

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, July 8, 2025

North Pembroke Elementary School Library

Call to Order

Mr. Boyle called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

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

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment

Mr. Bryant mentioned that he has shared a concern with the school committee about the frequent references to the Trevor Project in broad discussions. He believes that while the intentions behind these mentions may be good, listeners may struggle to trust the claims being made. He emphasized the need to scrutinize these references, especially given their heavy reliance without sufficient evidence. He referred to an article from the Atlantic magazine and urged committee members to read it. He said that after attending a recent local select board meeting discussing Pride Month, he observed that the Trevor Project was cited without adequate backing. He stressed the importance of addressing such topics in a fair and evidence-based manner, encouraging a deeper consideration of the complexity of the issues at hand.

Acknowledge & Schedule Visitors

Mr. Boyle welcomed the audience members.

Adjustments to the Agenda

None

Communications

Mrs. Obey stated that she wanted to provide a quick update regarding recent press releases and comments about the withholding of federal funding. She explained that many of PPS entitlement grants are continuing as they have in the past, and the allocations are exactly as estimated. Pembroke is only affected by the withholding of two grants. The first is Title II A (fund code 140), known as the Teacher Quality grant. In the past, these funds have been used for professional development opportunities for staff, such as bringing in professional development speakers or hosting workshops. Each year, PPPS receives about \$40,000 from this grant and if the funding were to be withheld for the entire fiscal year, a plan would need to be developed to compensate for that shortfall. The second grant affected is Title IXA (fund code 309), which provides PPS with about \$10,000 for purchasing curricular materials. There is a potential total of \$50,000 being withheld across both grants. There has been discussion on addressing the shortfall if necessary. This situation will not delay the start of school or affect plans for staff placements and other preparations for the beginning of the school year.

Mrs. Glennon said there has been some discussion around this table and with the Policy Subcommittee about the proposed cell phone restrictions in classrooms. There's a strong push right now in the State Senate to create a bell-to-bell ban on cell phones. She would like to have the school committee authorize the superintendent to write a letter to the two State Representatives and the State Senator, saying that this should be under local control of the school committee to decide what works best for the schools. She asked if the committee was in agreement on this.

Mrs. Obey said the committee can authorize her to send a letter on their behalf stating that the committee believes this is something that should be left to local control. Mrs. Delaney said she would like to read the letter and do some research before she agrees. Mrs. Obey said she will circulate the letter to the committee members for feedback before sending it. The committee agreed to have the superintendent write a letter.

VOTE: On a motion made by Allison Glennon and seconded by Susan Bollinger, it was unanimously voted to authorize the superintendent to write a letter to the State Senator and State Representatives regarding the cell phone ban being in local control.

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

Voting No: none

Abstaining: none

Absent: none

Mr. Boyle asked for clarification on whether this will apply to teachers. Mrs. Glennon said it could potentially apply to teachers.

Approval of Bill Schedule

Warrants were circulated electronically.

Consideration for Approval: School Committee Meeting Minutes of June 17, 2025

VOTE: On a motion made by Katrina Delaney and seconded by Allison Glennon, it was unanimously voted to approve the school committee meeting minutes of June 17, 2025, as presented.

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

Voting No: none

Abstaining: none

Absent: none

Superintendent's Report

Consideration of Approval: PHS Surplus Science Materials

Mrs. Obey said the STEM Content Supervisor deemed these surplus. If no other organization is interested in them, they will be recycled.

VOTE: On a motion made by Susan Bollinger and seconded by Katrina Delaney, it was unanimously voted to approve the PHS surplus science materials.

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

Voting No: none

Abstaining: none

Absent: none

Review of Timeline/Information for Strategic Plan Process

Mrs. Obey said the Teaching Learning Alliance timeline has five focus groups, and the outline of meetings is once per month. The first step is to develop the survey for parents/community. The draft survey will be brought to the school committee in August for review. The full Strategic Plan is anticipated to be completed next summer.

Subcommittee Updates

Negotiations Subcommittee: Bargaining Update

Mrs. Obey said the Negotiations meeting was held this afternoon and progress was made on all proposals from the various units. There are still significant items to discuss and they are working through those issues. Another meeting is scheduled for July, along with two more in August. She expressed her appreciation for the staff members who attended the meeting today, even during their summer vacation. Mr. Boyle added that there has been constructive dialogue.

