



PEMBROKE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
Thursday, November 6, 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

Public Comment

None

Acknowledge & Schedule Visitors

Mr. Boyle welcomed the visitors.

Adjustments to the Agenda

None

Communications

Mrs. Glennon said a lot is happening this month, including sporting events, the high school musical, and the ribbon cutting at the HES playground on the 14th.

Approval of Bill Schedule

Bills are being circulated electronically.

Consideration for Approval: School Committee Meeting Minutes of October 7, 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 October 7, 2025 as presented.

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

Voting No: none

Abstaining: none

Absent: none

Achievement Report

Ms. Brust recognized the efforts of her teaching and learning team in producing this report. She said it's important to note that last year's sophomores were very aware that the MCAS test is no longer a competency determination for graduation. It is crucial to understand the testing landscape over the last five years, especially since the pandemic. There was no exam in 2020, a partial one in 2021, and full exams

returned in 2022. The State often references 2019, suggesting aiming for those success levels. However, they overlook how the students have changed since then. We need to adapt our curriculum and instruction to engage our current students while meeting the Massachusetts learning standards.

Ms. Brust continued that this year's MCAS scores are significantly lower than those of last year and past performances. Since students excel in high-stakes tests like the AP exams and SATs, we must determine if last year's scores were an anomaly or indicative of a deeper curriculum issue. Students perform well in reading and language, but struggle in writing, particularly in essays. This mixed performance highlights challenges with on-demand testing, as students are used to revising their work. To address this, teachers are incorporating more on-demand writing practice in classrooms to align with MCAS expectations and adapt to tools like AI. We're committed to helping our students improve in this area.

The grade 10 math results this year aren't as good as last year's. The state average is 45% meeting expectations or above (ME+), and we achieved 51%. In contrast, 2024 was 65% ME+. This shows we're not moving in the desired direction. Although we observed some declines, particularly from eighth to tenth grade, grades three through six actually showed improvement. This improvement reflects our focus on diagnostics and instructional effectiveness in those early grades. The routine for grades three to six hasn't changed much. However, we have made adjustments to the curriculum at the elementary level, such as implementing UFLI, and we are starting to see gains in third and fourth grades.

Ms. Brust explained that this year focuses on building upon our math redesign from the past two years. While we are seeing improvements in grades three to six, there is a national decline in writing that we are actively addressing. We are piloting a program called Simplify Writing, and there are 33 engaged and enthusiastic teachers. Additionally, Ms. Soliwoda is providing professional development through "The Writing Revolution," which many teachers are implementing in their classrooms. There is a great deal of excitement and energy surrounding these initiatives in grades three to six.

The trends show that grade nine biology scores are steady, which is encouraging. Students usually perform better on exams covering one subject from their most recent instruction. However, the 10th-grade exams are a challenge for some, as their last ELA or math exam was taken in eighth grade. While eighth-grade science & technology/engineering scores are concerning, there is evidence of improvement. Additionally, AP scores in biology, chemistry, and physics are strong, which is positive.

The district's ELA scores for grades three to eight stand at 41% ME+, which is in line with the state average. However, there has been a notable decline in eighth-grade scores, which have dropped to 30%, compared to the state average of 44%. This situation raises questions about necessary changes. Ongoing discussions are focused on whether we have the appropriate tools, benchmarks, and information for students prior to their exams. Dr. Galligan is currently revising the benchmarks and concentrating on the No Red Ink program. While reading and language skills are improving, writing continues to pose a challenge for students. at 41% ME+, which aligns with the state average. While reading and language skills are improving, writing remains a challenge for students.

The data from the grade five and grade eight science tests show a significant difference: 50% of grade five students achieved a score of ME+ (Meets Expectations or above), while only 27% of grade eight students achieved the same. We are currently in the process of realigning the OpenSciEd curriculum to address various challenges. Initially, this curriculum did not provide many formal assessment tools, so teachers have been developing their own as they progress. Initially, they followed the curriculum pathway recommended by Massachusetts, but later found that the National Science Standards were a better fit. Consequently, a few adjustments have been made. There is a sense of excitement in those classes, and improvements are being observed in grade nine.

One other thing to point out is that the grade eight students had four exams. Four exams with two testing sessions each are quite a significant amount of on-demand work. We don't have this level of testing in any other grade level. Additionally, this is the first year of the Civics assessment, and we will analyze the results to identify areas that need focus for next year. This assessment includes both an end-of-course assessment and a performance task assessment. Overall, it's a very challenging test.

