



Pelham School Board Meeting Agenda

April 2, 2025

Meeting - 6:30 pm

PES Library

AGENDA

I. PUBLIC SESSION

A. Opening

1. Call to Order

II. NONPUBLIC SESSION for reason 91-A:3 II (b)

A. 2025-26 Teacher and Professional Staff Nominations

1. Explanation: The Board may raise questions in non-public session regarding the certified staff members the Superintendent intends to nominate for employment for 2025-26.
2. Materials:
 - a. Nomination List

III. RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION

A. Opening

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Public Input/Comment - The Board encourages public participation. Our approach is based on Policy BEDH which includes these guidelines:
 - a) Please stay within the allotted three minutes per person;
 - b) Please give your name, address, and the group, if any, that is represented;
 - c) We welcome comments on our school operations and programs. In public session, however, the Board will not hear personal complaints of school personnel nor complaints against any person connected with the school system;
 - d) We appreciate that speakers will conduct themselves in a civil manner.
2. Opening Remarks: Superintendent and Student Representative

B. Presentations (if necessary)

C. Main Issues

1. Network disruption update
 - a) Explanation: Superintendent McGee will give the Board and the community an update on the network disruption.
2. Reorganization of School Board
 - a) Explanation: The Board will need to complete its reorganization to select members on various committees.
 - b) Materials:
 - (1) 25-26 Draft Meeting Calendar
 - (2) 25-26 Committee Assignments
3. FY26 Budget Approval
 - a) Explanation: Business Administrator Deb Mahoney will provide the Board with the FY26 report of Appropriations as approved by the voters on March 11.
 - b) Materials:
 - (1) Form MS-22 Appropriations as voted for FY26
4. 2025-26 Teacher and Professional Staff Nominations
 - a) Explanation: Superintendent McGee will present the names of certified staff members he is nominating for employment for 2025-26. The Board will decide whether to accept the nominations.
 - b) Materials:
 - (1) Nomination List (added after nonpublic)
5. HS Proposed change to Program of Study
 - a) Explanation: Assistant Superintendent, Sarah Marandos is proposing a change in language to the 2025-26 Program of Studies.
 - b) Materials
 - (1) Memo
6. PHS Athletics Boys Ice Hockey Proposal
 - a) Explanation: Superintendent McGee is presenting a proposal between PHS and Timberlane Regional High School to form a cooperative team starting in 2025-26.
 - b) Materials:
 - (1) Proposal
7. Last Day of School

- a) Explanation: Superintendent McGee will update the School Board and community on the last day of school.
- b) Materials - None

D. Board Member Reports

E. Consent Agenda

- 1. Adoption of Minutes
 - a) 2025.03.05 Draft School Board Minutes
 - b) 2025.03.19 Draft School Board Minutes
- 2. Vendor and Payroll Manifests
 - a) 569 \$609,423.18
 - b) PAY569P \$11,530.70
 - c) 569M \$2281.28
 - d) 570 \$671,578.03
 - e) PAY570P \$305,437.35
 - f) AP040225 \$454,717.04
 - g) BFPMS \$19,455.00
- 3. Correspondence and Information
- 4. Enrollment Report
 - a) April 1, 2025 Enrollment Report
- 5. Staffing Updates
 - a) Leaves
 - b) Resignations
 - c) Retirements

(1) Wendy Henderson	PES	Teacher - Grade 1
(2) Kathrene Byrne	PHS	Teacher - Business
(3) Jeffrey Tobin	PHS	Teacher - STEAM
 - d) Nominations

F. Future Agenda Planning

G. Future Meetings

- | | | |
|-------------------|-----|----------------|
| 1. April 16, 2025 | PES | Library 6:30PM |
| 2. May 7, 2025 | PES | Library 6:30PM |

H. Non Public Session 91-A:3 (II) (i)

- 1. Emergency Operation Planning
- 2. MOU

Rules for a non public session 91-A:3 (II)*

II. Only the following matters shall be considered or acted upon in nonpublic session:

- (a) The dismissal, promotion, or compensation of any public employee or the disciplining of such employee, or the investigation of any charges against him or her, unless the employee affected (1) has a right to a meeting and (2) requests that the meeting be open, in which case the request shall be granted.
- (b) The hiring of any person as a public employee.
- (c) Matters which, if discussed in public, would likely adversely affect the reputation of any person, other than a member of the public body itself, unless such person requests an open meeting. This exemption shall extend to any application for assistance or tax abatement or waiver of a fee, fine, or other levy, if based on inability to pay or poverty of the applicant.
- (d) Consideration of the acquisition, sale, or lease of real or personal property which, if discussed in public, would likely benefit a party or parties whose interests are adverse to those of the general community.
- (e) Consideration or negotiation of pending claims or litigation which has been threatened in writing or filed by or against the public body or any subdivision thereof, or by or against any member thereof because of his or her membership in such public body, until the claim or litigation has been fully adjudicated or otherwise settled. Any application filed for tax abatement, pursuant to law, with any body or board shall not constitute a threatened or filed litigation against any public body for the purposes of this subparagraph.
- (f) [Repealed.]
- (g) Consideration of security-related issues bearing on the immediate safety of security personnel or inmates at the county or state correctional facilities by county correctional superintendents or the commissioner of the department of corrections, or their designees.
- (h) Consideration of applications by the business finance authority under RSA 162-A:7-10 and 162-A:13, where consideration of an application in public session would cause harm to the applicant or would inhibit full discussion of the application.
- (i) Consideration of matters relating to the preparation for and the carrying out of emergency functions, including training to carry out such functions, developed by local or state safety officials that are directly intended to thwart a deliberate act that is intended to result in widespread or severe damage to property or widespread injury or loss of life.
- (j) Consideration of confidential, commercial, or financial information that is exempt from public disclosure under RSA 91-A:5, IV in an adjudicative proceeding pursuant to RSA 541 or RSA 541-A.
- (k) Consideration by a school board of entering into a student or pupil tuition contract authorized by RSA 194 or RSA 195-A, which, if discussed in public, would likely benefit a party or parties whose interests are adverse to those of the general public or the school district that is considering a contract, including any meeting between the school boards, or committees thereof, involved in the negotiations. A contract negotiated by a school board shall be made public prior to its consideration for approval by a school district, together with minutes of all meetings held in nonpublic session, any proposals or records related to the contract, and any proposal or records involving a school district that did not become a party to the contract, shall be made public. Approval of a contract by a school district shall occur only at a meeting open to the public at which, or after which, the public has had an opportunity to participate.
- (l) Consideration of legal advice provided by legal counsel, either in writing or orally, to one or more members of the public body, even where legal counsel is not present.

(m) Consideration of whether to disclose minutes of a nonpublic session due to a change in circumstances under paragraph III. However, any vote on whether to disclose minutes shall take place in public session.

