

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 25, 2025** **North Pembroke Elementary School Library**

Call to Order

Mr. Chilcott called the meeting to order at 7:00 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

Absent: David Boyle

Pledge of Allegiance

Moment of Silence for Joel Sugarman

Public Comment

None

Acknowledge & Schedule Visitors

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

Adjustments to the Agenda

None

Communications

Citizen Override Petition

Mr. Chilcott said a citizens' override petition was passed and the school committee did not have anything to do with the petition. It was put forward after a budget meeting that was held by the Town Manager, and it is exactly the difference between the level service budget and what the Town Manager had as a reduction to get to a balanced budget. Do not know what will come of it.

A big shout out to the boys' indoor track team for taking 1st place in the Division 4 State Championship and to the girls track team for taking 2nd place in the Division 4 Championship.

Approval of Bill Schedule

Warrants were circulated electronically.

Consideration for Approval: School Committee Meeting Minutes of January 21, 2025 & February 4, 2025

VOTE: On a motion made by Katrina Delaney and seconded by Susan Bollinger, it was unanimously voted to approve the school committee meeting minutes of January 21, 2025 and February 4, 2025 as presented.

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

Voting No: none

Abstaining: none

Absent: David Boyle

Superintendent's Report

VPA FY26 Budget Presentation

Mrs. Chapman presented the budget for her department. The primary goal of the Visual and Performing Arts (VPA) Department is to provide students with exceptional opportunities for art and music. The department hosts numerous community events, including concerts and juried art shows, that celebrate the achievements and talents of students from kindergarten through grade 12. One of the VPA department's goals is to strengthen community connections for showcasing student artwork. The teachers actively use their professional development time to engage with the community and enhance these connections.

Mrs. Chapman explained that the district is currently in its first year of the Music Pathway program and the third year of the Digital Arts Pathway. There are 22 students enrolled in the Digital Arts Pathway and nine students in the Music Pathway. The Pathways Program offers internships as well as certifications in Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator for students enrolled in the Digital Arts Pathway. Mrs. Chapman stated she will expand the presentations about elective offerings in the Pathways Program for rising 8th graders at PCMS.

Mrs. Chapman said the K-12 art teachers have access to online professional development through The Art of Education, which features 214 pro packs on various topics related to teaching art. Furthermore, music teachers are taking part in out-of-district music programs and have opportunities for educator observations.

Mrs. Chapman highlighted the accomplishments for 2024-2025 in VPA K-12. Nine out of 11 AP Studio Art students earned a qualifying score on the 2024 AP Exam portfolio. PHS artists exhibited artwork and won juried awards in the Boston Globe Scholastic Art Show, the Emerging Young Artist show at UMass Dartmouth, the Congressman Keating Art Show, and the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards. In addition, 10 students were accepted into the 2025 Senior District Music Festival. Seven students were accepted into the Junior District Music Festival, two students were accepted into the MA All-State Music Festival, and 25 students were accepted into the SEMSBA Music Festival. Also, it is the 5th time in a row that Pembroke received "Best Communities in Music Education" by the NAMM Foundation.

Mrs. Chapman said the department staffing includes 1.0 visual art and 1.0 music teacher at each elementary school. 1.0 visual art and 1.2 music teachers at PCMS. 3.0 visual art and 1.8 music teachers at PHS. A 1.0 band teacher and a .2 string teacher. For a total of 14.2 staff in the VPA department.

Mrs. Chapman informed the committee that the enrollment for elementary band and strings for 2024-2025 is 179 students, a decrease from 197 in 2023-2024. Mr. Chilcott questioned why there is a drop in enrollment from 5th to 6th grade. Mrs. Chapman suggested that this could be due to students losing interest after the first year or friends deciding not to continue together the following year. Mrs. Glennon inquired if students can switch instruments, and Mrs. Chapman said that while it is challenging, arrangements can be made to help the student catch up. Mrs. Bollinger asked about the enrollment numbers for strings, and Mrs. Chapman explained that it is typical for strings participation to be lower than that for band in any school system, as playing a string instrument tends to be more complicated.

Mrs. Chapman informed the committee that 80% of PCMS students are enrolled in Art and 60% are enrolled in Music. PHS has 35% enrolled in Art and 16% in Music. The decline in enrollment is attributed to the increased offerings available at the high school and also the constraints of the Pathways Program on students' schedules. She hopes to see an increase in enrollment at PHS with the introduction of the new VPA graduation requirement. Mr. Chilcott inquired if she had considered other ways to make these opportunities more accessible, such as offering them after school. Mrs. Chapman responded that after-school programs can be challenging due to issues with transportation and students' commitments to sports. She stated the creation of a Rock Band semester class and Music Technology class will capture students that may not be interested in joining a performing ensemble. She discussed with principals Talbot and McGarrigle the possibility of allowing 8th graders to join the marching band next year. This year's Color Guard includes 7th and 8th graders, and it has successfully attracted students.

Mrs. Chapman explained that most of the department's budget is allocated for instructional supplies, which are consumable items. Instruments, however, are categorized under the equipment budget as non-consumable items. The

school owns several instruments, and a contracted company is responsible for their maintenance. Additionally, years ago, the department switched to digital pianos, which has lowered the costs associated with tuning and maintenance.

Mrs. Chapman said the next steps for her department include ongoing recruitment efforts to bolster enrollment in music courses 7-12, expand marching band to include 8th graders, continuing to explore ways to connect to the broader Pembroke Arts Community, and implementing two new semester courses at PHS – Rock Band and Music Technology.

