

Pembroke Public Schools

72 Pilgrim Road, Pembroke, MA 02359

www.pembrokek12.org

pembroke@pembrokek12.org



(781) 829-1178
FAX (781) 829-6957

PEMBROKE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING **Tuesday, February 4, 2025** **North Pembroke Elementary School Library**

Call to Order

Mr. Chilcott called the meeting to order at 7:32 P.M.

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

Present from Committee: Patrick Chilcott, Chair; Allison Glennon, Vice Chair, Katrina Delaney, Clerk; and Susan Bollinger and David Boyle

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment

Julie Morris and Julie Bosworth, representing Friends of Pembroke Public Schools, discussed the importance of understanding diverse perspectives and maintaining impartiality in leadership. They emphasized the need for unbiased decision-making and the importance of listening to community concerns.

Nicole Pelletier spoke about the importance of supporting children's education and the risks of limiting educational resources. She advocated for abundant educational opportunities for all students.

Acknowledge & Schedule Visitors

Mr. Chilcott welcomed the audience members and encouraged members to continue to come to meetings.

Adjustments to the Agenda

None

Communications

None

Approval of Bill Schedule

Warrants were circulated electronically.

Superintendent's Report

PCMS FY26 Budget Presentation

Mrs. Obey introduced budget presentations for Pembroke Community Middle School (PCMS) and Pembroke High School (PHS).

Dr. McGarrigle reported that PCMS enrollment is on a downward trend. There are approximately 194 future 7th graders and about 184 future 8th graders, which totals an anticipated enrollment of 378 students. The current enrollment is 354. Class sizes for 7th grade range from 21 to 28 students, while 8th grade class sizes range from 19 to 22 students.

Dr. McGarrigle explained that year two of the My College Academic Plan (MyCAP) focuses on increasing awareness of the importance of middle school in preparing for high school and college career readiness. For the years 2022-2023, PCMS received a grant of \$4,500. In 2023-2024, PCMS obtained a \$5,500 implementation grant, and for 2024-2025,

PCMS was awarded \$23,750 to support experiential learning opportunities, such as field trips. Some funds will be allocated to develop a biomedical elective.

Last year's budget requests were for a full-time paraprofessional to continue in Compass and a special education paraprofessional due to the increased level of needs for the incoming grade 7 special education supports. The Compass Program was put in place to support students who have fallen behind the curriculum due to absences, mental health, or other factors that may have an impact on a student's ability to complete work. Compass had 13 students assigned between Terms 1 and 2. Six students were assigned to the Compass Program for more than 20 days. Additionally, six students have Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) or 504 Plans. Student who participated in Compass raised their grades by 11.6% on average.

The FY26 PCMS budget requests include an additional full-time special education paraprofessional to support the increased level of needs of the incoming grade 7 students. Based on current student enrollment data it is anticipated there will be 78 students who will require special education support to start the 25-26 school year. A second request is for a .5 FTE Coordinator of Counseling & Behavioral Supports to integrate guidance, counseling, and behavioral staff to ensure cohesion across the secondary setting 7-12. A third request is for a .5FTE BCBA/LABA to provide an increased level of behavioral support for the PACE program and across the building for assessment, development, and monitoring of behavioral intervention. A fourth request is for a .5 RBT to support classroom management at various levels, implement behavior plans, and provide one-on-one or small-group assistance. Mr. Chilcott noted that enrollment across the commonwealth is declining while special education needs are rising.

PHS FY26 Budget Presentation

Mr. Talbot presented the FY26 PHS budget, noting enrollment trends show a slight decline. Class sizes currently range from 11-21. PHS priority budget requests for FY26 include a full-time Director of Counseling to assume leadership of all counseling to include guidance and adjustment counselors, the Compass Program, and the ARC Program. A second request is for a special education teacher to support the co-teaching model, mainly in grade 10 Science and Math. A third request is for a .5 FTE ASL teacher to support the new World Language graduation requirement. A fourth request is for an a.4 Business teacher to support the Pathways Program so the Pathways Coordinator position can be full-time. Lastly, a request for additional funding to the Student Activities Account.

