



PEMBROKE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
Tuesday, September 19, 2023
North Pembroke Elementary School Library
6:00 PM

Call to Order

Mrs. Bollinger called the meeting to order at 6:05 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, David Boyle and Patrick Chilcott

Public Comment

None

Mrs. Bollinger welcomed Lauren Pearson as the new student representative on the committee.

Acknowledge & Schedule Visitors

Mrs. Bollinger welcomed the audience members.

Discussion of creation of a visitor calendar to celebrate student and staff achievements

Mrs. Bollinger suggested the committee come up with a list of accomplishments that the committee would like to recognize. Mrs. Obey suggested an agenda item for the second meeting of each month for students and staff recognition and said the administrative team will start a list this Thursday. Mr. Boyle said he would also like some sort of presentation piece from the school committee to students that reach the Eagle Scout level. Mr. Chilcott said this creates a tie to the community. Mrs. Glennon said she would like to invite the scouts to meetings as well.

Adjustments to Agenda

None

Communications

MASC – Sign on letter in support of the rural school’s bill

Mr. Quinn said the committee should support this and Mrs. Glennon agreed. Mr. Boyle said he is on board with supporting this as a lot of the money goes to the bigger districts like Boston and Lawrence. Mr. Chilcott said the funding model is broken and needs to be fixed at the Beacon Hill level. His fear is that funds already go to the larger districts and this bill will have funds go to rural districts leaving Pembroke in between, but he is not against it. Mr. Boyle said if funding moves to the rural districts, it could help Pembroke. Mr. Quinn said he believes this could benefit Pembroke in the future. Mrs. Bollinger said she agrees and sees this as an act of goodwill. Mr. Chilcott suggested another letter to the Senator and Representatives about the funding model and unfunded mandates.

VOTE: On a motion made by Michael Quinn and seconded by David Boyle, it was unanimously voted to sign the letter in support of the rural bill.

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

Voting No: none

Abstaining: none

Absent: none

Approval of Bill Schedule

Warrants were sent out for signature.

Consideration for Approval: School Committee Meeting Minutes of September 5, 2023

Mrs. Glennon said the minutes should say Pack 105 not Troop 105.

VOTE: On a motion made by Allison Glennon and seconded by Michael Quinn it was unanimously voted to approve the school committee meeting minutes of September 5, 2023 as amended.

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

Voting No: none

Abstaining: none

Absent: none

Superintendent's Report

PHS Pathways Overview/Update – Maryellen Gates

Mrs. Obey introduced Mrs. Gates and students Jeff, Jonathan and Matt. Mrs. Gates said the five 5 Pathways are up and running, business and entrepreneurship, The goal is to help students gain marketable skills to be college and career ready. It includes coursework, internships and/or certification, examples include Adobe, Photoshop, Java, MS Office. The Biomed and Engineering requirement changed to three years of Biomed/Engineering classes to earn a Pathways Scholar designation. The enrollment in Business and Entrepreneurship is 43, Computer science is 28, Digital Arts is 15, Engineering and Manufacturing Technology is 30 and Biomedical Science is 55. A total of 171 Pathways students and 20 are seniors. 16 students participated in internships and certifications last year. Work Based Learning Alliance (WBLA) offers a 100 and 30-hour internships. Students were placed in teams and given a product scope and had weekly meetings with their mentors. Ten students participated in virtual internships in Computer Science and Business. Jonathan was part of the 100-hour internship with Signature Peaced of Mind Advisors. They focused on Sextortion and cyber attacks against children such as AI and Deepfake technology. They created a website with information about Sextortion with resources for victims of cyber-attacks and to keep parents up to date on the types of attacks and what they can do about it. Jeff also did a 100-hour internship with Keep Charlotte Beautiful which is a government funded non-profit dedicated to keep Charolotte clean by picking up trash. The job was to interpret the data and tell a story. They created data visualizations like graphs and infographics to tell the story about the data. Matt Wilshire said he learned how to design and create online tools for meetings, worked in virtual environments and he liked the asynchronous working as it helped him to manage his time effectively. He thanked Mrs. Gates for their amazing opportunities. All committee members expressed how impressed they were with their presentations.

Review of Tech Scorecard

Mrs. Obey said this is one way the district captures the technology data, and it is updated and presented quarterly.

Consideration for Approval: Overnight/Out of State Field Trip Requests - DECA

Mrs. Obey said there are three trips, and the numbers of students are estimated at this time.

VOTE: On a motion made by Michael Quinn and seconded by Patrick Chilcott, it was unanimously voted to approve the overnight/out of state trips for DECA.

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

Voting No: none

Abstaining: none

Absent: none

Draft of FY25 Budget Calendar

Mrs. Obey presented the draft FY25 budget calendar and asked for input and or revisions. She said she will set up a joint meeting with the BOS.

Mr. Chilcott said the way the Selectboard handles the budget process is different from the school department and sharing the district's bottoms up approach may be worthwhile. Mr. Boyle said working jointly takes the element of surprise away. Mr. Boyle added that he will reach out to the legislatures regarding coming to a meeting in February.

Subcommittee/Liaison Updates

a) Policy Subcommittee:

Consideration for First Read: Revision to Policy IKFB-R Graduation Dress

Mrs. Obey said the policy was amended in August 2022 and there was concern over the decision that was made regarding cords. The criteria for some cords did not have an academic component and at the time the Policy Subcommittee could not come up with a minimum GPA. The Policy Subcommittee reviewed it again and landed on a minimum GPA of 3.7 to receive a cord and that the cords are only given out by PHS and not by an outside entity. Mrs. Bollinger said it also has to be a nationally recognized honor society and administratively approved. Once the policy is finalized there will be an update to the PHS Student Handbook.