This year, the next steps for MCAS analysis focus areas will include key initiatives such as Simplify Writing, the Writing Revolution professional development, and the development of ELA benchmarks for grades 7 and 8 using No Red Ink. Additionally, individual professional development projects will also be pursued. In math, we will continue with ongoing benchmarks and Edulastic assessments. In science, we are piloting the FOSS curriculum for grades 1, 2, and 4, realigning units for grades 6 to 8, and developing unit tests for grades 6-8.

Ms. Brust reported that participation in AP courses is strong, with 81% of high school students scoring three or higher on AP exams. Additionally, 70% of seniors have taken at least one AP course, and 59% of seniors achieve at least one qualifying score on these exams. This year, we had 52 students recognized as AP Scholars, which is awarded to students who score three or higher on three or more AP exams. There were also 22 AP Scholars with Honor, given to those with an average score of at least 3.25 on all AP exams taken, and scores of three or higher on four or more exams. Finally, we had 21 AP Scholars with Distinction, which is granted to students who earn an average score of at least 3.5 on all AP exams taken and scores of three or higher on five or more exams.

Overall, the AP participation reflects students' goals and aspirations. It's important to note that as students mature through high school, their AP scores show significant improvement. Many students who aren't identified as AP potential by PSAT scores are self-selecting into AP classes.

Superintendent's Report

Discussion of MASC Resolutions and Vote

The committee discussed and voted on the resolutions. Mrs. Delaney is the MASC voting representative at the meeting being held next week.

RESOLUTION 1: Removing BMI Testing from Schools (YES)

VOTE: On a motion made by Katrina Delaney and seconded by Allison Glennon, it was voted to remove the BMI testing.

Voting Yes: Allison Glennon, Katrina Delaney, Katrina Scarsciotti

Voting No: David Boyle, Susan Bollinger

Abstaining: none

Absent: none

RESOLUTION 2: Regarding Sanctuary Laws for Transgender Students (YES)

VOTE: On a motion made by Susan Bolling and seconded by David Boyle, it was voted to abstain from voting.

Voting Yes: David Boyle, Susan Bollinger

Voting No: Allison Glennon, Katrina Delaney, Katrina Scarsciotti

Abstaining: none

Absent: none

VOTE: On a motion made by Allison Glennon and seconded by Katrina Delaney, it was voted to allow passage of so-called "sanctuary" laws.

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

RESOLUTION 3: To Increase the Maximum Balance Allowed by the Special Education Reserve Fund (YES)

VOTE: On a motion made by Allison Glennon and seconded by Katrina Delaney, it was unanimously voted to increase the maximum balance allowed by the Special Education Reserve Fund.

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

RESOLUTION 4: Membership of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (NO)

VOTE: On a motion made by David Boyle and seconded by Susan Bollinger, it was voted to allow teachers and school committee members to sit on the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.

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

RESOLUTION 5: Preserving Local Governance of Massachusetts Schools (NO)

VOTE: On a motion made by David Boyle and seconded by Katrina Delaney, it was unanimously voted to preserve local governance of MA schools.

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

RESOLUTION 6: Personal Financial Literacy Education (YES)

VOTE: On a motion made by David Boyle and seconded by Katrina Delaney, it was unanimously voted to add personal financial literacy education.

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

RESOLUTION 7: Establishment of a Regional School Assessment Reserve Fund (YES)

VOTE: On a motion made by David Boyle and seconded by Susan Bollinger, it was unanimously voted to establish a regional school assessment reserve fund.

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

Voting No: none
Abstaining: none
Absent: none

Update on FY26 Budget Freeze

Mrs. Obey stated that back in June, positions were frozen, and office paraprofessionals were eliminated. The district has since received an additional \$452,000 from new growth and Chapter 70 increase, so she recommends unfreezing some positions.

Positions to Unfreeze:

- Clerical Paraprofessionals
- Math Interventionist
- Behavioral Program Positions (including a SPED teacher, RBT, and BCBA)

Positions Not to Unfreeze:

- Long-term Substitute for English and Science positions, due to established class schedules.
- Coordinator of Counseling, due to grant funding considerations.
- Library Paraprofessional, as it is not feasible to serve all three schools equitably at this time.

Additionally, it is proposed to unfreeze the PHS Librarian position and a part-time (.4) Business teacher starting in January.