*Updated on 01/27/2023

**PELHAM SCHOOL BOARD
MEETING SCHEDULE
2025-2026**

(all meetings are Wednesdays at 6:30 at Pelham Elementary School unless otherwise specified)

2025

Month	Date	Meeting Type	Note
March	19	Board Reorganization	
April	2	Board Meeting	
	16	Board Meeting	
May	7	Board Meeting	
	21	Board Meeting	
June	4	Board Meeting	
	18	Board Meeting	
July	9	Board Meeting	
August	6	Board Retreat	PHS Library 5PM
September	3	Board Meeting	Budget Review SAU, School Board, Curriculum and Transportation, PHS (subject to change)
	10	Board Meeting	Budget Review PES, PMS, Food Service, Facilities, Technology and Special Services (subject to change)
	24	Board Meeting	Budget Review Salaries & Benefits
October	1	Board Meeting	
	15	Board Meeting	
November	5	Board Meeting	
	19	Board Meeting	
December	3	Board Meeting	
	17	Board Meeting	

2026

January	7	Board Meeting	
	21	Board Meeting	
February	4	Deliberative Session	Sherburne Hall @ 7PM
	18	Board Meeting	
March	4	Board Meeting	
	10	School District Vote	Pelham High School 7 am - 8 pm
	18	Board Reorganization	



2025-2026 PSB Committee Reorganization

Role	Explanation	2024-25	2025-26
Chair, School Board	Sets meeting agenda and chairs meetings. Serves as the primary point of contact with the Superintendent.	Troy Bressette	Darlene Greenwood
Vice-Chair, School Board	Serves as Chair when the Chair is unavailable.	David Wilkerson	Rebecca Cummings
Designated Signers (3)	Signs documents on behalf of the Board for documents such as the manifests.	Troy Bressette Darlene Greenwood David Wilkerson	Darlene Greenwood Garrett Abare Krista Garcia
Alternate	Serve when a signer is unavailable.	Garrett Abare	Rebecca Cummings
Representative, Pelham Budget Committee	Provides information and represents School Board interests on the Budget Committee with most meetings in October - December and January. Evening Meetings	Troy Bressette	
Alternate	Serve when the representative is unavailable.	David Wilkerson	
Representative, Pelham Capital Improvement Plan	Provides information and represents School Board interests with the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) Committee of the Town, with most meetings leading up to a final plan in August. Evening Meetings	David Wilkerson	
Delegate, NH School Boards Association	May attend the annual meeting and other NHSBA events representing Pelham. Activities may include developing resolutions or promoting professional development.	Open	
Member, Performance Compensation Model	Meets once per month (virtually) at the beginning of the school year and end to select teacher proposals per the CBA. After School Meetings.	Rebecca Cummings	
Liaison, Pelham School Aged Child Care (PSACC)	Meet a few times per year to negotiate any contract updates.	Darlene Greenwood	
Member, Professional Development Committee (PDC)	Meets quarterly (virtually and after school) to address professional development needs and uphold the Professional Development Master Plan.	David Wilkerson	

Alternate	Serve when the member is unavailable.	Darlene Greenwood	Darlene Greenwood
Role	Explanation	2024-25	2025-26
Member, Wellness Committee	Regular quarterly meetings after school.	Garrett Abare	
Alternate (Added March 2023)	Serve when the member is unavailable.	Darlene Greenwood	
Member, Sick Bank PEA	Meets virtually as needed to ensure the proper balance is maintained within the sick bank and/or to review applications submitted by members requesting the ability to use benefits.	Darlene Greenwood	
Member, Catastrophic Illness Bank PESPA	Meets virtually as needed to ensure the proper balance is maintained within the catastrophic illness bank and/or to review applications submitted by members requesting the ability to use benefits.	Darlene Greenwood	
Member, Joint Loss Management Committee	Meets quarterly to review systemic risks and remediations. After School Meetings.	Garett Abare	
Alternate	Serve when the member is unavailable.	David Wilkerson	
Negotiations PESPA (2)	Oversees contract negotiations with the administrative team and communicates with the Board.	N/A	
		N/A	
Negotiations PEA (2)	Oversees contract negotiations with the administrative team and communicates with the Board.	N/A	N/A
		N/A	N/A
Member of Policy Committee (2)	Meets approximately monthly with the Superintendent to review and suggest changes to policy prior to presentation to the Board.	Troy Bresette	
		Darlene Greenwood	
Member, Master Plan Committee	Attends Master Planning meetings monthly and reports back to the Board. (Evening Meetings)	N/A	



Report of Appropriations as Voted
Pelham Local School

(RSA 21-J:34 and RSA 198:4-a)

For the period beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026

Form Due Date: **20 Days after the Annual Meeting**

SCHOOL BOARD CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that the information contained in this form, appropriations actually voted by the school district meeting, was taken from official records and is complete to the best of our knowledge and belief. Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have examined the information contained in this form and to the best of my belief it is true, correct and complete.

Name	Position	Signature
	Superintendent	
	School District Clerk	
	School Board Member	
	School Board Member	
	School Board Member	
	School Board Member	
	School Board Member	
	School Board Member	
	School Board Member	
	School Board Member	
	School Board Member	
	School Board Member	
	School Board Member	
	School Board Member	
	School Board Member	

This form must be signed, scanned, and uploaded to the Municipal Tax Rate Setting Portal:

<https://www.proptax.org/>

For assistance please contact:
NH DRA Municipal and Property Division
(603) 230-5090

<https://www.revenue.nh.gov/about-dra/municipal-and-property-division/municipal-bureau>



Appropriations

Account	Purpose	Article	Appropriations As Voted	Elementary	Middle/Jr.	High
Instruction						
1100-1199	Regular Programs	01	\$13,915,674	\$5,563,865	\$3,388,127	\$4,963,682
1200-1299	Special Programs	01	\$7,384,109	\$3,139,234	\$1,774,894	\$2,469,981
1300-1399	Vocational Programs	01	\$115,213	\$0	\$0	\$115,213
1400-1499	Other Programs	01	\$764,813	\$20,392	\$115,985	\$628,436
1500-1599	Non-Public Programs	01	\$13,091	\$0	\$0	\$0
1600-1699	Adult/Continuing Education Programs		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
1700-1799	Community/Junior College Education Programs		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
1800-1899	Community Service Programs		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Instruction Subtotal			\$22,192,900	\$8,723,491	\$5,279,006	\$8,177,312
Support Services						
2000-2199	Student Support Services	01	\$3,713,380	\$1,793,838	\$836,617	\$1,082,925
2200-2299	Instructional Staff Services	01	\$1,200,055	\$518,297	\$332,050	\$349,708
Support Services Subtotal			\$4,913,435	\$2,312,135	\$1,168,667	\$1,432,633
General Administration						
2310 (840)	School Board Contingency		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
2310-2319	Other School Board	01	\$98,423	\$46,259	\$20,669	\$31,495
General Administration Subtotal			\$98,423	\$46,259	\$20,669	\$31,495
Executive Administration						
2320 (310)	SAU Management Services		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
2320-2399	All Other Administration	01	\$1,129,901	\$531,053	\$237,279	\$361,569
2400-2499	School Administration Service	01	\$2,142,765	\$793,170	\$573,178	\$776,417
2500-2599	Business	01	\$499,808	\$234,910	\$104,960	\$159,938
2600-2699	Plant Operations and Maintenance	01	\$3,222,561	\$1,103,531	\$950,881	\$1,168,149
2700-2799	Student Transportation	01	\$2,688,129	\$1,219,458	\$638,910	\$829,761
2800-2999	Support Service, Central and Other	01	\$1,443,279	\$670,840	\$303,089	\$469,350
Executive Administration Subtotal			\$11,126,443	\$4,552,962	\$2,808,297	\$3,765,184
Non-Instructional Services						
3100	Food Service Operations		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
3200	Enterprise Operations		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Non-Instructional Services Subtotal			\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0



