

**Pelham School Board Meeting**  
**January 3, 2024**  
**Pelham Elementary School**  
**6:30 pm**

**In Attendance:**

**School Board Members:** Troy Bressette, Chair; Thomas Gellar; Darlene Greenwood; and John Russell

**Dr. McGee:** Chip McGee

**Assistant Superintendent:** Sarah Marandos

**Business Administrator:** Deb Mahoney

**Student Representative:** Mya Belanger

**Absent:** David Wilkerson

**Also in Attendance:** None

**I. Public Session:**

**A. Call to Order:**

Chair Troy Bressette called the meeting to order at 6:34 pm and requested that everyone stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

**II. Public Input @ 6:35 pm**

**A.** None

Public Input closed at 6:36 pm.

**III. Opening Remarks:**

**A. Superintendent**

Dr. McGee provided an overview of recent events. Dr. McGee began by saying that he and Dr Marandos were over at the wrestling match involving three teams – Pelham, Souhegan, and John Stark. Dr. McGee noted it was fun to see them out there and he highlighted the upcoming Invitational Tournament.

Dr. McGee emphasized that the event was scheduled for the following Saturday. He added that Athletic Director Todd Kress confirmed that 19 teams from four different states would attend the tournament. Dr. McGee said he was reminded that during the pandemic, John Stark brought down only two wrestlers, while the current count stands at 19.

Dr. McGee acknowledged the progress on the 2nd floor at PMS, which is full of staff and students. He thought it was a miracle how fast the teachers relocated and set up their materials over the break. He thanked families and students for providing time to create warm and welcoming classroom environments. Dr. McGee reported ongoing efforts in HVAC balancing, acknowledging that this is a standard process for a newly constructed building.

Dr. McGee shifted to the PES level; he informed the Board that February 1 is when Kindergarten and Preschool registrations will begin.

**B. Student Representative**

Student Representative Mya Belanger stated that at PHS, they have the Wizard of Oz auditions on Monday, January 8. They had their last play, “Arsenic and Old Lace,” and it went well. She thought they did an excellent job, and they always put on a great production. Ms. Belanger noted that they have the CTE parent presentation for sophomores. She

said that CTE is a great program that goes on, and the presentation is at 6 pm on Wednesday, January 10. She noted that on January 22, the District will be changing semesters.

**IV. Presentations:**

A. None

**V. Main Issues / Policy Updates:**

**A. Default Budget Calculation 2024 – 2025:**

The Default Budget was presented with the calculations by Business Administrator Deb Mahoney. The Default Budget for the upcoming fiscal year was revealed to be **\$41,503,442**, with no changes since its presentation in November. Mr. Bressette asked the Board if they had questions, and none were raised.

