



PEMBROKE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
Tuesday, March 21, 2023
North Pembroke Elementary School Library

Call to Order

Mr. Kennedy called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm.

Present from Administration: Erin Obey, Superintendent; Marybeth Brust, Assistant Superintendent; Jessica DeLorenzo, Director of Student Services

Present from Committee: Lance Kennedy, Chair; Susie Scholl, Vice Chair; Susan Bollinger, Secretary; and Michael Quinn

Absent: David Boyle

Acknowledge & Schedule Visitors

Mr. Kennedy welcomed the audience members.

Adjustments to Agenda

None

Communications

Mrs. Obey said there is a meeting with the Select Board scheduled for 4/19. Also, there will be a meeting at North Pembroke Elementary on 4/6 at 6 pm for parents and community questions regarding the exploration of a vocational regional planning committee.

Approval of Bill Schedule

Warrants were sent out electronically for signature.

Consideration for Approval: School Committee Meeting Minutes of March 7, 2023

VOTE: On a motion made by Susan Bollinger and seconded by Susie Scholl, it was unanimously voted to approve the school committee meeting minutes of March 7, 2023.

Voting Yes: Lance Kennedy, Susie Scholl, Susan Bollinger, and Michael Quinn

Voting No: none

Abstaining: none

Absent: David Boyle

Superintendent's Report

Visual and Performing Arts Budget Presentation

- Mrs. Chapman said the VPA department is very active and has seen many accomplishments including:
- The creation and pilot of the new Digital Arts Pathway
- All 13 AP Studio Art students earned a qualifying score on 2022 AP exam portfolio
- PHS artists exhibited art work and won juried awards at multiple venues

- Hobomock art teacher engaged seniors through the Council on Aging to do an art project with students
- PHS art student took part in the “student rebuild” fundraiser for Ukrainian refugees
- Musical performances held at multiple venues
- Grade 7-12 student musicians were accepted to SEMSBA, Southeastern District and All-State Music Festivals
- PHS Wind Ensemble was part of the Southeastern Consortium for newly composed work

Mrs. Chapman said the ongoing departmental work includes:

- Ongoing curriculum review and recognition to celebrate the diversity of Pembroke learners
- Professional development with an art therapist to meet needs of diverse learners in Music and Art
- The Digital Art Pathway to include internships, Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator Certifications, information sessions for younger students

Mrs. Chapman said current staffing includes one visual art and one music teacher at each elementary. one visual art and 1.2 music teachers at PCMS, 3 visual art and 1.8 music teachers at PHS and one band and a .2 strings teacher for grades 5 and 6. Total of 14.2 staff members in the department.

Mrs. Chapman said enrollment numbers are coming back after COVID, and there are 180 elementary students participating this year compared to 168 in 2021-2022. PCMS has 84% participating in art and .76% participating in music. PHS has 42% participate in art and 21% in music. The chorus and orchestra participation numbers during Titan Time is good but students can have competing Titan Time options.

Mrs. Chapman said the FY24 budget priorities include:

- Materials to support Digital Arts Pathway: LearnKey Adobe Pro seat license for 20, Adobe Pro Voucher, a new printer for Digital Arts, and summer curriculum development for honors Digital IV. The total request is \$5000.

Most of the departmental budget goes to art supplies.

Mrs. Chapman said the next steps for FY25 include:

- Examine the Pathways scheduling impact on VPA and explore expanding Pathways offerings to include Fine Arts and Music.
- Review and revise Digital Arts Pathway as needed.
- Explore ways to connect to the broader Pembroke Arts Community.
- Explore creating a music technology semester elective at PHS.

Mrs. Bollinger said she is concerned about the scheduling of the Pathways program relating to music and language and she would like to have a discussion about the Pathways conflicting with the band. Mrs. Obey said the Education Subcommittee can have this conversation. Ms. Brust said the three courses for PLTW could be enough for a designation and be started in grade 10 leaving options for 9th graders to pick an elective. Mrs. Bollinger asked if band could count toward the PE requirement and Mrs. Obey said the administration can look at it. Ms. Brust said the 9th grade wellness piece covers some important curriculum that students should have. Mrs. Scholl asked if PPS could partner with local colleges for dual enrollment and Ms. Brust said she is not aware of this as it relates to music. Mrs. Obey said graduation requirements come from the State and from the district. Mr. Kennedy said music technology is a great idea.

Technology Budget Presentation

Mr. Hall said the 2022-2023 staff successes include:

- Creation of a three year strategic technology plan
- Implementation of WeVideo
- Further use of PearDeck
- Creation of an Assistive Technology Specialist Interest Group through MassCUE
- Use of ConnectHub for tech professional Development
- Weekly digital learning updates

2022-2023 student successes include:

- 3D printing and design in each elementary school library and PCMS and PHS in courses
- Continuation of Project Lead the Way curriculum at PCMS
- Expansion of STREAM-based makerspaces at all elementary schools
- Reimagining the PCMS library with the addition of a green screen, Podcast studio, eSports terminal, and LEGO wall
- T Mobile wireless internet for families in need
- Expansion of “Coding Across the Curriculum” and digital learning skills
- Implementation of PHS student help desk and interns