Mr. Talbot explained the rationale behind the Director of Counseling position. He explained there is an increase in counselor caseloads, an increase in academic pressures for both students and counselors, an increase in SEL needs, and an increase in educational plans that require implementation and monitoring. He mentioned that there are a total of 115 students receiving special education services, accounting for 17% of the student body. Additionally, 67 students are on 504 plans, which represents 10% of the student population. Furthermore, 71 students have utilized the Compass program in some capacity, while 33 students have engaged with the ARC program in some way.

Mr. Talbot stated that the request to increase funding for extracurricular activities is due to the fact that 13 activities do not offer a stipend, meaning the advisors are not compensated for their time.

Consideration for Second Read and Approval: PHS Program of Studies

Mrs. Obey said the only difference is that the Education Subcommittee and the Policy Subcommittee met last week to discuss the competency determination which is listed in red on the edits sheet. Mrs. Glennon said the subcommittee is recommending not having MCAS as a graduation requirement. She pointed out that the district and many other towns are aligning to MassCore of two years of a world language and one semester of Visual and Performing Arts. Mr. Chilcott confirmed that no additional staff will be needed to meet this. Mr. Chilcott expressed his belief that the MCAS should remain in place until a recommendation is made by the state. Mrs. Glennon pointed out that 61% of Pembroke voters supported the removal of MCAS as a graduation requirement, and she believes the MassCore Standards are beneficial. Mrs. Bollinger said she wonders if there is a hybrid solution that includes having the MCAS. Mrs. Delaney noted that 8 out of 10 districts are eliminating MCAS as a graduation requirement and she is reluctant to go against the town's decision. Mr. Boyle stated that he sees no value in the MCAS. The committee agreed on the importance of maintaining educational standards.

VOTE: On a motion made by Katrina Delaney and seconded by Allison Glennon, it was voted to accept as a second read and approval the PHS Program of Studies.

Voting Yes: Allison Glennon, Katrina Delaney, Susan Bollinger, David Boyle

Voting No: Patrick Chilcott

Abstaining: none

Absent: none

Transportation Update

Mrs. Obey reported that, happily, there were no afternoon delays today. Currently, First Student is one bus driver short for Bus 4 and is utilizing a substitute driver. However, there are times when a substitute is not available. Some drivers are on leave of absence, which is expected to conclude around February vacation. First Student is the only company that has submitted a bid for transportation services in Pembroke. They have expressed their willingness to address any concerns, as has been the case recently.

Act Concerning the Safety of School Children Embarking and Disembarking School Buses

Mrs. Obey said the first step is accepting the presented language for the Spring Town Meeting Warrant to allow the use of bus cameras for prosecuting violations of the stop-arm law. The cameras will be installed at a later date. The committee approved moving forward with this initiative.

VOTE: On a motion made by David Boyle and seconded by Susan Bollinger, it was unanimously voted to accept and direct that this act be placed on the Spring Town Meeting Warrant in 2025.

Voting Yes: Patrick Chilcott, Allison Glennon, Katrina Delaney, Susan Bollinger, David Boyle

Voting No: none

Abstaining: none

Absent: none

Subcommittee/Liaison Updates:

Long Range Planning:

Consideration for Approval – CPC Grant Application for Hobomock Playground

Mrs. Obey said Safe and Sound Solutions provided an audit. Long Range Planning reviewed the playground audit report and recommended moving forward with a CPC grant application for the Hobomock playground replacement.

Mrs. Glennon asked how much money is available and Mrs. Obey said there is \$400k in the undesignated fund. Mrs. Glennon confirmed that the entire playground will be replaced. Next in line will be the Bryantville playground, as there is a partner to assist with that funding.

VOTE: On a motion made by Katrina Delaney and seconded by Allison Glennon, it was unanimously voted to approve the CPC grant application for Hobomock playground as presented.

Voting Yes: Patrick Chilcott, Allison Glennon, Katrina Delaney, Susan Bollinger, David Boyle

Voting No: none

Abstaining: none

Absent: none

Consideration for Approval – Spring Warrant Capital Items

Mrs. Obey said the Long Range Planning Committee discussed capital items for the Spring Town Meeting warrant which includes HVAC upgrades of \$400k and \$100k in curricular materials and PA system replacements.

VOTE: On a motion made by Katrina Delaney and seconded by Allison Glennon, it was unanimously voted to approve the Spring Warrant capital items as presented.

