



PEMBROKE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
Tuesday, March 7, 2023
North Pembroke Elementary School Library

Call to Order

Mr. Kennedy called the meeting to order at 6:00 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; David Boyle and Michael Quinn

Acknowledge & Schedule Visitors

Mr. Kennedy welcomed the audience members.

Adjustments to Agenda

None

Communications

None

Approval of Bill Schedule

Warrants were sent out electronically for signature.

Consideration for Approval: School Committee Meeting Minutes of February 7th and February 14th

VOTE: On a motion made by Susie Scholl and seconded by David Boyle, it was unanimously voted to approve the school committee meeting minutes of February 7, 2023 and February 14, 2023.

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

Voting No: none

Abstaining: none

Absent: none

Superintendent's Report

Continued Discussion of 8th-grade waivers for lacrosse

Mrs. Obey said the Athletic Director is keeping an eye on the numbers for lacrosse. He would like to have 30 players for both the boy's and girls' teams. As of now, there are 22 boys signed up and 25 girls. There could be more after sports night tomorrow night. The committee previously discussed the level of contact associated with each team. She said a decision on granting the waivers, if needed, will be made at the end of the week.

Mr. Greg Quinlan said he is a Pembroke resident and has a 7th and an 8th-grade student. He is a volunteer youth lacrosse coach and supports the waiver for boys' lacrosse. He has coached most of the boys since 1st grade and feels since most have been playing for eight years, as well as some playing in club lacrosse programs, that they can handle playing at the high school JV level. He recognizes that this level of play is not for every 8th grader, but some are ready. Mrs. Obey said safety is the top priority when making this decision. She added that the AD is considering having interested 8th graders come to the first day of tryouts and selected athletes will be invited back for the second day.

Elementary Budget Presentation

Mrs. Obey said this is the first step in the process and the real prioritization will come with the administrative recommend budget. Mrs. Swift said the current enrollment at NPES is 524 and it includes the PreK program, Bryantville enrollment is 437, and Hobomock is 410. Bryantville class sizes are between 18-24 students and most grade levels have three sections, with the exception of grade 1 which has four. Hobomock class sizes are between 17-21 and all grade levels have three sections. North Pembroke class sizes are between 18-21 and all grades except kindergarten and grade 2 have three sections. Next year's enrollment numbers are projected to be similar.

The historical priorities implemented this year include:

- Increasing to 1.0FTE Social Worker at each elementary school
- Building and staffing the Titan LABS at each elementary school, staffed with a para
- Increasing to 1.0FTE Reading Specialists at each elementary school
- ESSER funds used to hire a Reading Tutor and Math Tutor for 2021-2023 at each elementary school
- Providing professional development in the area of The Science of Reading
- Providing professional development to 6th grade teachers on OpenSciEd

Mr. Murphy reviewed the new Titan LABS within each of the three elementary schools. The LABS provide "in the moment" emotional support to both general education and special education students. The students access classroom instruction via classwork until they are regulated and ready to return to the general education classroom.

De-escalation strategies are provided by the trained mental health staff. The majority of the students spend about 10-20 minutes in the LAB. Mr. Kennedy said the addition of the LABS has been a great resource.

Mrs. Simmons reviewed the number of students accessing Readings Specialists K-3. Bryantville has increased to 38 students this year from 23 last year. Hobomock has increased to 41 from 26 and North Pembroke has decreased to 42 from 46. The targeted work of the Reading Specialists has had a great impact.

The 2023-2024 budget priorities in Tier I include:

- Continuation of the Science of Reading – materials and professional development
- Addition of a .5fte math specialist at each elementary school
- Maintaining the Titan LABS paras at each elementary school
- Social/emotional curriculum for PK-6, possibly funded through grants
- OpenSciEd ongoing professional development

Priorities in Tier II:

- Addition of a 1.0FTE math specialist at each elementary school

The total to cover all these requests is \$451,000.

Mrs. Scholl said she would be interested in short-term and long-term data on the effectiveness of the Titan LABS. She also suggested creating something similar to the previous Math Maniacs that used to take place before school. Mr. Quinn said he is a supporter of the Titan LABS.

PCMS Budget Presentation

Mrs. McGarrigle said PCMS current enrollment is 407 and is projected to be 369 next year, with 172 7th graders and 197 8th graders. There is a smaller class of 7th graders coming to PCMS so section sizes could decrease a bit. Mrs. Obey said the decrease in 7th graders is contributed to a bubble of students that are going through PCMS now.

