



72 Pilgrim Road, Pembroke, MA 02359  
[www.pembrokek12.org](http://www.pembrokek12.org)  
[pembroke@pembrokek12.org](mailto:pembroke@pembrokek12.org)

**PEMBROKE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**Tuesday, January 2, 2024**  
**North Pembroke Elementary School Library**

**6:00 PM**

**The meeting will be recorded**

**Call to Order**

Mrs. Bollinger called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**Present from Administration:** Erin Obey, Superintendent; Marybeth Brust, Assistant Superintendent

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

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Pack 105 – Webelos II let the committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Public Comment**

None

**Acknowledge & Schedule Visitors**

Mrs. Bollinger welcomed the audience members.

**Consideration for Approval: School Committee Meeting Minutes of November 7<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> and December 12<sup>th</sup>**

VOTE: On a motion made by Michael Quinn and seconded by Patrick Chilcott, it was unanimously voted to approve the meeting minutes of November 7<sup>th</sup>, November 28<sup>th</sup> and December 12<sup>th</sup> as presented.

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

**Superintendent's Report**

NPES Community Engagement Survey

Mrs. Obey said a parent survey requires School Committee approval before going out. This survey is to gain feedback about how NPES fits into the community. It will be sent to the NPES broadcast list and also put on social media.

VOTE: On a motion made by Patrick Chilcott and seconded by Michael Quinn, it was unanimously voted to approve the NPES community survey as presented.

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

Absent: none

### Winter Sports Participation Numbers

Mrs. Obey said there are 286 athletes currently participating in winter sports at PHS. This is an increase of 8 athletes from the previous year. Additionally, 41% of the students are participating in winter athletics, which is an increase from 38% last year and 36% the year before. It is worth noting that wrestling now has 28 athletes up from 16 last year. Mr. Chilcott asked about equipment and Mrs. Obey said there is a uniform replacement cycle that Mr. Phillips stays on top of and consumables are ordered each season. Larger purchases like wrestling mats have all been figured into the five-year purchasing plan. Mr. Chilcott added that sports programs change students' lives both from a scholarship perspective and a leadership and discipline level.

### Review of Budget Presentation Calendar

Mrs. Obey reported that there is no new information to share about the MOE budget. The departmental budget presentations will take place in February and March. Mr. Chilcott said any early indicators from the legislative team will help and he suggested having them come to a meeting in early March. Mr. Quinn asked what happened to the funds that the legislative representatives referenced and Mrs. Obey said there has been an influx of one-time money which gives the option to do something new but it doesn't fix how the Chapter 70 formula works. Mr. Quinn said the formula is skewed to service cities with the most students. Mr. Chilcott said so much federal one-time money came into the system and had to be spent by a certain time or be returned to the federal government and now that is gone. He added that the district has been asking the legislators for 15 years to change the Chapter 70 funding formula as it is unfair to Pembroke. Mrs. Obey added that special education and health care had a vast increase that has outgrown the formula. She assumes there will be an adjustment for special education moving forward due to the 14% increase in tuition with the Operational Services Division. Mr. Chilcott said the committee needs to ask the legislators what they can do to help Pembroke. Mrs. Bollinger suggested giving them questions ahead of time to have a productive conversation.

### **Subcommittee/Liaison Updates** **Education Subcommittee:**

#### Consideration for First Read: PHS New Course Proposals

Ms. Brust said there are two new course proposals, Principles of Engineering for the Engineering Pathway and Human Body Systems for the Biomedical Pathway. The courses will require training for teachers and the purchase of materials and there is some grant funding available. Mrs. Bollinger asked how the curriculum is chosen and Ms. Brust said it comes directly from Project Lead the Way (PLTW) which is tied to the MA Curriculum. The pedagogy involves giving students a problem and the teachers move the thinking along. Ms. Brust mentioned that the PLTW grant will cover the cost of durable supplies and professional development for teachers. Mrs. Bollinger confirmed that new teachers will not be hired for the new courses. Instead, two instructors already teaching the Pathways courses will participate in the training for the new courses. Mrs. Obey added that the district had received capital funding a few years ago, which enabled the purchase of most of the computer components required for the Engineering Pathway.

