

# Pembroke Public Schools

---

72 Pilgrim Road, Pembroke, MA 02359

[www.pembrokek12.org](http://www.pembrokek12.org)

[pembroke@pembrokek12.org](mailto:pembroke@pembrokek12.org)



(781) 829-1178  
FAX (781) 829-6957

---

**PEMBROKE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**Tuesday, October 4, 2016**  
**North Pembroke Elementary School Library**  
**7:30PM**

## **Call to Order**

Mr. Tropeano called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

**Present from Administration:** Mrs. Erin Obey, Superintendent; Marybeth Brust, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Learning; Jessica Duncanson, Director of Student Services

**Present from Committee:** Michael Tropeano, Chair; Suzanne Scroggins, Vice Chair; Ginny Wandell, and Paul Bosworth  
Absent: Patrick Chilcott

## **Acknowledge & Schedule Visitors**

Mr. Tropeano welcomed the audience.

## **Adjustments to the Agenda**

None

## **Communications**

None

## **Approval of Bill Schedule**

Bills were circulated for committee approval.

## **Consideration of Approval: School Committee Meeting Minutes of September 6<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

VOTE: On a motion made by Paul Bosworth and seconded by Ginny Wandell, it was unanimously voted to approve the school committee meeting minutes of September 6, 2016 as presented.

Voting Yes: Michael Tropeano, Suzanne Scroggins, Paul Bosworth and Ginny Wandell

Voting No: none

Abstaining: none

Absent: Patrick Chilcott

VOTE: On a motion made by Paul Bosworth and seconded by Ginny Wandell, it was unanimously voted to approve the school committee meeting minutes of September 20, 2016 as presented.

Voting Yes: Michael Tropeano, Paul Bosworth and Ginny Wandell

Voting No: none

Abstaining: Suzanne Scroggins

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

Absent: Patrick Chilcott

### **Overview of Social Emotional Learners and Current Supports**

Mrs. Duncanson said she would like to talk about the social emotional learners and the work being done to support these students. She said this as a result of the budget approvals, this year a social worker was added at the elementary and secondary levels and curriculum work has been expanded. Mrs. Duncanson introduced Cheryl Larson, the new elementary social worker, Rachel McGowan, the new secondary social worker, Holly Gerety, the adjustment counselor/social worker at secondary level, Erica Pearson, the psychologist at North Pembroke, Meghan Strawn, the SPED team chair 7-12, Dr. Glaude and Mr. Talbot. Mrs. Duncanson said the district wants to make sure it's supporting the students, creating safe learning environments and creating social emotional development starting at the Pre-kindergarten level through 12th grade. The social workers talked about conditions they are seeing in students including, school phobia, anxiety, attention difficulties, substance abuse and diagnoses like ADHD, ODD and learning disabilities.

Mrs. Duncanson said the superintendent's goals include providing resources to administrators to meet the needs of an increasing population of social/emotional learners. She said the Department of Students Services goal is to increase awareness of identifying students with social/emotional needs and increasing strategies and supports in order to increase these student's capacity and overall engagement. Mr. Bosworth asked if Advisory is happening at PHS and Mr. Talbot said it is happening monthly now and his goal is to make it a twice a month program by next year.

Dr. Glaude described the three tiers of intervention. Tier I happens in the classroom setting and can include things like allowing the student calming breaks throughout the day. Tier II is for students not responding to in-class support and may include other staff in addition to the classroom teacher. Tier III is a referral for special education testing and a possible IEP.

Mr. Talbot said ARC (Academic Resource Center) is a stable academic supportive environment as a Tier II intervention for students. He said ARC is built into student's schedules and the center is capped at 10 students per session, with 30-35 students receiving this support. The ARC teacher's duty is to help the students with time management and study skills. Mr. Talbot said this program was created a couple years ago as a temporary plan that students would move on from but the issue became why move a student if it is helping. Students can be placed there at any point during semester but must remain there for the rest of the semester. He said students check in with the teacher daily as a way to create positive reinforcement. He said the Compass Program is an idea that came from ARC and it is designed as a transitional program to provide students returning from extended absences for mental health or medical reasons, with academic and social emotional support. The Compass program is designed as a temporary support for students and the referral is made through the SST (Student Support Team) and is managed by the assistant principals and guidance director. He said there is potential of this program expanding to offer more services as is seen in other districts. Mr. Talbot said there is has been work on credit recovery with an online program by FuelEd. This is available to students that are credit deficient and may have social emotional struggles to help them get on track to graduate with their class. He said he would also like to look into blended learning for some of these students.

