



Pembroke Public Schools

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Pembroke School Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 16, 2018

North Pembroke Elementary School Library

7:00 PM

Call to Order

Mr. Chilcott called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

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

Present from Committee: Patrick Chilcott, Chair; Ginny Wandell, Vice Chair; Michael Tropeano and Suzanne Scroggins David Boyle, Secretary; arrived at 7:10pm

Acknowledge & Schedule Visitors

Mr. Chilcott welcomed the visitors.

Adjustments to the Agenda

None

Approval of Bill Schedule

Bills were circulated for committee approval.

Communications

None

Consideration of Approval: School Committee Minutes of December 5th and January 2nd

VOTE: On a motion made by Ginny Wandell and seconded by Michael Tropeano, it was unanimously voted to approve the School Committee Meeting Minutes of December 5, 2017.

Voting Yes: Patrick Chilcott, Ginny Wandell, Michael Tropeano and Suzanne Scroggins

Voting No: none

Abstaining: none

Absent: David Boyle

VOTE: On a motion made by Ginny Wandell and seconded by Michael Tropeano, it was voted to approve the School Committee Meeting Minutes of January 2, 2018.

Voting Yes: Patrick Chilcott, Ginny Wandell and Michael Tropeano

Voting No: none

Abstaining: Suzanne Scroggins

Absent: David Boyle

Teacher Technology: New Math Software

Mrs. Brust said teachers using these new math software programs will come to a spring school committee meeting to talk about them. She said the goal is to support envision2.0 and extend math skills. She said the four programs are Front Row, iReady, IXL Math and Study Island. Mrs. Brust added that this is a pilot year so there will be more extensive training next year. She said that right now they are looking at data in order to decide which program is best for each grade level and will let the grade level teachers at each school choose what they think is best for the developmental needs of the students they are teaching. She added that the desire is to have adaptability and all the programs are different. In addition to envision2.0 these programs will help familiarize students with computer based testing. Mrs. Brust gave examples of the different programs and samples of district reporting options. She said PCMS has decided on ALEKS for the Math Foundations students. She said she likes that it mirrors the MCAS tests. Mrs. Brust said the next steps for K-6 is to review the data and identify the best fit for each grade level. Mrs. Brust said the next step for grades 7 and 8 are to assess the impact of ALEKS, along with the benchmarks and MCAS Next Generation. She added that these programs can be used during Titan Time. Mrs. Brust read the committee teacher feedback on each of the programs. She said it has been a great tool and pilot program but the decision still has to be made on which program is the best fit.

FY19 Budget Update

Mrs. Obey said there has been work done on the Maintenance of Effort (MOE) budget. She said taking into account retirements, the transportation revolving offset and enrollment shift, there is a budget gap of \$1,977,632. She added that if Chapter 70 comes in at \$25 per student this will yield \$72,300. She said the Town contribution at this time is \$646,000. After Chapter 70 and the Town contribution, the gap is \$1,259,332. She said governor's budget comes out on January 24th and added that she will continue to work with Mr. Thorne and Board of Selectmen. Mr. Chilcott asked if there are additional enrollment reductions and Mrs. Obey said she could revisit enrollments but this would increase class sizes. Mrs. Obey said the \$1.2m gap is larger than in the past and the tuition piece is main issue and will continue to be a problem next year.

Mr. Chilcott said the committee asked Mr. Thorne to come tonight to give an overview of the where the Town is fiscally. Mr. Thorne presented a spreadsheet of the Town revenue produced by the Town Accountant. He said Mr. Buckley is expecting the Tax Levy to increase about \$1,492,268, state aid to increase about \$154,145, local receipts to increase about \$90,909 and other funds to increase about \$153,020. He said this comes to additional revenue of \$1,890,139. Mr. Thorne said the Town likes to have a balanced budget, which it is at this point. He said he is looking at \$800k to the Town from public works. Mr. Tropeano asked about new growth going down to \$400k from \$676,401 considering the large project planned for Corporate Park and Mr. Thorne said that project will likely happen in a few months. Mr. Chilcott said the revenue projection may be conservative and the Town wide deficit is about \$2.2m. Mr. Thorne agreed. Mr. Tropeano said the school committee does not have enough information to be included in an override conversation. Mr. Chilcott said the town is running out of time and the school committee does not know if it can balance the school budget with the \$646k contribution from the Town. Mrs. Wandell said the committee is creative but there are not items year over year to whittle away. She said this is very difficult for the school committee and said she does not think an override conversation is in order. Mr. Tropeano asked Mr. Thorne for additional information from Mayflower. Mr. Thorne said the Mayflower information will be available in February. Mr. Chilcott said without the extraordinary expenses relating to tuition, the district would be at an almost balanced budget with the \$646k from the Town. Mrs. Obey clarified that the balanced budget that Mr. Thorne is going to present to the Selectmen on Monday is not MOE for the school district based on the \$646k contribution. Mrs. Scroggins suggested having the legislators come back to a school committee to discuss the unfunded mandates.

