

Pelham School Board Meeting
August 14, 2024
Pelham High School
6:30 PM

School Board Members: Troy Bressette, Chair; David Wilkerson, Vice Chair; Darlene Greenwood; Garrett Abare; and Rebecca Cummings (participating remotely)

Superintendent: Chip McGee

Assistant Superintendent: Sarah Marandos

Business Administrator: Deb Mahoney

Also in Attendance:

- Dawn Mead; Zack Medlock, Jessica Van Vranken; Brian Sands; Keith Lord; Toni Barkdoll - attended dinner at 5:00 pm.
- Diane Gorrow, Soule Kidder - attended non-public session

Prior to the meeting, the Board members ate dinner with the principals and directors.

I. PUBLIC SESSION

A. Opening/Call to Order

Chair Troy Bressette called the meeting to order at 6:10 pm.

II. Non-Public Session

Troy Bressette moved to enter a non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 (II) (I) – Consideration of legal advice provided by legal counsel at 6:11 pm. Garrett Abare seconded the motion. The motion passed (4-0-0).

Roll Call

Mr. Bressette - Aye

Mr. Wilkerson - Aye

Ms. Greenwood - Aye

Mr. Abare - Aye

(Ms. Cummings joined via phone at 6:15 pm)

Motion made by David Wilkerson and seconded by Garrett Abare to adjourn the non-public session at 6:55pm. The motion passed (5-0-0).

Roll Call

Mr. Bressette - Aye

Mr. Wilkerson - Aye

Ms. Greenwood - Aye
Mr. Abare - Aye
Ms. Cummings - Aye

III. Reconvened Public Session

The Board returned to Public Session at 7:15pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

A. Public Input/Comment

a. Debbie Kruzel, 44 Beacon Hill

Ms. Kruzel wrote, "Good evening.

Thank you for the chance to speak this evening. I am DK from 76 Beacon hill Rd.

I am here regarding the YNDER pouches. It is very unfortunate that last month, with 2 school board members missing, 2 people here were in a huge rush to approve the new cell phone policy at the Middle School. I really appreciated Mr. Wilkerson's caution and continued requests for parent's feedback. He stated that "parent's feedback was important to him" before voting in regard to whether or not to encumber the funds in May.

It turns out that as a result of a FOIA request, we got 3000 emails regarding YNOER pouches. Within that 3000, there were approximately 15 emails (both positive and negative), including 1 from Mr. Brissette's wife. In addition to those emails, the Superintendent had a "focus group" with 2 parents. With an enrollment of about 350 students in the middle school, I wonder how many of the School Board members would have felt comfortable moving forward on the policy vote in July given that low amount of parent's feedback. NOT TO MENTION that when this conversation began regarding cell phones, no other options were explored! Personally, I believe that the sequestering of cell phones during all school hours (from 8-2), is unconstitutional: They are personal property and I've spoken with more than 5 middle school parents since mid-July that didn't even realize that the YNDER pouches were coming and are very against them. I wonder if the teachers had enforced the previous policy of cell phones as well as the Superintendent intends to soon, would we even be having this discussion and spending almost \$14,000 on these tyrannical pouches?

Also, as a result of the FOIA, it came to our attention that there was an invoice for YNDER pouches on May 23rd signed by Deb Mahoney and an email on June 20th to YNDER with an attached PO to order the pouches. Then, we all probably know that the 2-1 vote for the policy approval happened on July 10th. One other email of interest was from Mr. McGee to Holly Doe on 7/8 - "I am instituting the Yondr cell phone pouches at Memorial School next year." Interesting verbiage since the Policy wasn't approved until 2 days later.

As a taxpayer and working with other residents and parents in our town, I want to remind you that the voters take your oaths seriously that you will protect us and

89 our children. You, the School Board members are the boss of the
90 Superintendent.
91
92 When he came up with the proposal of the YNDER pouches 1 was dismayed that
93 no one asked what other options were there and why did the previous policy fail.
94 Now, moving forward, I must point out that it's becoming difficult for the voters
95 and parents to have confidence in the Superintendent. We expect the utmost
96 integrity from someone making decisions for our children! With the purchase of
97 the pouches prior to the voting on the policy, this does not display behavior that
98 builds trust and honesty in the community.
99 We are still against the use of YNDER pouches and request for another vote
100 given the newly uncovered information. Thank you.
101
102 Chip spoke regarding his regret for jumping the gun. He owns that. He did have Erin send the
103 PO to the vendor prior to having Board approval to move forward with the order.
104
105 He apologized directly to Deb Kruzel.
106
107 He advocated for us to move forward with the Yondr. Approximately 16 parents attended a
108 parent information meeting that was held earlier that evening.
109
110 Troy expressed his appreciation for Chip's willingness to own his misstep.
111
112 Darlene spoke that she had reservations initially. She is willing to move forward and is
113 cautiously optimistic. She said she is supporting it to see how it goes, and that it may not be
114 forever.
115
116 David spoke about the clarity that the encumbrance of the funds was already done prior to the
117 end of the fiscal year. David indicated that Deb's statement is accurate in his opinion. He said
118 that he was disappointed in what unfolded. He accepts Chip's responsibility for it and does not
119 expect that to happen again.
120
121 Troy indicated that the Board expects to have periodic reports of information on how things are
122 going with Yondr. He also noted that the Board would be remiss if we allowed some process
123 missteps to prevent us from moving forward with something that is intended to have such a
124 positive impact on the learning environment for students.
125
126 Garrett indicated that he has been clear that he supports the implementation of Yondr.
127
128 Darlene spoke about how she would like to hear more about what discipline records we collect.
129
130 Garrett indicated that he appreciated Deb Kruzel coming forward.
131
132

Public input closed at 7:20 p.m.

