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PEMBROKE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
Monday, October 4, 2022
North Pembroke Elementary School Library

Call to Order

Mr. Kennedy called the meeting to order at 7:00 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; and David Boyle
Absent: Michael Tropeano

Acknowledge & Schedule Visitors

Mr. Kennedy welcomed the audience members.

Adjustments to Agenda

Remove copy machine

Communications

Warrants were sent out electronically for approval.

Consideration for Approval: Regular School Committee Meeting Minutes of September 6, 2022

VOTE: On a motion made by Susie Scholl and seconded by Susan Bollinger, it was unanimously voted to approve the school committee meeting minutes of September 6, 2022.

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

Voting No: none

Abstaining: none

Absent: Michael Tropeano

Superintendent's Report

Achievement Report

Ms. Brust said the Content Supervisors contribute tremendously to this work. She said parents should contact Administration with any questions regarding their student's achievement.

2019 was the last time the MCAS was fully administered and in 2021 there was a half test for grades 3-8 and full test for grade 10. MCAS scoring is a good piece of data on where students are excelling and struggling. The state MCAS ELA results for 2022 shows a 20% loss in grades 3-8 of students meeting expectations since 2019. The state MCAS Math results for 2022 shows recovery across all grades 3-8 and about 50% loss from 2021 recovered in grades 3 and 4 and it is expected to continue to see these gains going forward. There was additional loss in grade 10 but it is slowing compared to 2021.

PPS 2022 MCAS grades 3-8 ELA shows Pembroke is in line with the State and Math is a bit better than the State but there is room for growth in both. Mrs. Scholl asked about 11th and 12th graders and Ms. Brust said they will have three more opportunities to take the tests and the Interrupted Tutors will work with students. Ms. Scholl asked about students planning on college and Ms. Brust said higher education is involved in the design of the MCAS test.

The Science MCAS is administered in grades 5, 8 and 9 and the district is expecting gains as a result of the OpenSci Ed curriculum. MCAS grade 10 ELA shows more students meeting expectations than the past and it is attributed to these older students knowing the test matters. MCAS grade 10 Math had a bit of dip compared to 2019 and 2021. For the grade 9 Biology MCAS this was the first year of the Next Generation Test format which is more problem-solving work and graded differently.

Ms. Brust explained this data is used by teachers, Content Supervisors and Administrators during summer work sessions and in grade level teams throughout the year in order to adjust curriculum and instruction to meet student's learning needs. Data is used to look cohorts, to compare with other towns to get a sense as to how PPS is doing.

MCAS data is also used for the John and Abigail Adams scholarship which gives money toward state schools.

Ms. Brust explained that absenteeism was high as a result of the pandemic and students with chronic absenteeism were lower performing as compared to 2019.

The district's next steps regarding MCAS data include the disaggregation of data to inform curriculum and instruction, continued communication around absenteeism, utilizing reading specialists, utilizing two year PD on the Science of Reading, and continuing with Interrupted Learning Tutors for ELA and Math K-12 and Biology at PHS.

Ms. Brust said the Advanced Placement numbers have increased each year. PPS has a somewhat open-door AP philosophy where a student can take an AP class if they want. PPS averages 70% with a score of 3 or more on the AP tests. AP potential is based off a student's PSAT scores, and this data is used to ensure that no student who has the chance of succeeding in AP is overlooked. There is no data on AP world languages because the classes are all under 10 students. The district is bringing forward the idea of exposing students to languages earlier at possibly grades 5 and 6. The next steps for AP include the exploration of AP Pre-Calculus, expansion of world language to grades 5 and 6, and preparing student for digital assessments of AP exams, PSATs and SATs.

Ms. Brust compared the 2021 and 2022 SAT scores. The mean score in 2021 was 1138 and in 2022 was 1116, and the dip was in the Math scores. The ACT average score for 2021 was 26.2 and for 2022 was 25.6.

Consideration for Approval: MIAA Waiver Boys & Girls Swimming

Mrs. Obey said the district had a waiver last year and there are about eight 8th graders interested.

VOTE: On a motion made by Susan Bollinger and seconded by David Boyle, it was unanimously voted to approve the MIAA waiver for boys and girls swimming.

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

Voting No: none

Abstaining: none

Absent: Michael Tropeano

Consideration for Conceptual Approval: PCMS & PHS World Language Trip to Quebec April 2023

Mrs. Obey said this approval will allow a parent informational meeting to be held to gauge interest. The trip is for grades 8-12.

VOTE: On a motion made by Susan Bollinger and seconded by Susie Scholl, it was unanimously voted to conceptually approve the world language trip to Quebec.

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

Voting No: none

Abstaining: none

Absent: Michael Tropeano

Consideration for Approval: PHS Surplus Materials – 1 Copy Machine

Mrs. Obey said this request is removed for now. There may be an option to get it fixed.

