



PEMBROKE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
Tuesday, September 16, 2025
North Pembroke Elementary School Library

Call to Order

Mr. Boyle called the meeting to order at 6:30 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

Mr. Boyle said the committee has decided to make a statement based on the incidents of the last couple of weeks, not only nationally, but locally.

"In light of recent tragedies that have shaken communities across our nation, the Pembroke School Committee wishes to speak not about any individual, but about an urgent issue facing all of us. Traditionally, we reserve moments of silence for those with deep ties to Pembroke, reflecting our commitment to honoring members of our own community. Today, we recognize the widespread grief and concern in response to a troubling surge in political violence, acts that have shaken communities and eroded our sense of safety across the country. The Pembroke School Committee condemns all forms of violence, whether in schools, politics, or throughout our communities. There is no place for violence in a democracy or in environments where young people seek to learn and grow in safety. Our district's vision is grounded in ensuring a safe, supportive, and respectful learning environment for all.

Each one of us is born with inherent worth. So we treat everyone with dignity no matter what. We believe this principle is fundamental to education and to peaceful communities. We ask all community members to join us in rejecting violence, in embracing compassion, listening to one another, and treating everyone with respect and dignity, both online and in person. In doing so, we show our students and one another the courage, compassion, and dignity needed not only to heal and grow together, but to build a future where these values can be seen and passed down. Thank you very much."

Public Comment

None

Acknowledge & Schedule Visitors

Police Chief MacDonald & School Resource Officer Marybeth Simmons

Mrs. Obey said at last year's meeting that Officer Simmons was new to the role. Mrs. Glennon proposed that the committee consider making this meeting an annual event to kick off the school year.

Mrs. Delaney said she gets a lot of positive feedback about Sasha, the comfort dog. She also said Officer Simmons and Sasha are considered a part of the community from the feedback she has heard. Mrs. Glennon stated that the visibility she and Sasha bring helps, and students get excited to see Sasha. Mrs. Glennon added that as far as issues go, she hears a lot about Learning Lane traffic. Officer Simmons said she and Mr. Talbot have been discussing how to make dismissal safer at PHS. The one-way in and out complicates

things, as well as underclassmen parking across the street, school buses, parents, and students all exiting. To manage this, the decision is to hold groups of students crossing the street and stop traffic for a safe crossing. There have been close calls in the past, and the goal is to minimize these risks. Officer Simmons added that she understands that some may be upset about parking restrictions on Learning Lane, and she is reinforcing this rule with parents, but it may take time to adjust. She has been monitoring the situation in the afternoons to improve the process. Having the buses arrive earlier might also help. While gathering kids into larger groups has made things easier, not everyone is happy. It will take time for everyone to understand the necessity of these changes. Mrs. Bollinger expressed her appreciation for the partnership and said it enhances safety for the students. Chief McDonald stated that a traffic sign has been installed on Learning Lane. This sign not only educates drivers about their speed but also provides feedback through the cloud. The PPD can track how many cars travel down the street, the times they pass, their speeds, the average speed, and the highest speed recorded. He added that the committee can request this data. Additionally, Chief MacDonald suggested having patrols stop by the schools and do random walk-ins. Mrs. Obey said it is a great idea, and having more police officers familiar with the layout of buildings is beneficial, especially if there is an emergency. Additionally, she noted that it's important for children to see public safety officials in non-emergency situations as well.

Adjustments to the Agenda

None

Communications

Mrs. Bollinger said the student-led Bible Study is hosting a prayer vigil tomorrow after school.

Approval of Bill Schedule

Circulating electronically

Consideration for Approval: School Committee Meeting Minutes of August 19, 2025

VOTE: On a motion made by Allison Glennon and seconded by Katrina Scarsciotti, it was unanimously voted to approve the school committee meeting minutes of August 19, 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 for Approval: Gift from NPES PTO

Mrs. Obey said Principal Murphy received a grant for \$18k and the PTO added \$11k to install the six new water filtration systems at NPES.

VOTE: On a motion made by Susan Bollinger and seconded by Katrina Delaney, it was unanimously voted to accept the \$11k gift from the NPES PTO.

