for a long time, and the Task Force believed that
162 programs and textbooks are sufficient, as needed.

163
164 Mr. Wilkerson asked how the District would measure the effectiveness of their intervention. Dr. Marandos
165 commented that this would be covered further in the report, but information gathering will provide which
166 interventions are given at each grade level.

167
168 Ms. Greenwood asked about the scope and sequence in the curriculum and if that was based on standards
169 from the State. Dr. Marandos said that the standards are set by the Common Core State Standards.

170
171 Ms. Greenwood commented that the District has a lot of new and young teachers and agreed with the need
172 for professional development.

173
174 **Math Task Force is proposing two goals in math:**

- 175 i. Improve our performance on the math portion of the New Hampshire State Assessment System to be in
176 the top 5 among our 12 Peer Districts.
177 ii. Increase by 5% per year the number of students at Pelham High School whose SAT score is at the College
178 Board benchmark of “college and career ready,” a score of 530 out of 800.

179
180 **NH SAS and Peer Districts:**

181 Dr. Marandos said that SAS is offered from Grade 3 through 8 for mathematics. She added that one way of
182 understanding Pelham’s performance in mathematics is through a relative comparison to Peer Districts. The
183 comparison helped to show that despite the decrease in overall percent proficient and above from 2019 to
184 2021 for Pelham (48% to 42%), the District increased its performance relative to Peer Districts.

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186 **Percent Students Proficient and Above NH SAS All Grades:**

District	2018	2019	2021
Pelham	43% (9th)	46% (9th)	42% (6th)

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190 Mr. Bressette stated that there were some big swings before the Covid break in 2020. He noted that some
191 Districts saw a significant drop in their proficiency in mathematics and asked how much weight the Pelham
192 School District should put in their numbers. Dr. Marandos acknowledged that it had been a tough couple of
193 years, but the report will provide recommendations. She offered an example of using collaborative problem-
194 solving in the elementary school. Ms. Larson suggested that the Task Force add a note in the report that 2020
195 was not included because of Covid, and the District did not assess in 2020.

196
197 Ms. Greenwood acknowledged that the Peer District list was based on relative proximity, size, and
198 demographics but noted that Salem is larger and it is comparing apples to oranges. Dr. Marandos stated that
199 Salem was added because it is right next to Pelham. Dr. McGee mentioned that he and Dr. Marandos
200 developed the goals together, and Peer Districts helped give the Pelham School District an idea of where they
201 stand.

202
203 Mr. Bressette asked if this Peer District list would be used against other comparisons. Dr. McGee stated that
204 this was the first view of this list, but it will be used in the future. He asked the Board to make suggestions
205 regarding any additions or subtractions to the list.

206
207 Mr. Gellar said that he was pleased to see a report that expresses the concerns, identifies the issues and
208 comes up with a plan. Mr. Gellar noted that he is interested in seeing how the expectations come out.

209
210 Dr. Marandos mentioned that another potential metric that the Task Force chose not to use was the PHS
211 Algebra I credit rate. The Task Force determined that this was not an adequate measure moving forward, and

212 they made this determination because it has been widely variable over time. The initial analysis suggested that
213 the pandemic and the changes from an A/B Schedule to a 4 x 4 Block Schedule might have been factors.

214
215 The third measure of success in mathematics would be the number of students who meet the SAT College and
216 Career Readiness Benchmark for Mathematics (a score of 530 or better on the math portion of the SAT). This
217 exam is the state assessment for math at the high school level.

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219 **PHS SAT Math Performance 2017-18 to 2020-2021**

220 Data	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
221 SAT Math 530 or Higher	43	58	39	51
222 Total Student Tested	128	158	149	123
223 Percent	34%	37%	26%	41%

224
225 It is hard to know exactly where to set goals for 2023 and 2024. The task force recommends targeting an
226 increase of 5 percentage points with a target of 46% in 2023 and 51% in 2024.

227
228 Ms. Larson asked if the District pools this information from the PSATs, and Dr. Marandos stated that they
229 gather the information from both the PSATs and SATs. The District chose to collect the information from the
230 SATs because the information can be used to compare against other Districts.