Mrs. Duncanson said the four programs implemented in the classroom are Responsive Classroom, Social Thinking, Worried No More and Break Free from Depression. Dr. Glaude said she can't say enough about Responsive Classroom. She said it is a teaching practice which includes 10 teaching practices. She said one practice is the morning meeting and another is the teacher language. Mrs. Scroggins said she likes the whole group concept because it benefits all students whether or not they have been identified for a specific need. Mrs. Pearson said Social thinking is something that has been used throughout all the elementary schools and teaches students what they do affects how another person feels. She said this can

be taught class wide or individually. Mrs. Pearson said the social behavior maps have been helping in office referrals. Mrs. Duncanson said the middle school received training on this.

Mrs. Larson talked about the Worried No More program and said it is a way of explaining anxiety to children, teachers and parents. She explained the anxiety triad of thoughts, behaviors and physical arousal. She said younger students can't explain their anxiety so often this leads to frequent sickness and doctor visits. She said they will do professional development with teacher's district wide. Mrs. Scroggins suggested presenting these programs to parents and Mrs. Obey said she is working with the PTOs about getting the word out on the SEPAC presentations. Mr. Tropeano asked how the school nurses play into these scenarios. Dr. Glaude said at Bryantville she, the social worker and nurse meet to discuss the students that frequently go to the nurse. Mrs. Duncanson said she meets with nurses one per month about implementing strategies for students that are constantly visiting the nurse. Mrs. Strawn said two years ago PHS explored Break Free from Depression and last year she went to a training. She said the curriculum is meant for 9-12 graders and the classes are taught by the PE teachers. This program increases awareness about depression to help students recognize it in themselves, in their friends, and gives them strategies for finding help. Mrs. Gerety said the guidance counselors and PE teachers presented this curriculum in a week long training to grades 10 and 12. She said there were opportunities for staff and parents to view it but no parents attended. She said this will be implemented for 9<sup>th</sup> grade this year. Mr. Tropeano asked if everything is being done to identify students in need. Mrs. Obey said the district did a youth risk behavior survey and a high number of students stated they didn't have an adult that they can talk to. She said the district is working to be supportive of students and make the supports known to them and their parents so that connections are being made.

Mr. Tropeano asked what happens to these at risk students over the summer. Mrs. Pearson said she works hard to get the student into summer camps and makes sure they are connected with good therapists. Mrs. Gerety said she connects them with out-patient therapy over the summer. Ms. McGowan said getting the older students into a job helps with self-esteem. Mrs. Strawn said they look for regression over school vacations in students with IEPs and then offers summer services. Mr. Tropeano asked if the committee should make a summer program a priority when discussing the next budget. Mrs. Duncanson said an elementary program would probably be more successful. Mrs. Obey said there is a thought about partnering with the park and recreation center to create a summer program. Mrs. Brust said adding a component to the PHS MCAS summer program to include social/emotional help might work. Mr. Tropeano suggested opening the potential park and recreation program to surrounding communities as a cost sharing idea to make it more affordable. Mrs. Duncanson said there has been professional development with social workers and school psychologists and on November 8<sup>th</sup> the professional development will be around social/emotional learning. She said there is PD provided in out of district workshops and faculty meetings. She said the next steps include building common and consistent practices to proactively support and teach the social/emotional competencies, creating common protocols for at risk students, examining health curriculum, SBIRT pilot at PCMS, visiting south shore transition programs at Whitman-Hanson and Duxbury and revision of PHS Advisory program to make sure it is being used effectively as well as expanding it.

Mr. Bosworth asked if the health curriculum information will come to the committee before the program of studies and Mrs. Obey said it will be brought to the committee in December. Mr. Bosworth asked the staff what is needed to make what they're doing more beneficial for students. Dr. Glaude said working with Mrs. Larson has been great and she thanked the committee for adding her position. Mrs. Obey said a social worker in every school would be beneficial and Mrs. Duncanson said the three year plan is to have that structure and added having a social worker for PCMS would be helpful. Mrs. Gerety said having the addition of the secondary social worker has been very helpful for her caseload. Mrs. Pearson said her testing caseload was heavy last year so having the new psychologist helping with interventions has been helpful. Ms. McGowan gave an example of a student that has been doing well since the implementation of the Compass program. Mrs. Strawn said she interested in seeing the data at the end of the year. Mrs. Obey said she anticipates the budget will be tight and it is important that this social/emotional information gets out. Mr. Bosworth said tonight's information has been very informative and asked for

data on how this new staffing level has freed up guidance counselor's time. Mrs. Wandell said the committee is deeply affected on a personal level because they have all had children and said the work being done is some of the most important work. She added that having this information helps the committee when it comes to budget time.