	<b>Reductions</b>	<b>Additions</b>	<b>Change</b>
<b>2023 MS-22 Appropriation</b>	\$41,067,269		
<b>Deductions:</b>			
Fund Transfers - Food Service Fund	\$ (1,206,027)	\$ 1,176,756	\$ (29,271)
Fund Transfers - Grants Fund	\$ (705,865)	\$ 705,865	\$ -
Fund Transfers - Other Special Rev Fund	\$ (52,000)	\$ 52,000	\$ -
<b>Operating Budget (2024 Gross &amp; 2025 Net)</b>	<b>\$ 39,103,377</b>	<b>\$ 5,685,381</b>	<b>\$ (29,271)</b>
<b><u>Existing Level of Services</u></b>			
Total Salaries (110-130)	\$ (16,880,180)	\$ 16,756,805	\$ (123,375)
Total Benefits (211:260)	\$ (9,448,167)	\$ 9,371,076	\$ (77,091)
SPED Professional Services (1210, 1280/330, 332)	\$ (193,950)	\$ 347,765	\$ 153,815
SPED Tuition (1210,1280/561,564,569)	\$ (1,662,669)	\$ 2,209,772	\$ 547,103
Voc. Tuition (1300, 561)	\$ (115,213)	\$ 115,213	\$ -
Psychological Professional Services (2140/330)	\$ (203,000)	\$ 107,500	\$ (95,500)
Speech & Language Profess. Services. (2150/330)	\$ (91,739)	\$ 167,939	\$ 76,200
PT Professional Services (2162/330)	\$ (66,000)	\$ 49,000	\$ (17,000)
OT Professional Services (2163/330)	\$ -	\$ 2,457	\$ 2,457
SPED Transportation (2722/519)	\$ (644,250)	\$ 843,874	\$ 199,624
Debt Service (5100, 5120/ 830,910)	\$ (3,906,308)	\$ 3,778,270	\$ (128,038)
PMS Modular Lease (4500/441)	\$ (44,838)	\$ -	\$ (44,838)
SAU Energy Performance Lease (4600/441)	\$ (133,768)	\$ 133,768	\$ -
<b><u>One-Time Expenditures</u></b>			
PHS Library Shelving (2222/733)	\$ (14,939)	\$ -	\$ (14,939)
Food Service -Titan software training (\$4,200)	\$ (2,500)	\$ -	\$ (2,500)
Legal/Regulatory Requirement Adjustments	\$ (5,575)	\$ -	\$ (5,575)
None	\$ (4,900)	\$ -	\$ (4,900)
<b>NET 2022-2023 OPERATING BUDGET</b>	<b>\$ 5,685,381</b>		
<b>2024 DEFAULT GENERAL FUND OPERATING BUDGET</b>		<b>\$ 39,568,820</b>	<b>\$ 465,443</b>
<b>2024 DEFAULT FOOD SERVICE BUDGET</b>		<b>\$ 1,176,756</b>	<b>\$ ( 29,271)</b>
<b>2024 DEFAULT GRANTS FUND BUDGET</b>		<b>\$ 705,865</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>2024 DEFAULT SPECIAL OTHER BUDGET</b>		<b>\$ 52,000</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>TOTAL PSD 2024 DEFAULT BUDGET</b>		<b>\$ 41,503,442</b>	<b>\$ 436,173</b>

**B. March 2024 Warrant Approval and Recommendation**

Ms. Mahoney said that the Board had the draft warrant articles in front of them, including Articles A and two warrant articles. She noted there they're a couple of updates to the warrants. The first update was the Budget Committee's voted budget of **\$40,965,693**. Article 1 reflects the budget should it pass and the Default Budget should it fail.

Ms. Mahoney commented that the Budget Committee voted to include their tallies with the warrant articles. Ms. Mahoney added that she would contact Budget Committee member Meg Bressette to receive the official tally for the warrant.

Dr. McGee said the Board's action tonight regarding Article 1 would be their position regarding the Budget Committee's budget figure and whether to include tallies. He acknowledged the more significant question they have discussed about this figure being below the Default.

Ms. Mahoney commented that a Budget Committee member proposed a figure, which was represented as last year's approved budget. Ms. Mahoney mentioned that the figure that the Budget Committee voted on was not based on this year's approved budget, it was the operating budget only. She noted that the figure did not include the PESPA contract. Ms. Mahoney stated that she spoke with Dr. McGee regarding bringing this information forward to the Budget Committee for reconsideration. The amount not included in the Budget Committee's vote was **\$101,576**.

Dr. McGee mentioned that the first thing they discussed was Article 1. He noted that this was a possible reconsideration matter that the Budget Committee should discuss. He added that there was a third thing to discuss, which was at the last meeting the Board asked them to work on the assumption from the Budget Committee that the \$802,760 reduction be allocated by function area. Dr. McGee said that he asked the Chair of the Budget Committee whether they wanted to meet again, and they declined.

Mr. Bressette commented that Dr. McGee and Ms. Mahoney presented additional information and he would like to see the proposal go to the Budget Committee. He asked Ms. Mahoney to tell them about the methodology that she applied to this.

Ms. Mahoney explained that they took the Budget Committee's adjustment to the operating budget of **\$802,760**. They then took the functions from the MS-27 and excluded certain functions deemed non-adjustable. She noted that debt service, principal payments, and interest payments for bonds were on an established payment schedule.