231
232 Mr. Bressette asked if comparing the Pelham School District's SATs to other Districts was doable. Dr. McGee
233 said the SATs were possible, but not the PSATs.

234
235 Mr. Gellar asked what would happen if the District did not reach the 5% goal each year. He noted that if the
236 District did not get 46% in 2023, would the expectation still be to reach 51% in 2024. Dr. McGee stated that to
237 reach the goal, the District needs an additional five to seven students a year to score 530 or better on the
238 math portion of the SATs.

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240 **The Math Task Force Recommendations:**

- 241 i. Beginning in the Spring of 2022, consistent use of the tools in SASS allows students to practice using the
242 assessment and provide specific feedback to the teachers.
- 243 ii. Beginning in the Summer of 2022, increase professional development, particularly for PES Teachers, on
244 instructional strategies to teach mathematics.
- 245 iii. Starting with the 2022-23 School Year, review the current math program at PES for the FY2024 budget.
- 246 iv. Starting with the 2023-24 School Year, adjust Accelerated Math in grade 6 to allow for a high school level
247 Algebra I in grade 8.
- 248 v. Starting with the 2023-24 School Year, create a math coach position for Pelham Elementary, mirroring the
249 math coach position at PMS.

250
251 Ms. Larson mentioned that she liked that the District would ask the teachers for their input regarding what
252 they would learn in professional development. She noted that if a full-day Kindergarten is supported in March,
253 the District would need to move some teachers to teach Kindergarten, and these teachers will need to be
254 provided with professional development to teach Kindergarten.

255
256 Mr. Bressette commented that he wanted to hear more specifics regarding professional developments but
257 understood that the information would be coming after the teachers provided their input. He asked if the
258 District would establish the additional professional development within the confines of what the District
259 currently has allocated or if the District would need more funds. Dr. Marandos stated that the District is
260 looking to continue the work of the Task Force once the report is approved. She added that the District has
261 some Title II Grant funding that was explicitly designated to target this type of professional development.
262

263 Ms. Larson asked what type of tools the Task Force refers to regarding "consistent use of tools in SASS." Dr.
264 Marandos stated that there are about ten different tools, and one of the tools is called the AVA. The AVA
265 allows the teachers to do the test, with a projector, in front of a group.
266

267 Mr. Wilkerson commented that his understanding is that a Grade Four Math Teacher would need to rely a lot
268 on their classroom management skills. The teacher would need to make sure everyone is engaged, and he
269 wondered if this would require additional classroom management support. Dr. Marandos stated that she did
270 not see needing additional classroom management support, and she added that the whole class would be
271 involved and not subsections of the class.
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273 Mr. Bressette asked what IXL online subscription was. Dr. Marandos said they were very excited about it, and
274 they just started using it in Trimester 2. The IXL online subscription was started as a pilot with the mathletes
275 program. Dr. Marandos stated that Ms. Carten is currently teaching this program. The program consists of
276 many remediation activities in math, which is available at home and at school.
277

278 Ms. Larson asked why it would take an entire year to complete the Algebra I transition. Dr. Marandos
279 mentioned that the District is finding that there are still students who need to cover the Grade 8 content and
280 the Algebra I content. The District felt more comfortable making the transition a goal for the 2023-24 school
281 year.
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283 Mr. Gellar asked Dr. McGee where he saw the balance between quantity and quality. Mr. Gellar noted that he
284 wanted to make sure that the District was improving the program for the students who have an aptitude for
285 math and those who may not have an aptitude for math. Dr. McGee stated that the District wants to start a
286 high school Algebra I course in Grade 8. This course would be for the students ready for the accelerated
287 course. The other goals are about having more students be proficient in math.
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289 Ms. Larson noted that the District would still use i-Ready, formatives, and summative.
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291 Mr. Bressette asked why the Kindergarten did not have a formal math program in place, and he wanted to
292 know if this was a product of not having a full-day Kindergarten. Dr. Marandos mentioned that there is a
293 homegrown program in place for several years at the Kindergarten. The program is based on a formula used to
294 calculate how much math is allowed to be taught in a two-and-a-half-hour day. If the full-day Kindergarten is
295 approved, the District will adopt the same program that Grades 1 – 5 use.
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297 Dr. McGee asked if this was a direction that the Board would support and if Dr. Marandos, the Task Force, and
298 Teachers in the District could get to work on this direction, based on what was presented.
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300 Ms. Larson mentioned that she would like a report this Spring about what the District is planning for
301 professional development and the feedback from the teachers. Dr. Marandos agreed with Ms. Larson.
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303 Ms. Larson thanked everyone from the Task Force who attended tonight's meeting.
304

