

Pembroke Public Schools

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PEMBROKE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
Tuesday, January 26, 2015
North Pembroke Elementary School Library
7:00 PM

Call to Order

Mr. Tropeano called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM.

Present from Administration: Mrs. Erin Obey, Interim Superintendent; Marybeth Brust, Director of Teaching & Learning and Jessica Duncanson, Director of Student Services

Present from Committee: Michael Tropeano, Chair; Paul Bosworth, Vice Chair; Ginny Wandell, Secretary; and Patrick Chilcott

Absent: Suzanne Scroggins

Acknowledge & Schedule Visitors

Mr. Tropeano welcomed the audience and asked if anyone wished to speak. No one wished to speak

Adjustments to the Agenda

The Program of Studies will be taken as first read in Mrs. Scroggins absence.

Communications

None

Approval of Bill Schedule

Bills were circulated for committee approval.

Consideration of Approval: School Committee Minutes of January 5, 2016

VOTE: On a motion made by Patrick Chilcott and seconded by Ginny Wandell, it was unanimously voted to approve the school committee meeting minutes of January 5, 2016 as amended to correct the date.

Voting Yes: Michael Tropeano, Paul Bosworth, Ginny Wandell and Patrick Chilcott

Voting No: none

Abstaining: none

Absent: Suzanne Scroggins

Superintendent's Report

Consideration of Approval: PHS DECA Overnight Travel Request

Mrs. Obey said the trip now has the correct number of chaperones.

VOTE: On a motion made by Patrick Chilcott and seconded by Ginny Wandell, it was unanimously voted to approve the PHS DECA overnight trip to Boston.

OUR MISSION: To ensure student achievement through excellence in teaching and learning.

Voting Yes: Michael Tropeano, Paul Bosworth, Ginny Wandell and Patrick Chilcott

Voting No: none

Abstaining: none

Absent: Suzanne Scroggins

Personnel Report

Mrs. Obey said this report reflects the current long term substitutes.

Mr. Chilcott said the track team won and Mrs. Obey said Abigail Nugent was selected to the All State Chorus.

Program of Studies – New Course Approvals

Mr. Bosworth said he questions on some of the proposed PHS courses. He said he questioned the content of the Financial Literacy course and the stock market game. Mr. Tropeano and Mr. Chilcott said they believe it is important. Mr. Bosworth asked if it could qualify as a fourth year of math and Mr. Duffy said the state will not allow it. Mr. Bosworth suggested making the 30 page paper requirement of the Strategic Marketing and Entrepreneurship course a presentation instead. Mr. Tropeano said he would like the paper and the presentation in order teach the students to do the research and present the points. Mr. Chilcott said he agrees to keep the paper. Mr. Duffy said the business teacher's goal is to involve the community. Mr. Bosworth suggested expanding the community involvement beyond the Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Bosworth asked why a ceramics course would be cut for the new 3-D Design art course. Mrs. Brust said once students take ceramics they need somewhere to go from there and this class would be the option. Mr. Bosworth said there should be discussion at budget time about hiring another art teacher. Mr. Chilcott added that a new art teacher has been discussed for years.

Mr. Bosworth said street law has a big demand and questioned whether it makes sense to have other law electives. Mrs. Brust said Mr. Galligan is proposing combining AP US history I and II into a one year course which would be taken junior year after successful completion of US History CP/honors.

Mr. Bosworth asked for clarification on the proposed PCMS music course Exploring Piano. Mrs. McGarrigle said the class will be small with only 10 keyboards and if the demand turns out to be high then funding can be found. Mr. Bosworth said he is concerned with running classes at low capacity and Mrs. McGarrigle said the idea is to offer courses of interest and if they are not elected by the students then the course will not run. Mrs. Wandell said this course is an expansion of offerings and it does not require additional staffing. Mr. Chilcott said the committee has to look at this from a budgetary perspective but can also trust the administrator's reasons behind these course recommendations.

Mr. Wandell said she would like to hear more about the AP history proposed changes. Mr. Galligan said they are proposing eliminating AP US history 1 which is offered at the grade 10 level because it is an outdated model. He said students haven't had exposure to US history since grade 5. He is proposing a new model of US history I/Honors and then AP US history or US history II and take AP US history as a senior. Mr. Galligan said there will be conversations with students and their parents. Mrs. Wandell asked if guidance personnel be involved in the decision and Mr. Galligan said before course selections the department heads will having discussions with guidance. Mr. Tropeano asked if there is need for more staffing it this area and Mr. Galligan said if there was more staffing the department could offer more electives. Mrs. Brust said history electives have been offered in the past and have not been as popular as psychology, sociology and street law. Mr. Chilcott asked if there is a demand for the computer science and Mr. Duffy said the interest is definitely there. He said with the expansion on the middle school program he expects more interest each year.

Mrs. LaCroix said the proposed new model for AP Physics will help expand the pool of students that move on to AP Physics C. Mrs. LaCroix said the course Science Enrichment for High School Success is for students that need additional support with their science skills and also for diverse learners. Mr. Chilcott confirmed this course will involve MCAS prep. Mrs. Brust said the course will target grade 9 students and has potential to help students struggling in chemistry and biology.

Mr. Tropeano suggested that Mrs. Brust give a quick presentation on the pathways at the next meeting. Mr. Bosworth said electives that underclassmen will have difficulty getting into should not be on the pathways document.

