PEMBROKE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
Tuesday, October 15, 2019
Pembroke High School Library
7:30PM

Call to Order
Mr. Tropeano called the meeting to order at 7:30pm.

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

Present from Committee: Michael Tropeano, Chair; David Boyle, Vice Chair; Susie Scholl, Secretary; Suzanne Scroggins and James Agnew

Acknowledge & Schedule Visitors
Mr. Tropeano welcomed the visitors.

Adjustments to the Agenda
Surplus materials and Superintendent’s contract

Approval of Bill Schedule
Bills were sent out for electronic signatures.

Communications
Mr. Tropeano said he will circulate a letter from a North Pembroke Elementary School parent, as a Hanover teacher, asking about Pembroke Public School’s security protocol. Mrs. Obey said Chief Wall and Officer Kirby will attend the next meeting to discuss this topic.

Consideration of Approval: School Committee Meeting Minutes of September 24, 2019

VOTE: On a motion made by David Boyle and seconded by Susie Scholl, it was unanimously voted to approve the School Committee Meeting Minutes of September 24, 2019 as presented.

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

Superintendent’s Report
Football Update – Youth numbers, PHS trends
Mr. Tropeano said the football numbers are down and the committee is looking long term to see if the program is sustainable or if the district will have to create a co-op. Mrs. Obey reviewed the numbers from 2015 to present. She said this discussion is occurring because there was a request for waiver request to allow eight graders to play. Mrs. Obey explained that some students have left PHS for other schools or due to moving. Mrs. Scholl said she wonders about the pressure to commit to one sport being an issue around the numbers declining. Mrs. Obey said she and the Athletic Director are not looking into a co-op right now. Mr. Agnew said he thinks it would be good to go back to the athletes that left football to try to find out why they left. He suggested having a discussion around recommendations for improving the PHS program. Mr. Tropeano said the concern is that low enrollment numbers poses a safety issue. Mrs. Scroggins said she has many questions around this topic and would like to address them with Mr. Domingos. Mrs. Obey said she will schedule him to attend a meeting.

October 1 Enrollment Reports
Mrs. Obey said it is early to predict enrollment for FY21. She said she highlighted the class size sections that she would look at and keep an eye on going into the budget process. She said nothing jumps out across the three elementary schools. She said the middle and high school enrollments are looking to be about the same and at the elementary level there are seven classes over 25 students for FY20. The secondary level has 16 core classes over 28 students and 14 are at PCMS. She said her recommendation for FY21 is to reimagine the PCMS schedule. She said the middle school schedule is rigid and complex and there are a lot of choices for students. She said the schedules of PHS and PCMS are so different and this doesn’t allow for sharing of staff. Mrs. Obey said she is keeping an eye on enrollment numbers for the upcoming budget discussion. She informed the committee that nine students went to private school this year and said the vocational numbers are about the same, at a bit less than 10% of students.

Consideration of Approval: PHS Overnight/Out of State Trip
The committee reviewed the Amnesty International trip. Mrs. Scholl asked if the students are having conversations about the topics covered during the conference. Mrs. Obey said knowing the club advisor, she is sure there is discussion around what information is covered.

VOTE: On a motion made by Suzanne Scroggins and seconded by James Agnew, it was unanimously voted to approve the Amnesty International trip to the Northeast Regional Conference in Providence on November 16, 2019 as presented.

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

VOTE: On a motion made by Susie Scholl and seconded by David Boyle, it was unanimously voted to approve the All State Music Festival trip to Boston March 5-7, 2020 as presented.

Voting Yes: Michael Tropeano, David Boyle, Susie Scholl, Suzanne Scroggins and James Agnew
Voting No: none
Abstaining: none
Absent: none
Mrs. Obey said there are 24/7 chaperones.

**Surplus Material**
Mrs. Brust presented the request of the North Pembroke Elementary Schools books to be deemed surplus as they have not been used in the past 10 years.

**VOTE:** On a motion made by James Agnew and seconded by David Boyle, it was unanimously voted to deem surplus Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry, Tom’s Midnight Garden, The Battle for the Castle, The Door in the Wall and Mathematics Course 2 textbooks.

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

**School Committee Goals - Technology**
Mr. Tropeano said Technology is the last section of the goals document to discuss.

- **Develop a public/private partnership with one Massachusetts based technology enterprise to augment the current technology curriculum. This may include, guest speakers, educational tools and resources, internships, investment/donations to the school district’s technology needs, etc.**

Mrs. Scholl said she likes this idea and suggested something like Senior Project. Mrs. Obey said it is difficult for students to get internship type experience during the day because of the schedule as well as after school because of commitments. Also, schedules at PHS don’t allow for time during the day. Mr. Agnew suggested having local companies come in and augment the classroom experience for a STEM, chemistry or physics lab. Mrs. Scholl suggested looking to parents in the technology field. Mr. Tropeano suggested looking into local technology companies within a 20-30 mile radius that could come to PPS or that can give students opportunities for their Senior Projects. Mrs. Scholl suggested looking into a vocational instructor coming to PPS. Mr. Agnew said this goal was his idea and he was thinking about getting students real world experience and said he thinks the millennials in the work force would be interested in doing something like this. Mr. Tropeano said the parent and alumni community is also an option. Mrs. Obey said Titan Time could possibly be used to build offerings.