2022-2023 hardware successes include:

- New elementary staff device rollout
- Second wave of installation of 31 new projectors and speaker systems in all schools
- Replacement of 200 Chromebooks – aged out devices

2022-2023 infrastructure successes include:

- Continue upgrades to wireless internet via eRate funding
- Upgrades to networking equipment using VMWare
- Upgrades to the firewall and threat protection

Mr. Hall said the current staffing includes one Director of Instructional Technology, one Software and Data Manager, one Network Manager, one media technician one Digital Learning Specialist, and six building-based, stipend Technology Integrators. He added the department could use an additional Digital Learning Specialist for the secondary level and also a full-time Junior Network Administrator to assist with the expansion of devices. The Media Tech completes almost 50% of the work tickets and the other technology staff handles the rest, which can include tickets outside of their job. The estimated cost for these positions is \$125,000.

Mr. Hall said the device needs include:

- Finish projector project
- Administration, office staff and support staff replacement laptops
- Replacement of student Chromebooks – broken devices beyond repair
- Replacement of student iPads
- Desktop replacement for Computer Science and Digital Art classes – end of cycle device upgrades and new class needs

These requests total \$335,000.

Mr. Hall said the hardware and equipment needs include:

- Wyebot sensors – real-time troubleshooting of wireless network
- Papercut – cloud-based print server
- AP replacements and additions at NPES – replace end of life model
- Universal power supply – replace end-of-life device with battery backup
- Backup solution – end-of-life device

All but Papercut are eRate eligible, which provides a 40% subsidy from the federal government.

These requests total \$52,250.

Mr. Quinn confirmed the addition of a Digital Specialist is to provide services to PCMS and PHS as the current Digital Specialist concentrates his work at the elementary level. Mrs. Scholl suggested a tech-free time per week to alleviate tickets and reap possible savings. She also suggested creating tutorials on the work Mr. Tiner is doing for other staff to access and Mr. Hall said his department is currently working on a tutorial library. Mrs. Bollinger said she appreciates his department’s hard work. Mr. Kennedy asked what capital planning the district can do and Mrs. Obey

said about \$100k is set aside already and a larger conversation is needed with families around sharing the cost burden of the devices as these costs are in addition to the operating budget.

Athletics Budget Presentation

Mr. Phillips said athletics is an extension of the classroom. He reviewed the 2022-2023 accolades which covers spring 2022 through winter of 2023 and includes:

- 73 Patriot League All-Stars
- 3 Patriot League MVPs
- 2 All State Champions
- 8 qualified for Indoor Track Nationals
- 21 Patriot Ledger All Scholastics
- 2 Boston Herald All Scholastics
- 3 Bost Globe All Scholastics
- 2 Eastern Mass All Stars
- 1 Eastern Mass Division II Coach of the Year
- 10 teams qualified for state tournaments
- 3 MIAA round of 16 finalists
- 5 Patriot League Fisher Division Titles

Mr. Phillips said there are nine varsity fall sports and an average of 331 students are participating, which is a bounce back from 2020. There are 10 varsity winter sports, and 279 students are participating. Also, there is close to a 40% enrollment in spring sports, which is the highest percentage looking at 2018-2023.

Mr. Phillips said the biggest portion of the budget is coaching stipends and second to that is contracted services, which includes rentals of facilities for ice, gym and swimming.

The FY24 goals include:

- Continue relationship with Mass General Brigham medical team - had an ACL workshop, concussion training, and strength and conditioning program
- Provide student-athlete professional development – MIAA events, MIAA Student Ambassador program and Captains Council to be created
- Continue relationship with Pembroke Youth programs in order to grow participation
- Live stream athletic events
- Improve athletic facilities – grass practice fields and tennis courts

Mr. Phillips said 138+ athletes donated 428+ hours to community service projects.

The Athletic capital items include:

- Tennis court repairs would cost 108K with the potential of a \$40K grant.
- Turf field press box is needed, and the cost is to be determined
- Scoreboard for the softball field would cost about \$15k.

Mrs. Obey said the press box has been a conversation for many years and Mr. Phillips is working on options. Also, there is potential to use community conservation money for the scoreboard.

Mrs. Scholl asked how PPS sports enrollment compares to surrounding towns and Mr. Phillips said 40% participation is high. Mrs. Scholl confirmed that pickleball could be played on the tennis courts. Mr. Quinn asked if the strength and conditioning program includes nutrition info and Mr. Phillips said there is no designated time in the program for it but summer would be a good time to add it. Mr. Kennedy said it's nice to see the connection with youth sports and it will help add to the numbers for PHS.

Facilities Budget Presentation

Mr. Phillips said the facility improvements at PHS include:

- New roof top units - 7 to be started
- Lighting project over April vacation to improve efficiency
- Science labs gas fittings have been completed in December

Improvements at North Pembroke include:

- Phone system upgrade – all five schools are now up to date and there is a reduction in phone bill costs
- Playground water drainage
- Mini spit unit replaced in electrical room
- New asphalt ramp to Carol Dodge Field

Improvements at Hobomock include:

- Phone system upgrade
- Fire alarm panel
- Generator transfer switch

Improvements at PCMS include:

- Hot water tank over winter break
- Mini split unit in IT room

Improvements at Bryantville include:

- Gym roof project – working on bids
- Art room floor

Mr. Phillips said the custodial personnel, 18 full-time custodians, is the biggest piece of the budget and repairs make up 41% of the contract services line.