305 The Board came to a consensus to support the direction of Dr. Marandos and the Math Task Force.
306

307 b. **Update on Emergency Response at PES from January 12, 2022:**

308 Superintendent Chip McGee mentioned that he wanted to make everyone aware of where the District ended
309 up last week. Dr. McGee commented that he was very proud and appreciative of the students and staff. He
310 added that he was very grateful for the parents and families of the students.
311

312 Dr. McGee commented that on Wednesday, January 5, the sprinkler system froze and burst. The sprinkler
313 system is located on the ceiling of the PES electric panel room. The water started to enter the electric panels,
314 and within a couple of minutes, PES was being evacuated. The Fire Department made it clear that PES had to

315 be evacuated, and the power was then turned off. The backup generator could not be used because the
316 generator feeds electricity through the panel room, and the water leaked into the panels.

317
318 The Data Room in PES, which powers the District-Wide internet and the District-Wide phones, was not
319 functional. The power to the SAU and the Pre-School was also lost.

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321 The systems were back up and running on Friday, January 14, at 2:30 pm. The District needed to restart the
322 phone system, fire safety system, life safety system, and internet and ensure no damage to the heating
323 systems. The District also had to replace several hundred breakers that had been wet and required to be
324 replaced by the electrical inspector.

325
326 Dr. McGee mentioned that the District had scheduled for February 2 a tabletop exercise. The plan was to have
327 an offsite relocation requirement for one of the schools. The District was also going to throw in a severe
328 technology failure. The District realized on January 12 that they had just run their tabletop exercise. Dr.
329 McGee has asked that the Police Department do an after-action review on February 2. The Leadership Team,
330 the Police, and Fire Departments will also participate in the review.

331
332 Mr. Gellar asked if there is a potential of having another burst pipe and if there had been a conversation with
333 maintenance on how to harden the area. Dr. McGee stated that the transformers are more resistant because
334 of the energy efficiency investment. Because the transformers are more efficient, they run cooler, making the
335 electric panel room cooler. Dr. McGee added that Ms. Mahoney and Mr. Sands know where the sprinklers are
336 located and the temperatures in all the rooms.

337
338 Mr. Wilkerson asked if the District was looking into other fire suppressing mechanisms in both electrical and
339 data spaces. Dr. McGee said this topic would be brought up during the after-action review session.

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341 Mr. Bressette asked if the redundancy in the data systems and the availability of power to run the
342 communications would be part of the after-action session. Dr. McGee said it would be part of the discussion
343 and noted that his concern is that investing in a redundancy system and a fire suppression system would cost
344 a lot of money for something that might not be used for 20 years.

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346 Mr. Bressette suggested hooking up the unused generator at some point.

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348 Mr. Gellar asked that Dr. McGee share the after-action review report with the School Board members.

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350 c. **Pandemic Response**

351 **Key Takeaways Regarding the Pandemic**

352 Superintendent Chip McGee commented on the key takeaways of the pandemic.

- 353 a. The Pelham School District remains fully open to students.
354 b. The level of community transmission remains 'Substantial' and has increased.
355 c. The level of school impact is "Varied by school" but determined to be "Medium."
356 d. With the guidance of the NH DHHS, we identified five clusters at PHS and two at PMS. Both schools
357 are considered to have outbreaks. Yesterday, the District identified one cluster at PES as well.
358 e. Masks are required for all staff and students while inside the school until January 31, 2022.
359 f. As of January 10, we adjusted to the new "5 Day" and "Up-to-Date" standards recommended by the
360 NH DHHS isolation and quarantine guidelines, reducing students' and staff's time out of school.

