



PEMBROKE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
Tuesday, September 5, 2023
North Pembroke Elementary School Library
6:00 PM

Call to Order

Mrs. Bollinger called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm.

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

Present from Committee: Susan Bollinger, Chair; Allison Glennon, Clerk; Michael Quinn and Patrick Chilcott
Absent: David Boyle, Vice Chair

Public Comment

Mr. Don Bryant thanked Mr. Chilcott for serving on the committee. Mr. Bryant said during the interview process for the school committee candidates there were some questions submitted by the community, including himself, that were not asked, and he wants to put three questions on the table and doesn't expect an answer to them. Mrs. Bollinger said there were about 40 questions in total and the interviews would go on all night if all were asked. She added that the question around vaccinations is not within the school committee purview. Mr. Chilcott added that he would like to see all the questions and noted that the nine members of the interview committee were able to ask additional questions if wanted but they didn't feel the need to.

Acknowledge & Schedule Visitors

Mrs. Bolinger welcomed the audience members.

a) Scout BSA Troop 143

Stephanie explained that beginning in 2018 girls were allowed to join cub scouts and BSA. Her daughter was the first girl to join PAC 105, and others have since joined. They are creating an all-girls BSA Troop 143 in Pembroke and there will be an open house on 9/12 at Bryantville Meeting House for any girls 11-17 years old that are interested. Mrs. Bollinger said she thinks it is amazing to have an all-girls troop and she looks forward to seeing the program grow.

Adjustments to Agenda

None

Communications

a) Review of Protocols and Expectations

Mrs. Bollinger said the committee wants to be sure they understand open meeting law. Mrs. Obey said unless a document is talked about at the meeting it is not a public document. She added that the committee members should not use their private accounts or social media accounts as the communications will become public record. Mrs. Bollinger said the members should not respond to text messages about school committee business. Mr. Chilcott said the members want to be approachable and he would suggest members have a phone conversation. Paige Graziano suggested having an automated reply message for text messages.

Approval of Bill Schedule

Warrants will be sent out tomorrow for signature.

Consideration for Approval: School Committee Meeting Minutes of August 22, 2023

Mrs. Glennon asked for a correction to read “all-girls scout BSA troop” under the Communication section.

VOTE: On a motion made by Patrick Chilcott and seconded by Allison Glennon, it was unanimously voted to approve the school committee meeting minutes of August 18, 2023 as amended.

Voting Yes: Susan Bollinger, Michael Quinn, Allison Glennon and Patrick Chilcott

Voting No: none

Abstaining: none

Absent: David Boyle

Superintendent’s Report

Science of Reading Presentation – Elementary Literacy Teachers

Mrs. Obey said the reading specialists are champions of this program and are here tonight to present how the program works. Annie Goode, Erin Sharon and Cheryl Kelly, Reading Specialist at the three elementary schools took the committee through an example lesson of the Science of Reading created by the University of Florida . UFLI Foundations provides teachers with detailed but easy to follow lesson plans. Each lesson starts with phonemic awareness. Students then move to a visual drill followed by an auditory drill and a blending drill. This is followed by writing the word on the dry erase board. Day two includes a quick review of day one then involves word work and utilizes the magnetic letters and board. Ms. Goode said there are scripted lessons, so students know what to expect. She added that the teachers are very excited about this program. This year it is implemented for K-3. Mrs. Glennon asked how it works with the pull-out groups and Ms. Goode said they narrow down based on students’ specific needs. Mrs. Glennon asked if the program teaches students how to print letters and Ms. Sharon confirmed that there is a letter formation lesson. This would be the first time a goal is centered around test data so she cautioned that the target goal may not be met but being able to identify what was unique is important.

Discussion & Revision of School Committee Goals

Mrs. Obey said the document has the edits to date on the School Committee goals. Mrs. Glennon asked if AP scores are tracked and Mrs. Obey said that information will be in the achievement report to be presented in October. She added that PPS does not have an active strategic plan at this time and the committee will need to decide if it wants to dive into that work. She suggested adding an achievement goal using benchmark data as a start and possibly targeting K-2 literacy.