Ms. Brust said the next course proposal is for AP World History which will be offered as a 10th-grade core course. This presents a great opportunity for students who wish to challenge themselves academically. Students who take this course will then progress to AP US History in 11th grade. The last course proposal is AP Spanish Literature and Culture. The course will run only if enough students are interested and a teacher is available to teach it.

VOTE: On a motion made by Patrick Chilcott and seconded by Michael Quinn, it was unanimously voted to accept the four courses as a first read as presented.

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

Voting No: none

Abstaining: none

Absent: none

#### Consideration for First Read: PHS Program of Studies Pathways Revisions

Ms. Brust said the Information Technology Pathway is an option for students who are interested in computer work but do not want the Computer Science Pathway. The Global Citizenship & Learning Pathway will provide an option

for students interested in international issues and languages. The Music Pathway will provide an option for students pursuing music after graduation. This formalizes what already exists as some students are already doing this work through the Senior Project. Mr. Chilcott asked if students have to begin a Pathway in grade 9 and Ms. Brust said they do not and added that Mrs. Gates identifies and works with students whose courses are leading toward a Pathway.

VOTE: On a motion made by David Boyle and seconded by Michael Quinn, it was unanimously voted to accept the PHS Program of Studies Pathways Revisions as a first read as presented.

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

Voting No: none

Abstaining: none

Absent: none

#### Consideration for First Read: 2024-2025 PHS Program of Studies Revisions

Ms. Brust said one proposal is students must pass three years of history, including one year of US II. This gives the ability to count an AP World History towards a history requirement. Mr. Chilcott confirmed that every student has the option to take US History. Ms. Brust said 8<sup>th</sup> graders take a civics class with a project and test and 11<sup>th</sup> graders also do a civics project.

The second change has to do with GPAs. The final GPA calculation of a student by the college admissions department involves removing certain elective courses. The PHS Guidance Department would like to add to PowerSchool an estimated college GPA as an internal data point. Mr. Quinn said this gives students and parents a better idea of what colleges are thinking. Ms. Brust stated that this will provide more information to families when applying to schools, given the application costs. Mrs. Bollinger asked how this would be communicated to parents and Ms. Brust said it would be communicated via various ways including PHS parent nights. Mr. Chilcott asked how the GPAs will be calculated and Ms. Brust said other districts take out courses like business, PE, Music and Art and PPS will have to commit to a formula and try to be as selective as possible. Mr. Chilcott added that he thinks this will be important for families and confirmed that the Pembroke GPA will be utilized for the valedictorian and salutatorian and top 10% of the class.

The next change is to eliminate the Directed Study option for grade 9 students. Ms. Brust said 9<sup>th</sup> graders would benefit from a full schedule. Mrs. Obey said allowing 9<sup>th</sup> graders to elect a study may be a disservice, as they could get exposure to music, arts, and languages. Mr. Talbot added that students have Titan Time and that is enough. Mrs. Glennon said she is concerned about taking away the directed study and how far this will go and Mrs. Obey said it would start with 9<sup>th</sup> grade and may be considered for 10<sup>th</sup> as well. Mrs. Bollinger said she sees Mrs. Glennon points. Mr. Talbot said he feels the study hall population has grown significantly and it is not always utilized as it was designed. He added that he sees the benefit of exposing students to electives like art, music and languages. Mr. Boyle said when he was in school study hall was a free period to do whatever you want and thinks with Titan Time a directed study is not needed. Mr. Quinn said students need to manage their time better and he agrees with Mr. Boyle.

Ms. Brust said another change is to make the Street Law course open to only grades 11 and 12 instead of 9-12 due to the course content and increased offerings for underclassmen. Mrs. Bollinger said she would be upset to see this taken away from 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders. Ms. Brust said the teacher brought this forward as he is seeing the upperclassmen dominating the class and feels the topics are also a factor. Mr. Chilcott suggested allowing the course for 10<sup>th</sup> grade and only taking away the course from 9<sup>th</sup> graders. The committee agreed on making it available to grades 10-12.