Appropriations

Account	Purpose	Article	Appropriations As Voted	Elementary	Middle/Jr.	High
Facilities Acquisition and Construction						
4100	Site Acquisition		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
4200	Site Improvement	01	\$1	\$0	\$1	\$0
4300	Architectural/Engineering	01	\$1	\$0	\$1	\$0
4400	Educational Specification Development		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
4500	Building Acquisition/Construction	01	\$1	\$0	\$1	\$0
4600	Building Improvement Services	01	\$133,768	\$88,287	\$0	\$45,481
4900	Other Facilities Acquisition and Construction		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Facilities Acquisition and Construction Subtotal			\$133,771	\$88,287	\$3	\$45,481
Other Outlays						
5110	Debt Service - Principal	01	\$2,410,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
5120	Debt Service - Interest	01	\$1,255,710	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other Outlays Subtotal			\$3,665,710	\$0	\$0	\$0
Fund Transfers						
5220-5221	To Food Service	01	\$1,176,152	\$0	\$0	\$0
5222-5229	To Other Special Revenue	01	\$775,577	\$0	\$0	\$0
5230-5239	To Capital Projects		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
5251	To Capital Reserve Fund		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
5252	To Expendable Trusts/Fiduciary Funds		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
5253	To Non-Expendable Trust Funds		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
5254	To Agency Funds		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
5300-5399	Intergovernmental Agency Allocation		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
9990	Supplemental Appropriation		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
9992	Deficit Appropriation		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Fund Transfers Subtotal			\$1,951,729	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Voted Appropriations			\$44,082,411	\$15,723,134	\$9,276,642	\$13,452,105

Eric "Chip" McGee, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Deb Mahoney
Business Administrator

Keith Lord
Director of Technology



Sarah Marandos, Ed.D.
Assistant Superintendent

Toni Barkdoll
Director of Human Resources

*T: (603)-635-1145
F: (603)-635-1283*

Kimberly Noyes
Director of Student Services

*59A Marsh Road
Pelham, NH 03076*

To: Pelham School Board
From: Dawn Mead, Pelham High School Principal Administrative Team
RE: Proposed amendment to the 2025-2026 Program of Studies regarding early release and late arrival
Cc: Chip McGee
Sarah Marandos
Date: April 2, 2025

My administrative team is proposing a change in language in the Pelham High School Program of Studies for 2025-2026. We propose removing the option of early release or late arrival for juniors and returning to the prior practice of this being a senior privilege only. Junior early release and late arrival was added to the Program of Studies during the pandemic as a means to limit contact among students. Prior to that, it was a senior privilege. We propose removing the Junior privilege as another way to increase instructional time for our students.

Proposed Change

Early Release/Late Arrival Expectations

The early release/late arrival program is for seniors only. Seniors can use that time for opportunities outside of school that could benefit their personalized educational plan. Students participating in the early release/late arrival program may lose their eligibility if any of the following occur:

- Failing one or more courses
- Failing to display good citizenship
- In school or out of school suspension
- Failing to sign in or out

If a student is interested in early release/late arrival, an application must be completed with parent and administrative authorization. Please note, to earn an Honors with Distinction Diploma or Merit Diploma students will need to earn 32 credits.



TIMBERLANE-PELHAM BOYS ICE HOCKEY COOPERATIVE PROPOSAL



February 2025

To the NHIAA Ice Hockey Committee and the Classification Committee:

Timberlane Regional High School and Pelham High School would like to form a cooperative team for boys' ice hockey starting in the 2025-26 school year that will compete in division 2. The commitment between the two schools would be at minimum through the conclusion of the 2025-2026 school year and will be reassessed at the conclusion of the season per By-Law IV Sect.9 Part H, "in the case of a mid-cycle approval, for the remaining year of the classification cycle. (CM 5.2023)" Timberlane Regional High School has not been part of a cooperative team, while Pelham was previously in a co-op with Nashua South since 2016-2017.

Details of the agreement are as follows:

Administration of the program

- The Timberlane-Pelham cooperative team will be administered by the Timberlane Athletic Director.
- Collaboration between the Timberlane and Pelham Athletic Directors and Principals will be necessary for a smooth transition and successful operation of this cooperative team.

Game administration

- A representative (Athletic Director, Athletic Coordinator, Assistant Principal, Principal, or other school designated Game Director) from both schools will be in attendance at all home and playoff games.
- If necessary, similar coverage will be provided at away games.
- An athletic trainer will be provided at all home games. Timberlane and Pelham will arrange a schedule to split the coverage between the two schools' athletic trainers.
- Police details will be scheduled for all home games by the Timberlane Athletic Department.

Coaches' eligibility

- Coaches' eligibility would be monitored and verified by the Timberlane Athletic Director.

Student-athlete eligibility

- Initial eligibility of student-athletes (academics, behavior, physical etc) will be determined by the students' home school, following already established policies and procedures.
- Continued eligibility of student-athletes for things such as daily attendance and school discipline will also be determined by the students' home school, following current school and district policy.

Transportation arrangements to practices and contests

- Students are responsible for their own transportation to practices and home games.
- Bus transportation would be provided to away games from Timberlane Regional High School.

Use of facilities

- Practices will take place at the Salem Icecenter and Methuen Ice Rink. Home games will take place at the Salem Icecenter. Facilities are subject to change.
- The team will follow the practice schedule set forth by the coaching staff in conjunction with the facility availability.

Funding

- Associated expenses will be paid for by the Timberlane Athletic Department. An invoice will then be sent to Pelham at the conclusion of the season. This invoice will reimburse the Timberlane Regional School District by a percentage of the total associated expenses determined by the team's rostered enrollment numbers. Enrollment roster numbers will be determined by the date of the first scheduled regular season game.

Procedure for dissolution of the agreement by a school

- Wishes to dissolve the cooperative agreement must be given during the season prior to dissolution (example, during the 2027-2028 season for dissolution at the end of that season).

Additional information

- All students wishing to participate in the Timberlane-Pelham boys ice hockey program will be afforded that opportunity.
- This program will be a no-cut sport.

We ask the committees, and then the NHIAA Council to approve this cooperative agreement so the Timberlane-Pelham team can play in the 2025-2026 season. The Timberlane Athletic Director will work with other division 2 athletic directors to keep the existing Timberlane schedule.