The FY24 goals for exterior projects include:

PHS: gym and atrium roof needs to be evaluated and the rear courtyard needs improvement in bricks/fencing

Bryantville: gym room needs repair, air conditioning in the library and exterior columns need to be painted

Hobomock: playground needs water control

PCMS: new walkway from the parking lot to the gym entrance

North Pembroke: playground needs water control and new power tools are needed (chainsaw, hedge trimmer)

FY24 goals for interior projects include:

PHS: flooring in café and high traffic areas and painting of classrooms/halls/gym/locker room

Bryantville: one boiler needs to be repaired and addition of interior security cameras

North Pembroke: one boiler needs to be repaired and a rider on floor machine is needed

Hobomock: addition on interior security cameras and new office and common area rugs are needed

Mr. Quinn asked about the preventative maintenance costs and Mrs. Obey said the buildings are older, so preventative maintenance is more. Mrs. Scholl asked about the responsibility of the parking lot repairs and Mrs. Obey said she had a conversation with the DPW about the schools becoming part of the Town pavement plan program and part of the Waste Water Treatment plan for the future. Mrs. Scholl asked about the roofing project at Bryantville and Mrs. Obey said the district received the capital money last year but is having difficulty getting a contractor because it is a small job.

Consideration for Approval: Overnight/Out of State Trip – PHS Robotics

Mrs. Obey said the students will be going to Orlando in July.

VOTE: On a motion made by Susie Scholl and seconded by Susan Bollinger, it was unanimously voted to approve the PHS Robotics trip.

Voting Yes: Lance Kennedy, Susie Scholl, Susan Bollinger, and Michael Quinn
Voting No: none
Abstaining: none
Absent: David Boyle

Consideration for Approval: Surplus Materials PCMS Seismograph Machine

Mrs. Obey said the seismograph machine was received 12 years ago from Boston College as part of a grant and the district does not have any use for it.

VOTE: On a motion made by Susie Scholl and seconded by Susan Bollinger, it was unanimously voted to deem the seismograph surplus.

Voting Yes: Lance Kennedy, Susie Scholl, Susan Bollinger, and Michael Quinn
Voting No: none
Abstaining: none
Absent: David Boyle

Consideration for Approval: 8th grade lacrosse waiver(s)

Mrs. Obey said 32 girls and 30 boys registered so there is a need for about 4-5 additional players. 8th graders attended the first day of tryouts and some were invited back the second day.

VOTE: On a motion made by Susie Scholl and seconded by Susan Bollinger, it was unanimously voted to approve the 8th grade lacrosse waivers.

Voting Yes: Lance Kennedy, Susie Scholl, Susan Bollinger, and Michael Quinn
Voting No: none
Abstaining: none
Absent: David Boyle

Subcommittee Updates:

Budget Subcommittee – update from 3/8 Selectboard meeting

Mrs. Obey said she presented the budget to the Select Board meeting on 3/8 and it was well received. The ask was for more funding, and they had good questions. Mrs. Bollinger said it went well and she asked the board to start their budget process earlier in the year and include the Superintendent. Mr. Kennedy said it's good to see this dialogue start and there is more to come after the meeting on 4/19.

Future Meeting Dates and Topics

4/4, 4/11

VOTE: At 8:48 PM, on a motion made by Susan Bollinger and seconded by Michael Quinn, it was unanimously voted to adjourn.

Voting Yes: Lance Kennedy, Susie Scholl, Susan Bollinger, and Michael Quinn
Voting No: none
Abstaining: none
Absent: David Boyle

APPROVED: April 4, 2023

MOTIONS

VOTE: On a motion made by Susie Scholl and seconded by Susan Bollinger, it was unanimously voted to approve the PHS Robotics trip.

Voting Yes: Lance Kennedy, Susie Scholl, Susan Bollinger, and Michael Quinn

Voting No: none

Abstaining: none

Absent: David Boyle

VOTE: On a motion made by Susie Scholl and seconded by Susan Bollinger, it was unanimously voted to deem the seismograph surplus.

Voting Yes: Lance Kennedy, Susie Scholl, Susan Bollinger, and Michael Quinn

Voting No: none

Abstaining: none

Absent: David Boyle

VOTE: On a motion made by Susie Scholl and seconded by Susan Bollinger, it was unanimously voted to approve the 8th grade lacrosse waivers.

Voting Yes: Lance Kennedy, Susie Scholl, Susan Bollinger, and Michael Quinn

Voting No: none

Abstaining: none

Absent: David Boyle

VOTE: At 8:48 PM, on a motion made by Susan Bollinger and seconded by Michael Quinn, it was unanimously voted to adjourn.

Voting Yes: Lance Kennedy, Susie Scholl, Susan Bollinger, and Michael Quinn

Voting No: none

Abstaining: none

Absent: David Boyle