

Pembroke Public Schools

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PEMBROKE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING Tuesday, August 19, 2025 North Pembroke Elementary School Library

Call to Order

Mrs. Glennon 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: Allison Glennon, Vice Chair; Katrina Scarsciotti, Clerk; Susan Bollinger and Katrina Delaney
Absent: David Boyle, Chair

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment

None

Acknowledge & Schedule Visitors

Mrs. Glennon welcomed the audience members.

Adjustments to the Agenda

None

Communications

None

Approval of Bill Schedule

Warrants were circulated electronically.

Consideration for Approval: School Committee Meeting Minutes of August 5, 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 August 5, 2025, as presented.

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

Voting No: none

Abstaining: none

Absent: David Boyle

Opening of Schools Update: Building Principals

Dr. McGarrigle reported that there are 375 students this year. Schedules were sent out last week, and tours have already started. There have been three new hires, including two PE teachers and a Spanish teacher. Additionally, a paraprofessional is transferring from PHS. Mrs. Stoddard and Mrs. Leonido both retired this past year. There are also new elective offerings available. Summer activities included work in ELA and Science. Special thanks were given to the custodians, as well as Mrs. Swift and Mrs. Smith, for their hard work over the summer.

Mrs. Simmons reported that there are 51 kindergarteners and 6 new students. There are no major staff changes this year, except for Mrs. Christmas joining the BES sixth grade. The curriculum initiatives include the piloting of the Foss Science program. Additionally, 13 teachers will be piloting the Simplified Writing program. Teachers have been preparing their classrooms for the new school year. This summer, the school also received a new roof for the gym.

Mrs. Cross reported that there are 56 kindergarteners, of whom 28 are siblings. This year, 7 new students will join the school, bringing the total enrollment to 392 students. Mrs. Vilagie has retired, and two other paraprofessionals have resigned. Two paras have transferred to Hobomock, and one para has been hired. Additionally, there is a new assistant principal, Mrs. Sciulli, who previously worked at PCMS as a Special Education Teacher. Interviews are being held to fill the position of a kindergarten teacher who recently resigned. Summer projects included the removal of carpeting in the library and the Large Group Instruction (LGI) room. The PA system will be replaced tomorrow, and the demolition of the playground will also begin tomorrow, with hopes for it to reopen in October.

Mrs. Charpentier mentioned that there are approximately 60 KG students, with a total of 513 students enrolled. All floors of the building have been stripped and waxed. We have installed six new water filling stations, and a lighting project is currently underway to replace existing fixtures with energy-efficient options. Last week, was a tour for new families. We have welcomed one new staff member—a PE teacher. A big thank you goes out to the custodians and to Mrs. Desmond in the office for their hard work.

Mr. Talbot said PHS will have a total of 681 students, including 161 freshmen. Schedules will be distributed tomorrow. Approximately 318 students are trying out for fall sports. Band camp happened this month. A new biology teacher has been hired, who previously served as a long-term substitute from March through June. Additionally, a new guidance counselor has been appointed, and a part-time position for a Spanish teacher has been offered and is pending onboarding. This summer, teachers attended training for the new PLTW courses in the Engineering and Medical Pathways Program. Additionally, we are introducing Rock Band and Music Technology classes this year, along with new AP Seminar and AP Pre-calculus courses. Mr. Talbot added that according to recent data, the five-year trend of AP scores has been on the rise. Of the 236 students who took the exams, 81% achieved at least one qualifying score, an increase from 74% last year.

Superintendent's Report

Personnel Report

Mrs. Obey said the principals covered this in their presentations.

Update on FY26 Budget Freeze

During the meeting in June, Mrs. Obey mentioned that the committee discussed the possibility of freezing some open positions for the fiscal year 2026 in anticipation of the ongoing collective bargaining that had taken place throughout the summer. We talked about identifying positions that would have minimal impact on program offerings and class sizes across the district. The freeze primarily affects PHS.

There's a science position, a long-term sub position in the English department, a .4 business teacher, and a .6 Latin teacher. Also frozen was the Coordinator of Counseling, the Math Interventionist and the Behavioral Program at the elementary level. In addition, the library professionals at the elementary level and the librarian at the high school were cut. Currently, we are unable to unfreeze any of the positions. There have

been several conversations about the PHS schedule and class sizes at the high school, and they are manageable. Currently, we do not have a clear understanding of the financial obligations related to our collective bargaining agreements. Therefore, I recommend that we continue with our current plan. Things may change as we approach September and October, although it can be challenging to add staff during that time. Some positions, such as clerical paraprofessionals at the elementary schools, could potentially be reinstated later in the year. The elementary principals have successfully created a specialist schedule without a dedicated STREAM paraprofessional. However, we cannot commit to unfreezing any positions at this time.

Mrs. Glennon inquired about the largest possible class sizes. Mr. Talbot responded that enrollment in English, Science, and History courses is expected to increase. Mrs. Delaney asked about the availability of the library at PHS. Mrs. Obey confirmed that the library is still open, and they need to find a way to allow students to use the library during study periods without a staff member present.

Update on AP Physics

Mrs. Obey said the committee discussed this change from AP Physics C to AP Physics I at the last meeting, and the district has followed up with the 13 families who had enrolled in AP Physics C. Ms. Brust mentioned that she is waiting to hear back from the families, but she was able to secure a dual online option through the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy for AP Physics C. She mentioned that the next step is to support the 31 students enrolled in Honors Physics. We anticipate being able to offer AP Physics I to some of those students as well. Once we complete the work with the original group in AP Physics C, we will begin focusing on the Honors Physics group. Mrs. Bollinger confirmed that honors Physics and AP I are very similar. Ms. Brust stated that the plan is to offer AP Physics C next year, provided there are teacher candidates and interested students.

Subcommittee Updates

Negotiations Subcommittee: Bargaining Update

Mrs. Obey stated that the committee met on August 7 and August 14, and they continue to make progress. They are working on four contracts, which takes time. A handful of days are scheduled in September and October, and we are hopeful to reach an agreement.

Vocational Planning Committee

Mrs. Obey said the first vocational session was held last week, which had about 30 attendees. There were great questions. A schedule for additional opportunities to attend the same presentation will be provided. Also, the Chamber of Commerce event on 9/25 will be recorded.

Education Subcommittee Update

Mrs. Obey said the committee met last night about the Competency Determination. She mentioned that districts are being asked to clearly define what competency determination and mastery look like within their school systems. There aren't many examples available at the moment. However, the Education Subcommittee began the discussion about the areas of focus and identified specific aspects that will be referred to the Policy Subcommittee. The deadline for completion is December.

Budget Subcommittee Update

Mrs. Obey said the committee will meet next week to talk about a possible Town operational override in the spring of 2026 and what that will mean for the school department.

Future Meeting Dates and Topics

9/2, 9/16

VOTE: At 6:50 PM, on a motion made by Katrina Delaney and seconded by Katrina Scarsciotti, 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: Allison Glennon, Katrina Delaney, Susan Bollinger and Katrina Scarsciotti

Voting No: none

Abstaining: none

Absent: David Boyle

APPROVED: September 16, 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 August 5, 2025, as presented.

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