Review of FY26 1st Quarter Financials

Mrs. Obey mentioned that there is money available in the tuition budget. The salary lines are expected to be fully expended by the end of the year. Although transportation is over budget currently, it should be noted that \$150,000 has been accounted for. She added that utility service costs must be monitored closely, and any surplus funds will be utilized to address air conditioning issues throughout the district.

Consideration for Approval: MIAA 8th Grade Waiver – Girls Ice Hockey

Mrs. Obey stated that this waiver has been requested for the past seven years.

VOTE: On a motion made by Susan Bollinger and seconded by Katrina Delaney, it was unanimously voted to approve the MIAA 8th-grade waiver for girls' ice hockey.

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

Subcommittee Updates

Policy Subcommittee:

Consideration for Second Read and Approval: Policy IKFE: Competency Determination

Mrs. Obey said this policy was discussed in October as a first reading.

VOTE: On a motion made by Susan Bollinger and seconded by Allison Glennon, it was unanimously voted to approve Policy IKFE: Competency Determination as presented.

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

Negotiations Subcommittee

Mrs. Obey mentioned that the next meeting is on Monday, and they have reviewed many proposals. They hope to address financial issues during this meeting.

Vocational Planning Committee

Mrs. Obey said there was a favorable vote at Town Meeting to move forward with joining South Shore Tech.

Strategic

Mrs. Obey said the first meeting was held last week, and the second meeting is scheduled for next week. There are three student representatives on the committee. There are six more meetings planned, after which a draft of the plan will be presented to the committee at the end of January. The survey closes tomorrow, and there have been about 1,200 responses so far.

Future Meeting Dates and Topics

11/18 at 6pm

12/2, 12/16

1/13, 1/20

VOTE: At 7:39 PM, on a motion made by David Boyle and seconded by Allison Glennon, it was unanimously voted, by roll call vote, 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: November 18, 2025

MOTIONS

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 October 7, 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 Katrina Delaney and seconded by Allison Glennon, it was voted to remove the BMI testing.

Voting Yes: Allison Glennon, Katrina Delaney, Katrina Scarsciotti

Voting No: David Boyle, Susan Bollinger

Abstaining: none

Absent: none

VOTE: On a motion made by Susan Bolling and seconded by David Boyle, it was voted to abstain from voting.

Voting Yes: David Boyle, Susan Bollinger

Voting No: Allison Glennon, Katrina Delaney, Katrina Scarsciotti

Abstaining: none

Absent: none

VOTE: On a motion made by Allison Glennon and seconded by Katrina Delaney, it was voted to allow passage of so-called "sanctuary" laws.

Voting Yes: Allison Glennon, Katrina Delaney, Katrina Scarsciotti

Voting No: David Boyle, Susan Bollinger

Abstaining: none

Absent: none

VOTE: On a motion made by Allison Glennon and seconded by Katrina Delaney, it was unanimously voted to increase the maximum balance allowed by the Special Education Reserve Fund.

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

Voting No: none

Abstaining: none

Absent: none

VOTE: On a motion made by David Boyle and seconded by Susan Bollinger, it was voted to allow teachers and school committee members to sit on the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Voting Yes: none

Voting No: David Boyle, Susan Bollinger, Allison Glennon, Katrina Delaney

Abstaining: Katrina Scarsciotti

Absent: none

VOTE: On a motion made by David Boyle and seconded by Katrina Delaney, it was unanimously voted to preserve local governance of MA schools.

Voting Yes: none

Voting No: David Boyle, Susan Bollinger, Allison Glennon, Katrina Delaney, Katrina Scarsciotti

Abstaining: none

Absent: none

VOTE: On a motion made by David Boyle and seconded by Katrina Delaney, it was unanimously voted to add personal financial literacy education.

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

Voting No: none

Abstaining: none

Absent: none

VOTE: On a motion made by David Boyle and seconded by Susan Bollinger, it was unanimously voted to establish a regional school assessment reserve fund.

Voting Yes: David Boyle, Susan Bollinger, Allison Glennon, Katrina Delaney, 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 MIAA 8th-grade waiver for girls' ice hockey.

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 Allison Glennon, it was unanimously voted to approve Policy IKFE: Competency Determination as presented.

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

VOTE: At 7:39 PM, on a motion made by David Boyle and seconded by Allison Glennon, it was unanimously voted, by roll call vote, 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