Ms. Mahoney stated the exclusion of Special Education functions, those included Special Education programming, Extended School Year, Speech, Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Special Services Administration, and Transportation. She said that these functions were excluded from the total budget to reflect an adjustable figure.

Ms. Mahoney added that the exclusion of Salaries and Benefits object codes. This meant positions that are in the budget, which are identified as meeting the needs of the District for next year. Most of the positions were separated to get down to an amount of the budget that can be adjusted or allocated.

Ms. Mahoney commented that the reason behind the exclusions was because of the specific budget and how the **\$802,760** is the amount that the new School Board will have to work with after the election. The new Board will have to build a budget based on the voter's approved budget. She noted that the current focus was on providing information to the Budget Committee so that the allocation could be put in the report.

Dr. McGee stressed the importance of clarifying the exclusion of areas such as Salaries and Benefits, Debt Service, and Special Education programming. He pointed out that the reduction of **\$802,760** equated to **14%** in all other areas. He clarified that this did not mean this is where the reductions would end up, instead, it was their best attempt to align with what the Budget Committee may have meant.

Dr. McGee stated that as Superintendent, he would not recommend that the budget look like this. Dr. McGee mentioned that the current budgetary configuration reflects the belief that this is what the Budget Committee sought. He said that they cannot cut **\$214,000** from Student Transportation and maintain reasonable routes for students.

Dr. McGee noted that they are not legally obliged to provide transportation for high school students. He believed that as a community, not providing transportation to high school students would be a non-starter. He cautioned against the potential ripple effects of not providing transportation could cause.

Ms. Greenwood mentioned that not providing transportation to high school students had happened previously. She noted the District was in a similar situation and there is not much else that they could cut from the budget.

Mr. Bressette noted that the discussion did not need to go into the specifics of potential cuts and added the importance of the community understanding the consequences of a significant reduction. Ms. Greenwood stated that she remembered that sports and high school bussing was stopped. If parents wanted to pay for the busing, then high school and sports could receive busing.

Dr. McGee pointed out that since they combined the high school and middle school transportation, they would have to continue the middle school routes. It was mentioned that the reduction in the proposed budget does not consider contractual obligations.

Mr. Gellar commented on the complexity of anticipating the outcomes of the upcoming election. He noted the potential Default Budget and the reduction of **\$802,760**. He stressed that the final decisions would be contingent upon the operating budget that was approved by the voters. Mr. Gellar pointed out that if they are required to make **\$802,760** in cuts, then it will require the Board to make painful cuts.

Mr. Gellar highlighted the need to have a delicate balance between educational essentials and extracurricular activities. He explained the potential issue the District will face, they will have to make decisions regarding resource allocation, which would affect educational materials and technology plans.

Mr. Gellar stressed the need for the District to have preemptive communication with the Budget Committee, emphasizing the consequences of the Budget Committee's decisions. He added that they may not be able to provide a definitive figure for reconsideration by January 11, but they need to show the consequences of making a significant reduction in the budget.

Mr. Bressette asked what the District's response would be to a taxpayer who stated that the reduction is only **\$802,760**. At the same time, the taxpayer pointed out that the District returned a surplus from the prior year. Dr. McGee explained that as an employer, the District is committed to meeting payroll obligations. He noted that through careful financial management, the District was able to return \$2.6 million to the taxpayers. Dr. McGee commented that they were able to return that amount because they did not have any significant surprises. He added that the District has not had dire surprises regarding Special Education, and one of the most significant surprises is regarding the District's facility.

Mr. Bressette commented that he wanted to ensure that they have a consensus on the Budget Committee's reconsideration proposal to bring forth the PESPA contract, which did not appear to have been considered when the Budget Committee voted on its number.

Ms. Mahoney stated that should the Budget Committee adjust its budget number from **\$802,760** down by **\$101,000**, the Board has an allocation for that figure as well. Ms. Mahoney noted that they will be bringing that with them.

