

Pembroke Public Schools

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PEMBROKE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING Monday, September 6, 2022 North Pembroke Elementary School Library

Call to Order

Mr. Kennedy called the meeting to order at 7:05 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

Pledge of Allegiance will be done at meetings going forward.

Communications

Warrants were sent out electronically for approval.

Consideration for Approval: Regular School Committee Meeting Minutes of August 22, 2022

VOTE: On a motion made by David Boyle and seconded by Susan Bollinger, it was unanimously voted to approve the school committee meeting minutes of August 22, 2022.

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

Voting No: none

Abstaining: none

Absent: Michael Tropeano

Superintendent's Report

Overview of Library Purchasing & Available Resources

Mrs. Obey said the packet has the narrative on the policies of the library and she will cover the main ones tonight. PHS has one certified Librarian which is a requirement of NEASC. Elementary libraries are staffed by paraprofessionals and PCMS is a bit different where students come to library, but the paraprofessional does not instruct students. Ms. Brust added that the library staff attend professional development together in order to foster consistency throughout the district. Elementary libraries have hands on learning and have morphed into STEAM education, which covers science, technology, engineering, arts and math. The libraries still have traditional books on hand, but few have been purchased in the past five years as more hands-on materials have been purchased instead. The School Committee Policy 4.22: Library Resources outlines how materials are chosen for the libraries and has been in place since 2005, evaluation of materials falls under this policy. A certified librarian or school administrator approves all purchases. Policy 4.23: Reconsideration of Library Resources and Materials talks about requesting to remove something from the library and the process that is followed.

Mrs. Obey said at the PHS library there are encyclopedias, atlas and maps, along with non-fiction and fiction options. There is a lengthy process to adding books to the fiction collection including the librarian reading each one as well as an approval process through administration. PPS uses a variety of content filtering through GoGuardian, Google

SafeSearch and the firewall while students are in school and outside of school on a PPS device. On the PHS website there is a library page with resources and links to available books in the library and a link to eBooks available through the MA library system. Mrs. Bollinger said the district has great filtering software but there is concern about students downloading an inappropriate book. Mrs. Obey said the downloaded books on a PPS device are filtered for content around pornography and language. Mrs. Obey said PPS can't filter the MA library system but could block access to downloads and eBooks. Mrs. Scholl asked if there is discussion with the students around this topic and Ms. Brust said the dialogue is happening at all grades around responsible digital citizenship and the internet use policy. Ms. Brust added that the district's responsibility is to select appropriate materials, and this should be a partnership with parents. Mrs. Scholl said there should be accountability in the students' households. Mrs. Bollinger said parents feel they don't have the rights they used to so the district has to be sure there is balance, and that the library is a safe place. Mrs. Obey said the district wants to give access to resources that students may need if they are struggling. Mr. Kennedy said parents need to have discussions with their students if there is disagreement on materials. He added the Policy Subcommittee should review these two policies for potential updates.

Discussion of Superintendent Evaluation Criteria

Mr. Kennedy said Standards II and III are the focus of the evaluation. He will take the committee's notes and draft the superintendent's evaluation.

Consideration for Approval: MIAA Waiver for PHS Girls Hockey

Mrs. Obey said the district has asked for a waiver for the past six years for eight graders to play. There has been success with the waiver in the past.

VOTE: On a motion made by Susan Bolling and seconded by Susie Scholl, it was unanimously voted to approve the MIAA PHS girls' hockey waiver for eighth graders.

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

Voting No: none

Abstaining: none

Absent: Michael Tropeano

Fall Sports Update

Mrs. Obey said that 310 PHS students play a fall sport this year, which is 42% of the student population. Golf and Volleyball were the only sports that had cuts.

Discussion of Subcommittee Topics Calendar

Mrs. Obey presented a draft of monthly subcommittee meetings and topics and asked for feedback from the committee around available dates. Mrs. Scholl suggested reviewing the committee's goals as a piece of this.

Future Meeting Dates and Topics

10/4 and 10/18

Mrs. Obey said the DEI group survey had 20 responses and it was sent out again.

VOTE: At 8:05PM, on a motion made by David Boyle 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 4, 2022

MOTIONS

VOTE: On a motion made by David Boyle and seconded by Susan Bollinger, it was unanimously voted to approve the school committee meeting minutes of August 22, 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 Bolling and seconded by Susie Scholl, it was unanimously voted to approve the MIAA PHS girls' hockey waiver for eighth graders.

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

VOTE: At 8:05PM, on a motion made by David Boyle 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