

Pembroke Public Schools

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PEMBROKE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
Tuesday, February 2, 2016
North Pembroke Elementary School Library
7:00 PM

Call to Order

Mr. Tropeano called the meeting to order at 7:07 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 Suzanne Scroggins
Absent: Patrick Chilcott

Acknowledge & Schedule Visitors

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

Adjustments to the Agenda

Mr. Tropeano said an Executive Session will be added.

Communications

Mr. Tropeano said the Town Administrator's budget was received and there is a modest increase for the budget for next year but not what was anticipated.

Approval of Bill Schedule

Bills were circulated for committee approval.

Superintendent's Report

Consideration of Approval: PHS Overnight Travel Request – All State Music Festival

Mrs. Obey said an administrator must stay with the student attending the music festival and Mrs. Chapman will be the chaperone.

VOTE: On a motion made by Paul Bosworth and seconded by Ginny Wandell, it was unanimously voted to approve the PHS Music trip to the All State Music Festival as presented.

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

Voting No: none

Abstaining: none

Absent: Patrick Chilcott

Consideration of Approval: PHS Program of Studies

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

Mrs. Szostak said the Program of Studies (POS) night is Monday and she said she hopes to do a similar night for current 8th grade parents. She said there is a bigger piece for Advanced Placement in the POS night. Mrs. Scroggins said the pathways documents are great. Mrs. Szostak said a change has been made to move some business electives to semesters. Mr. Bosworth said 40% of freshmen students take band or chorus and this plays into the pathways. Mrs. Brust said the pathways listed are only recommendations. Mrs. Wandell said every pathway can't be spelled out but parents have the option to discuss their student's pathway with administration. Mr. Tropeano said this document is a good way to get the information out there. Mrs. Szostak said this lays out possibilities for students. Mr. Bosworth said he is concerned because PE is a requirement for 9th grade and it is not listed in the pathways documents. Mr. Tropeano suggested adding an asterisk with the information about the PE requirement on page 17. Mr. Tropeano said he would like to see this pathways document as a poster in the Guidance office. Mrs. Szostak said additional edits have been made to the POS document today. Mr. Bosworth said summer work should be listed under each course. Mr. Bosworth said there are inconsistencies with the prerequisites where some AP courses list a grade requirement. Mrs. Szostak said the prerequisites are being reviewed again. Mrs. Scroggins said there is going to be unique circumstances and a guide like this is helpful. Mr. Tropeano said if a grade requirement was to be added to every prerequisite it would change the philosophy of the committee. Mrs. Szostak said the revised version will be ready by the end of the week. Mr. Tropeano asked what changes would be made to this POS between the POS night and the actual posting of the POS document near the end of February. Mrs. Szostak said there could be changes made around AP after the AP night. Mr. Tropeano confirmed that no changes will be made to course descriptions or prerequisites and asked that the committee receive the final document with bullets listing ant changes.

VOTE: On a motion made by Suzanne Scroggins and seconded by Paul Bosworth, it was unanimously voted to approve the new courses, Art addition of Pre-AP Art, Business, addition of Financial Literacy as a semester, Strategic Marketing & Entrepreneurship full year, Accounting switched to semester from full year, elimination of Entrepreneurship as a semester course, addition of AP Computer Science, addition of AP Computer Science A, addition of Senior Seminar Poetry a semester, addition of Piano Lab II, elimination of Music Theory II, addition of 3-D Design as a semester, addition of Science Enrichment for High School Success as a semester course. With the following changes, reactive approved government elective, AP US history from two year to one year, and eliminate Pre-AP Physics.

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

Voting No: none

Abstaining: none

Absent: Patrick Chilcott

Consideration of Approval: PCMS New Courses

1. Keyboard Lab
2. Rock Band

Mr. Bosworth asked for the class size and Mrs. Obey said it will be between six and eight students. She clarified that smaller instruction is needed. Mrs. Szostak is said it might be a feeder program leading to guitar lab at PHS which is very popular. Mrs. Scroggins said she believes these electives should be given a chance since there is no budget impact.

VOTE: On a motion made by Paul Bosworth and seconded by Ginny Wandell, it was unanimously voted to approve the two middle school courses as presented.

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

Voting No: none

Abstaining: none

Absent: Patrick Chilcott

Student Services/SPED Budget Presentation

Mrs. Duncanson said she will discuss department goals, historical information, data and budget recommendations. She said the student services goals include:

Heightening awareness of students with the social/emotional needs, supporting English Language Learners and the requirement put forth by DESE requiring teachers to be endorsed.