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362 iv. **Hillsborough County**

363 The Covid-19 PCR test positivity as a 7-day average was 21.5% (Substantial) on January 5 and was 23.3%
364 (Substantial) on January 19. The number of new infections per 100,000 population for the prior 14 days was
365 1,000 (Substantial) on January 5 and was 2,811 (Substantial) on January 19.

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v. **Town of Pelham**

The Covid-19 PCR test positivity as a 7-day average was 26.2% (Moderate) on January 5 and was 25.3% (Substantial) on January 19. The number of new infections per 100,000 population for the prior 14 days was 1,250 (Substantial) on January 5 and was 4,225 (Substantial) on January 19. 4,225 equates to 598 people in Pelham with new positive cases of Covid-19.

Dr. McGee commented that the level of community transmission is 'Substantial.'

vi. **Level of School Impact**

Dr. McGee mentioned that the transmission within schools on January 19 was 'Medium.' The level of school impact has three measures: Transmission within Schools, Student Absenteeism, and Staff Capacity.

a. **Transmission Within Schools**

The transmission within the three schools has increased. Dr. McGee noted that PES has 16 students and 3 staff members with positive cases. PES has 1 cluster and 0 outbreaks. PMS has 6 students and 0 staff members with positive cases. PMS has 2 clusters and 1 outbreak. PHS has 11 students and 1 staff member with positive cases. PHS has 5 clusters and 1 outbreak.

b. **Student Absenteeism**

Dr. McGee noted that the level of student absenteeism was 20.0% (Medium) on January 5 and 9.1% (Low) on January 19. He pointed out that the new "5-day" guidance from the NH-DHHS has made an impact.

c. **Staff Capacity**

Dr. McGee commented that the percentage of certified educators absent from school was 11%. The staff capacity is 'Strained,' which is considered 'Medium' because of illnesses, household contacts, and childcare demands.

The grid recommends that the District remain using 'Masks and Distancing.' The current rule is that anyone within three feet of another individual for more than an incidental amount of time must wear a mask. Masks are required for all staff and students while inside the school until January 31, 2022.

vii. **The Big Seven**

the District will continue to follow the big seven mitigation steps:

- a. Masks
- b. Distancing
- c. Hand Sanitation
- d. Screening
- e. Ventilation
- f. Vaccines
- g. PCR Testing

Dr. McGee stated that as the District is dealing with some challenging news regarding the pandemic numbers, but added that this Covid variant is less lethal. The District provides vaccinations and will have a Booster Clinic on Friday, January 21.

Mr. Bressette agreed with Dr. McGee that there are some positive indicators and thanked Dr. McGee for sharing the information. Mr. Bressette commented that he remembers seeing a data set on the vaccination rate as a percent of the population in Pelham. He asked if information was available to show how many people in Pelham have had a positive case of Covid. Dr. McGee acknowledged that it is not the School Districts place to know who has had a positive case of Covid and who is or is not vaccinated. Since the beginning of the school year, Dr. McGee noted that PES had had 212 students with a positive case of Covid, and there are 747 students in PES. Dr. McGee said that he had not seen a document that shows how many residents in Pelham have had a positive case of Covid.

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Mr. Gellar asked if students were returning to school after five days or remaining out of school on extended absences. Dr. McGee stated that the District has found that the families want the students to be in school after five days. Dr. McGee said there were very few extended absences.

Dr. McGee mentioned that many of the School Districts had trouble putting the 5-day return policy into effect. He noted that some had to wait another week, and some started this week. Dr. McGee commended the Pelham School Nurses for being able to put the 5-day return policy into effect. Dr. McGee mentioned that he could not say enough good things about the School Nurses and their ability to keep the schools open and keep the students and staff safe. The School Board agreed with Dr. McGee and thanked the School Nurses for their hard work.

d. **Deliberative Session Preparation:**

Chair Megan Larson commented that everyone on the Board received the packet regarding the Warrant Articles on Friday and then received a second copy today. The second copy contained revisions that Ms. Larson made to the presentation. Ms. Larson asked if anyone had any comments or suggestions regarding the presentation.