1	Enrollment breakdown between grades (9-12) for the current year	Lead School TIMBERLANE	Second School PELHAM
	9th	208	103
	10th	229	119
	11th	243	141
	12th	258	146
		Lead School TIMBERLANE	Second School PELHAM
2	Does your school have a sub-varsity program? (Yes or No)	No	No
3	Historical data (past three years minimum enrollment data)	Lead School TIMBERLANE	Second School PELHAM
	2023-2024	972	556
	2022-2023	995	581
	2021-2022	1028	580
4	Projected Enrollment (for the next three years)	Lead School TIMBERLANE	Second School PELHAM
	2025-2026	961	474
	2026-2027	960	445
	2027-2028	953	435
5	How many athletes from each school, for this sport?	16	5

Respectfully submitted,



Angelo Fantasia
Director of Athletics
Timberlane Regional School District



John Vaccarezza
Principal
Timberlane Regional High School



Justin Krieger
Superintendent of Schools
Timberlane Regional School District



Justin Huft
Director of Athletics
Pelham High School



Dawn Mead
Principal
Pelham High School



Eric McGee
Superintendent of Schools
Pelham School District

CERTIFICATE *of* SIGNATURE

REF. NUMBER
HYGYA-GX47G-EYMLQ-W7ECJ

DOCUMENT COMPLETED BY ALL PARTIES ON
27 FEB 2025 23:50:27 UTC

SIGNER

ERIC MCGEE

EMAIL
CMCGEE@PELHAMSD.ORG

TIMESTAMP

SENT
27 FEB 2025 19:48:33 UTC

VIEWED
27 FEB 2025 20:21:42 UTC

SIGNED
27 FEB 2025 20:21:55 UTC

SIGNATURE

Eric McGee

IP ADDRESS
216.107.201.146

LOCATION
PELHAM, UNITED STATES

RECIPIENT VERIFICATION

EMAIL VERIFIED
27 FEB 2025 20:21:42 UTC

DAWN MEAD

EMAIL
DMEAD@PELHAMSD.ORG

SENT
27 FEB 2025 19:48:33 UTC

VIEWED
27 FEB 2025 20:32:56 UTC

SIGNED
27 FEB 2025 20:33:25 UTC

Dawn Mead

IP ADDRESS
24.63.144.69

LOCATION
MERRIMACK, UNITED STATES

RECIPIENT VERIFICATION

EMAIL VERIFIED
27 FEB 2025 20:32:56 UTC



CERTIFICATE *of* SIGNATURE

REF. NUMBER
HYGYA-GX47G-EYMLQ-W7ECJ

DOCUMENT COMPLETED BY ALL PARTIES ON
27 FEB 2025 23:50:27 UTC

SIGNER

JUSTIN HUFFT

EMAIL
JHUFFT@PELHAMSD.ORG

TIMESTAMP

SENT
27 FEB 2025 19:48:33 UTC

VIEWED
27 FEB 2025 23:50:03 UTC

SIGNED
27 FEB 2025 23:50:27 UTC

SIGNATURE



IP ADDRESS
73.159.74.199

LOCATION
MERRIMACK, UNITED STATES

RECIPIENT VERIFICATION

EMAIL VERIFIED
27 FEB 2025 23:50:03 UTC



Pelham School Board Meeting
Pelham Elementary School
March 5, 2025
6:30 p.m.

School Board Members: David Wilkerson, Vice Chair; Garrett Abare; Rebecca Cummings; and Darlene Greenwood

Superintendent: Chip McGee

Business Administrator: Deb Mahoney

Absent: Troy Bressette; Sarah Marandos; Mya Belanger, and Alexia Nou

Also in Attendance: Mike Comtois (PMS Wrestling); Beth Greenblatt, Beacon Integrated Solutions (remote)

I. Public Hearing:

A. Call to Order:

6:30 p.m. – Vice-Chair David Wilkerson called the meeting to order.

Mr. Wilkerson stated that the Pelham School Board would hold a public hearing in accordance with NH RSA 198:20-b to receive Emergency Connectivity Funds (ECF) grant revenue in the amount of **\$63,673.78**. He mentioned that the RSA requires a public hearing to accept and expend unanticipated funds in the amount of \$5,000 or more.

Superintendent McGee provided an overview, explaining that the funds are federal and intended to reimburse previously purchased technology.

Mr. Wilkerson declared the public hearing open to comments; however, no public input was received, and the hearing closed at 6:33 p.m.

II. Public Session:

A. Vice-Chair David Wilkerson asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. Public Input at 6:35 p.m.:

Mr. Wilkerson outlined the guidelines for public participation as per Policy **BEDH**. Each speaker is allotted three minutes; they must provide their name, address, and, if applicable, the organization they represent. Public comments on District operations and programs are welcome, but public sessions do not address personnel matters. The Board emphasized the expectation of civil discourse.

a. Christina Tetrault, 11 Magnolia Drive

Ms. Tetrault read the following: *"My name is Christina Tetreault, and I live at 11 Magnolia Drive. I would like to express my concerns regarding district proficiency and address the misleading claim in the table included in this evening's agenda that compares the current schedule model used at the high school with an A/B schedule, a model used by a large percentage of School Districts.*

In that table, the District claims that students can take eight consecutive math classes using the current model during their careers at PHS. This claim is misleading given the courses offered because there isn't a hypothetical student in Pelham that would take Foundations of Math and Calculus or College Credit Statistics, not to mention some of the classes listed in the program of study are not offered each year, and often courses don't fit in a student's schedule because of other classes they need. A more likely scenario is for a student to take, at most, five math courses, like my oldest daughter, who is a senior. She was only able to do this by completing Spanish four as a VLAC over the summer,

allowing her, for the first time at PHS this year, to take two math classes. Something she has requested every year when she completed her course selection. (I provided you with a copy of the current Math Courses and my daughter's schedule during her time at PHS. The courses highlighted are ones I either know don't run every year or question if they do.)

The District's math and science proficiency scores have declined yearly under the current administration, except for a minuscule and temporary increase in 2023. And these scores have declined yearly at high school since it adopted the current block schedule model for the 2020 -2021 school year. This model results in students often going 7 months without math, English, or science instruction.

The NH DOE website shows that only 37% of students in the District are proficient in math and only 29% in science. At high school, only 21% are proficient in math and 30% in science. I provided you with the District's proficiency scores from 2018 through 2024. The current administration attributes the poor scores to the considerable turnover in the District, which is an issue. For instance, between August 2023 and the present, 10 different individuals held the three Administrative Assistant positions at the high school. Notably, six of these individuals were appointed between July 2024 and February 2025.

However, low proficiency scores, constant turnover, and problematic high school schedules are merely symptoms of leadership at both the district and school levels.

An effective leader should guide and drive an organization's success. Unfortunately, the District does not currently have such leadership. Instead, it has allowed students' education to decline and tolerated a hostile work environment.

Change is needed in Pelham, and it must begin with effective new leadership at both the district and building levels."

b. Krista Day, 3 Castle Hill Road

Ms. Day addressed the School Board, providing insight as both a parent and an educator. Residing at 3 Castle Hill, Pelham, she emphasized her involvement in the school system. As a parent of six children, all graduates of Pelham High School, and a teacher with eight years of experience—preceded by ten years as a substitute—she shared firsthand observations on the impact of different academic schedules.

