



PEMBROKE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
Tuesday, October 17, 2023
North Pembroke Elementary School Library
7:00 PM

Call to Order

Mrs. Bollinger called the meeting to order at 7:11 p.m.

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

Mrs. Jasie inquired about why public comments are accepted at the beginning of the session instead of the end. Mrs. Bollinger clarified that the purpose of starting with public comments is to allow individuals to make general remarks, and the committee may answer any questions at that time.

Acknowledge & Schedule Visitors

Mrs. Bollinger welcomed the audience members.

Adjustments to Agenda

Addition of Gymnastics waiver for consideration.

Communications

None

Approval of Bill Schedule

Warrants were sent out electronically for signature.

Consideration for Approval: School Committee Meeting Minutes of October 3, 2023

VOTE: On a motion made by Michael Quinn and seconded by Patrick Chilcott, it was unanimously voted to approve the school committee meeting minutes of October 3, 2023 as presented.

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

Voting No: none

Abstaining: none

Absent: David Boyle

Superintendent's Report

Open Meeting Law Overview

Mr. Joe Emerson, School Counsel, provided an overview of the Open Meeting Law. He highlighted the Attorney General's Open Meeting Law Guide as a valuable resource. Mr. Emerson quoted the document and defined deliberations as “an oral or written communication through any medium, including electronic mail, between or among a quorum of a public body on any public business within its jurisdiction.” He clarified that discussions between two members of the five-member committee do not qualify as deliberation as it is not a quorum. He added that deliberations must be public, and expressions of opinion are considered a part of the deliberation, even if no other member responds. Mrs. Bollinger asked if it is permissible for a person campaigning for a school committee position to share their opinion on social media. Mr. Emerson explained that it is allowed during the campaign, but they cannot give opinions on upcoming agenda topics, as this would be considered an open meeting violation. Mr. Emerson emphasized that discussions outside of public meetings are prohibited if the topic requires a vote of the committee. He also advised against using "reply all" when emailing. Mrs. Glennon asked if it is acceptable for members to attend subcommittee meetings if they are not on the subcommittee. Mr. Emerson said that members can attend but cannot participate in discussions. Mr. Chilcott confirmed that school committee members can endorse other members running for re-election. Additionally, Mrs. Bollinger reminded the committee that executive session topics should never be discussed outside of the executive session. Mr. Emerson reminded the committee that the superintendent is not subject to the Open Meeting Law unless the school committee directs the superintendent to create a committee. Additionally, school committee members cannot speak against the action of the school committee if they voted against something that passed.

Overview of ChatGPT for Education

Mrs. Obey introduced Mr. Jonathan Shapiro, the Science Content Supervisor, who gave an overview of ChatGPT for Education. He pointed out that we have all been interacting with traditional AI in various forms like GPS, ALEXA, Google, and video games for many years. Generative AI is capable of producing new outputs like text, music, and images, which sets it apart from traditional AI. ChatGPT, which was launched in November 2022, is one of the many generative AI tools available. It's important to note that it has been trained in the past, therefore it doesn't have any knowledge of events that took place in 2023.

Mr. Shapiro stated that this discussion is taking place due to the potential of this becoming the most disruptive influence in the field of education in a long time. This is because generative AI cannot only make predictions but also create products that appear to be produced by humans.

Mr. Shapiro instructed the committee to input a sample prompt into ChatGPT and review the output. Mr. Chilcott raised his concern that this technology could generate papers for students and ultimately, they won't learn; Mr. Shapiro said that's part of what makes it a disruptive force. He continued to say that even though you can ask for more information or examples, there is a point where it may go too far and start providing incorrect responses. Mr. Shapiro added that he has collaborated with teachers to integrate AI into their work, specifically in unit and lesson planning, as well as assessments. He stated that while it does a good job, it cannot replace a teacher's guidance. Mr. Quinn said students can plagiarize by changing the wording of the output. Mr. Shapiro said there are digital tools to combat that and informed the committee of conversations focused on making AI a positive force in education, rather than a negative one. He added that discussions have centered around where to draw the line and how to use AI platforms as a tool to help educators. Mr. Chilcott asked if bias can be detected in ChatGPT, and Mr. Shapiro said that since humans create AI, there can be bias, and Mrs. Bollinger agreed. Mrs. Glennon said she appreciates this being considered a useful tool instead of banning it. Mr. Quinn added that he believes that ChatGPT would make a good starting point for writing a paper and Mr. Shapiro agreed it is a good brainstorming tool.

