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PEMBROKE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
Tuesday, June 7, 2021
North Pembroke Elementary School Library

Call to Order

Mr. Kennedy called the meeting to order at 7:01 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
Absent: Michael Tropeano and David Boyle

Acknowledge & Schedule Visitors

Mr. Kennedy welcomed the audience members.

Adjustments to Agenda

None

Communications

Warrants were sent out electronically for approval.

Consideration for Approval: Regular School Committee Meeting Minutes of May 17, 2021

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 May 17, 2022.

Voting Yes: Lance Kennedy Susie Scholl, and Susan Bollinger

Voting No: none

Abstaining: none

Absent: Michael Tropeano and David Boyle

Superintendent's Report

Consideration of Second Read and Approval: Policy IKFB-R Graduation Dress

Mrs. Obey referred the committee to the policy in the packet related to graduation dress regulations and the document listing the current cords. This would put a single color graduation gown in place for the 2023 graduating class. She said the policy is written to limit cords to the ones given by the school committee and limit sashes to military and student council officers. The National Honor Society cord and top 10% of the class cord are the only two given by the school committee. It is about deciding what the threshold is to bestow a cord and how to manage them. Mrs. Bollinger confirmed there is no academic requirement for the Thespian Troupe cord, it is based on a point system and Mrs. Obey explained how the point system works. Mrs. Scholl asked if boys and girls scouts and 4H have been considered and Mrs. Obey said the committee has never allowed outside agencies. She said the catalyst for this conversation is about deciding what the vision is of graduation day, is it an inclusive event celebrating the inclusive accomplishment of graduation, and if that is the case what does it look like for the individual accomplishments. There are cording ceremonies for many of these groups along with senior awards nights and distinction in the graduation program. Back in 2019 it was the two cords, the NHS as outlined in the PHS student handbook and the top 10 of the class recognizing overall academic achievement but want to make sure that there was an opportunity for other students to be celebrated. The Subcommittee discussed that graduation day is celebrating all students and the more

cords added to one student the more it takes away from another student and they can potentially feel left out. Mr. Kennedy said graduation day represents the overall achievement of four years of academic work and opportunities are provide for groups to celebrate their specific accomplishments outside of graduation day. This is about what does graduation day represent. Mrs. Obey said all students have achieved the same thing on that day.

Mrs. Bollinger asked if there is control over cords as it relates to student disciplinary issues and Mrs. Obey said there is only control for the cords given by the school committee. She said if additional cords are going to be allowed moving forward she would like that every cord is bestowed by PHS so there is control over the discipline piece. In the past there have been students wearing cords that aren't necessarily the profile of the student that should be celebrated that day because of choices that they've made. Mrs. Bollinger said she would like to see a standard around academics going forward for cords.

Mrs. Scholl asked what other schools are doing and Mr. Talbot said he is a member of a south shore principal group made up of 35 schools and only 6 schools still have two colors of gowns. He added that some schools just have cords for the NHS and top 10% and other schools have a lot of cords, so it is difficult to gage what is common practice. Mrs. Obey said for the first 12 years of PPS there was only a cord for NHS. Mrs. Obey said everyone here wants to make the best decision for all students for graduation day. Mr. Kennedy said Mr. Tropeano shared that he would like to see academic standards in all cords given and said he leans that way as well. Mrs. Scholl said she agrees there should be an academic component.

Student, Matt Wilshire read his letter on behalf of Computer Science Honor Society asking the committee to allow students to continue wearing CSHS cords at graduation. (Letter to be attached to minutes)

Student, Jeff April read his letter also advocating for the continued allowance of CSHS cords at graduation (Letter to be attached to minutes).

Teacher, Mrs. Julie Morris read her statement advocating for the allowance of cords at graduation. (Letter to be attached to minutes).

Mrs. Bollinger suggested allowing additional cords with a minimum threshold GPA along with required minimum grade in the class and review no disciplinary record. Mrs. Obey confirmed that the committee wants all cords granted by PHS/School Committee and the disciplinary piece is managed by building administration not the advisor. Mr. Kennedy said the Education Subcommittee will define the academic standards and a disciplinary structure. Mrs. Scholl said she recommends grandfathering the CSHS cord since it was already allowed at the 2022 graduation. Mrs. Obey said the Policy Subcommittee will rework the wording of the draft policy.

VOTE: On a motion made by Susan Bollinger and seconded by Susie Scholl, it was unanimously voted to suspend Policy BGB for Policy IKFB-R Graduation Dress.