Strengthening the sped department's abilities to run effective team meetings working to minimize students' disabilities and maximize their opportunities.

Increasing building based observations of special education team chairs and special education staff and increasing the co-teaching model.

Using a learning center model at the secondary level and explore supporting the content specific areas.

Mrs. Duncanson said the historical data shows the Special Education population has fluctuated but percentage of special education enrollment has stayed around the same. Mrs. Duncanson said there has been an increase in the social emotional diagnoses at the secondary level and an increase in preschool population. Mr. Tropeano said the social emotional issue is a theme across all levels that will have to be addressed.

Mrs. Duncanson explained the FY16 budget increase and noted that tuition and transportation is out of the district's control. Mr. Tropeano pointed out the decrease in Circuit Breaker funding.

Mrs. Duncanson said the current models in Special Education include:

- 3 integrated pre-school programs with more referrals from Early Intervention.
- Elementary and secondary programs include full inclusion, partial inclusion and substantially separate programs at all five schools.
- A transitional program for 18-22 year olds.
- Out of district placements

Mr. Bosworth asked if the district is part of a collaborative and Mrs. Duncanson said the district is not and there isn't a real benefit to being a member of one. Mrs. Duncanson said the Transitional Program trickles down to the middle school. Mrs. Scroggins asked if the Transitional Program can be offered to other districts and Mrs. Obey said the district is confident in the program but there is a limit on the number of students that can ride in the van.

Mrs. Duncanson said the history data for English Language Learners shows that the program has nine students in 2012-2013 and now has 22 in 2015-2016. She informed the committee of the new DESE guidelines for ELLs including the recommended periods of ESL instruction and said the district is moving its instructional model toward the recommendations.

Mrs. Duncanson said the recommended Special Education budget items include one elementary school psychologist to alleviate testing time of other psychologists, one adjustment counselor for elementary and secondary which would allow additional supports for struggling students and increase student engagement, and one BCBA to support struggling students with behavior problems. Mrs. Obey said currently the psychologists don't have time to work with parents.

Mrs. Duncanson said the recommended budget items for ELL include one additional ELL teacher to support the new instructional model from the DESE and provide support to general educators and the purchase of curricular materials in order to expand resources for ESL.

Mrs. Duncanson said the recommended budget items for high quality instruction needs include one elementary special education teacher at each elementary school and one at both the middle and high schools, and professional development for co-teachers. Mrs. Duncanson said co-teaching is the most expensive model to support. Mrs. Obey said the district uses paraprofessionals in place of the special education teachers.

Mr. Tropeano asked for a high level total of unfunded mandates to have a discussion with the representatives. He also asked for a facilities and maintenance presentation and the facility use numbers. Mr. Bosworth asked for a presentation by the ELL teacher.

Update on Superintendent Search

Mr. Tropeano said the screening committee had a good orientation and the members are well qualified for and highly interested and motivated. There are 24 applicants for the superintendent position and the search committee will review applications on Thursday. The week of February 22nd will be interviews.

VOTE: At 8:48 PM, on a motion made by Paul Bosworth and seconded by Suzanne Scroggins, it was unanimously voted to enter Executive Session pursuant to Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(3) to discuss personal service contracts as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the legal position of the School Committee, as declared by the Chair.

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

Voting No: none

Abstaining: none

Absent: Patrick Chilcott

VOTE: At 9:15 PM, on a motion made by Paul Bosworth and seconded by Suzanne Scroggins, it was unanimously voted to adjourn.

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

Voting No: none

Abstaining: none

Absent: Patrick Chilcott

APPROVED: February 23, 2016

MOTIONS

VOTE: On a motion made by Paul Bosworth and seconded by Ginny Wandell, it was unanimously voted to approve the PHS Music trip to the All State Music Festival as presented.

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

Voting No: none

Abstaining: none

Absent: Patrick Chilcott

VOTE: On a motion made by Suzanne Scroggins and seconded by Paul Bosworth, it was unanimously voted to approve the new courses, Art addition of Pre-AP Art, Business addition of Financial Literacy as a semester course and Strategic Marketing & Entrepreneurship full year, Accounting switched to semester from full year, elimination of Entrepreneurship as a semester course, addition of AP Computer Science, addition of AP Computer Science A, addition of Senior Seminar Poetry a semester, addition of Piano Lab II, elimination of

Music Theory II, addition of 3-D Design as a semester, addition of Science Enrichment for High School Success as a semester course. With the following changes, reactivate approved government elective, AP US history from two year to one year, and eliminate Pre-AP Physics.

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

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