Mrs. McGarrigle review the current year's class sizes and Mrs. Obey pointed out that social studies and science can fluctuate from 19-25 and the district is always working to get those ranges closer. The elective model for grade 7 is made up of four elective term offerings of either Service Learning and Civic Engagement, Art 7, Engineering: Simple Machines, and General Music. The year-long elective is Band 7.

The elective model for grade 8 is made up of Model United Nations-Global Culture, Art 8, Sports Science, and GUTS. The year-long electives are Band 8 & Fundamentals of Art.

Mrs. McGarrigle said the counseling minutes provided in 2021-2022 by two half-time social workers saw a bump to 820 minutes from 570 minutes in 2020-2021. This year so far it is 720 minutes.

The primary reason for counseling is emotional management (depression, self-harm, anger, etc.). Social skills came in as the second most common reason.

The PCMS budget requests include:

- Creating a Titan Compass Room, a support room for students who may need temporary supports to successfully integrate back into a full school day due to recent hospitalizations, extended absences, mental health/behavioral crises, and/or concussions. This will require a full-time para, staff training, and equipment/other room supplies.
- Six enclosed 3D printers (3 per grade level)
- Tynker License for additional units of computer coding to be incorporated into GUTS grade 8 and Stem Lab grade 7 and grade 8
- Additional water station for lower level (grade 8).
- A hard surface walkway for grade 8 bus arrival/dismissal to the gym because there is a hill, and it gets very muddy in rain.
- Terraponics growing rack for larger vegetables like cucumbers, tomatoes, and peppers to supplement the current rack that grows greens.

The total cost for all these requests is \$51,400. Mrs. Bollinger confirmed the homeschooling and private school numbers are flat. Mrs. Scholl suggested including the past year's trends on counseling minutes. Mr. Kennedy suggested having specific data around the social and emotional trends.

PHS Budget Presentation

Mr. Talbot said PHS current enrollment is 721 and is projected to be 731 for 2022-2023. Average class sizes for this year are 15-23, with World Languages at 15 and PE at 23. Mrs. Obey said these are very favorable class sizes thanks to the work over the past seven years to make improvements.

PHS priorities for 2023-2024 include:

- Pathways Program development – PLTW training and resources for Biomedical Science and Environmental Engineering
- 1.0FTE instructional para which is required based on students' services inclusion supports
- Additional funding to the student activities account to provide additional extracurricular programs
- 1.0 Educational Technology Integration specialist to work with teachers.

The total for these budget requests is \$126,100.

Mr. Talbot added that Mrs. Gates has done a great job generating interest and finding students already on track for the Pathways Program. 24 seniors were identified as qualifying for a Pathway certification in the three existing pathways of Business Management, Computer Science, and Digital Arts. 16 of the 24 students expressed interest in pursuing certification.

The rationale for the addition of a 1.0FTE para is that it is required to remain in compliance with state and federal laws. The rationale for the extracurricular activity increase is that 32 activities offer a paid stipend to the advisor and 7 activities have unpaid advisors. In addition, The Unified Team Sports has been covered for two years and the funding runs out this upcoming year. Also, there has been an increase in bus costs for clubs to travel to competitions. The rationale for the additional Education Technology Integration Specialist is, for one, a significant increase in the number of devices, two, to build on the momentum for students and teachers, and lastly, to help with a new maker space in the library.

Mr. Talbot said in forecasting FY25 priorities he would like to have discussions regarding World Languages offerings and regarding additional Pathways Program offerings like Education and Information Technology.

Mrs. Scholl suggested that the district come up with a way to stay connected with the seniors after graduation to see if they can add value to PPS. Mr. Quinn confirmed that the Pathways Program is a three-year grant with the hopes that districts have the capital after that point to continue on.

Mr. Boyle confirmed that Unified Sports is about \$3k per year. Mr. Kennedy asked about the stipends for extracurriculars, and Mr. Talbot said there is one pot of money so when a new club is created it is not paid for unless a current club stops running.

Future Meeting Dates and Topics

3/14, 3/21, 4/4, 4/11, 4/25

VOTE: At 7:08 PM, on a motion made by Susie Scholl and seconded by Susan Bollinger, it was unanimously voted to enter Executive Session Pursuant to Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(3) to discuss strategy for collective bargaining as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the legal position of the School Committee, as declared by the Chair.

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

Voting No: none

Abstaining: none

Absent: none

APPROVED: March 21, 2023

MOTIONS

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