Voting Yes: Lance Kennedy Susie Scholl, and Susan Bollinger

Voting No: none

Abstaining: none

Absent: Michael Tropeano and David Boyle

Vocational Education Discussion

Mrs. Obey said the change in the Chapter 74 enrollment policy states vocational districts must take students from their member districts first and PPS is not a member of any. There is a piece that lets districts make tweaks to their enrollment policy so there is some flexibility at the vocational schools. Currently there are no PPS students going to Silver Lake or South Shore Vocational Tech next year and there are four going to Norfolk Aggie. Total vocational enrollment has been as high as 3%. Silver Lake had higher interest from their 8th grade students this year so there is going to be less spots available. Mrs. Scholl confirmed that the change doesn't affect students that are already at SL or SVT. Mrs. Obey said back in 2012 it was a \$500k buy in with no tuition break to be a member of SVT. In 2018 PPS met with SVT again and there was no buy in, but PPS would have had to commit to the debt exclusion override, which didn't make for Pembroke at that time. PPS entered into an agreement with Silver Lake for them to be the choice vocational school for PPS students. Conversation about the Pathways Program was sparked by providing a place for Pembroke students that don't see themselves at a PHS or at a vocational school. The district is looking to build upon the pathways model but that won't offer everything that students are looking for in a vocational program. The next

steps to expanding the pathways model includes offering early childhood education utilizing the preschool program, incorporating some metal fabrication pieces into the manufacturing engineering pathway, and building internship opportunities to get students on the job training in some fields. The committee also will explore the Hatch building as a possible location, but that would be a 5-10 year plan. Mrs. Obey said it makes sense to partner with an area vocational school by entering into an agreement with Silver Lake for a guaranteed number of seats per year by becoming a member town. She said she had a conversation with Elliot Glass, and he is getting his committee's opinion. This would be the fastest path to get the seats.

Mr. Kennedy said he agrees with the looking into Silver Lake as it seems to be the quickest option. He suggested coming up with ideas like utilizing local restaurants kitchens in the morning before it opens for a culinary type offering and finding trade partners within the community to work with the students. Ms. Brust said there's also been a shift in the state's designation of internships and students can now do internships outside of the traditional school day.

Mr. Dan Smith, parent, explained his background with vocational education and said he feels strongly about students having the option as all students learn differently. He feels Pembroke is missing out by not becoming a member town with SVT or Silver Lake. Mr. Kennedy said the committee will look at the options with SVT and Silver Lake.

VOTE: On a motion made by Susan Bollinger and seconded by Susie Scholl, it was unanimously approved to give the superintendent permission to talk with Silver Lake about an MOI on partnering with them for a number of seats.

Voting Yes: Lance Kennedy Susie Scholl, and Susan Bollinger

Voting No: none

Abstaining: none

Absent: Michael Tropeano and David Boyle

Consideration of Second Read and Approval: FY23 Administrator Compensation Grid

Mrs. Obey said this compensation grid was presented at the last meeting and includes the option for administrators to buy back 5 days of unused vacation.

VOTE: On a motion made by Susie Scholl and seconded by Susan Bollinger, it was unanimously voted to accept the FY23 Administrator Compensation Grid as presented.

Voting Yes: Lance Kennedy Susie Scholl, and Susan Bollinger

Voting No: none

Abstaining: none

Absent: Michael Tropeano and David Boyle

Review of Summer School Family Survey Results

Mrs. Obey said 41 families responded with varying interest and varying weeks and as a result she said the district will not offer the summer school version of the vacation academies. The money instead will go toward the upcoming school year to fund tutors. Regular summer offerings will still take place.

Update on Quarantine Guidance and At Home Testing Program

Mrs. Obey said this week the last round of at home tests were given out. Anyone interested in testing over the summer can get kits at Town Hall. The quarantine guidance has changed to if a person is asymptomatic they don't have to quarantine regardless of vaccination status.

Consideration of Conceptual Approval: PHS Music Trip to Disney

Mrs. Obey said this trip request is being brought forward for conceptual approval in order to gauge interest.

VOTE: On a motion made by Susan Bollinger and seconded by Susie Scholl, it was unanimously voted to conceptually approve the PHS Music Trip to Disney.

Voting Yes: Lance Kennedy Susie Scholl, and Susan Bollinger

Voting No: none

Abstaining: none
Absent: Michael Tropeano and David Boyle

Future Meeting Dates and Topics

6/21/22 and 7/19/22

VOTE: At 8:26PM, on a motion made by Susan Bollinger and seconded by Susie Scholl, it was unanimously voted to enter Executive Session Pursuant to Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(3) to discuss a PTA, Unit A grievance, and 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 Susie Scholl, and Susan Bollinger
Voting No: none
Abstaining: none
Absent: Michael Tropeano and David Boyle

APPROVED: June 21, 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 May 17, 2022.

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

VOTE: On a motion made by Susan Bollinger and seconded by Susie Scholl, it was unanimously voted to suspend Policy BGB for Policy IKFB-R Graduation Dress.

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

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

VOTE: On a motion made by Susie Scholl and seconded by Susan Bollinger, it was unanimously voted to accept the FY23 Administrator Compensation Grid as presented.

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

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Voting Yes: Lance Kennedy Susie Scholl, and Susan Bollinger

Voting No: none

Abstaining: none

Absent: Michael Tropeano and David Boyle