

# Pembroke Public Schools

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## PEMBROKE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, May 6, 2025

North Pembroke Elementary School Library

### Call to Order

Mr. Chilcott called the meeting to order at 7:43 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; David Boyle and Susan Bollinger

### Pledge of Allegiance

### Public Comment

### Acknowledge & Schedule Visitors

Mr. Chilcott welcomed the audience members.

### Adjustments to the Agenda

None

### Communications

Mrs. Bollinger informed the committee that she and Mrs. Glennon attended the MASC Day on the Hill today. During the event, they discussed several legislative items being proposed by the MASC. First, they are advocating for an adjustment to Chapter 70 funding. Second, there is a bill to establish and fund a financial literacy curriculum. Additionally, there is a bill that aims to assist school committees in the superintendent search process by allowing it to take place in Executive Session. Lastly, there is discussion about reducing the minimum spending requirement for Circuit Breaker reimbursement from \$52,000 to \$40,000. Mrs. Delaney added that there is also a proposal to increase the special education pre-buy.

Mr. Chilcott stated that today is Teacher's Day and expressed gratitude to all teachers for their dedication and hard work. Mr. Boyle noted that it is also Nurse's Day, and the committee extended thanks to the school nurses.

### Approval of Bill Schedule

Warrants were circulated electronically.

### Consideration for Approval: School Committee Meeting Minutes of April 15, 2025

VOTE: On a motion made by Susan Bollinger and seconded by David Boyle, it was unanimously voted to approve the regular school committee meeting minutes of April 15, 2025 as presented.

Voting Yes: Patrick Chilcott, Allison Glennon, Katrina Delaney, David Boyle and Susan Bollinger  
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 joint meeting with the Select Board minutes of April 15, 2025 as amended, to include Mr. Landy's name.

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

### **Superintendent's Report**

#### **Consideration for Approval – Special Education Parent/Caregiver Survey**

Mrs. Obey stated that, as part of the tiered focus monitoring and ongoing oversight of the special education program, this survey will be sent home to parents and caregivers of students in special education regarding the program. Mrs. Glennon confirmed that the survey will be anonymous.

VOTE: On a motion made by Susan Bollinger and seconded by Katrina Delaney, it was unanimously voted to approve the special education parent/caregiver survey as presented.

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

#### **Consideration for Approval – Fall 2025 Town Meeting Article Placeholder for Membership to South Shore Tech**

Mrs. Obey stated that this is a mock-up of the language that will be used as a placeholder in the fall Town Meeting Warrant regarding membership to South Shore Tech. The wording may need to be revisited depending on the regional agreement, as the section names may differ. Mrs. Obey also read the explanation section and the article aloud. She stated that the regional agreement will only include the terms related to membership, while the actual debt piece would be outlined in a separate document. Mr. Chilcott confirmed that Pembroke's share of the building project would be approximately \$20 million. Additionally, at full capacity, with 84 students enrolled, there would be an extra \$2 million needed to cover the costs associated with sending students there.

VOTE: On a motion made by Susan Bollinger and seconded by Allison Glennon, it was unanimously voted to approve and put forward as a placeholder article the membership to South Shore Tech for the fall 2025 Town Meeting warrant.

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

### **Subcommittee/Liaison Updates**

#### **Student Representative Report**

Student Representative Ryan Milchunes read his statement:

I would first like to thank you, the School Committee, for the opportunity to speak today on policy IKFB-R: Graduation Dress. I know this is quite the controversial topic at the moment, and I am very excited to share ideas for both this year and the future. As a summary of where the policy is at this moment, policy IKFB-R allows cords to be given to the following groups and/or people: the top 10% of the class, the National Honor Society, and other nationally recognized academic honor societies approved by PHS administration. First, on behalf of Pembroke High School Drama Club and Thespian Troop 7127, I would like to present my findings on a potential proposal combining academics with participation in the International Thespian Society. When the Thespian Society chord was originally removed from the list of approved graduation regalia, it was under the premise that it was not academic in nature, so it violated the policy as there is no in-class GPA or general GPA requirement that is tied to the induction. However, while meticulously searching the IT handbook, I'm happy to say that I found a solution. In addition to the general certificate of induction that is awarded for completing 90 hours of your main niche and 10 hours of your alternative, there is a scholar distinction that incorporates a GPA requirement as stated in the International Thespian Society Handbook. The thespian troop directors may award the thespian scholar distinction to the student if the student is officially inducted into IT, is currently enrolled in the school, and is a member in good standing of the troop and has earned a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale or its local equivalent for all academic coursework as determined upon completion of 10th grade or any official grading period thereafter. I propose that we offer induction regardless of GPA as long as they are academically eligible, as we already do, and offer a cord to the thespian scholars who have incorporated academics with their passion for theater to earn this distinction. This is in line with policy IKFB-R, and I would like to submit it for your consideration as vice president of the drama club and as a member and representative of troop 7127 of the International Thespian Society. It was brought to my attention that an additional concern of the school committee is that the same group of kids, typically the top 10- 20% are receiving the most regalia at graduation, contributing to the general conversation of inequality that seems to circle this topic. In order to increase the number of students eligible to wear a cord that demonstrates their achievement in an activity outside of academics, I would also like to propose a cord for varsity athletics. There is currently an academic requirement to participate in sports, and a cord for those students who perform at a level worthy of being designated a varsity athlete would symbolize strength and commitment and collaboration outside of the school day a key topic in the portrait of a Pembroke Titan. We stress the most importance on our student athletes, and there should be a way to celebrate their efforts at graduation. Moving forward at our last school committee advisory board meeting, a committee member, Julia Baxter, raised a question about the medals that used to be awarded to Key Club officers. With Mrs. Bollinger's assistance, we were able to craft a new achievement as a whole, a community service cord celebrating students who go above and beyond in becoming engaged citizens, as stated in the Portrait of a Pembroke Titan. The community service cord would be awarded to those students who surpass a certain number of hours. The advisory committee landed on 100 hours as a realistic goal to set, but I would love to hear your opinions on the topic. This could be an opportunity to promote active participation in various communities through civic engagement and demonstrate curiosity, flexibility, and openness to exploring new ideas. If either of those things sounds familiar, it is because they are the leading ideals of engaged citizens and empowered learners under our Portrait of a Pembroke Titan. I can say this for sure because not only are they in every room of the high school, but I myself have a personal copy that I received from the school to develop this presentation. We are taught to appreciate and embody the vision of the Pembroke Titan, so why not reward those who excel at it? This is not a new topic, and I know that regardless of the decisions that have been made in the past, I'm hoping you can view this with fresh eyes. I know that this is important to students because they've been in arms about it since this new decision was made about 2 years ago. That is why I'm here, not just for myself, although I have a strong impact on the matter, but because I was elected by my school to bring changes that we want to see to your eyes. It's not an easy fix I know that I'm sure it's even harder to make this change for the class of 2025, but that is why it feels especially important to state that as a member of the class of 2025 speaking to you today, these are changes that we ask for this year. It is not too late to order cords to make a change for the class of 2025 and beyond. Additionally depending on how well I did on this presentation you might you might consider a sash for the school committee representative as it is one of the only positions voted for by the entire school, works across different levels of legislation to create

positive change for the students, and if I do say so myself is held by a pretty cool guy. Thank you again for the chance to speak, and I hope to answer any questions you may have so we can further this conversation.