Ms. Day's family had experienced various scheduling models: three of their children followed a 4x4 schedule, two experienced a combination of 4x4 and A/B, and one completed all four years on an A/B schedule. She expressed concerns about the A/B schedule, describing the workload as overwhelming. Students on this schedule faced continuous stress, balancing assignments from up to eight classes. Ms. Day observed her children struggling to manage coursework, often feeling burdened by the need to complete assignments alternating nights.

As a teacher, she witnessed similar struggles among students. Missing just four days of school resulted in falling significantly behind, forcing students to prioritize certain subjects over others. Some students, unable to keep up, opted to abandon two classes entirely to maintain passing grades in others. She found that students managing four to six classes under the 4x4 model appeared to handle their workload more effectively.

Ms. Day noted that the 4x4 schedule allowed her children to graduate with more college credits. Those inclined toward Math, Science, English, or the Arts could take additional courses in their areas of interest. She urged the School Board to carefully consider data before making any changes to an A/B schedule, emphasizing that test scores had not improved during previous implementations.

Ms. Day pointed out that while many cohort schools currently use the A/B schedule, several actively seek to reverse the change. She cautioned that it is difficult to revert once a scheduling shift occurs. She urged the Board to slow down and thoroughly assess the impact before proceeding with any modifications.

c. **Debbie Kruzel, 76 Beacon Hill Road**

Ms. Kruzel read the following: "Hello, I'm Debbie Kruzel from 76 Beacon Hill Road.

1. *I noticed that last year the District posted the payroll vouchers very consistently every payroll period — I believe every 2 weeks, but the last payroll voucher I noticed in the Meeting agendas was September 26, 2024. Is there a reason why the vouchers are no longer being shared in the agendas?*
2. *At the Feb. Deliberative Session, Tom Gellar mentioned that he was disappointed that last summer's math had been dropped as an area of interest and happy that it's back in the forefront. Thank you! He also mentioned that he is expecting that there were specific, measurable goals determined by the School Board, which I think everyone would agree is critical.*

Previously, the "goals" have been rather vague. Having a goal stated as being "in the middle of the peer group" is infinitely vague. I would encourage the School Board to choose finite numbers, like in 2024, our average math proficiency score in the District was 37%, our goal is to be at 47% in 2028 and 57% in 2030 or something measurable like that. To say "we want to be in the middle of our peer group" is very misleading.... If the peer group "tanks" one year and then you're in the middle of it, it doesn't mean the students have increased their scores at all; it just means that everyone did awfully. Does that make sense?

Although I am discussing math goals, I believe this same strategy should be applied for ELA and science, which are currently at 50% and 29%, dead last for ELA and #11 out of 12 for the peer group for science.

3. *Finally, although I have lived here since 2000, we've only had one of our 2 daughters attend high school for one year. At the November 2023 Budget meeting, I remember Greg Smith asking why math is only taught 1/2 a year for our students. I was stunned when I heard that. There was some response that the Superintendent would give supporting data that math done that way/block scheduling is successful. (I'm not sure if Greg received that information.) Recently, I went to the websites of the other 6 high schools in our peer groups, and they ALL require 3.5 credits of math to graduate, and a credit is a full year of math, not 1/2 a year. A friend recently questioned me about that and said, "So basically, if you think of going to the gym and you put in twice as much time for 4 months, then you won't need to go back to the gym until 9 months later or so and you won't have lost any ground.*

When we think about anyone's brain needing exercise to learn, it seems very logical that a full year of math would be better than 1/2 a year. I'm surprised this wasn't one of the first changes that a new Superintendent would make if they were dedicated to improving math scores at our high school.

Thank you"

Public Input closed at 6:45 p.m.

Following public comments, the Board acknowledged the concerns raised, noting that while public input is documented in the minutes, immediate action is not taken during the meeting.

C. Opening Remarks:

a. **Superintendent:**

Superintendent Chip McGee announced that Pelham Elementary School would hold a showcase event on March 6 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., allowing parents to observe students' work. He also acknowledged PTV's Jenna Bailey's 16th birthday and extended his well-wishes.

III. Presentations:

A. Recognition of Mr. Wilkerson:

The meeting moved on to scheduled presentations. The Board recognized **Mr. Wilkerson** for his **twelve years of service** in the School District and expressed appreciation for his dedication to students and families.

Ms. Greenwood read a heartfelt farewell to Mr. Wilkerson from Mr. Bressette. The note recognized Mr. Wilkerson's dedication to the students of Pelham and his unwavering commitment to the community. Board members were grateful for his service and guidance through many challenges and difficult decisions. The members thanked Mr. Wilkerson for his wisdom and leadership, which was invaluable to the District.

Mr. Wilkerson was encouraged to stay in touch. He also reflected on his motivation for serving on the School Board, emphasizing his commitment to helping young people develop a strong sense of self, guiding principles, and moral and ethical leadership. Mr. Wilkerson reiterated that he was not seeking any elected position but was dedicated to continued community service.

IV. Main Issues:

A. Donation of Wrestling Mats to Pelham Memorial:

Dr. McGee initiated the discussion by providing a brief introduction and background on the fundraising efforts. Dr. McGee noted that he has frequently observed Mr. Comtois working as a wrestling coach, dedicating time to training young athletes. Before discussing fundraising details, Mr. Comtois was asked to provide an overview of the wrestling season.

Mr. Comtois said the team has one more tournament left in the season. Approximately 20 students participate in the wrestling program each year, with around 10 qualifying for States and typically 3 to 4 advancing to New England competitions. The team competes against top schools, including Keene, Manchester, Plymouth, and Salem, and extends its competitions beyond the tri-county area, traveling to Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, New York, and even Oklahoma. These efforts aim to enhance the student's skills and competitiveness.

Mr. Comtois has been coaching for approximately 10 years, balancing responsibilities between the youth program and his assistant high school coach role. This year marked the first time the high school had an entire team of students who trained under his program. His objective is to elevate the student's performance to the next level. Pelham has five nationally ranked wrestlers, with three in the top three nationwide. Some of these athletes are bound for Ivy League schools, a distinction unmatched by any other town in New England. The program aspires to continue this trajectory of excellence.

Mr. Comtois said that to support training efforts, the team requires new equipment, including takedown dummies, sprawling dummies, and a new wrestling mat. Initially, they estimated it would take two to three years to raise the necessary **\$14,000** for the mat, but the goal was achieved in just two weeks through fundraising. The wrestling mat being considered was highlighted in the provided documentation.

The proposed purchases include:

Item	Price
Wrestling Mat:	\$13,600
Snap and Shoot Elite:	\$1,895
Sprawling Machine:	\$740
Total Cost:	\$16,275

In just two weeks, the team raised **\$7,260** through online donations and secured a **\$2,000 grant from NHA**, bringing the total to **\$9,260**. An additional **\$5,000** was raised through food sales and admissions at a recent youth state competition, bringing the overall amount raised to **\$14,260** within a month. The remaining balance required is **\$2,015.72**.

Dr. McGee clarified that since Mr. Bressette was absent, he asked the Board to accept the funds raised to complete these purchases. However, no specific District funds have been identified to cover the remaining amount. Once the funds raised are formally donated to the District, they can be allocated for purchases.