Ms. Larson stated that Dr. McGee, Ms. Mahoney, and she would cover the Pelham School Operating Budget, and Mr. Bressette would cover the Solar Leasing. Ms. Larson requested that the Board provide her with their suggestions over the next few of days.

Mr. Gellar commented that he liked that the addition of the non-discretionary slide. He noted how the slide showed that 89% of the Operating Budget was already non-discretionary. Ms. Larson mentioned that she would look into the budget because the non-discretionary amount may be more than 89%.

The Pelham School District Deliberative Session will occur on Wednesday, February 9, 2022, at 7:00 pm. The session will take place in Sherburne Hall at 14 Village Green.

Warrant Article #1 – Pelham School District Officer Elections:

To elect by ballot the following School District Officers:

- i. School Board Member 3-Year Term
- ii. School Board Member 3-Year Term

Warrant Article #2 – Pelham School District Operating Budget:

Shall the Pelham School District raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrantor as amended by vote of the first session of the annual school district meeting, for the purposes set forth herein, totaling thirty-nine million, nine hundred twelve thousand, four hundred ninety-three dollars (\$39,912,493)? Should this Article be defeated, the default budget shall be thirty-eight million, nine hundred eighty-eight thousand, seven hundred seventy-seven dollars, (\$38,988,777), which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by the previous action of the Pelham School District or by law; or the Pelham School Board may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13 X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only. (Majority vote required).

Warrant Article #3 – Solar Leasing:

Shall the Pelham School District vote to authorize the School Board to enter into a long-term lease of School District property for the purpose of installing solar panels at no cost to the District but resulting in savings on the District’s energy costs, all on such terms and conditions as the School Board determines are in the best interest of the District? (Majority vote required)

474 **Warrant Article #4 – Petition Article:**
475 Shall the voters of the Pelham School District vote to adopt the following provisions pertaining to
476 requirements to wear face coverings within the Pelham School District; (a) The use of face coverings shall be
477 optional for all students at the sole discretion of their parent or guardian, (b) the use of face coverings shall be
478 optional for any employees and visitors on School District facilities and attending school-sanctioned events?
479 (Majority vote required)
480

481 Dr. McGee commented that he wanted to make sure the Board understood a couple of key items. The first
482 was that the District Clerk reviewed the signatures required for the Petition Article, and the signatures have
483 been verified. The second piece was that this Petition Article is not binding. The School Board is legally
484 authorized to manage the School District in terms of issues regarding the health and safety of students. The
485 residents in Town are legally authorized to approve the budget, elect the School Board members, and decide
486 how the voting process happens.
487

488 Dr. McGee noted that this Petition Article is known as an Advisory Warrant Article.
489

490 Mr. Gellar stated that no one from the School Board will be discussing the Petition Article and noted that if
491 anyone who signed the petition wanted to speak on the Article, they should attend the Deliberative Session.
492

493 Ms. Mahoney stated that the School Board has the Default Budget form in their packet, and she is looking for
494 signatures on the form. She is also looking for signatures on the Warrant. Once the forms are signed, the
495 District will post the documents as required. She will also post the MS-27 Report.
496

497 e. **Proposed Memorandum of Agreement with the Pelham Education Association (PEA):**

498 Superintendent Chip McGee stated that this is a small but symbolically very important idea brought forward
499 by the PEA. He mentioned that this MOA is a proposal to amend the agreement with the Teacher’s Association
500 for the remainder of the school year.
501

502 The Memorandum of Agreement reads, “This Memorandum of Agreement is entered into by the School Board
503 in NH School Administrative Unit #28 (Board) and the Pelham Education Association (“Association”) affiliated
504 with NH-NEA within the SAU #28. Hereinafter, the term “Employee” will refer to any employee included in any
505 one of the current collective bargaining agreements between the “Board” and the “Association” noted above.
506

507 WHEREAS, the “Board” and the “Association” wish to preserve the health of students, faculty, and community
508 members;
509

510 NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants and promises set forth below, the parties agree
511 to the following:
512