Mr. Gellar made a motion to support the FY2025 Budget Committee reconsideration communication, as presented. Ms. Greenwood seconded the motion. The motion passed (4-0-0).

The Board discussed whether they were voting to support the Budget Committee's reduction to the Operating Budget. Mr. Gellar stated that they were voting on whether to recommend Article 1, as written, or not to support it. Ms. Mahoney noted that the warrant article has to reflect the recommendation or non-recommendation of the School Board.

Dr. McGee said that the School Board's position is required to be part of the warrant article.

## **Article 1 – 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 warrant or as amended by vote of the first session of the annual school District meeting, for the purposes set forth herein, totaling Forty Million, Nine Hundred Sixty-Five Thousand, Six Hundred Ninety-Three Dollars (**\$40,965,693**)?

Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be Forty-One Million, Five Hundred Three Thousand, Four Hundred Forty-Two Dollars (**\$41,503,442**), which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by 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)

Mr. Gellar motioned to recommend Article 1 – The Operating Budget, as presented. Mr. Bressette seconded the motion. The motion failed (1-3-0). (Mr. Russell voted to recommend Article 1)

Recommended by the School Board (1-3-0)

Recommended by the Budget Committee (X-X-X)

### **Tally**

The Board discussed whether to include the tally on the warrant articles. Board members expressed their opinions on whether to display the tally alongside the vote results. Mr. Wilkerson, though absent, provided a written statement favoring the display of the tally. The Board reflected on the consistency of their decision compared to the previous year's stance.

Ms. Greenwood stated that she did not want the tally.

Mr. Bressette pointed out that the Budget Committee already voted to include its tally, so he was inclined to have the School Board show its tally. Dr. McGee stated that they received legal clarification that if the School Board decides on the School Board's indication of a tally, and the Budget Committee decides on the Budget Committee's indication of their tally. The two cannot interfere with the other regarding what each body indicates.

Mr. Gellar made a motion to include the tally by the School Board in the articles. Mr. Bressette seconded the motion. The motion passed (3-1-0). (Ms. Greenwood voted "No.")

Ms. Mahoney asked if the Board was comfortable with the allocation and the PESPA contract adjustment and sharing it with the Budget Committee. The Board confirmed that they were comfortable.

### **Article 2 – Pelham Education Association Collective Bargaining Agreement**

Shall the Pelham School District vote to approve the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Pelham School District and the Pelham Education Association (PEA) that calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits over the amount paid in the prior fiscal year at current staffing levels:

Year Estimated Increase

2024-2025 **\$ 931,677**

2025-2026 **\$ 635,257**

2026-2027 **\$ 689,791**

And further to raise and appropriate the sum of Nine Hundred Thirty-One Thousand, Six Hundred Seventy-Seven Dollars (**\$931,677**) for the 2024-2025 fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits required by the new agreement that would be paid at current staffing levels? (Majority vote required)

The Board discussed Warrant Article 2 concerning the PEA (Pelham Education Association) contract. Mr. Bressette commented that the Budget Committee supported the PESPA unanimously.

Ms. Greenwood noted that the negotiation teams had a long negotiation period and did what they felt was best for the School District and teaching staff.

Mr. Gellar made a motion to recommend Article 2 - Pelham Education Association Collective Bargaining Agreement, as presented. Ms. Greenwood seconded the motion. The motion passed (4-0-0).

Recommended by the School Board (4-0-0)

Recommended by the Budget Committee (X-X-X)

### **C. Deliberative Session Preparation**

Dr. McGee sought input and feedback from Board members regarding developing a slideshow presentation. The presentation will guide the Deliberative Session discussion. Board members were requested to provide insights into the content of the slideshow, ensuring clarity and relevance.

Mr. Bressette said he would be happy to serve as a point person.

Mr. Gellar expressed concerns about presenting a budget that the Board did not recommend. Dr. McGee acknowledged that he had also received the same question regarding the Board's ability to present Article 1, which they do not support. He noted that there should be a section regarding this unusual year.