Consideration for Approval: PHS Surplus Materials

Mrs. Obey requested to declare the outdated and unused science textbooks as surplus.

VOTE: On a motion made by Patrick Chilcott and seconded by Michael Quinn, it was unanimously voted to deem surplus the science textbooks as presented.

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

Consideration for Approval: MIAA Waiver JV Girls Basketball and Gymnastics

Mrs. Obey said that tryouts start the Monday after Thanksgiving. There was an interest meeting held and 17 girls expressed interest and the varsity roster carries 12-14. There are currently insufficient players to form a JV team, so the district is requesting a waiver to permit 8th graders to participate on the JV girls' basketball team. PPS had a waiver last year.

VOTE: On a motion made by Michael Quinn and seconded by Patrick Chilcott, it was unanimously voted to approve the MIAA waiver for JV Girls Basketball.

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

Mrs. Obey stated that only four students from both Pembroke and Silver Lake are currently interested in the co-op gymnastics program. Therefore, both schools are requesting a waiver to allow 8th graders to join.

VOTE: On a motion made by Michael Quinn and seconded by Allison Glennon, it was unanimously voted to approve the MIAA waiver for gymnastics.

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

Subcommittee/Liaison Updates: Policy Subcommittee

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

Mrs. Obey said there are currently two policies in Section E: EBAB: Pest Management and EEAG: Motor Vehicle Idling on School Grounds. EBAB will be revised to include the MGL and EEAG will be recoded to EEAJ. The Policy Subcommittee is recommending the addition of two policies, ECAF: Security Cameras in Schools and EEAG: Student Transportation in Private Vehicles. Mrs. Obey stated that EEAG must be used when buses are unavailable for student transportation. Mr. Chilcott confirmed that parents will be notified and required to grant permission for alternate transportation. Mr. Quinn confirmed that if a bus broke down, parents can only pick up their own student(s).

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

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

Absent: David Boyle

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

Mrs. Obey said there are currently two policies in Section D: DIC: Financial Reports and Statements and DJ: Purchasing of Equipment and Materials. DIC will be rescinded, and DJ will be revised. She informed the committee that the Policy Subcommittee is recommending the inclusion of 13 policies that will provide the community with information about the district's fiscal management. Mrs. Bollinger stated that prior to joining the committee, she had trouble finding answers to fiscal questions. She added that these policies were adapted from MASC and other districts have implemented similar policies. However, Mr. Chilcott expressed his concern about some of the policies being too specific and possibly subjective. He suggested that some of the specifics should be removed, and Mrs. Glennon proposed that the Budget Subcommittee be tasked with reviewing these policies and proposing revisions.

VOTE: On a motion made by Patrick Chilcott and seconded by Allison Glennon, it was unanimously voted to suspend Policy BGB: Policy Adoption for Policy Section D (recode/revise/rescind).

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

Voting No: none

Abstaining: none

Absent: David Boyle

Future Meeting Dates and Topics

10/24, 11/7

VOTE: At 8:30 PM, on a motion made by Michael Quinn and seconded by Patrick Chilcott, it was unanimously voted to adjourn.

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

Voting No: none

Abstaining: none

Absent: David Boyle

Approved: October 24, 2023

MOTIONS

VOTE: On a motion made by Michael Quinn and seconded by Patrick Chilcott, it was unanimously voted to approve the school committee meeting minutes of October 3, 2023 as presented.

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

Voting No: none

Abstaining: none

Absent: David Boyle

VOTE: On a motion made by Patrick Chilcott and seconded by Michael Quinn, it was unanimously voted to deem surplus the science textbooks.

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

Voting No: none

Abstaining: none
Absent: David Boyle

VOTE: On a motion made by Michael Quinn and seconded by Patrick Chilcott, it was unanimously voted to approve the MIAA waiver for JV Girls Basketball.

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

VOTE: On a motion made by Michael Quinn and seconded by Allison Glennon, it was unanimously voted to approve the MIAA waiver for gymnastics.

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

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

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

VOTE: On a motion made by Patrick Chilcott and seconded by Allison Glennon, it was unanimously voted to suspend Policy BGB: Policy Adoption for Policy Section D (recode/revise/rescind).

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

VOTE: At 8:30 PM, on a motion made by Michael Quinn and seconded by Patrick Chilcott, it was unanimously voted to adjourn.

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