PEMBROKE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
Tuesday, January 8, 2019
North Pembroke Elementary School Library
7:00PM

PLEASE NOTE TIME & LOCATION

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; Jessica Duncanson, Director of Student Services.

Present from Committee: Patrick Chilcott, Chair; James Agnew, Secretary and David Boyle
Absent: Suzanne Scroggins, Vice Chair and Michael Tropeano

Acknowledge & Schedule Visitors
Mr. Chilcott welcomed the visitors.
Two audience members asked about the policy to attend vocational school. Mrs. Obey explained the policy and process for vocational education.

Adjustments to the Agenda
Started with Project Lead the Way presentation.

Approval of Bill Schedule
Bills were circulated electronically for committee approval.

Communications
Discussion of Potential Member Appointment to the Town Manager Search Committee
Mr. Chilcott said on December 28, 2018, Massachusetts Governor Charles Baker approved the Town Manager Act submitted by the Town of Pembroke. He said the Town of Pembroke is creating a search committee to begin the processing of hiring a Town Manager. Mr. Chilcott said he asked the Board of Selectmen (BOS) to allow one school committee member to be a representative on the search committee. He added that Mr. Agnew said he is interested in being the representative. Mr. Agnew said the School Committee voice must be put forward in the Town Manager search. Mr. Chilcott said the School Committee will have to vote on the appointment of Mr. Agnew to the search committee after it is confirmed that the BOS has approved the request.

Update on Community Center Project and Potential Future Agenda Item
Mr. Chilcott said Andrew Sullivan called him and asked for some time at a School Committee meeting to talk about the Committee Center project and the Hatch building. Mr. Chilcott requested he be added to the February agenda.
Consideration of Approval: School Committee Meeting Minutes of December 18, 2018

VOTE: On a motion made by David Boyle and seconded by James Agnew, it was unanimously voted to approve the school committee meeting minutes of December 18, 2018 as presented.

Voting Yes: Patrick Chilcott, James Agnew and David Boyle
Voting No: none
Abstaining: none
Absent: Suzanne Scroggins and Michael Tropeano

Project Lead the Way Presentation – PCMS Teachers and Students

Mrs. Obey said the Project Lead the Way (PLTW) program has come to life as what the district wanted it to be. Mrs. Brust said she worked with Mrs. McGarrigle and changed Math Apps to STEM 7 and 8. She said Mrs. Jeffers, Mr. Newall, Mrs. Connick and Mr. Zopatti attended the professional development course for PLTW and have worked diligently to implement the program. Mr. Agnew confirmed that what the teachers received from PLTW is similar to a certification. Mr. Newall said he teaches STEM 8 and his licensure is Math and he has always wanted STEM to be included in the curriculum. He said he was very excited that this became an opportunity for him. Mrs. Jeffers said she taught Math Apps for 14 years and said she also has an Art background, so the program connected with her. Mrs. Connick said her background is Science and Engineering. She said she hears the students walking out of the classroom talking about what they worked on. Mr. Zopatti said he has taught Science for 10 years and said this curriculum and being on a team with the other three teachers has been great. He said the summer professional development course was a lot of work, but he felt accomplished after he completed it. He added that the students are also leaving his class with a feeling of accomplishment. Mr. Newall added that PLTW has a professional development community to collaborate with. Mr. Agnew thanked them for their work.

Mr. Newall said 8th graders are using App Creators and the MIT App Inventor development tool to design and develop mobile apps. He said the result is a real live app that has an audience it can help. Mr. Agnew asked for examples. Mr. Newall said students talked about creating an app that sends out alerts about bad weather. Mr. Zopatti said the students come up with ideas that can help the Pembroke community. Mr. Newall said the hope is that the students look differently at the world around them. Mr. Agnew asked about the pairing of students in classes and Mr. Zopatti said students are rotated into different pairs. Mr. Chilcott asked the teachers if they have what they need technologically to teach the curriculum. Mr. Newall said the tablets are the main need and they have them.

Mrs. Jeffers said STEM 7 is based on design and modeling so it is all about the process and there is no one solution. She said students are getting comfortable with trying different things. Mrs. Connick said its getting students ready for the global experience. She went on the talk about a project her class worked on and said the basis was to come up with something to help someone. She said she likes the community service and empathy piece the curriculum offers. Mrs. Jeffers talked about the SketchUp Software and how students improved from their first try. She said students are on the computer using SketchUp if they finish Titan Time work early. Mrs. Connick went on the explain the Engineering Notebooks. Mrs. Jeffers went on to explain the other units. Mr. Chilcott said the students are so engaged and asked if there is a way to bring this type of learning to other science classes like Chemistry and Physics. Mrs. Brust said there are options, but it is expensive. Mr. Chilcott said the students are learning real life skills and it is so important that the district try to make the program a commitment for the future. He added that the district philosophy is to educate beyond the classroom, like the music program. Mr. Agnew said this is why he wanted to be on the School Committee. He suggested the committee reach out to business for funding as well as Administration continuing to look for grants. Mr. Chilcott said grant money is only for one year and the school committee has been good about making sure a program will be sustainable before beginning it.
**Teacher Technology Update – Brandon Hall**