Student Representative, Lauren Pearson, said the Thespian Honor Society students were upset and said that students that excel in other than academics should be allowed to wear cords. She feels that the 3.7 GPA is difficult and cuts out others that excel in other areas like art or music. Mr. Quinn suggested lowering the minimum GPA and establishing a lowest grade of B and Mrs. Obey said the Policy Subcommittee discussed this option. Mrs. Glennon said she feels the current policy is unfair and feels fairly strongly about the 3.7 GPA but understands the reasoning. Mrs. Obey said there are celebrations, awards nights and honor society nights to recognize students and the vision of graduation is a celebration of the cumulative accomplishment. Mrs. Bollinger said she couldn't find a workaround to make it lower for other honor societies and she feels strongly that there should be other cords allowed. Mrs. Obey added that a good portion of the PHS student body achieves a 3.7 GPA. Mr. Chilcott said it is important to have a minimum suggested accepting as a first read and have Lauren reach out to students for further input and then have another discussion at the next meeting.

VOTE: On a motion made by Patrick Chilcott and seconded by David Boyle, it was unanimously voted to approve Policy IKFB: Graduation Dress as a first read as presented.

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

Voting No: none

Abstaining: none

Absent: none

Consideration for First Read: Policy Section C (recode/revise/rescind)

Mrs. Obey said Policy CBI: Evaluation of the Superintendent will be revised and CH: Policy Implementation will have no changes. The new polices are CB: School Superintendent, CBD: Superintendent's Contract, CCB: Staff Relations, CE: Administrative Councils, Cabinet and Committees, CHA/CHC: Development and Dissemination of Procedures, CHCA: Approval of Handbooks and Directives and CM: School District Annual Report.

VOTE: On a motion made by Patrick Chilcott and seconded by Allison Glennon, it was unanimously voted to approve Policy section C as a first read as presented.

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

Voting No: none

Abstaining: none

Absent: none

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

Mrs. Obey said these policies were presented at the last meeting.

VOTE: On a motion made by Allison Glennon and seconded by Michael Quinn, it was unanimously voted to approve Policy section B as presented.

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

Voting No: none

Abstaining: none

Absent: none

b) Education Subcommittee:

Update/Recommendations regarding PHS Pathways Criteria & Requirements

Mrs. Obey said the district wants to make sure all students that want to be part of the Pathways Program can. Band is a conflict as a full year elective, but students can still take Pathways course work but won't get in the required credits for a scholar designation or certification. Mrs. Bollinger said music is part of being a well-rounded student and she is concerned about students having to make a choice at a young age. She said she would like to look at the Physical Education requirement to see if students can do something out of school to meet the PE requirement and Mrs. Obey said PE is a State requirement. She said PHS waives PE in certain circumstances, but most other districts do not. Mr. Chilcott said previous committees have deeply discussed this topic and he believes PE is massively important for many reasons. He added that students have to make a choice at some point, the district can open their eyes to the options, but they have to decide. Mr. Boyle agreed and said he would have a hard time waiving the PE piece. Mrs. Glennon said the subcommittee talked about single semester courses that fit in with the criteria of the Pathways Program. Mrs. Obey said students can still access the Pathways classes as a Band student but just can't take the full year electives that give the scholar designation on the transcript, which means something to PPS not necessarily to a college. Mrs. Bollinger said she is upset that music is not as important as PE, she thinks they are equally important and would like to find a way that they don't compete with the Pathways Program.

c) Liaison Updates

Mrs. Obey said after the liaisons have their meetings, they will give an update at the following school committee meeting. PTAD meeting is next week. Vo Tech will have a meeting at the beginning of October. Mrs. Bollinger gave an update on the Master Planning Committee met and said the consultant for VHB went to Pembroke Celebrates and will hear how that went at the next meeting.

Future Meeting Dates and Topics

10/3

VOTE: At 7:44PM, on a motion made by Michael Quinn and seconded by Patrick Chilcott, it was unanimously voted, by roll call vote, to enter Executive Session Pursuant to Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(3) to conduct a review and potential approval and release of Executive Session Minutes as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the legal position of the School Committee, as declared by the Chair. With additional business to be discussed.

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

Voting No: none

Abstaining: none

Absent: none

APPROVED: October 3, 2023

MOTIONS

VOTE: On a motion made by Allison Glennon and seconded by Michael Quinn it was unanimously voted to approve the school committee meeting minutes of September 5, 2023 as amended.

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

Voting No: none

Abstaining: none

Absent: none

VOTE: On a motion made by Michael Quinn and seconded by Patrick Chilcott, it was unanimously voted to approve the overnight/out of state trips for DECA.

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

VOTE: On a motion made by Patrick Chilcott and seconded by David Boyle, it was unanimously voted to approve Policy IKFB: Graduation Dress as a first read as presented.

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

VOTE: On a motion made by Patrick Chilcott and seconded by Allison Glennon, it was unanimously voted to approve Policy section C as a first read as presented.

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

VOTE: On a motion made by Allison Glennon and seconded by Michael Quinn, it was unanimously voted to approve Policy section B as presented.

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

VOTE: At 7:44PM, on a motion made by Michael Quinn and seconded by Patrick Chilcott, it was unanimously voted, by roll call vote, to enter Executive Session Pursuant to Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(3) to conduct a review and potential approval and release of Executive Session Minutes as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the legal position of the School Committee, as declared by the Chair. With additional business to be discussed.

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