Ms. Brust said the iReady and Lexia tools have been used for progress monitoring not as a summative. They do have those capacities, but PPS uses internal benchmark exams for that. There are things that can be used for progress monitoring, for example, grade level reading and the percentage of students who are exhibiting grade level reading skills. Teachers are using the data to identify strengths and weaknesses for students, to accelerate students that need to move faster in an area, and to help students that are struggling to get the skills to grade level. Mrs. Obey said she can draft a school committee goal based on Mrs. Glennon’s suggestion. Mr. Chilcott said the committee wants to know if the curriculum is working, and this idea is spot on. Mr. Quinn said he would like to explore other vo-tech options in case SSVT doesn’t work out. Mrs. Obey said the wording on the town warrant is specific to SSVT. Mr. Chilcott said the Education Subcommittee can take a look at a shorter-term goal around other options. He suggested reworking this into a strategic goals document and added that he would like to see something related to enrollment in the financial section. He suggested the committee meet with the Town Manager, planning board and affordable housing to discuss how to bring in young families to Pembroke. Mrs. Bollinger said the Master Planning Committee is an appropriate place to voice these concerns. He also suggested a goal around supporting additional curriculum work that may be needed to address achievement gaps. Mrs. Obey said she will draft the goals in a way that represents school committee goals as opposed to building administrator goals or superintendent goals and share it with Mrs. Bollinger before bringing it to the next meeting.

Review of Fall Sports Number

Mrs. Obey said the participation percentages have been stable. Cross Country numbers are lower at this time but should go up in a couple of weeks.

Consideration for Approval: MIAA Girls Hockey Waiver

Mrs. Obey said each year the committee is asked for approval of a girls' hockey waiver. As of now there are 19 or 20 students with interested 8th graders.

VOTE: On a motion made by Patric Chilcott and seconded by Michael Quinn, it was unanimously voted to approve the MIAA girl's hockey waiver as presented.

Voting Yes: Susan Bollinger, Michael Quinn, Allison Glennon and Patrick Chilcott

Voting No: none

Abstaining: none

Absent: David Boyle

Subcommittee Updates

Policy Subcommittee:

Consideration for First Read and Approval: Policy Section B work (recode/revise/rescind)

Mrs. Obey said Section B is being presented as a first read with recommendations from the Policy Subcommittee. Changes include revisions, recodings, rescinding or no action taken. Six policies will be rescinded, 11 will have no action/changes, 16 will be revised and the revisions are in red, two will be recoded and five will be recoded and revised. There is one new policy BDE: Subcommittees of the School Committee.

VOTE: On a motion made by Patric Chilcott and seconded by Allison Glennon, it was unanimously voted to approve Policy Section B: School Committee Governance and Operations as a first read as presented.

Voting Yes: Susan Bollinger, Michael Quinn, Allison Glennon and Patrick Chilcott

Voting No: none

Abstaining: none

Absent: David Boyle

Future Meeting Dates and Topics

9/19, 10/3, 10/17, 11/7, 12/5, 12/19

Mr. Vincent Cogliano said the town government budgeting process in Pembroke has always been top down and that doesn't work anymore. People have the mindset that this is all we're going to get, and we shouldn't ask for anymore. You should want something better than that and it's time to start working with the Board of Selectmen and Advisory Committee and get them to buy into what you are trying to accomplish. Time to start looking at it in a different way and giving the people of the town more of a choice because the days of Pembroke not caring about education enough to support it at a higher level of funding are gone. It's a way of positioning it and making the goals clear why you want the money. We've become too accepting of the top-down method and we should all change this.

Mrs. Bollinger said she is excited for a joint meeting with the BOS, understanding that it is a start.

Mr. Chilcott said traditionally the committee has taken more of a bottom-up approach by giving the administrators and department heads the ability to present their budget needs, and for many years the needs are greater than what the district gets for funding. It is agreed that the committee has to advocate more for these needs. Mr. Quinn said he agrees with Vince and said the committee has to get the State Legislators more involved as the district should be receiving more funding from the State. Mrs. Bollinger suggested scheduling a legislative update and Mrs. Glennon suggested scheduling a monthly liaison for update for all.

VOTE: At 7:30pm, on a motion made by Patrick Chilcott and seconded by Allison Glennon, it was unanimously voted to adjourn.

Voting Yes: Susan Bollinger, Michael Quinn, Allison Glennon and Patrick Chilcott

Voting No: none

Abstaining: none

Absent: David Boyle

APPROVED: September 19, 2023

MOTIONS

VOTE: On a motion made by Patrick Chilcott and seconded by Allison Glennon, it was unanimously voted to approve the school committee meeting minutes of August 18, 2023 as amended.

Voting Yes: Susan Bollinger, Michael Quinn, Allison Glennon and Patrick Chilcott
Voting No: none
Abstaining: none
Absent: David Boyle

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Voting No: none
Abstaining: none
Absent: David Boyle

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Voting No: none
Abstaining: none
Absent: David Boyle

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