

# Pembroke Public Schools

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## **PEMBROKE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING** **Tuesday, June 21, 2022** **North Pembroke Elementary School Library**

### **Call to Order**

Mr. Kennedy called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

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

**Present from Committee:** Lance Kennedy, Chair; Susan Bollinger, Secretary; Michael Tropeano and David Boyle  
**Absent:** Susie Scholl, Vice Chair

### **Acknowledge & Schedule Visitors**

Mr. Kennedy welcomed audience members.

### **Adjustments to Agenda**

None

### **Communications**

Mrs. Jasie - email in mailbox about being mindful of scheduling school committee meetings in June and Mrs. Obey explained the difficulty with scheduling in June due to all the school activities taking place.

Mr. Kennedy addressed the recent tragedy involving a PCMS student and explained that counseling sessions are being held over the summer and the district will continue to support the social emotional wellbeing of students.

### **Consideration for Approval: Regular School Committee Meeting Minutes of June 7, 2022**

**VOTE:** On a motion made by Susan Bollinger and seconded by David Boyle, it was unanimously voted to approve the school committee meeting minutes of June 7, 2022.

Voting Yes: Lance Kennedy, Susan Bollinger, Michael Tropeano and David Boyle

Voting No: none

Abstaining: none

Absent: Susie Scholl

### **Presentation: Moms Demand Action**

Mrs. Obey said Sue Runne and Vicky Panacy are volunteers with Moms Demand Action and the Be SMART Program of Everytown for Gun Safety. Everytown for Gun Safety is a non-partisan organization that is supportive of responsible gun owners, keeping firearms out the hands of dangerous or unauthorized people, and focused on public safety. Mrs. Runne introduced Julie Benoit from Moms Demand Action and said they would like the district to consider a proposal to help reduce gun violence in schools and the communities. They wish to raise awareness and action in local communities for evidence-based strategies that work and for measures on behalf of school children and teen safety. They urge the committee to add proactive messaging about secure firearm storage to the school safety strategies. They have worked with two other school districts to pass Secure Storage Notification Resolutions, which sets the framework for this safety conversation. Mrs. Runne and Mrs. Panacy presented a PowerPoint presentation which included data and statistics around gun violence and firearm sales.

Be SMART is educational program of Everytown for Gun Safety and the goal is to reduce child gun deaths through adult education. The program promotes five behaviors for adults, to help reduce tragedies which occur when unsupervised, unauthorized children and teens gain access to unsecured firearms. It involves gun owners and non-gun owners. The SMART acronym stands for:

S = Secure guns in homes and vehicles

M = Model responsible behavior for guns

A = Ask about whether guns are secured in others' homes

R = Recognize the role of firearms in suicides

T – Tell your peers to be SMART

This movement began in 2019 and as of 2021 over 2 million K-12 students nationwide now attend schools with firearm storage awareness policies in place. They asked that PPS join the national movement by adopting a Secure Storage Notification Resolution that includes the Be SMART programming for adults. Secure Storage Notification Resolutions provide a framework for implementation, are proactive, are evidenced based, entail no cost, promote a wide-reaching message, empower the public, and do not create any extra work for teachers.

Mrs. Bollinger thanked them and said this is very timely and non-partisan. Mr. Boyle said his only concern is about going into people homes and telling them what to do. Mrs. Runne said it is just education. Mr. Tropeano said he agrees, and people can choose if they accept the education. He added that information on the website might not reach everyone and that there should be actions tied to the resolution. Mrs. Panacy said this is not a solution to the problem, but it is a valuable step. Mr. Kennedy said PPS has the way to share this information. Mr. Tropeano said he would like to see the educational opportunities and the district as a source of passing on the information. He sees this tying into the safety pieces the district is already doing. Mr. Kennedy agrees that this ties into the social emotional wellbeing work the district is doing. Mrs. Bollinger said it sounds like the committee agrees on the education piece. Mrs. Obey said the Policy Subcommittee can work on a draft resolution and bring it to the full committee for review.

VOTE: On a motion made by Susan Bollinger and seconded by Michael Tropeano, it was unanimously voted to send this to the Policy Subcommittee to work on a resolution.

Voting Yes: Lance Kennedy, Susan Bollinger, Michael Tropeano and David Boyle

Voting No: none

Abstaining: none

Absent: Susie Scholl

### **Reorganization of Subcommittees**

Mr. Kennedy confirmed that the appointed agents will remain the same. All subcommittee remain the same except:

Fiscal Strategy: Mr. Kennedy, Mrs. Bollinger, Mr. Tropeano (alternate)

Education: Mr. Tropeano, Mrs. Bollinger, Mr. Boyle (alternate)

### **Superintendent's Report**

#### Discussion of Focus Group Topics and Timeline

Mrs. Obey would like to have the focus groups established by topic (Achievement, Communication, Technology, Social Emotional Health & Wellness) by the start of school and suggested having people pre-register for participation. Feedback from groups will be shared with the school committee quarterly at meetings. Mr. Tropeano said all topics will have a budget impact and he thinks social emotional should come first with achievement as the second topic followed by communication and technology. The members agreed.

#### Review of Superintendent Evaluation Process and Timeline

Mrs. Obey said she supplied the DESE Superintendent rubric. Mr. Tropeano said he recommends taking the school committee goals and tying them to two standards for each goal as the rubric is so complex. Mr. Kennedy confirmed the committee will review the goals document.

### **Future Meeting Dates and Topics**

7/19/22 and 8/23

VOTE: At 8:20PM, on a motion made by Susan Bollinger and seconded by David Boyle, it was unanimously voted to enter Executive Session Pursuant to Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(3) to discuss a personal services contract, 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, Susan Bollinger, Michael Tropeano and David Boyle  
Voting No: none  
Abstaining: none  
Absent: Susie Scholl

**APPROVED: July 19, 2022**

### **MOTIONS**

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Voting No: none  
Abstaining: none  
Absent: Susie Scholl

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Voting No: none  
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Voting No: none  
Abstaining: none  
Absent: Susie Scholl