There was a shared concern about effectively communicating the budget situation during the Deliberative Session. The delicate balance of conveying the Board's position without misrepresentation was discussed, emphasizing the need for clarity and transparency in addressing the unusual circumstances surrounding the budget.

Dr. McGee said that the Board did develop a budget and once the unusual circumstances have been described, then they would need to discuss what the intent of the proposed School Board budget was.

Mr. Bressette asked if Mr. Gellar had any specific feedback that he would like to consider in the early stages of drafting. Mr. Gellar stated that during the Reconsideration, he would want the Board to ask the Budget Committee to provide them with an indication of what their intent was.

Ms. Greenwood stated that the Board will have difficulty presenting the budget because it is not their budget that would be presented. She added that the School Board should not present the Budget Committee's budget.

Mr. Bressette asked Ms. Mahoney about her thoughts regarding Mr. Gellar's suggestion to request the Budget Committee's rationale behind reducing the School District's budget. Ms. Mahoney explained the Budget Committee's discussions leading up to their vote on the proposed reduction. She emphasized that there appeared to be an absence of agreement or consensus within the Committee regarding specific items for reduction. Ms. Mahoney indicated that the Committee did not gather behind any singular or majority-supported items. Ms. Mahoney pointed out the lack of unanimity, if there had been, then the School Board could have had something to talk about.

Ms. Mahoney expressed reservations about the likelihood of the Committee agreeing on specific items. She cautioned that the reality of the Budget Committee providing explicit details on the rationale behind the budget reduction might be limited.

Ms. Greenwood asked what the requirement of the School Board was at the Deliberative Session. Dr. McGee mentioned that there is no requirement of the Board at the Deliberative Session. The main concern was presenting a budget that the School District did not create.

The Board discussed setting up the draft presentation for the Deliberative Session. Mr. Bressette noted that the next School Board meeting is January 17. He noted that if more significant decisions need to be made in the direction of the Deliberative Session presentation, it can be discussed at the next meeting.

**D. 2023 Pelham School District Financial Audit:**

**Change in Net Position**

Business Administrator Deb Mahoney commented that in the School Board packet, they have the cover letter and sent to the School District to provide an overview of the audit. She mentioned that the auditors come, spend four days, and review all the District's books. The auditors work with all the different departments, and the audit includes all student activities, Capital Reserve Funds, and Expendable Trust Funds.

The letter from Plodzik and Sanderson would typically list if there were any findings, but there were none. The District did very well with the audit. Ms. Mahoney moved on to the review of the auditor's report on the fiscal year 2023 financials. The report had a couple of significant recommendations that were discussed, such as the management of scholarship accounts. The scholarship account was a balance that carried from year-to-year. The auditors also found that the deposit forms did not have a date on them and they wanted the date of when the count of the money occurred. The auditors then found one disbursement form, a form requesting a check, which was not processed.

Ms. Mahoney noted that the District's Net Position has improved, and the returns from last year's funds were **\$2.6M**. She mentioned that the District is receiving less revenue from the federal government.

Ms. Mahoney confirmed that this the second year with a different auditing team.

Mr. Bressette stated that this is a glowing, outstanding financial audit. He noted that when auditors start looking at student and scholarship funds, the District is doing its job. He asked Ms. Mahoney to define the corrective action regarding the scholarship matter.

Ms. Mahoney said that the team reviewed accounts, transferring small balances to a Principal's Discretionary Fund. One scholarship from Hesser College from 2019 had not been distributed. They took those funds and transferred them to the Trustees. Ms. Mahoney mentioned that the Head of Trustees, Ed Gleason, meets yearly with the high school team. They meet this month and will discuss how to facilitate seamless fund management and transfer processes.

Mr. Bressette thanked Ms. Mahoney, Ed Gleason, and everyone involved with the audit.

**E. Disposal of Pelham Memorial School Modulars:**

Dr. McGee presented a plan to address the ownership status, disposal process, and potential collaboration with the Town regarding the modulars. Dr. McGee pointed out that the newer modular has a final payment in FY2025; at that point the District would own the modulars.