B. Main Issues

1. Goal Setting

Superintendent McGee began reviewing a draft of goals for the coming school year.

IV. Public Input

Garrett Abare moved to reopen public comment to allow Ellen Cormier to ask a question at 7:25pm. Troy Bressette seconded the motion. The motion passed (4-1-0, with Ms. Greenwood voting no).

Ellen Cormier 5 Mercury asked how long the pouches would be tried out at the middle school. Dr. McGee responded that they would be tried out for the school year.

B. Return to Main Issues

2. Goal Setting

Superintendent McGee continued to review a draft of goals for the coming school year. The Board provided feedback and direction.

V. Policy Review

The Board reviewed the policy list below.

A. First Reading

- a) AC - Nondiscrimination, Equal Opportunity Employment, and Anti-Discrimination Plan
- b) ACA - Discrimination and Harassment Grievance Procedure (new policy)
- c) ACAC - Title IX Prohibition of Sex Discrimination and Sex-Based Harassment: Policy and Grievance Procedure
 - (1) ACAC (current policy for reference)
- d) ACE - Procedural Safeguards: Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability
- e) ACN - Accommodation of Lactation Needs
- f) GBAM - Accommodation of Pregnancy and Related Medical Conditions: Personnel (new policy)
- g) IHBCA - Accommodation of Pregnancy and Related Medical Conditions: Students
 - (1) JIE - Pregnant Students (to be rescinded)
- h) JLDBB - Suicide Prevention and Response Plan
- i) KED - Facilities or Services - Grievance Procedure (Section 504) (to be rescinded)

- 177 B. Second Reading
178 1. JKAA - Use of Restraints and Seclusion
179 2. ACF - Food and Nutrition Services Anti-Discrimination and Civil Rights
180 Complaints (New policy)
181 3. ADB/GBEC - Drug-Free Workplace & Drug-Free Schools
182 4. ADC - Prohibitions Regarding Use and Possession of Tobacco Products
183

184 David Wilkerson moved to adopt the policies listed in the second read as presented. Garrett
185 Abare. seconded the motion. The motion passed (5-0-0).
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187 **VI. Consent Agenda**
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189 David Wilkerson moved to adopt the consent agenda as presented. Garrett Abare seconded the
190 motion. The motion passed (5-0-0).
191

- 192 1. Adoption of Minutes
193 a) 2024.06.19 School Board Minutes
194 b) 2024.06.19 School Board Non-Public Minutes
195 c) 2024.07.10 School Board Minutes
196 d) 2024.07.10 School Board Non-Public Minutes
197 2. Vendor and Payroll Manifests
198 a) 552 \$185,832.43 (previously signed)
199 b) PAY552P \$ 79,151.48 (previously signed)
200 c) PAY552M \$ 201.39 (previously signed)
201 d) BFPMS69 \$230,796.54 (previously signed)
202 e) DU072424 \$ 19,499.85 (previously signed)
203 f) AP072424 \$645,008.57 (previously signed)
204 g) 553 \$ 195,709.58
205 h) PAY553P \$ 6,410.44
206 i) 554 \$ 179,398.92
207 j) PAY554P \$ 6,310.55
208 k) BFPMS70 \$ 33,993.06
209 l) DU081424 \$ 6,030.00
210 m) AP081424 \$1,110,201.28
211 3. Correspondence and Information
212 4. Enrollment Report
213 5. Staffing Updates
214 a) Leaves
215 b) Resignations
216 (1) Lisa Stevens PHS Teacher - Special Education
217 (2) Kristen Descheneaux PMS Teacher - Grade 6 ELA
218 (3) Dorothy Madden PMS Teacher Special Education
219 c) Retirements
220 d) Nominations

221	(1) Pamela Sylvain	PHS	Teacher - Math
222	(2) Timothy Jozokos	PHS	Teacher - Chemistry
223	(3) Andrew Pitney	PMS	Teacher - Grade 6 SS
224	(4) Leslie Fernandez	PES	Long Term Substitute - Grade 1
225	(5) Kerilyn Walsh	PMS	Teacher - Grade 6 ELA

226

227 **VII. Adjournment**

228 David Wilkerson moved to adjourn at 8:30 pm. Garrett Abare seconded the motion. The motion
229 passed (5-0-0).

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232 Respectfully submitted by Chip McGee, Superintendent