### **Superintendent's Report**

#### Consideration of Approval: Homeschool Requests for 2016-2017 School Year

VOTE: On a motion made by Paul Bosworth and seconded by Ginny Wandell, it was unanimously voted to approve the homeschooling requests for Kimaya Cabral, Priya Cabra, Maia Doescher, Anabella Massaro, Liberty Pongratz, Ivy Pongratz, Cora Pongratz, Matthew Pongratz and Patrick Shea as presented

Voting Yes: Michael Tropeano, Suzanne Scroggins, Paul Bosworth and Ginny Wandell

Voting No: none

Abstaining: none

Absent: Patrick Chilcott

#### Consideration of Approval: NPS book disposal

VOTE: On a motion made by Paul Bosworth and seconded by Suzanne Scroggins, it was unanimously voted to approve the North Pembroke book disposal request as presented.

Voting Yes: Michael Tropeano, Suzanne Scroggins, Paul Bosworth and Ginny Wandell

Voting No: none

Abstaining: none

Absent: Patrick Chilcott

#### Consideration of Second Read and Approval - Athenaeum Learning Center

Mrs. Obey said she met with Megan and Heather of Athenaeum and received additional documents regarding curriculum information which Mrs. Brust will speak to. Mrs. Obey said she spoke with them regarding the financial solvency piece and some insurance questions she had. Mrs. Obey informed that committee that she visited the site last week and said it is a lovely location with a nice outdoor space. Mrs. Brust said Athenaeum being a private school they do not follow the Common Core but their curriculum does have components of the frameworks in it. She said in addition they offer some languages that the district does not. She said it is not an exact replica of a public school system but it is a worthy and strong curriculum. She added it is a great option for people looking outside the public school system. Mrs. Wandell asked if there will be necessary future reviews of Athenaeum and Mrs. Obey said the way the policy is written it does not have a check in point. She added that administration would be happy to be a resource for them as they expand into middle school grades. Mrs. Obey said Mr. Chilcott has comments he would like read in his absence tonight. She said Mr. Chilcott said he still has some questions regarding curriculum, financial solvency and teacher certifications. He said he is not comfortable that the education is equal to what is being offered with Pembroke schools since it does not link to the Massachusetts frameworks. He said he has questions around the planning board approval but does understand they will eventually get the approval. He said he does not feel confident in their financial solvency. Mr. Tropeano confirmed that the questions that were raised by the school committee have been answered by Athenaeum. Mrs. Obey said she received a question from the public regarding Athenaeum's insurance. She said she followed up with Megan today and found that they have a similar policy to Pembroke for their playgrounds and also have a segment about outdoor space and an umbrella policy.

VOTE: On a motion made by Paul Bosworth and seconded by Ginny Wandell, it was unanimously voted to approve the Athenaeum Learning Center's application to be recognized as a private school.

Voting Yes: Michael Tropeano, Suzanne Scroggins, Paul Bosworth and Ginny Wandell

Voting No: none

Abstaining: none

Absent: Patrick Chilcott

### **Discussion of Future Meeting Dates**

Mr. Tropeano said that he and Mrs. Obey presented to the Selectmen and Advisory on the turf field. He said they are withdrawing the motion at Town meeting because there is not enough information to move it forward. He said both boards had a significant amount of concern about the funding option. Also, two community members had lots of questions and he said he thinks they understood at the end why the school is asking for this project. He said Advisory felt similar so the committee is going to have to figure out how to fund portions of it. Mr. Tropeano said the rumor of turf field being condemned by building inspector in 2015 came up again and clarified it is not true. Overall think people left with their questions answered.

He said health care for the whole town is expected to rise and take all or most of growth for next year. He said the board is in agreement to bring it forward to the special warrant and this timing would allow the project to start earlier. Mrs. Scroggins said she is worried about someone getting injured. Mrs. Obey said the turf replacement was slated for summer of 2018 so if a solid funding source can't be figured out then she is hesitant to put it forward for 2017.

### **Consideration of Approval: Executive Session Meeting Minutes of July 2014-June 2015**

VOTE: On a motion made by Ginny Wandell and seconded by Suzanne Scroggins, it was unanimously voted, by roll call vote, to enter Executive Session to conduct a review and potential approval and release of Executive Session minutes as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the legal position of the School Committee, as declared by the Chair. Further business will be discussed.

Voting Yes: Michael Tropeano, Suzanne Scroggins, Paul Bosworth and Ginny Wandell

Voting No: none

Abstaining: none

Absent: Patrick Chilcott

Back to regular session at 9:45pm.