Dr. McGee commented that consideration was given to a collaborative effort with the Town, and donating the modular to the Town. He noted that this would resolve any issues with to RSA 194:61 concerning Charter Schools' right of first refusal. Dr. McGee reviewed the timeline for finalizing this decision, and he aligned it with the fiscal year-end. He added that if the Town took the modular, then the Town would pay for moving them.

Ms. Greenwood asked for confirmation that there was one more payment due on the newer modular. Ms. Mahoney mentioned that the District made its last payment in FY2024, and there is no payment due in FY2025.

Mr. Russell suggested that the District sell the modular, and Dr. McGee said that the cost of moving the modulars would be more than the amount they would receive for selling them. He added that if the District tried to sell the modulars then the Charter Schools would have a right to first refusal.

Dr. McGee mentioned that the potential financial savings from not pursuing demolition, and the Board acknowledged this as a value saving opportunity. Mr. Bressette commented that the term "value engineering" highlighted the Board's commitment to budget-conscious decision-making.

The Board discussed that importance of finalizing the decision before July 1, aligning with end of the School District's fiscal year. Dr. McGee clarified that the physical relocation of the buildings could extend beyond this date.

Dr. McGee commented that the idea of donating the modulars to the Town came from Bob Sherman, Budget Committee member.

Mr. Gellar made a motion to affirm the Board's current plan to demolish both modulars and restore the fields in which they are located and support the Superintendent's plan to pursue donating one or both of the modulars to the Town of Pelham, prior the end of the fiscal year on June 30, 2024. Ms. Greenwood seconded the motion. The motion passed (4-0-0).

**F. School Calendar 2024 – 2025:**

Dr. McGee presented an outline for the 2024-2025 school year, focusing on dates, potential adjustments, and the rationale behind professional development days. Dr. McGee noted that he did not expect the Board to action tonight.

Dr. McGee reviewed three dates (yellow squares):

- a. August 30, 2024 - Typically, it is a day of no school and no students. (June 13, 2025, would be the proposed last day of school)
- b. September 10, 2024 - National Primary Day (Proposing to have school on this day).
- c. December 11, 2024 - Sixth Early Release Day

Mr. Bressette commented that the 2023 – 2024 school calendar started on Monday, August 28 and the Teacher Workshop was a Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday in the week prior. He asked why the new calendar has a Teacher Workshop on Wednesday, Thursday, and Monday. Dr. McGee commented that if they did the Teacher Workshop in the same week, the teachers would have to return on August 20. This would be the earliest that teachers have had to report.

The Board discussed addressing questions related to the start of the school year, Professional Development, and additional early release days. Dr. McGee clarified the importance of accommodating Professional Development needs and the flexible use of time for teachers during the preschool year.

Mr. Bressette asked about starting the teachers on August 21 – 23, and have the students start on August 26. Dr. Marandos mentioned that they have a standard Professional Development return to school calendar for the past seven years. She noted that August 26 is typically when they do their meets and greets. The future ready workshops are not required for teachers but is suggested.

Mr. Gellar asked if it was possible or why it is not possible to set a date for graduation before the snow days. Dr. McGee commented that he in his three years he has been able to move the decision date earlier each year. Dr. McGee noted that he was open to making the decision earlier, but it depends how things occur in January. He pointed out that they need to consider factors such as Senior Week attendance, the minimum required days for seniors, and the need for flexibility in response to varying circumstances.

Mr. Russell asked how the District could have school on September 10, National Primary Day. Dr. McGee said that they are fortunate to have the separate entrance and exits. He added the Ms. Mead and the former Moderator did an excellent job planning it out. Dr. McGee added that there would be no gym classes and voter access to other parts of the building.

Mr. Bressette stated that December 11, was contingent upon the outcome of the PEA contract. Dr. McGee noted that it had to be on that date because of regional alignment with Career Technical Education centers. Dr. McGee also addressed the tentative markings on the calendar for semester/trimester scheduling, clarifying that these decisions would be developed in discussion with the school principals.