Mr. Chilcott explained that there is a school committee policy regarding the creation of policies, which means the current policy cannot simply be changed. Additionally, if the policy were revised, it would require a first and a second reading before it could be adopted. He suggested the committee decide if they want to have the Policy Subcommittee consider Ryan's requests. Any policy changes won't occur until after the election, and it's uncertain if the changes will be ready in time for this year's graduation. Mrs. Glennon stated that there was much discussion back in 2023 regarding this matter, and it was decided that graduation is an achievement meant to celebrate all students equally, ensuring that no single graduate is placed above others. She added that she appreciates his feedback and advocacy. Mrs. Obey said the policy states that the honor society has to be approved by the PHS administration, and currently Thespian Society does not have that approval. It would be very difficult at this point in the school year to get the approval. Mrs. Bollinger suggested the Policy Subcommittee review the Policy IKFB-R for future years, as things have changed, including the introduction of the Portrait of a Pembroke Titan. Mrs. Delaney said it makes sense to consider both sports and community service as well, and added that she appreciates all his work. Mr. Boyle said that with the previous policy revision, the committee discussed at length that student achievements are honored during the various award nights, and graduation is a bit different, where all students are honored equally. Mr. Chilcott emphasized the importance of recognizing achievements, whether through cords or diplomas. He stated he supports thespian cords and varsity athletic cords when linking these honors to an academic requirement. He also believes that every student should meet the same academic standard, suggesting that a uniform GPA requirement be established. Mrs. Obey noted that student achievements are recognized in the graduation program. Mrs. Bollinger thanked Ryan for advocating for the senior class and PHS, and said his presentation was impressive, and he's given the committee much to consider.

#### Policy Subcommittee

##### Consideration for Second Read and Approval: Policy KF Community and Other Use of School Facilities and Grounds

Mrs. Obey said the Policy Subcommittee recommends extending the policy regarding facilities usage to include the grounds of the buildings. The schools have always been community buildings but during the school day, they're reserved for students and staff, and the same is true for the grounds.

VOTE: On a motion made by Katrina Delaney and seconded by Susan Bollinger, it was unanimously voted to approve Policy KF: Community and Other Use of School Facilities and Grounds as presented.

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

Voting No: none

Abstaining: none

Absent: none

##### Possible Revision to Policy JJIB – Participation in Interscholastic Athletics pending suspension of Policy BGB – Policy Adoption

Mrs. Obey said on April 15<sup>th</sup>, the Policy Subcommittee had made a recommendation to include revised language in the Athletic Handbook. That conversation sparked another conversation in regards to Policy JJIB: Participation in Interscholastic Athletics. The discussion was about adding the language to JJIB in addition to the Athletic Handbook. Policy BGB: Policy Adoption articulates how new policies and revisions to policies are brought to the committee. The legal opinion from both school counsels was that for a school committee member, outside of the Policy Subcommittee, to make a recommendation to change a current policy, Policy BGB must be suspended. By doing this, it becomes an open conversation amongst the full committee as opposed to a conversation that is reserved for the Policy Subcommittee.

Mr. Chilcott explained that the discussion was suspended at the last meeting because of concern that it was going beyond what was on the agenda. He added that the discussion included a motion made by a member, however, there is a requirement of having a first and second reading per Policy BGB before changes can be adopted. Therefore, the committee can't add language to a current policy without the suspension of BGB. He continued, saying that the motion that was on the table last meeting was to add language to Policy JJIB, and the motion was suspended. Now, with this topic as an agenda item, the committee can continue that conversation. He added that this is not a transgender issue; this is motivated by safety concerns. Mrs. Glennon confirmed that the language covers all athletes, not just females.

VOTE: Mr. Chilcott made a motion to suspend Policy BGB, Mrs. Bollinger seconded. By roll call vote, Mr. Boyle voted yes, Mrs. Glennon voted no, and Mrs. Delaney voted no. The motion failed so the committee cannot discuss adding the language to the policy.