VOTE: On a motion made by Ginny Wandell and seconded by Paul Bosworth, it was unanimously voted to approve and release Executive Session minutes of July 8, 2014, July 29, 2014, August 26, 2014, October 28, 2014, December 2, 2014, January 6, 2015, January 28, 2015, March 17, 2015, March 24, 2015, April 7, 2015, May 12, 2015 as presented.

Voting Yes: Michael Tropeano, Suzanne Scroggins, Paul Bosworth and Ginny Wandell

Voting No: none

Abstaining: none

Absent: Patrick Chilcott

VOTE: At 9:46pm, on a motion made by Paul Bosworth and seconded by Suzanne Scroggins, it was unanimously voted to adjourn.

Voting Yes: Michael Tropeano, Suzanne Scroggins, Paul Bosworth and Ginny Wandell  
Voting No: none  
Abstaining: none  
Absent: Patrick Chilcott

### **Documents**

Agenda

School Committee Minutes: 9/6/16 and 9/20/16

Social/Emotional PowerPoint

Homeschooling Requests

NPS Book Disposal

Athenaeum Learning Center Documents

Executive Session Minutes: 7/8/14, 7/29/14, 8/26/14, 10/28/14, 12/2/14, 1/6/15, 1/28/15, 3/17/15, 3/24/15, 4/7/15, 5/12/15, 5/26/15, 6/9/15, 6/29/15

**APPROVED: November 15, 2016**

### **MOTIONS**

VOTE: On a motion made by Paul Bosworth and seconded by Ginny Wandell, it was unanimously voted to approve the school committee meeting minutes of September 6, 2016 as presented.

Voting Yes: Michael Tropeano, Suzanne Scroggins, Paul Bosworth and Ginny Wandell  
Voting No: none  
Abstaining: none  
Absent: Patrick Chilcott

VOTE: On a motion made by Paul Bosworth and seconded by Ginny Wandell, it was unanimously voted to approve the school committee meeting minutes of September 20, 2016 as presented.

Voting Yes: Michael Tropeano, Paul Bosworth and Ginny Wandell  
Voting No: none  
Abstaining: Suzanne Scroggins  
Absent: Patrick Chilcott

VOTE: On a motion made by Paul Bosworth and seconded by Ginny Wandell, it was unanimously voted to approve the homeschooling requests for Kimaya Cabral, Priya Cabra, Maia Doescher, Anabella Massaro, Liberty Pongratz, Ivy Pongratz, Cora Pongratz, Matthew Pongratz and Patrick Shea as presented

Voting Yes: Michael Tropeano, Suzanne Scroggins, Paul Bosworth and Ginny Wandell  
Voting No: none  
Abstaining: none  
Absent: Patrick Chilcott

VOTE: On a motion made by Paul Bosworth and seconded by Suzanne Scroggins, it was unanimously voted to approve the North Pembroke book disposal request as presented.

Voting Yes: Michael Tropeano, Suzanne Scroggins, Paul Bosworth and Ginny Wandell

Voting No: none

Abstaining: none

Absent: Patrick Chilcott

VOTE: On a motion made by Paul Bosworth and seconded by Ginny Wandell, it was unanimously voted to approve the Athenaeum Learning Center's application to be recognized as a private school.

Voting Yes: Michael Tropeano, Suzanne Scroggins, Paul Bosworth and Ginny Wandell

Voting No: none

Abstaining: none

Absent: Patrick Chilcott

VOTE: On a motion made by Ginny Wandell and seconded by Suzanne Scroggins, it was unanimously voted, by roll call vote, to enter Executive Session to conduct a review and potential approval and release of Executive Session minutes as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the legal position of the School Committee, as declared by the Chair. Further business will be discussed.

Voting Yes: Michael Tropeano, Suzanne Scroggins, Paul Bosworth and Ginny Wandell

Voting No: none

Abstaining: none

Absent: Patrick Chilcott

VOTE: On a motion made by Ginny Wandell and seconded by Paul Bosworth, it was unanimously voted to approve and release Executive Session minutes of July 8, 2014, July 29, 2014, August 26, 2014, October 28, 2014, December 2, 2014, January 6, 2015, January 28, 2015, March 17, 2015, March 24, 2015, April 7, 2015, May 12, 2015 as presented.

Voting Yes: Michael Tropeano, Suzanne Scroggins, Paul Bosworth and Ginny Wandell

Voting No: none

Abstaining: none

Absent: Patrick Chilcott

VOTE: At 9:46pm, on a motion made by Paul Bosworth and seconded by Suzanne Scroggins, it was unanimously voted to adjourn.

Voting Yes: Michael Tropeano, Suzanne Scroggins, Paul Bosworth and Ginny Wandell

Voting No: none

Abstaining: none

Absent: Patrick Chilcott