Technology FY26 Budget Presentation

Mr. Tinker said the Titan Tech guiding principles for 2025 are: kids first, realistic outlook, transparency of practices, respect to funding resources – stakeholders and investors, and a shift from linear to exponential outlook. Titan Tech encompasses much more than simply Wi-Fi. It involves communications and phone systems, conference scheduling, security cameras, Huddle cameras used for watching football practices and games, and point-of-service areas in the cafeteria where students pay for their meals. Additionally, there's comprehensive data management, ensuring that personally identifiable information is stored safely and securely. Network management is also a critical aspect, along with a component dedicated to instructional technology, specifically related to teaching and learning.

Mr. Tinker said the Technology Department goals are: to strengthen the cybersecurity posture, increase department agility through managed services, device equity and connectivity ubiquity, best practices and professional learning, replacement cycles and support for software programs, online exams, 3600 end user devices, and PPS intranet.

The 2024-2025 department successes relating to students are: The PHS student innovation/help desk semester-long courses, the repair and recirculation of 200 Chromebooks, 3D printing and design K-12, expansion of the PLTW curriculum at PCMS and PHS, and T-Mobile wireless internet for families in need.

The 2024-2025 department successes related to faculty and staff are: The addition of a Digital Learning Specialist that works at PCMS and PHS, the restructure of the building based Lead Technology Teachers which saved \$8k/yr., featured speakers at conferences, and leadership of a regional assistive technology special interest group.

The 2024-2025 department successes related to end user hardware are a new PHS Visual Arts computer lab, a new PHS computer science computer lab, and the replacement of 1000 Chromebooks as devices aged out.

The 2024-2025 department successes related to infrastructure are:

Continued upgrades to wireless internet with new and larger access points via e-rate funding

Upgrades to firewall and threat protection

Upgrades to backup emergency power supplies

NPES, BES, HES cloud WIFI

Cybersecurity assessment through Cybertrust Massachusetts – identified strengths and areas for growth/modernized practices

In-house development of a dedicated network for Chromebook users, which saves \$2k/yr.

Inventory system of assets.

Mr. Tinker explained the current department staffing which includes 1 Director of Instructional Technology, 1 Software and Data Manager, 1 Network Manager, 1 Media Technician, 1 Digital Learning Specialist, 4 Building-based stipend Technology Integrators and 1 incoming Senior Project Student.

Mr. Tinker outlined the department's current recurring costs:

- Software, licensing and support - instructional and non-instructional software
- Internet
- Supplies and materials

Total: \$527,380

The device needs for FY2026:

- 130 PCMS and PHS staff Windows laptop replacement – devices are 4 years old
- 20 PCMS and PHS paraprofessional Chromebooks replacement – devices are 5 years old
- 27 PHS business lab desktop replacement – devices are 6 years old
- 575 student Chromebook replacement – yearly Chromebook replacement cycle – grade 2,6,9

Totals: \$386,800

The network equipment needs for FY2026:

- 1 Backup Solution – current system is nearing the end of life, installed in FY19
- 97 AP replacements and additions at PHS – replace end of life model 3710 and 3825, add new APs as needed
- Managed Services – Outsourcing the day-to-day network operations to a third party. 24/7 monitoring, maintenance, support and troubleshooting.

Total: \$114,000

Mr. Tinker noted that future considerations might involve replacing devices and network equipment, potentially between FY27 and FY30.

Subcommittee/Liaison Updates:
Policy Subcommittee:

Consideration for Second Read and Approval: Policy IKF: Graduation Requirements

This update includes the updated World Language, History, and VPA graduation requirements. Need to remove the MCAS information.

VOTE: On a motion made by Susan Bollinger and seconded by Katrina Delaney, it was voted to accept the Policy IKF: Graduation Requirements as second read and approval as amended.

Voting Yes: Allison Glennon, Katrina Delaney, Susan Bollinger

Voting No: Patrick Chilcott

Abstaining: none

Absent: David Boyle

Vocational Planning Committee

The committee is preparing to present information in March regarding joining South Shore Tech, including financial implications and timelines for community education. The goal is to have a vote at the fall town meeting in October 2025 to move forward with joining.

Budget Subcommittee

The subcommittee reviewed the town manager's budget presentation and discussed strategies to close a \$905,000 gap.

Future Meeting Dates and Topics

3/4, 3/18, 3/25

VOTE: At 8:25 PM on a motion made by Allison Glennon and seconded by Susan Bollinger, it was unanimously voted to enter Executive Session Pursuant to Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(3) to discuss strategy related to collective bargaining and a legal matter as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the legal position of the School Committee, as declared by the Chair.

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

Voting No: none

Abstaining: none

Absent: David Boyle

APPROVED: March 18, 2025

MOTIONS

VOTE: On a motion made by Katrina Delaney and seconded by Susan Bollinger, it was unanimously voted to approve the school committee meeting minutes of January 21, 2025 and February 4, 2025 as presented.

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

Voting No: none

Abstaining: none

Absent: David Boyle

VOTE: On a motion made by Susan Bollinger and seconded by Katrina Delaney, it was voted to accept the Policy IKF: Graduation Requirements as second read and approval as amended.

Voting Yes: Allison Glennon, Katrina Delaney, Susan Bollinger

Voting No: Patrick Chilcott

Abstaining: none

Absent: David Boyle

VOTE: At 8:25 PM on a motion made by Allison Glennon and seconded by Susan Bollinger, it was unanimously voted to enter Executive Session Pursuant to Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(3) to discuss strategy related to collective bargaining and a legal matter as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the legal position of the School Committee, as declared by the Chair.

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

Voting No: none

Abstaining: none

Absent: David Boyle