

Pelham School Board Meeting
Pelham Elementary School
March 19, 2025
6:30 p.m.

School Board Members: Darlene Greenwood; Rebecca Cummings; Garrett Abare; and Krista Garcia

Assistant

Superintendent: Sarah Marandos

Business Administrator: Deb Mahoney

Absent: Greg Smith; Chip McGee; Alexia Nou; and Mya Belanger

Also in Attendance: Danielle Pilato, School District Clerk

I. Public Session:

A. Call to Order:

Assistant Superintendent Sarah Marandos called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m,

B. Oath of Office:

Ms. Pilato swore Krista Garcia in as a School Board member.

Dr. Marandos asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

C. Public Input @ 6:33 p.m.

No one came forward.

Public Input closed at 6:34 p.m.

D. Opening Remarks:

a. Assistant Superintendent:

Dr. Marandos commented that the PHS cheerleaders secured first place in Division II, and PMS hosted a successful band competition over the weekend. She noted that the winter sports awards were going on. The PHS sports awards occurred last week, and PMS occurs this week.

Dr. Marandos read the following statement:

"As you may be aware from some of our public communications, we have had a recent network security incident that affected our school system. We understand that the situation has caused concern, and we want to assure you that we are taking all necessary steps to restore full functionality and, most importantly, to ensure the continuity of teaching and learning for our students. While some systems may be temporarily limited, we are committed to minimizing the disruption to your child's education.

Upon learning of this network security incident, we immediately took action to secure our network, including voluntarily disconnecting the internet. We are working closely with an external cybersecurity specialist to assist in our investigation. Our investigation is still in its initial stages, and we cannot offer a definitive timeline or many details at this point, as it is a time-intensive process.

We appreciate your patience and understanding during this time. All our safety systems have continued to operate and remain fully functional. The safety of our students and staff is our number one priority. We will continue to provide updates as they become available."

55 **II. Presentations:**

56 **A. None**

58 **III. Main Issues:**

59 **A. Reorganization:**

60 Dr. Marandos commented that the Board would need to nominate a Chair and Vice-Chair; Dr. Marandos opened
61 the reorganization to motion or discussion.

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63 Ms. Cummings made a motion to make Darlene Greenwood the Chair of the Pelham School Board. Mr. Abare
64 seconded the motion. The motion passed (4-0-0).

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66 Dr. Marandos handed the meeting over to Chair Darlene Greenwood.

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68 Ms. Greenwood made a motion to make Rebecca Cummings the Vice-Chair of the Pelham School Board. Mr. Abare
69 seconded the motion. The motion passed (4-0-0).

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71 **B. Approve the April Meetings**

72 The Board also approved the April 2 and April 16 meeting dates, both set for 6:30 p.m. at the PES Library.

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74 **C. Ethics Policy BCA**

75 The Ethics Policy Statement was reviewed. Board members acknowledged their commitment to attending
76 meetings, making informed decisions, working collaboratively, maintaining confidentiality, and upholding Board
77 policies. Members signed the Ethics Policy Statement.

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79 **D. Committee Assignments**

80 Discussion of the Committee Assignments was deferred until the next meeting to ensure all Board members,
81 including Mr. Smith, could participate. However, designated signers for manifests were selected. Ms. Greenwood,
82 Mr. Abare, and Ms. Garcia were appointed as the three authorized signers. Ms. Cummings agreed to be the
83 alternate signer.

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85 **E. Election Results**

86 The election results were reviewed.

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88 **a. School Board**

- 89 **i. Greg Smith was elected to the School Board with 917 votes, while Krista Garcia received 997 votes.**

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91 **b. Various articles were voted on, with mixed results:**

- 92 **i. Article 1 (Operating Budget): Passed with **13,174 Yes** votes and **938 No** votes.**

- 93 **ii. Article 2 (Petition Warrant Article): Did not pass, receiving **873 Yes** votes and **13,139 No** votes.**

- 94 **iii. Article 3 (Petition Warrant Article): Passed with **16,159 Yes** votes and **643 No** votes.**

- 95 **iv. Article 4 (Petition Warrant Article): Did not pass, receiving **1,028 Yes** votes and **12,167 No** votes.**

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97 Ms. Mahoney said that the MS-22 Approved Budget will be reviewed and signed at the next Board meeting.

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99 **F. Election Results**

100 The Board reviewed the **FY25 Audit Engagement Letter** from Plodzik & Sanderson, confirming the audit will
101 take place the week of **July 14**. The consensus of the Board was to proceed with the audit. No motion was
102 required.

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104 **G. Policy Review:**

- 105 **a. None**

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107 **IV. Other:**

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A. None

V. Board Member Reports:

Ms. Greenwood welcomed new Board member Krista Garcia. Ms. Greenwood suggested that the new members utilize resources from the New Hampshire School Board Association for training.

The Board discussed participation in an upcoming history project judging event.

VI. Consent Agenda:

A. Adoption of Minutes

a. None

B. Vendor and Payroll Manifests:

a. None

C. Correspondence & Information:

a. None

D. Enrollment Report:

a. None

E. Staffing Updates:

a. Leaves:

i. None

b. Resignations:

i.	Angela Portalla	PES	Special Education Teacher
ii.	Amie Libby	PES	Preschool Teacher
iii.	Sara Eno	PMS	Special Education Teacher
iv.	Rebecca Morrin	PHS	English Teacher

c. Retirements:

i. None

d. Nominations:

i.	Michael Soucy	PHS	Athletic Director
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Dr. Marandos mentioned she was delighted to nominate Michael Soucy as Athletic Director for the high school. She noted that he has experience from Merrimack and Nashua. He also grew up in Pelham.

Mr. Abare moved to accept the nomination of Michael Soucy as Athletic Director. Ms. Cummings seconded the motion, which passed (4-0-0).

Mr. Abare moved to accept the resignations as presented. Ms. Cummings seconded the motion, which passed (4-0-0).

IX. Future Agenda Planning:

Future agenda items for the April 2nd meeting were discussed, including student engagement in School Board meetings, updates on the AB schedule, and a discussion on cell phone pouches.

X. Future Meetings:

A. 04/02/2025 – 6:30 p.m. School Board Meeting @ PES Library

B. 04/16/2025 – 6:30 p.m. School Board Meeting @ PES Library

154 **XI. Non-Public Session:**
155 (i) Consideration of matters relating to the preparation for and the carrying out of emergency functions, including
156 training to carry out such functions, developed by local or state safety officials that are directly intended to thwart
157 a deliberate act that is intended to result in widespread or severe damage to property or widespread injury or loss
158 of life.
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160 Mr. Abare moved to enter non-public under RSA 91-A:3, II (i) - Emergency Function at 6:54 p.m. Ms. Cummings
161 seconded the motion, which passed (4-0-0).
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163 a. D. Greenwood - Aye
164 b. R. Cummings - Aye
165 c. G. Abare - Aye
166 d. K. Garcia - Aye
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168 **XII. Reconvene:**
169 7:14 p.m.
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171 **XIII. Adjournment:**
172 Mr. Abare moved to adjourn the School Board Meeting at 7:15 p.m. Ms. Cummings seconded the motion, which passed
173 (4-0-0).
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176 Respectfully Submitted,
177 Matthew Sullivan
178 School Board Recording Secretary