Policy Subcommittee Update:

Consideration for First Read: Policy IJND – Access to Digital Resources

Mrs. Obey said the Policy Subcommittee talked about what other districts are doing and created the new policy presented tonight. This reemphasizes the Acceptable Use Policy and the COPA and SIPPA policies from the government on protecting children on the internet. The PHS librarian pulled information on what books were download over the course of last year. From August 2021 to September 2022 the bulk of the downloading was during

the summer for summer reading assignments. The subcommittee talked about having the high school librarian take a monthly look at the downloads and make sure that it's high school students that are downloading Elementary student it would be a violation of our Acceptable Use Policy because they don't have access to the Massachusetts library system. The committee also discussed what action families could take, like signing that they don't want their student to have access to digital resources. Mrs. Bollinger asked if there was anything inappropriate downloaded and Mrs. Obey confirmed that nothing inappropriate was downloaded, about 50% were research related and about 50% fiction/easy read types. Mrs. Bollinger asked if the district could provide parents a list of books that were downloaded quarterly and Mrs. Obey said the list could be posted to the PPS library section of the website. Mr. Kennedy said this is a digital world and students with devices are going to have access to things outside of school, but the district wants to be sure that it's doing due diligence. Mrs. Bollinger asked if a parent has ever challenged a book available in the libraries and Mrs. Obey said there has never been a challenge but there was a conversation with a high school parent about a book around how it was sourced for the library. Mrs. Bollinger asked if a book could be removed immediately during the two week review process instead of remaining available. Mrs. Obey said there is not a book in the library that doesn't meet the criteria spelled out in the policy document presented so pulling it off the shelf would mean that the district purchased something that was against the ideal ahead of time. Mrs. Bollinger said this would be an extra cautious step and Mrs. Obey said the district can do this. Mrs. Scholl said the other side of the argument is the district has gone through the protocols and there's trust in the staff involved so it could be overstepping. Mr. Boyle said he thinks this might give parents too much control and the book should be reviewed and decide if it should be removed. Mr. Bollinger said it is only a two week period and that will allow parents to know that their concerns were heard.

VOTE: On a motion made by Susie Scholl and seconded by Susan Bollinger, it was unanimously voted to accept Policy IJND as a first read.

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

Voting No: none

Abstaining: none

Absent: Michael Tropeano

Consideration for Approval:

Recoding of Policy 4.22 to IJLA

Recoding of Policy 4.23 to IJ-R

Mrs. Obey said these policies are being recoded. The committee agreed to amend IJ-R to include the removal of challenged materials from shelves during the review process.

VOTE: On a motion made by Susan Bollinger and seconded by Susie Scholl, it was unanimously voted to approve recoding Policy 4.22 to IJLA and the recording of Policy 4.23 to IJ-R as amended.

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

Voting No: none

Abstaining: none

Absent: Michael Tropeano

Mrs. Obey said the following three policies have the word "race" and the revision is to the definition of race which has been expanded to include "traits historically association with race, including, but not limited to, hair texture, hair type, hair length and protective hairstyles," which is part of the Acts of 2022, Chapter 117.

Revision to Policy JICA: Student Dress Code

Revision to Policy JFBB – School Choice

Revision to Policy GBA – Equal Employment Opportunity

VOTE: On a motion made by David Boyle and seconded by Susan Bollinger, it was unanimously voted to approve Policies JICA, JFBB and GBA as presented.

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

Voting No: none
Abstaining: none
Absent: Michael Tropeano

Mrs. Obey said there are a few additional policies with the word race and they will be brought to the committee at a future date.

Mrs. Obey provided an update on bussing.

Future Meeting Dates and Topics

10/18 at 6pm at PHS

VOTE: At 8:35PM, on a motion made by Susie Scholl and seconded by Susan Bollinger, it was unanimously voted to adjourn.

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

APPROVED: October 18, 2022

MOTIONS

VOTE: On a motion made by Susie Scholl and seconded by Susan Bollinger, it was unanimously voted to approve the school committee meeting minutes of September 6, 2022.

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

VOTE: On a motion made by Susan Bollinger and seconded by David Boyle, it was unanimously voted to approve the MIAA waiver for boys and girls swimming.

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

VOTE: On a motion made by Susan Bollinger and seconded by Susie Scholl, it was unanimously voted to conceptually approve the world language trip to Quebec.

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

VOTE: On a motion made by Susie Scholl and seconded by Susan Bollinger, it was unanimously voted to accept Policy IJND as a first read.

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

VOTE: On a motion made by Susan Bollinger and seconded by Susie Scholl, it was unanimously voted to approve recoding Policy 4.22 to IJLA and Policy 4.23 to IJ-R.

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

VOTE: On a motion made by David Boyle and seconded by Susan Bollinger, it was unanimously voted to approve policies JICA, JFBB and GBA as presented.

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

VOTE: At 8:35PM, on a motion made by Susie Scholl and seconded by Susan Bollinger, it was unanimously voted to adjourn.

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