Communications Plan Update

Mrs. Monteforte explained that Let's Talk is to promote an open dialogue between the district and community stakeholders. She gave examples of dialogues created through Let's Talk. Mrs. Obey said the parents that were not able to attend the Nature's Classroom forum can communicate their thoughts through Let's Talk. Mrs. Monteforte said a lot of feedback comes through Let's Talk and 78% of entries are from parents. Mr. Chilcott asked about student feedback and Mrs. Obey said most student comments are anonymous and the entries are forwarded to the building principals. Mrs. Monteforte said the trending topics on Let's Talk include Nature's Classroom, school start times, transportation,

traffic concerns on Learning Lane, kindergarten/preschool registration and feedback on teachers. She explained that Titan Times is quarterly magazine that celebrates PPS and since November, there have been 3,815 reads. She said copies are available at Town Hall, the Council on Aging, the Pembroke Library and all the schools. She said Weekly Updates are sent on Fridays from the principals via the broadcast email system, and includes information on important upcoming dates, the PTO, athletics and food services. Mrs. Obey said this has cut down on the number of broadcast emails going out.

Mrs. Monteforte said the next steps with social media include creating a district Instagram account, additional video projects promoting the schools, and a branded social media campaign around district goals. She said explained the features of the new website, which now includes a new alumni page.

Superintendent's Report

Consideration of First Read: Program of Studies

Mrs. Obey said the Education Subcommittee reviewed all the proposed changes. She said the new courses will run if there is student interest. She said this is a first read and it will be brought back to the committee on February 6th. She noted several changes in Spanish offerings that include Spanish V and Spanish and Hispanic Connections A/B. Mrs. Obey said there have been changes to the Physical Education section and waiver process. She said the changes will remove Marching Band as a physical education substitute. Mr. Chilcott said he recommends reopening the discussion regarding Marching Band. Mr. Talbot said the new waiver language requires a review committee to make the decision on waivers. Mr. Tropeano suggested removing the word "legitimate" and said examples of fitness programs outside of PHS and stating a deadline to apply for waivers would both be helpful. Mr. Tropeano suggested adding PowerPoint to the Business Writing and Presentation course.

VOTE: On a motion made by Michael Tropeano and seconded by Suzanne Scroggins, it was unanimously voted to accept the PHS Program of Studies as a first read.

Voting Yes: Patrick Chilcott, Ginny Wandell, David Boyle, Michael Tropeano and Suzanne Scroggins

Voting No: none

Abstaining: none

Absent: none

Future Meeting Dates and Topics

February 6th

VOTE: At 8:56pm, on a motion made by Michael Tropeano and seconded by David Boyle, it was unanimously voted to adjourn.

Voting Yes: Patrick Chilcott, Ginny Wandell, David Boyle, Michael Tropeano and Suzanne Scroggins

Voting No: none

Abstaining: none

Absent: none

APPROVED: February 6, 2018

MOTIONS

VOTE: On a motion made by Ginny Wandell and seconded by Michael Tropeano, it was unanimously voted to approve the School Committee Meeting Minutes of December 5, 2017.

Voting Yes: Patrick Chilcott, Ginny Wandell, Michael Tropeano and Suzanne Scroggins

Voting No: none

Abstaining: none

Absent: David Boyle

VOTE: On a motion made by Ginny Wandell and seconded by Michael Tropeano, it was voted to approve the School Committee Meeting Minutes of January 2, 2018.

Voting Yes: Patrick Chilcott, Ginny Wandell and Michael Tropeano

Voting No: none

Abstaining: Suzanne Scroggins

Absent: David Boyle

VOTE: On a motion made by Michael Tropeano and seconded by Suzanne Scroggins, it was unanimously voted to accept the PHS Program of Studies as first read.

Voting Yes: Patrick Chilcott, Ginny Wandell, David Boyle, Michael Tropeano and Suzanne Scroggins

Voting No: none

Abstaining: none

Absent: none

VOTE: At 8:56pm, on a motion made by Michael Tropeano and seconded by David Boyle, it was unanimously voted to adjourn.

Voting Yes: Patrick Chilcott, Ginny Wandell, David Boyle, Michael Tropeano and Suzanne Scroggins

Voting No: none

Abstaining: none

Absent: none