Mr. Hall said Google’s G Suite for Education is what teachers are now using. He said the postings by teachers and students to Google Classroom have gone from 88 in January 2018 to 211 in January 2019. He said the number of active classes in Google Classroom is 369 up from 332 one year ago. He reviewed data and said it shows an increase in Google usage versus “other” types. He went on to explain the professional development he has participated in. He said he has become a certified Level 1 and Level 2 Google educator as well as a Google certified trainer. He went on to say he is a Seesaw Ambassador, an active member of SCITT and MassCue and he will attend ISTE Philadelphia in June 2019. He said a lot of what he has been doing is class technology integration visits and coaching. He said for class support he has been doing 1 on 1 meetings with staff, assisting teachers with device issues, classroom visits and co-teaching, and making responding as quickly as possible with solutions. He said at the building level he offers administration ways to streamline processes, assists with device repairs, and faculty meeting presentations and Google boot camps. Mr. Hall said weekly he sends out Digital Citizenship Week. He added that there are several things he’d like to accomplish going forward, which includes a Titan Film Festival, an NPR student podcast competition, a 3D printer curriculum and course development, makerspace updates and development. He went on to say he would like to create tech benchmarks, have a EdTech road show, hold more on-on-one coaching sessions, offer additional Google boot camps and certified educator trainings, and embed digital citizenship in all curriculum areas. Mr. Chilcott said Mr. Hall has made a big impact and asked how teachers are responding to the technology changes. Mr. Hall said most teachers are receptive to new technology.

**Superintendent’s Report**

**Update on Virtual School and Next Steps**

Mrs. Obey said the district entered the first round and the prospectus was not invited to second round. She said she has been approached by DESE to defend the prospectus and include additional information that was not originally included. She said it is up to the School Committee to move forward or not. She said the School Committee looked at this option as a way to generate revenue and create opportunities to expose students to vocational options. She added that Mrs. Brust and she have looked at other virtual schools and learned a lot in past seven months. She said the virtual school will become a separate entity, but she has a concern with it being associated with Pembroke. Mr. Boyle said he is unsure what to think as he believes it could be a good revenue source. Mr. Agnew said he thinks the trend toward virtual learning will continue, but he is a bit skeptical. Mr. Chilcott said Mr. Tropeano’s big issue was it being a separate entity and not tied to the Pembroke district. Mr. Chilcott said that finding out the application/prospectus was weak gives him pause. He said if the district wants to challenge the application it will take administration time and resources and he wonders if it will be worth it. Mr. Chilcott added that Pembroke students who enroll in the virtual school will no longer be part of PPS enrollment and that would hurt financially. He said he knows students that have participated in a virtual program and did great. Mr. Agnew agreed that time and resources from Administration will be needed to rewrite the application. Mr. Chilcott said he is struggling with the amount of comments on the application and thinks it was subpar. He questioned whether the district should put Are we willing to put our stamp on this prospectus review and do the benefits to students out weight that.

The committee agreed to have K12 representatives and Attorney Pierce at the second School Committee meeting in February. Mrs. Obey clarified that if the committee does not move forward with the virtual school, it does not negate working with K12 to achieve what Pembroke wants for potential vocational offerings.

**Consideration of Approval: Gift of Musical Instruments to PHS**

Mrs. Obey said the PHS music department has been offered a gift of musical instruments from former student Ryan Damon in the amount of $11,654.50.

**VOTE:** On a motion from James Agnew and seconded by David Boyle, it was unanimously voted to approve the gift from Ryan Damon of $11,654.50 for musical instruments.
Voting Yes: Patrick Chilcott, James Agnew and David Boyle
Voting No: none
Abstaining: none
Absent: Suzanne Scroggins and Michael Tropeano

Subcommittee Update:
Policy Subcommittee
Mrs. Obey said the Policy Subcommittee met to talk about staff/student restrooms. She said the use of bathrooms has been a building policy and she said usage of the bathrooms will be reiterated to staff. Mrs. Obey said the Policy Subcommittee also talked about the lack of an advertising policy and a couple of samples were reviewed. She said she hopes to bring a policy to the School Committee in February for a first read. Mr. Chilcott asked Mrs. Obey to also include the amendment to the vocational policy for review.

Future Meeting Dates and Topics
January 15th

VOTE: At 9:20pm, on a motion made by David Boyle and seconded by James Agnew, it was unanimously voted to adjourn.

Voting Yes: Patrick Chilcott, James Agnew and David Boyle
Voting No: none
Abstaining: none
Absent: Suzanne Scroggins and Michael Tropeano

APPROVED: January 15, 2019

MOTIONS

VOTE: On a motion made by David Boyle and seconded by James Agnew, it was unanimously voted to approve the school committee meeting minutes of December 18, 2018 as presented.

Voting Yes: Patrick Chilcott, James Agnew and David Boyle
Voting No: none
Abstaining: none
Absent: Suzanne Scroggins and Michael Tropeano

VOTE: On a motion from James Agnew and seconded by David Boyle, it was unanimously voted to approve the gift from Ryan Damon of $11,654.50 for musical instruments.

Voting Yes: Patrick Chilcott, James Agnew and David Boyle
Voting No: none
Abstaining: none
Absent: Suzanne Scroggins and Michael Tropeano
VOTE: At 9:20pm, on a motion made by David Boyle and seconded by James Agnew, it was unanimously voted to adjourn.

Voting Yes: Patrick Chilcott, James Agnew and David Boyle
Voting No:  none
Abstaining:  none
Absent:  Suzanne Scroggins and Michael Tropeano