Currently, Brian Johnson holds most of the funds through Parks and Recreation. The NHS check will be issued once the team confirms readiness to proceed with purchases. The Board discussed the process for accepting funds, and the correct procedure for transferring them to the student activities account.

The Board acknowledged that while they could accept the funds, District fund allocation had not yet been determined. The discussion also touched on potential additional fundraising efforts, though it was noted that organizing another fundraiser could be challenging as the season transitions to other sports.

Ms. Mahoney clarified that they were talking about a Student Activities Fund. Once the Wrestling Team deposits money into the account, they can use it to purchase items that they can afford.

The wrestling mat, manufactured in Pennsylvania, requires **6 to 8 weeks** for production and delivery. The Snap and Shoot Elite and Sprawling Machine are in stock and can be delivered within **one to two weeks** once ordered. The goal is to have all equipment ready for the next season.

The Board deliberated whether end-of-year funds could be utilized to cover the remaining balance. Board members expressed admiration for the rapid and successful fundraising efforts. A clarification was made regarding the wrestling team's status as a school-sponsored junior high sport rather than a club team. Unlike other school sports, wrestling does not have a designated budget line item.

The Board acknowledged the outstanding fundraising efforts and will consider the request before making a final decision on the **\$2,015.72** needed to complete the purchases.

The Board discussed the budgeting process for athletic equipment. Ms. Greenwood noted that if an item is identified as necessary for future planning, it should be communicated in advance. Ms. Mahoney clarified that budgeting begins early, often taking several years to allocate funds. In this case, the Wrestling Team took the initiative to fundraise, recognizing the need for the equipment, as it was not included in the current budget.

Mr. Comtois mentioned that the fundraising efforts progressed more quickly than anticipated. Initially, it was estimated that raising the required funds through various activities, such as cookie sales, would take three years. However, strong community support, including contributions from alumni and the high school, accelerated the process.

The Board acknowledged the responsibility of budgeting for necessary materials. The total amount raised was discussed, confirming the primary figures. The estimated amount to be accepted was **\$14,260**, though a slight variance was noted due to additional contributions still being counted.

Mr. Comtois said Brian Johnson confirmed that all funds would be received by the end of the week, minus **\$2,000**, which was pending final confirmation. Mr. Comtois then provided an updated breakdown of the funds: **\$9,257** plus **\$2,000** from a donation, totaling **\$11,257**. Ms. Mahoney suggested that these confirmed amounts be submitted, with any additional funds beyond the **\$5,000** threshold handled separately to avoid requiring further Board approval.

Ms. Greenwood moved to accept a donation of **\$9,260** on behalf of the wrestling community. Mr. Abare seconded the motion, which passed (4-0-0).

The Board thanked Mr. Comtois and all the contributors for their efforts in supporting the athletic program and the students.

B. Solar Project:

Ms. Mahoney said Beth Greenblatt from Beacon Integrated Solutions was on Zoom to answer any questions.

The meeting then transitioned to the next agenda item regarding the solar project. A statement from Mr. Bressette was read in which he expressed full support for the project and commended the efforts of the team, particularly Ms. Mahoney, for her diligence in overseeing the project. He highlighted that the solar installation would provide significant financial relief by mitigating inflationary energy costs.

Ms. Mahoney provided an overview of the project, explaining that it is a **25-year agreement** with projected net savings of approximately **\$855,000**. However, interconnection costs could affect the final savings, with potential fluctuations bringing the net benefit closer to **\$430,000**, depending on final costs. The project will be completed in two phases, with the first covering PES and PMS installations. These installations will begin once permitting and Fire Marshall approvals are obtained, with an anticipated installation period around May and the systems expected to be operational by August or September.

The second phase involves PHS and will begin once the utility company completes its extensive operational updates at its facility. This work does not take place on-site but is necessary before moving forward. The delay could be extended by an additional eight months, with the anticipated start of the process in December. As a result, the high school will not be operational with solar energy until at least the summer of 2026.

Ms. Greenwood inquired about a contractual date of May 1 as the latest completion date. In response, Ms. Mahoney noted that the project is expected to be completed by March. A few preparatory steps are required, including testing for radio frequency interference, ensuring emergency communication functionality, and conducting a roof assessment to confirm warranty coverage for the elementary school's shingle roof. The Board acknowledged extensive collaboration with the town and legal teams to finalize taxation agreements and ensure compliance.

The Board reviewed two contracts: rooftop leasing agreements for solar panel installation and Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) for acquiring energy. The documents were included in the packet for approval, and the Board was asked to approve these contracts so that signatures could follow.

Ms. Greenblatt confirmed that all necessary details had been covered. Ms. Greenwood acknowledged the complexity and density of the contract documents but confirmed their understanding. It was clarified that the District is leasing its rooftops while the contracted company, Kiersarge, will oversee installation and energy provision. The District will purchase energy at a reduced rate through the agreement.

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

The Board thanked Ms. Greenblatt.

C. Cell Phones at PHS:

The next agenda item discussed cell phones at Pelham High School (PHS). Dr. McGee said this topic was in response to a prior request for information. He reviewed updates related to enforcing cell phones and other notification-enabled device pouches.

A key change implemented this academic year, which was approved over the summer, involved stricter regulations on personal electronic devices. The updated PHS handbook prohibits using cell phones, smartwatches, and earbuds within academic classrooms, bathrooms, and lockers. However, students are allowed to use these devices before and after school and during lunch periods.

The Board discussed using locked pouches for cell phone management at PHS, following a similar implementation at PMS. Dr. McGee mentioned that the intention was to include the cost for these pouches in the Fiscal Year 2026 budget. However, after speaking with the PHS Student Government, the Administration decided not to allocate funds in the current budget cycle, instead allowing students to show that they could develop self-discipline in managing their devices.

Dr. McGee stated that Principal Mead requested time and space for students and staff to determine if they could handle the stricter rules regarding the pouches. Initially, the budget was \$17,664 to cover all four grades. However, during the budget planning process, the Administration weighed multiple priorities. As part of this process, the Student Government presented their case, advocating for the chance to learn to manage their phones and other notification-enabled devices rather than having outright restrictions.

Dr. McGee referenced Jonathan Haidt's work on the impact of social media and smartphones on adolescent mental health. The Student Government demonstrated thoughtful reasoning and open-mindedness, leading to delaying budgeting for the pouches. Dr. McGee encouraged the School Board members to speak with the PHS Student Government.

Mr. Abare emphasized the necessity of cell phone restrictions due to distractions caused by notifications and apps. He commented on his disappointment that the District's budget did not include funding for the pouches, stressing the importance of preparing for future implementation. The possibility of using end-of-year funds was raised, contingent on the priorities of the new Board after the upcoming Town election.

Ms. Greenwood agreed that engaging Student Government in future discussions would be beneficial, particularly before the end of the school year, to avoid delays in the budgeting process. Dr. McGee confirmed that the Student Government members were willing to participate in further conversations.

Mr. Abare requested that the Student Government provide details of their proposed strategies for self-discipline regarding phone use. Mr. Wilkerson commented on the broader implications of student involvement in decision-making and suggested that student representatives should be included in meetings regularly.