Vocational Planning Committee

Mrs. Obey mentioned that the committee met last week to discuss opportunities for presentations and to allow people to come and ask questions. Mrs. Hooley is organizing community involvement meetings at the Community Center. Additionally, there will be a section on the PPS website with information for those who cannot attend the meetings. Mrs. Obey also noted that an alternate member for the Vocational Committee has been recommended, and Mrs. Delaney has offered her assistance as needed.

Policy Subcommittee:

Consideration for Second Read and Approval: Elementary Student Handbook

Mrs. Obey mentioned that there were edits regarding recess, medical injuries, and physical education (PE). Mrs. Glennon expressed a desire to include a statement emphasizing the importance of recess as recognized by the PPS. She also requested the addition of a statement about outdoor recess, advising that students should dress appropriately for the weather. It will also note that if a family cannot afford suitable clothing, they should reach out to the school for assistance.

VOTE: On a motion made by Katrina Delaney and seconded by Susan Bollinger, it was unanimously voted to accept for a second read and approval the Elementary Student Handbook as amended.

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

Consideration for Second Read and Approval: PCMS Student Handbook

Mrs. Obey said she has to add the user fee prices. Mrs. Glennon asked that non-motorized bikes be added to the PCMS and PHS handbooks.

VOTE: On a motion made by Susan Bollinger and seconded by Katrina Delaney, it was unanimously voted to accept for a second read and approval the PCMS Student Handbook as amended.

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

Consideration for Second Read and Approval: PHS Student Handbook

Mrs. Obey said she will add the language about e-bikes. She added that she couldn't find another district that had information about parent exemptions from PE in their handbooks. She found language that could be placed on the health services tab of the website, and she has created a draft to be reviewed by teachers and nurses for their input. Additionally, the Education Subcommittee will discuss this. Mr. Boyle confirmed that when students can't participate in PE for some time, a note is required to return.

VOTE: On a motion made by Katrina Delaney and seconded by Allison Glennon, it was unanimously voted to accept for a second read and approval of the PHS Student Handbook as presented.

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

Consideration for Second Read and Approval: Athletic Handbook

Mrs. Obey said all the requested revisions have been added.

VOTE: On a motion made by Allison Glennon and seconded by Katrina Scarsciotti, it was unanimously voted to accept for a second read and approval the Athletic Student Handbook as presented.

Voting Yes: David Boyle, Allison Glennon, Katrina Delaney, Susan Bollinger and Katrina Scarsciotti
Voting No: none

Abstaining: none

Absent: none

Future Meeting Dates and Topics

8/5 and 8/19 at 6:00 pm

VOTE: At 6:31 PM, on a motion made by Susan Bollinger and seconded by Allison Glennon, it was unanimously voted to enter Executive Session Pursuant to Chapter 30A, Section 21 (a) (3) to discuss strategy related to collective bargaining, as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the legal position of the School Committee, as declared by the Chair.

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

Voting No: none

Abstaining: none

Absent: none

APPROVED: August 5, 2025

MOTIONS

VOTE: On a motion made by Allison Glennon and seconded by Susan Bollinger, it was unanimously voted to authorize the superintendent to write a letter to the State Senator and State Representatives regarding the cell phone ban being in local control.

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

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 school committee meeting minutes of June 17, 2025, as presented.

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

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 PHS surplus science materials.

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

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 accept for a second read and approval the Elementary Student Handbook as amended.

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

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 accept for a second read and approval the PCMS Student Handbook as amended.

Voting Yes: David Boyle, Allison Glennon, Katrina Delaney, Susan Bollinger and Katrina Scarsciotti
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 for a second read and approval of the PHS Student Handbook as presented.

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

VOTE: On a motion made by Allison Glennon and seconded by Katrina Scarsciotti, it was unanimously voted to accept for a second read and approval the Athletic Student Handbook as presented.

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

VOTE: At 6:31 PM, on a motion made by Susan Bollinger and seconded by Allison Glennon, it was unanimously voted to enter Executive Session Pursuant to Chapter 30A, Section 21 (a) (3) to discuss strategy related to collective bargaining, as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the legal position of the School Committee, as declared by the Chair.

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