- 513 i. Sick Leave: For 2021-22, teachers in their first year in the District are eligible to access the sick bank on the
514 same terms as all other employees in the Association. This is effective as of January 1, 2022, through June
515 30, 2022.
516
- 517 ii. Authority: The parties agree that this Memorandum of Agreement shall set no precedent or past practice
518 and shall not be used in any proceedings except to enforce its terms. The parties agree that this
519 agreement does not replace the current collective bargaining agreements, which are still in full force and
520 effect except as explicitly modified by this MOA.
521
- 522 iii. Amendment: The parties agree that this agreement may be modified by the mutual agreement of the
523 parties.
524
- 525 iv. Duration: The parties agree that this agreement is temporary and will only be in effect for the 2021-2022
526 school year.

527
528 The preceding memorandum of agreement is subject to ratification by the full memberships of the Pelham
529 School Board and the Pelham Education Association. By their initials here, the Superintendent and Association
530 President, representing the Association negotiating team, agree to submit the Memorandum of Agreement to
531 their respective full memberships and to recommend that the full memberships ratify the memorandum of
532 agreement.”

533
534 Dr. McGee stated that he and the PEA fully support the MOA.
535

536 Mr. Gellar made a motion to support the Memorandum of Agreement, as presented.; Mr. Wilkerson seconded the
537 motion. The motion passed (5-0-0).
538

539 g. **Policy Reviews:**

540
541 i. First Reading
542 a. None
543

544 ii. Second Reading
545 a. None
546

547 **4. Board Member Reports:**

548 a. Mr. Bressette mentioned that there was a Budget and Timeline Subcommittee meeting yesterday afternoon
549 regarding the Pelham Memorial School renovation. Mr. Bressette said that he came away from the meeting
550 feeling very reassured with the high level of oversight and diligence that the Project Management Team is
551 providing.
552

553 b. Ms. Larson commented that the Budget Committee had the reconsideration for the budget, and it went well.
554

555 c. Mr. Wilkerson stated that he had contracted a positive case of Covid. He noted that after two vaccinations and
556 a Booster, the severity of the effects were minimal. He thanked the Board for their indulgence when he did
557 not attend the last meeting.
558

559 **5. Housekeeping:**

560 a. **Adoption of Minutes**

561 i. January 5, 2022 – Draft Public Minutes
562

563 Mr. Bressette made a motion to approve the Pelham School Board Public Minutes from January 5, 2022. Mr. Gellar
564 seconded the motion. The motion passed (4-0-1). (Mr. Wilkerson abstained)
565

566 b. **Vendor and Payroll Manifests**

567	i. HTO11922	\$58,020.80
568	ii. PAY125P	\$297,824.63
569	iii. BFPMS09	\$79,966.04
570	iv. 215	\$611,600.26
571	v. AP011922	\$659,937.88

572

573 Mr. Wilkerson made a motion to approve the Vendor and Payroll Manifests, as presented. Mr. Bressette seconded
574 the motion. The motion passed (5-0-0).
575

576 c. **Correspondence & Information**

577 i. None
578
579

- 580 d. **Enrollment Report**
581 i. None
582
- 583 e. **Staffing Updates**
584 i. **Leaves:**
585 a. None
586
- 587 ii. **Resignations:**
588 a. None
589
- 590 iii. **Nominations:**
591 a. None
592
- 593 **6. Future Agenda Planning:**
594 a. No Future Agenda Planning
595
- 596 **7. Future Meetings:**
597 a. 02/09/2022 – 7:00 pm Deliberative Session / Board Meeting @ Sherburne Hall
598 b. 02/16/2022 – 6:30 pm School Board Meeting @ PES Library
599
- 600 **8. Non-Public:**
601 Mr. Gellar made a motion to enter non-public under RSA 91-A:3, II (I) – discussion of legal matters at 8:15 pm; Mr.
602 Wilkerson seconded the motion. The motion passed (5-0-0).
603
- 604 **9. Adjournment:**
605 Mr. Wilkerson made a motion to adjourn the School Board Meeting at 8:41 pm; Mr. Bressette seconded the
606 motion. The motion passed (5-0-0).
607
608
609
- 610 Respectfully Submitted,
611 Matthew Sullivan
612 School Board Recording Secretary