Safety & Security Update

Mrs. Obey said Chief Wall is here tonight and she will give an overview of what she and the Chief have brainstormed. She the goal is to be collaborative and get parents involved by creating an advisory council. She said the areas for exploration include:

Prevention, detection and support

This includes identifying students earlier in the process before being a threat to themselves or others, professional development for staff and parents, and joint training for staff and emergency personnel.

Chief Wall said prevention and detection is the most important piece. He said you have to be proactive and the school allows this by letting the police do swat training within the schools. Mrs. Obey said the district emergency management plan must be updated and the goal is to have a month meeting with the necessary parties in order to get it updated.

Mrs. Obey said the support piece involves expanding on the current social worker/school psychologist model in order to increase supports for students K-12. Also, exploring the School Resource Officer position to include a split between PCMS and PHS and then have three officers involved with the elementary level. Mr. Tropeano suggested putting the proposed model together and distribute it a couple of times until May so that the community is aware. Chief Wall said the school is the biggest outreach as a way for his department to get involved with the town.

Responsiveness

This includes increased collaboration between school administrators and Pembroke Police Department. Chief Wall said he is going to look into STARS program (Student Threat Assessment Response System). Mr. Chilcott asked if there is way to tie drug education into this and Mrs. Obey said there is a gap there but they can look into a DARE type program.

Policy

Mrs. Obey said Chief Wall suggested a flow chart like the bullying one because information is spread throughout the student handbooks. She said the idea is to a communication policy/protocols and have templates to use from there. Mr. Chilcott said communication has to be timely and proactive and Mr. Tropeano added that some documents can't be made public because it can compromise a situation. The committee clarified that the right information will get into the right hands. Mr. Chilcott asked how the protocols will be communicated once established and Mrs. Obey said staff will be trained during professional development days.

Communications

Mrs. Obey said this will involve joint communications from school and emergency personnel and sending all safety/security messages to full school community.

Mrs. Obey said the next step is establishing parent involvement and creating an advisory group. Mr. Tropeano said he thinks one parent group is not enough and there should be one group for policy and

one for communications. Mrs. Wandell asked for a small advisory group that will bring the info to the school committee. Mr. Bosworth said he agrees with two different groups. Mr. Chilcott suggested the policy work fall under the policy subcommittee with meetings being open to the public. Mr. Tropeano said he doesn't think people will know to come to the meetings and thinks they should be invited to the process. Mr. Wandell said they need to expand and define the policy subcommittee. Mr. Chilcott said to include police and fire in the group and do it collaboratively. Mr. Obey said she will bring a draft of timeline and potential make-up of the group to the February 9th meeting. Chief Wall said communications is what he finds to be most important and believes that the public has pertinent input.

Teaching & Learning Budget Presentation

Mrs. Brust explained the Teaching & Learning Goals for FY17 and the budget asks related to them.

Improve Achievement for all Students

Mrs. Brust said the requests are a .5 English teacher at PHS, a Science teacher, a social studies teacher, 2 math specialists, 5 technology support specialists for K-12 and additional AP support to support open enrollment. Mr. Bosworth confirmed that the technology specialists will be part of technology plan. He said he thinks the budget has been spent on things that didn't tie to the technology plan.

Support and Develop Excellent Instruction

Mrs. Brust said this will require continuation of the roll out of enVision2.0, including Pearson & Looney consulting time. Also, district wide PD for Sheltered English Immersion training & Special Education training. She suggested providing a Skillful Teacher course for all teachers in year one of employment.

Develop and Revise Curriculum K-6 & 7-12

Mrs. Brust said for English and Social Studies development of three benchmark assessments per grade level is needed. For Mathematics, development of three benchmark assessments per grade level, report card review and revision, iPads K-1 five per class and software for progress monitoring. For Science, new text and materials for grades 3-5 and training for teachers. Mrs. LaCroix added that the current kits from East Bay Collaborative are not aligned with NGGS.

Mrs. Brust said for the secondary schools, English could use new novels for grades 8-12, new grade 11 American Literature texts and replacements. For Math, PCMS needs math applications software, Title 1 software, TI-84 calculators. For PHS, software is need for the intervention course, document cameras, software for Financial Literacy course and batteries and robotic equipment. For Science, lab materials are needed for PCMS and PHS and grade 9 needs new Biology text. For Social Studies, grades 7-11 need new texts with online support and access. For Foreign Languages, PCMS needs a lab system and PHS needs curriculum revisions due to multiple sessions.

Mr. Chilcott suggested making a list of one time funding items that the committee can ask of the state representatives. Mr. Tropeano said if there is a one-time special project specific to the district then it might make it easier for the representatives to get the funding. Mr. Tropeano suggested thinking about what can be brought to fall Town meeting.

VOTE: At 9:47 PM, on a motion made by Patrick Chilcott and seconded by Ginny Wandell, it was unanimously voted to adjourn.

Voting Yes: Michael Tropeano, Paul Bosworth, Ginny Wandell and Patrick Chilcott

Voting No: none

Abstaining: none

Absent: Suzanne Scroggins

APPROVED: February 23, 2016

MOTIONS

VOTE: On a motion made by Patrick Chilcott and seconded by Ginny Wandell, it was unanimously voted to approve the school committee meeting minutes of January 5, 2016 as amended to correct the date.

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Voting No: none

Abstaining: none

Absent: Suzanne Scroggins

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