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

Voting No: none

Abstaining: none

Absent: none

Consideration for Approval: Hobomock Surplus Materials

Mrs. Obey said the assessment materials are outdated and there is an old, nonworking printer.

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

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

Review of Superintendent Evaluation Rubric and Timeline

Mrs. Obey stated that the evaluation of the superintendent for the previous year takes place in the fall. She emphasized that the evaluation process should focus on the "what" and "why" of the superintendent's leadership, rather than the "how." Additionally, it is important to concentrate on the outcomes of the work, rather than the specific process steps that were followed or not followed. In the past, the committee has focused on 2-3 specific areas for evaluation. She suggested that the committee review the rubric and, for the next meeting, decide on the 2-3 areas to focus on as a first step.

PHS Fall Athletics Participation

Mrs. Obey reported that the participation rate for fall sports is 38%. Volleyball has seen healthy participation over the past couple of years. However, there is less interest in girls' soccer this year, so a waiver will need to be requested to allow 8th graders to play on the junior varsity (JV) team. Currently, there are 29 players signed up, but 2 are injured. The JV team consists of 13 players, which makes it tight for an 11v11 setup. To address the numbers, they are looking to bring on an additional 3 to 5 players. Mrs. Bollinger expressed concerns about the size difference among players, but Mrs. Obey clarified that 8th graders are only allowed to play on the JV team, and it is a non-contact sport. Mrs. Glennon confirmed that they will pay the athletic user fee and confirmed that 1% decline in fall participation is not related to the cost of the user fee.

Consideration for Approval: MIAA 8th-grade waiver – JV Girls Soccer

VOTE: On a motion made by Katrina Delaney and seconded by Allison Glennon, it was unanimously voted to approve the MIAA 8th-grade waiver for JV girls' soccer.

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

Subcommittee Updates:

MASC Delegate

Mrs. Obey stated that the committee needs to choose a delegate to represent them. Mrs. Bollinger explained that MASC has a list of priorities they are advocating for. Therefore, one of the delegate's responsibilities is to represent Pembroke School Committee's voice regarding the issues MASC is voting on. Mrs. Delaney volunteered to be the delegate. Mrs. Bollinger offered to be the alternate.

Budget Subcommittee

Mrs. Obey reported that the Budget Subcommittee has met twice since the last School Committee meeting. They focused on the possibility of the Town of Pembroke pursuing an operational override and how to advocate for the schools. Key topics of discussion included class sizes and the need for support positions such as paraprofessionals and interventionists. The next meeting is scheduled for September 22, where the committee will discuss fees.

Negotiations Subcommittee

Mrs. Obey said last night, the 13th bargaining session took place. There are still many outstanding proposals, and the hiring freeze has not been lifted. The next meeting is scheduled for September 29th. Mrs. Glennon remarked that they are close to finalizing the Unit C contract. Mr. Boyle added that the discussions have been cordial and optimistic. A substantial amount of time was spent on Article VIII, but they expect the remaining items to move more quickly.

Vocational Planning Committee

Mrs. Obey announced that tonight marks the second presentation night for addressing questions. The regional planning committee has been focused on drafting the language of the agreement, which is included in the packet. This draft has been shared with the Town's legal counsel to refine the wording. The deadline for finalizing the language is October 1st, in order to publish the Town Meeting Warrant.

Future Meeting Dates and Topics

10/7 at 6pm

10/21 – before Town Meeting

VOTE: At 7:13 pm, on a motion made by Susan Bollinger and seconded by Allison Glennon, it was unanimously voted, by roll call vote, to enter Executive Session Pursuant to Chapter 30A, Section 21 (a) (2) and (3) to discuss a personal services contract and 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: October 7, 2025

MOTIONS

VOTE: On a motion made by Allison Glennon and seconded by Katrina Scarsciotti, it was unanimously voted to approve the school committee meeting minutes of August 19, 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 accept the \$11k gift from the NPES PTO.

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 Hobomock surplus materials as presented.

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

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Abstaining: none
Absent: none