Voting Yes: Patrick Chilcott, Allison Glennon, Katrina Delaney, Susan Bollinger, David Boyle

Voting No: none

Abstaining: none

Absent: none

Policy Sub Committee:

Consideration for First Read and Approval: Policy JIE – Pregnant Students

Mrs. Obey said the Policy Subcommittee recommends striking the Title IX Final Rule listed in this policy as it is no longer relevant.

VOTE: On a motion made by Susan Bollinger and seconded by Allison Glennon, it was unanimously voted to consider for first read and approval Policy JIE: Pregnant Students.

Voting Yes: Patrick Chilcott, Allison Glennon, Katrina Delaney, Susan Bollinger, David Boyle
Voting No: none
Abstaining: none
Absent: none

Consideration for First Read: Policy IKF - Graduation Requirements

Mrs. Obey said the updates to this policy include the additional graduation requirements of two years of World Language as well as the one semester of Visual and Performing Arts. Additional updates include that AP World History course now counts as one year of History, you must pass biology and either chemistry or physics and two years of a world language means the same language.

VOTE: On a motion made by Katrina Delaney and seconded by Allison Glennon, it was unanimously voted to accept as a first read Policy IKF: Graduation Requirements.

Voting Yes: Patrick Chilcott, Allison Glennon, Katrina Delaney, Susan Bollinger, David Boyle
Voting No: none
Abstaining: none
Absent: none

Vocational Planning Committee

Mrs. Obey said next Thursday the Vocational Planning Committee will meet. The South Shore Tech building project was recently approved. There will be a full presentation to the school committee in March, and the timeline is placing it on the fall warrant of 2025 or the spring of 2026. The School Committee or the Select Board can vote to put it on the Town Warrant.

Future Meeting Dates and Topics

2/25 and 3/4

VOTE: At 9:30 PM on a motion made by Katrina Delaney and seconded by Allison Glennon, it was unanimously voted to adjourn.

Voting Yes: Patrick Chilcott, Allison Glennon, Katrina Delaney, Susan Bollinger, David Boyle
Voting No: none
Abstaining: none
Absent: none

APPROVED: February 25, 2025

MOTIONS

VOTE: On a motion made by Katrina Delaney and seconded by Allison Glennon, it was voted to accept as a second read and approval the PHS Program of Studies.

Voting Yes: Allison Glennon, Katrina Delaney, Susan Bollinger, David Boyle
Voting No: Patrick Chilcott
Abstaining: none
Absent: none

VOTE: On a motion made by David Boyle and seconded by Susan Bollinger, it was unanimously voted to accept and direct that this act be placed on the Spring Town Warrant in 2025.

Voting Yes: Patrick Chilcott, Allison Glennon, Katrina Delaney, Susan Bollinger, David Boyle
Voting No: none

Abstaining: none

Absent: none

VOTE: On a motion made by Katrina Delaney and seconded by Allison Glennon, it was unanimously voted to approve the CPC grant application for Hobomock playground as presented.

Voting Yes: Patrick Chilcott, Allison Glennon, Katrina Delaney, Susan Bollinger, David Boyle

Voting No: none

Abstaining: none

Absent: none

VOTE: On a motion made by Katrina Delaney and seconded by Allison Glennon, it was unanimously voted to approve the Spring Warrant capital items as presented.

Voting Yes: Patrick Chilcott, Allison Glennon, Katrina Delaney, Susan Bollinger, David Boyle

Voting No: none

Abstaining: none

Absent: none

VOTE: On a motion made by Susan Bollinger and seconded by Allison Glennon, it was unanimously voted to consider for first read and approval Policy JIE: Pregnant Students.

Voting Yes: Patrick Chilcott, Allison Glennon, Katrina Delaney, Susan Bollinger, David Boyle

Voting No: none

Abstaining: none

Absent: none

VOTE: On a motion made by Katrina Delaney and seconded by Allison Glennon, it was unanimously voted to accept as a first read Policy IKF: Graduation Requirements.

Voting Yes: Patrick Chilcott, Allison Glennon, Katrina Delaney, Susan Bollinger, David Boyle

Voting No: none

Abstaining: none

Absent: none

VOTE: At 9:30 PM on a motion made by Katrina Delaney and seconded by Allison Glennon, it was unanimously voted to adjourn.

Voting Yes: Patrick Chilcott, Allison Glennon, Katrina Delaney, Susan Bollinger, David Boyle

Voting No: none

Abstaining: none

Absent: none