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

5/13 - before Town Meeting @ 6:30

5/20 - reorganization @ 6:00

### **School Committee Chair's Closing Remarks**

Mr. Chilcott said, I just want to take a brief moment and thank the Pembroke community. I started doing work for Pembroke Public Schools on a redistricting parent group in 2004. I then ran for the school committee in 2006, and I was incredibly honored to be elected to this body in 2007. I served straight through until 2019; I was elected four times. I thought I was done. A couple of years ago, I came back because I felt we needed a little more experience. I knew a lot of new people were on the committee, and even though I thought I wasn't going to do it, I asked the people of town to allow me to serve out the remainder of this term just a year ago. In the 21 years that I've been involved in public education in Pembroke, it has truly been one of the honors of my life to be able to do this. It is so important that we allow and give space for parents and people in this town to volunteer their time and share their talents. Everyone here is a volunteer, and they take a lot of heat; their families take a lot of heat. It's hard right now, and I think it is an incredible honor to be able to sit around this table. I believe with every fiber of my being that the role of the people around this table is to protect our kids, to stand up for our kids, and to put our kids at the forefront of everything we do. I did not always succeed at doing that; I tried my hardest, and I know I didn't always succeed. Nobody can. But I think if you consider how it affects kids and ask kids what they think, and then ask families and parents what they think, you're going to do a really good job sitting around this table. We make mistakes; we're fallible; we're human beings. But if you are here with a pure heart and for the right reasons, you are going to do a fantastic job. You don't always have to get tripped up on the technicalities; the administration's here to help you. On behalf of myself, my wife, and my daughters, I thank this community for allowing me to serve for as long as I have, and I ask you to give grace and dignity to the people that sit around this and other tables and understand that they are volunteers.

Mr. Boyle jokingly said behind every good man is a better woman. It has been an honor to work with you and to know you. I am proud to call your girls my nieces. What they've become and what you and Sabrina have done is amazing. What you have done for this town is amazing- this is a tough job. I've seen this man rise above controversy. I will say, on a personal note, Patrick was kind enough to eulogize my wife when she passed away seven months ago. My friend, it has been an honor and a pleasure, and I'm so proud to serve with you, my brother.

Mrs. Delaney said sometimes she and Mr. Chilcott disagree, but they do so in a respectful manner. The integrity and reasonableness that you bring are so appreciated, and it's a good example for the town to see that people can disagree and still shake hands. I really appreciate the example you've set and the things you've taught me as a new school committee member. Thank you.

Mrs. Glennon said I've learned a lot by listening and watching you, and I know you made us all better. I think everybody believes we're better because we've been able to watch you.

Mrs. Bollinger said I thank you so much for your time, your talents, and your service to the community. I've learned a lot over the last couple of years, and your leadership has taught us all to work together as one unit, and if we take nothing else, that to me is the most important piece.

Ryan said I've learned so much from all of you and it's been amazing being on the committee.

VOTE: At 8:47 PM, on a motion made by Katrina Delaney and seconded by Susan Bollinger, it was unanimously voted, by roll call vote, to enter Executive Session Pursuant to Chapter 30A, Section 21 (a) (3) & 21 (a) (1) to discuss strategy related to collective bargaining, and an Open Meeting Law complaint, 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, David Boyle and Susan Bollinger

Voting No: none

Abstaining: none

Absent: none

**APPROVED: May 13, 2025**

## **MOTIONS**

VOTE: On a motion made by Susan Bollinger and seconded by David Boyle, it was unanimously voted to approve the regular school committee meeting minutes of April 15, 2025 as presented.

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

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 joint meeting with the Select Board minutes of April 15, 2025 as amended, to include Mr. Landy's name.

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

Voting No: none

Abstaining: none

Absent: none

VOTE: On a motion made by Susan Bollinger and seconded by Katrina Delaney, it was unanimously voted to approve the special education parent/caregiver survey as presented.

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

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 approve and put forward as a placeholder article the membership to South Shore Tech for the fall 2025 Town Meeting warrant.

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

Voting No: none

Abstaining: none

Absent: none

VOTE: On a motion made by Katrina Delaney and seconded by Susan Bollinger, it was unanimously voted to approve Policy KF: Community and Other Use of School Facilities and Grounds as presented.

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

Voting No: none

Abstaining: none

Absent: none

VOTE: Mr. Chilcott made a motion to suspend Policy BGB, Mrs. Bollinger seconded. By roll call vote, Mr. Boyle voted yes, Mrs. Glennon voted no, and Mrs. Delaney voted no. The motion failed, so the committee cannot discuss adding the language to the policy.

VOTE: At 8:47 PM, on a motion made by Katrina Delaney and seconded by Susan Bollinger, it was unanimously voted, by roll call vote, to enter Executive Session Pursuant to Chapter 30A, Section 21 (a) (3) & 21 (a) (1) to discuss strategy related to collective bargaining, and an Open Meeting Law complaint, 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, David Boyle and Susan Bollinger

Voting No: none

Abstaining: none

Absent: none