D. Daily Schedule at PHS:

Dr. McGee discussed the PHS daily schedule, focusing on the 4x4 and A/B scheduling models. The discussion was prompted by Mr. Abare's request for additional information. The Superintendent worked with Dr. Marandos and Principal Mead to prepare a memo on the topic, expressing support for an initial discussion while emphasizing the need for a thorough stakeholder engagement process before any changes could be implemented.

Dr. McGee highlighted that transitioning schedules would require significant preparation, including gathering stakeholder feedback, investigating potential impacts, and adjusting student and teacher schedules for the next academic year. Since students have already made course selections, a schedule change at this stage would introduce delays.

Dr. McGee reviewed the two primary scheduling models:

- a. 4x4 Schedule: Students take four classes per semester, similar to a college semester system. Full-credit courses are completed in one semester, while half-credit courses last a quarter.
- b. A/B Schedule: Students alternate between two sets of four classes, meaning a full-credit course runs for the entire year but meets every other day.

Numerous scheduling variations exist, including different class period lengths, trimester models, and advisory schedule modifications. Dr. McGee stressed the importance of effectiveness in any schedule change, noting that research indicates schedule modifications have a small but positive impact on student performance. Given the District's priority goals, particularly improving student performance, any changes should be evaluated based on their potential to produce meaningful results.

A review of Pelham High School's scheduling history revealed that:

- a. From 2007 to 2017, the school used a 4x4 schedule.
- b. In 2017, the District transitioned to an A/B schedule, incorporating an additional block for Professional Learning Communities (PLC), leading to some frustration.
- c. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Board reintroduced the 4x4 schedule in 2021 to minimize student interactions and streamline hybrid learning models.

- d. A 2021 survey showed strong stakeholder preference for the 4x4 schedule, with 90% of faculty, 86% of students, and 77% of parents favoring it.

Dr. McGee outlined the key considerations for each model:

- a. A 4x4 schedule reduces the number of students teachers must manage simultaneously, enhancing individualized instruction.
- b. A/B scheduling allows for more continuous exposure to subjects, which may benefit subjects like Math that require ongoing reinforcement.

Extended absences impact students differently under each model: a 4x4 absence affects fewer courses but has a larger impact per class, while an A/B absence spreads the impact across more courses.

The Board members expressed varied perspectives. Some supported a cautious approach, emphasizing the need for thorough research and stakeholder engagement before making any changes. Others stressed the urgency of improving Math and Literacy scores, acknowledging the community's strong sentiments. Mr. Wilkerson emphasized the importance of ensuring all students have access to strong Math instruction without requiring significant personal financial investment.

Ms. Cummings suggested forming a task force to explore alternative solutions beyond schedule changes, seeking new strategies to improve student outcomes. The Board agreed that a broader discussion about impactful educational strategies is needed rather than focusing solely on scheduling.

The Board reached a consensus to table the discussion for the upcoming year and revisit it at the annual Board Retreat. This approach would allow time for further research, stakeholder input, and exploration of other high-impact educational strategies. The Board reaffirmed its commitment to selecting initiatives that would significantly improve student performance in Math and Literacy while minimizing unnecessary disruption.

The discussion centered on aligning viewpoints among members, with general agreement that the group shared similar perspectives. Ms. Greenwood and Ms. Cummings expressed their concerns regarding the heightened anxiety surrounding Math scores. Mr. Abare reiterated his interest in considering other alternatives and confirmed his ongoing vocal support for this approach.

The discussion will be revisited with the upcoming changes in Board composition. At this point, the priority remains to hear additional options. Dr. McGee emphasized the importance of maintaining a sense of urgency in addressing the matter, acknowledging dissatisfaction with the District's current level of progress.

The Board had previously authorized action on four key initiatives: curriculum revision to integrate math into other subjects, expanded professional development during the workday, extended instructional time for students who are not yet proficient, and additional instructional time during the summer. Appreciation was expressed for these high-leverage strategies, which hold the potential to drive significant progress. However, it was suggested that the Board consider implementing as many effective measures as feasible to ensure meaningful advancement.

The Board agreed by consensus to continue instructional efforts. Additionally, there was an agreement to continue studying the issue, intending to reconvene and address it substantially during the upcoming retreat.

Contrasts

These two schedules offer several contrasting impacts.

4 x 4	A/B
The District is ready for a 4 x 4 schedule for the 2025-26 school year.	The District would need to transition for 2025-26, which would delay student and teacher scheduling at a minimum.

Full-credit courses are a semester long.	Full-credit courses are a full year.
Students have three to four classes at a time.	Students have six to eight classes at a time.
Teachers work with three classes of students at a time.	Teachers work with six classes of students at a time.
Students have the option to take eight consecutive math courses.	Students can take four consecutive math courses or “double up” in non-sequential courses like Algebra II and Geometry.
Extended student absences create larger challenges but in fewer classes.	Extended student absences create smaller challenges but in more classes.

E. Acceptance of Unanticipated Revenue - ECF:

The meeting then transitioned to accepting unanticipated revenue. Ms. Mahoney stated that the District received a total of **\$63,673.78**, which was received as a rebate related to internet connectivity and networking upgrades. She noted that these funds have historically been allocated to the Innovation Grant, which supports technology-based classroom innovations. Following past precedent, the Board was asked to approve the continued allocation of these funds to the grant. Ms. Mahoney commented that the Board recently approved Innovation Grant funds for the E-Sports program, which is also included in the upcoming budget for ongoing support. She asked the Board to accept the funds and allocate them to the Innovation Grant.

The Board acknowledged the significance of these discussions and agreed to continue examining strategies for improving student outcomes while maintaining financial prudence.

Mr. Abare requested additional background information on the Innovation Grant. Ms. Mahoney explained that the grant is a fund that allows teachers and staff within the District to apply for financial support to implement innovative initiatives to improve the educational environment. It was noted that while the grant focuses on technology, it has supported flexible classroom setups and other innovations. The initiative has been in place for approximately ten years.

The discussion continued regarding whether the funds should be allocated directly to the Innovation Grant or placed into the General Fund balance, allowing for future allocation on a case-by-case basis. Ms. Mahoney explained that the Board had previously determined that the Innovation Grant provided a mechanism for rapid response to innovation requests, eliminating the need to wait for multiple budget cycles. The application process requires approval from the Principal before submission to the SAU Office for final review.

The Board inquired about the frequency of fund utilization. Two grants were awarded in the past year, one of which supported an E-Sports initiative. Dr. McGee commented that utilization was lower during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Ms. Cummings suggested adding a stipulation that the funds be directed toward initiatives aligned with District goals, such as improving Math and Literacy. The consensus was that this directive could be incorporated into the motion.

The funding approval process was outlined, clarifying that Teachers must apply through their Principal, who must support the request before forwarding it to the SAU for review and approval.

The Board discussed the financial specifics, referencing Fund 25, which has a budget of approximately **\$52,000**. Within this fund, **\$2,000** is allocated for a Wellness Grant from the Health Trust, and **\$50,000** consists of E-Rate funds designated for technology-related expenditures.