The Board agreed to have the 2024 – 2025 School Calendar brought back to the Board meeting on January 17.



**Preschool Tuition:**

Dr. McGee commented that the District has a Preschool program that is designed for children who are ages 3 and 4 and identified as having an educational disability. There are typical peers, do not have identified educational disabilities, and who also attend the Pre-School program. The typical peers pay tuition.

Dr. McGee said that students are enrolled on a first-come, first-served basis upon receipt of a completed pre-registration packet. The 3-year-old program is Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 9:00 am -11:30 am, and the 4-year-old program is Monday- Friday, 12:40 pm -3:20 pm.

Tuition is payable to the Pelham School District from September to June. The current rates are \$130/month for 3-yr olds and \$150/month for 4-yr olds. These rates were last increased in 2019. Regionally, Pelham is on par with other Districts that provide a similar service. The proposal is to increase the rates by \$20 for the 3-yr olds and \$30 for the 4-yr olds.

Ms. Greenwood asked what the revenue raised from tuition is used for. Ms. Mahoney said that the tuition offsets taxes and the cost for the typical peers. Ms. Greenwood said that her initial reaction was not to support increasing the price for tuition.

Mr. Russell mentioned that his son attended a daycare that was triple the cost. He noted the benefits experienced by his daughter under Ms. London. The Board discussed charging tuition, specifically with typical peers.

The Board agreed to defer making a decision until the January 17 meeting.

**G. Policy Review:**

The Board reviewed the policies listed below.

**a. First Reading:**

- i. None

**b. Second Reading:**

- i. EBCC – False Alarms, Bombs, Active Shooter, and Other Such Threats
- ii. GBCD – Background Investigation and Criminal History Records Check
- iii. JCA – Change of Class or School Assignment, Best Interests, and Manifest Hardship

Mr. Gellar motioned to approve policies EBCC, GBCD, and JCA, as presented. Ms. Greenwood seconded the motion. The motion passed (4-0-0).

**VI. Board Member Reports:**

- A. None

**VII. Housekeeping:**

**A. Adoption of Minutes**

- a. December 20, 2023 – Draft Public Minutes

Mr. Gellar motioned to approve the December 20, 2023, Public School Board Minutes, as presented. Mr. Russell seconded the motion. The motion passed (4-0-0).

**B. Vendor and Payroll Manifests**

- a. 463 \$578,379.22
- b. AP01024 \$878,021.34

477 c. BFPMS56 \$396,109.84  
478 d. PAY464P \$ 25,136.02  
479

480 Mr. Gellar made a motion to approve the Vendor and Payroll Manifest as presented. Ms. Greenwood seconded the motion.  
481 The motion passed (4-0-0).  
482

483 **C. Correspondence & Information**

484 a. The Board acknowledged correspondence from the New Hampshire Department of Education, commending  
485 Principal Dawn Mead and Director of Facilities Brian Sands for their dedication to maintaining a clean,  
486 healthy, and safe school facility. The routine facilities approval process confirmed Pelham High School's  
487 compliance with state standards.  
488

489 **D. Enrollment Report**

490 a. January 1, 2024 Enrollment Report – The District has +5 students, and two are in preschool.  
491

492 **E. Staffing Updates**

493 a. **Leaves**

494 i. None  
495

496 b. **Resignations:**

497 i. None  
498

499 c. **Retirements:**

500 i. None  
501

502 d. **Nominations:**

503 i. None  
504

505 **VIII. Future Agenda Planning:**

506 A. No Future Agenda Planning  
507

508 **IX. Future Meetings:**

509 A. 01/17/2024 – 6:30 pm School Board Meeting @ PES Library

510 B. 02/07/2024 – 6:30 pm School Board Meeting @ PES Library  
511

512 **X. Adjournment:**

513 Mr. Gellar made a motion to adjourn the School Board Meeting at 8:16 pm. Ms. Greenwood seconded the motion. The  
514 motion passed (4-0-0).  
515

516  
517 Respectfully Submitted,  
518 Matthew Sullivan

519 School Board Recording Secretary  
520