AMHERST, PELHAM, & AMHERST-PELHAM
REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

E. Xiomara Herman, Ed.D.
"Dr. Xi"
Superintendent

From the Desk of Dr. Xi: No Decisions Made

January 22, 2026

Greetings Pelham Families,

I am writing to follow up on tonight's Pelham School Committee meeting to provide clear context and address questions that may have arisen.

The purpose of this evening's meeting was to provide the Pelham School Committee with an updated fiscal briefing based on material changes to the FY27 financial outlook since the December budget presentation. This included updated deficit projections, new information related to regional assessments affect on Pelham Elementary FY27 budget, and continued uncertainty around state funding, health insurance increases, and charter tuition costs. In alignment with how budget updates are routinely presented, recommendations were shared as possible options for the School Committee to consider as part of responsible planning.

I recognize that hearing this information for the first time in a public meeting may have been unsettling for some families. It is important to clarify that this meeting was a public governance discussion to ensure the School Committee is informed early enough to engage in careful review, verification of information, and thoughtful planning for FY27 with recommended next steps.

No decisions were made, no actions were taken, and no directives were issued at this meeting.

Pelham's fiscal challenges are not new. Conversations about enrollment, reliance on School Choice funding, capital needs, and town-level financial constraints have occurred over many years through School Committee meetings, Finance Committee discussions, and Town Meetings. While not all families participate in town governance processes, these conversations are interconnected, and I encourage families to follow both the School Committee's work and the Town of Pelham's broader fiscal discussions.

As we move forward, there will be additional opportunities for public discussion, questions, and engagement. Communication with families will continue as the School Committee progresses in its deliberations and as clearer information becomes available.

I want to emphasize that during tonight's meeting, no decisions have been made, and we are still in the early stages of the FY27 budget process. This meeting marks the beginning of an important and comprehensive planning effort focused on the long-term sustainability of Pelham Elementary and public

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education in Pelham overall. That process will require time, careful consideration, and ongoing community involvement.

Thank you for your continued involvement and for your commitment to the Pelham community.

Sincerely,

Dr. Xi
Superintendent, Amherst-Pelham Regional Public Schools

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