- **Continue to explore methods of improving the connectivity and bandwidth within the various buildings in order to integrate the newer technologies into our buildings by evaluating the hardware and software needs as well as physical building structure impact on those improvement initiatives.**

Mrs. Obey said the district has started on this work with the lease-purchase for technology. She said the piece to work on is the physical building structure. She said there is not a lot of funding available to make improvements to the physical buildings and the buildings are old by standard on the South Shore. Mr. Agnew asked if the committee has to put something on the table if thinking about these goals for three or five years. She said there is a three-year technology plan which has to be revisited because it becomes outdated. She added that the philosophy has been that the best bang for the money is training for teachers and reliable devices. She said the district has chipped away at this through the commitments in the budget over the past five years. She said there have been significant investments to improve connectivity and bandwidth. Mrs. Obey suggested putting the technology report on the agenda more frequently.
• Review any reporting noted in the Social and Emotional Health Section of these goals as it relates to technology and consider that in next steps regarding technology advancements and usage throughout the district.

Mr. Tropeano said this doesn't tie to this goal.

• Determine how the district should help educate parents about the ways their children use technology (in and out of school)

Mrs. Obey said the committee talked about hosting a parent university covering technology and other topics to engage families. She added there tends be low to no turnout to these informational nights. Mrs. Scholl said parents need to know what their children are working on. Mrs. Obey said a guest speaker came to North Pembroke a couple of years ago and did a parent night about social media and it was well received. She said she could see this the district educating parents on district technology expectations but have somebody else come in and talk about social media. Mr. Tropeano suggested turning this goal into: Develop a plan and program to educate parents on the uses of technology for their student. He said the committee can then come up with a plan relating to school and out of school.

• Design all our technology [which believe is in progress] where the town, schools and emergency services are all tied together on the same system.

Mr. Obey said the schools are not on the same phone system as Town Hall and the Police Department but now on the same accounting system as the Town. Mrs. Obey added that the school technology is farther along than Town Hall or any other town department. Mr. Tropeano said the committee needs the Town to buy in for this to be a successful goal. He suggested making this a discussion with Chief Wall.

• Starting with our youngest / elementary students to develop good habits and fundamental principles when working with technology.

It was decided that the above ties in to the previous technology goal.

• Additional SMART Goal Suggestions for Technology:

Pembroke Public Schools will develop, maintain, and continuously provide the infrastructure and professional support to ensure that all students have the opportunity to develop and make use of current technology as both a producer and a consumer.

a. Provide students with the necessary opportunities and instruction to develop the skills and aptitude required to make effective use of available technologies in order to succeed in our schools, in college, in the work place, and as a tool for personal growth and development.

b. Develop and provide effective technology training and support for all Pembroke Public Schools staff.

c. Provide all academic classrooms with current and effective technology equipment.

d. Assess technology tools and services in regard to impact on teaching, learning and data management.
It was decided that this ties into the goals above.

Mr. Tropeano said the next step is creating a draft of the goals with the input of all the discussions. Mr. Agnew thanked everyone and said it has been a great process.

**Homeschooling Process Follow Up**

Mrs. Obey said school counsel said the committee can say the names of homeschooling families because by law, once it is on a printed document it is a public record. She added that once the names are on a printed document it is a public document. She met with Mrs. Graziano and said MASC has a sample policy IBG-R. She said the committee can defer to the Superintendent, so that the committee does not need to approve the homeschooling requests in a public meeting. She suggested having the Policy Subcommittee review policy IBG-R and come back to the committee with the information. She explained that privacy was the big issue with the homeschool parents as well as documentation on the homeschooling procedure and both are being worked on.

**Future Meeting Dates and Topics**

10/22, 11/5, 11/19, 12/3, 12/17

VOTE: At 9:05PM, on a motion made by David Boyle and seconded by James Agnew, it was unanimously voted, by roll call vote, to enter Executive Session Pursuant to Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(3) to discuss a legal matter 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, David Boyle, Susie Scholl, Suzanne Scroggins and James Agnew
Voting No: none
Abstaining: none
Absent: none

**APPROVED: November 5, 2019**

**MOTIONS**

VOTE: On a motion made by David Boyle and seconded by Susie Scholl, it was unanimously voted to approve the School Committee Meeting Minutes of September 24, 2019 as presented.

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

VOTE: On a motion made by Suzanne Scroggins and seconded by James Agnew, it was unanimously voted to approve the Amnesty International trip to Northeast Regional Conference in Providence on November 16, 2019 as presented.
VOTE: At 9:05PM, on a motion made by David Boyle and seconded by James Agnew, it was unanimously voted, by roll call vote, to enter Executive Session Pursuant to Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(3) to discuss a legal matter 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, David Boyle, Susie Scholl, Suzanne Scroggins and James Agnew
Voting No: none
Abstaining: none
Absent: none