Several motions were proposed and revised. The final motion was:

Mr. Abare moved to accept the overage of the Emergency Connectivity Funds grant revenue in the amount of \$63,673.78 for use in the Innovative Fund under the stipulation that it is only used for improving Math. Ms. Cummings seconded the motion, which passed (3-1-0) (Ms. Greenwood voted 'No.')

Before the Board voted, Ms. Greenwood stressed that she did not believe that all the funds should go directly to Math. She pointed out that Teachers in the School District may come up with some innovative ideas but not have access to the funds because of the stipulation that the idea must be related to improving Math.

F. March 11 Voting Day:

The meeting shifted to discussing the final voter guide, which members received through the mail. There were no immediate reports or questions regarding the document. It was also noted that voting would take place on March 11 at the PHS gymnasium.

G. Policy Review:

The Board reviewed the policies listed below.

a. First Reading:

- i. ACAC – Title IX Prohibition of Sex Discrimination and Sex-Based Harassment: Policy and Grievance Procedure (2024 version)
- ii. ACAC – 2020 version
- iii. GBAM – Accommodation of Pregnancy and Related Medical Conditions: Personnel
- iv. IHBCA – Accommodation of Pregnancy and Related Medical Conditions: Students

b. Second Reading:

- i. None

Dr. McGee commented that the policy changes resulted from changes to a Dear Colleague Letter issued by the Office for Civil Rights, part of the Department of Education, related to Title IX. Title IX addresses sex discrimination and sex-based harassment.

The proposed revisions aim to revert to the 2020 version of the policy, rescinding the federal regulation put in place for 2024, which the Board had adopted in September. Specifically, for Policy ACAC, the Policy Committee proposed a return to the 2020 version. Dr. McGee said that minor adjustments were required in policies regarding the accommodation of pregnancy and related medical conditions for both personnel and students, as those had been revised due to the 2024 update and would now need to be reverted.

V. Other:

- A. None

VI. Board Member Reports:

- A. Ms. Greenwood said that she was looking forward to attending the PES Showcase.

VII. Consent Agenda:

A. Correspondence & Information:

- a. None

B. Adoption of Minutes

- a. February 19, 2025 – Draft Public Minutes
- b. February 19, 2025 – Draft Non-Public Minutes

C. Vendor and Payroll Manifests:

- a. 568 \$651,402.24
- b. AP021925 \$614,293.50

c. PAY568P \$319,550.93

D. Enrollment Report:

a. March 1, 2025 - Enrollment Report

The enrollment report was then reviewed. Changes included three student transfers: one student moved out, two transitioned to homeschooling, and one new student moved into the District.

E. Staffing Updates:

a. Leaves:

i. None

b. Resignations:

i. None

c. Retirements:

i. None

d. Nominations:

i. None

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

VIII. Future Agenda Planning:

a. None

IX. Future Meetings:

A. 03/11/2025 – 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Town Meeting (Voting) PHS Gymnasium

B. 03/19/2025 – 6:30 p.m. School Board Meeting @ PES Library

X. Non-Public Session:

Personnel Matters

(c) Matters which, if discussed in public, would likely adversely affect the reputation of any person other than a member of the public body itself unless such person requests an open meeting. This exemption shall extend to any application for assistance or tax abatement or waiver of a fee, fine, or other levy if based on inability to pay or poverty of the applicant.

Ms. Greenwood moved to enter non-public under RSA 91-A:3, II (c) at 8:09 p.m. Mr. Abare seconded the motion, which passed (4-0-0).

a. D. Wilkerson - Aye

b. G. Abare - Aye

c. R. Cummings - Aye

d. D. Greenwood - Aye

Respectfully Submitted,
Matthew Sullivan
School Board Recording Secretary

**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.

62
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).

65
66 Dr. Marandos handed the meeting over to Chair Darlene Greenwood.

67
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).

70
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.

73
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.

78
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.

84
85 **E. Election Results**

86 The election results were reviewed.

87
88 **a. School Board**

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

90
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.

96
97 Ms. Mahoney said that the MS-22 Approved Budget will be reviewed and signed at the next Board meeting.

98
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.

103
104 **G. Policy Review:**

105 **a. None**

106
107 **IV. Other:**

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.
 159
 160 Mr. Abare moved to enter non-public under RSA 91-A:3, II (i)—Emergency Function at 6:47 p.m. Ms. Cummings
 161 seconded the motion, which passed (4-0-0).
 162
 163 a. D. Greenwood - Aye
 164 b. R. Cummings - Aye
 165 c. G. Abare - Aye
 166 d. K. Garcia - Aye
 167
 168 **XII. Reconvene:**
 169 8:47 p.m.
 170
 171 **XIII. Adjournment:**
 172 Mr. Abare moved to adjourn the School Board Meeting at 8:48 p.m. Mr. Wilkerson seconded the motion, which passed
 173 (4-0-0).
 174
 175 a. D. Greenwood - Aye
 176 b. R. Cummings - Aye
 177 c. G. Abare - Aye
 178 d. K. Garcia - Aye
 179
 180
 181 Respectfully Submitted,
 182 Matthew Sullivan
 183 School Board Recording Secretary

Monthly Enrollment
Pelham School District
As of April 01, 2025

Enrollment										
Grade Level	End of Year 23-24	9/3/24	10/1/24	11/1/24	12/1/24	1/1/25	2/1/25	3/1/25	4/1/25	Change from March
Preschool	69	66	65	64	66	69	69	69	73	4
Kindergarten	122	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	100	1
1	104	129	128	129	128	128	126	126	126	0
2	132	106	107	107	107	107	107	107	108	1
3	108	134	134	135	134	134	133	132	133	1
4	106	108	108	107	107	107	107	107	107	0
5	121	111	111	111	109	109	110	110	109	-1
6	115	121	122	123	123	123	122	122	121	-1
7	118	113	113	113	112	112	112	112	111	-1
8	110	114	114	115	116	117	117	116	116	0
9	119	110	102	103	103	103	103	104	106	2
10	139	121	118	118	116	116	115	115	115	0
11	143	145	143	144	144	142	142	141	142	1
12	148	148	147	146	146	147	148	148	147	-1
PES Total	762	753	752	752	750	753	751	750	756	6
PMS Total	343	348	349	351	351	352	351	350	348	-2
PHS Total	549	524	510	511	509	508	508	508	510	2
PSD Total	1654	1,625	1,611	1,614	1,610	1,613	1,610	1608	1614	6

Withdrawals			
School	Grade	Date	Notes
PES	5	3/6/25	Moved to Florida
PMS	6	3/3/25	Birches Academy Salem, NH
PMS	7	3/5/25	Moved to Florida
PHS	12	3/28/25	VLACS
New Students			
School	Grade	Date	Notes
PES	PK	3/5/25	New Enrollment
PES	PK	3/14/25	New Enrollment
PES	PK	3/24/25	New Enrollment
PES	PK	3/31/25	New Enrollment
PES	K	3/18/25	New Enrollment
PES	2	3/10/25	Brazil
PES	3	3/26/25	Windham Academy
PHS	9	3/3/25	Manchester, NH
PHS	9	3/3/25	Manchester, NH
PHS	11	3/17/25	Tewksbury, MA