Ms. Brust said the last change is to begin the phase-out of Latin III and Latin IV as student enrollment has declined over the past few years. This would not apply to current 9<sup>th</sup> graders, 8<sup>th</sup> graders coming up to PHS would only have the options of Latin I and Latin II. Mrs. Glennon said she is against taking away these courses and said less students are taking French than Latin. Mrs. Obey reported that there are 7 students enrolled in Latin III and 5 students in Latin IV and said the district is allocating resources towards an area of study that fewer students are choosing to take. The district is committed to being a three-language high school and will not phase out Latin entirely. Mrs. Bollinger asked if the district is heading to making world language a graduation requirement and Mrs. Obey said

there is no recommendation to change the graduation requirement but does see it in coming years. Mrs. Bollinger said she thinks there is a need and importance for Latin III and Latin IV and was sad to see it end at PCMS. She mentioned that the district has committed to teaching French in middle school, so it has to continue in high school. Mr. Chilcott said Latin is important for vocabulary and important to grasp other languages and he would not want to see it removed completely if the district is going to make language a graduation requirement. He stated that if Latin III and IV were eliminated, the entire subject would gradually disappear.

Mrs. Obey suggested making Latin III and Latin IV electives. Mr. Quinn said he doesn't see why a Pathways student would want to take Latin. Mrs. Glennon said she opposes this option of considering it an elective and taking it out of PCMS may not have been the correct decision. Mr. Quinn said if Latin becomes an elective, he believes it will fade out. Mrs. Obey said there is a budget piece to this. Mr. Boyle said it appears from the numbers that it is not economically feasible to teach a class with six students and added he would also remove French. Mrs. Obey said the decision to move the World Languages Content Supervisor to PCMS to teach French was due to lack of momentum in previous years. PCMS students are now enjoying it and she would like to see how this plays out for a couple of years and see how many students continue with French II next year. Mr. Chilcott added that a big part of the budget is making enrollment reduction decisions so the committee may be forced to consider this from the budget standpoint. Mrs. Obey said she will provide information on the foreign languages offered by the schools in the area at the next meeting. Mr. Boyle said he would be interested in information about American Sign Language.

VOTE: On a motion made by David Boyle and seconded by Michael Quinn, it was unanimously voted to accept as a first read the 2024-2025 PHS Program of Studies.

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

Voting No: none

Abstaining: none

Absent: none

#### **Policy Subcommittee:**

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

Mrs. Obey said Policy Section G is being presented as a first read. Mr. Chilcott suggested creating a policy around dress code and Mrs. Obey said this would be a change in working conditions and would have to be bargained.

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

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

Voting No: none

Abstaining: none

Absent: none

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

1/16 @ 6:30 pm, 1/30, 2/13, 3/5, 3/19

VOTE: On a motion made by David Boyle and seconded by Allison Glennon, it was unanimously voted to adjourn.

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

Voting No: none

Abstaining: none

Absent: none

**APPROVED: January 16, 2024**

**MOTIONS**

VOTE: On a motion made by Michael Quinn and seconded by Patrick Chilcott, it was unanimously voted to approve the meeting minutes of November 7<sup>th</sup>, November 28<sup>th</sup> and December 12<sup>th</sup> as presented.

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

VOTE: On a motion made by Patrick Chilcott and seconded by Michael Quinn, it was unanimously voted to approve the NPES community survey as presented.

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

VOTE: On a motion made by Patrick Chilcott and seconded by Michael Quinn, it was unanimously voted to accept the four courses as a first read as presented.

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

VOTE: On a motion made by David Boyle and seconded by Michael Quinn, it was unanimously voted to accept the PHS Program of Studies Pathways Revisions as a first read as presented.

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

VOTE: On a motion made by David Boyle and seconded by Michael Quinn, it was unanimously voted to accept as a first read the 2024-2025 PHS Program of Studies.

Voting Yes: Susan Bollinger, David Boyle, Allison Glennon, Michael Quinn 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 accept as a first read Policy Section G as presented.

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

VOTE: On a motion made by David Boyle and seconded by Allison Glennon, it was unanimously voted to adjourn.

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