PEMBROKE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
Tuesday, December 17, 2019
North Pembroke Elementary School Library
7:00PM

Call to Order
Mr. Tropeano called the meeting to order at 7:01pm.

Present from Administration: Mrs. Erin Obey, Superintendent; Marybeth Brust, Assistant Superintendent; Jessica DeLorenzo, 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
None

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

Communications
The committee members received a calendar from Elizabeth Warren and Mr. Tropeano also circulated a note from NEASC regarding the decennial accreditation visit in 2023.

Update from Community Center Task Force
Andrew Sullivan and Michael Guimares presented information about the Community Center project. Mr. Sullivan said he is the Chair of the Community Center Task Force and said the selectmen appointed them to a committee to study the Community Center. In the process he said he looked at the prior two committee’s work. He said the Community Center was built in 1934 as a school and is now in major disrepair and there is asbestos and lead paint present in areas. He said Town funding was approved last year for phase 1 of the study and a company out of Boston that has done other community centers building in the state was hired, including the Marshfield Boys and Girls Club and the Duxbury Council on Aging. He added that the architects presented the project plan at a public forum a couple of weeks ago. Mr. Sullivan presented the draft conceptual renderings which include a two-floor layout with a double basketball court, a second-floor walking track with half the building being the Council on Aging and the other half Pembroke Recreation. He added that the food pantry and Council on Disabilities will also be there. Mr. Tropeano questioned the placement of the project and Mr. Sullivan said it will be on the same footprint. Mr. Sullivan said these plans are not the final plans as those will be completed by the architect by the end of this month and which time his committee will go back to the Selectmen with the information. He said the project will be put on the Spring town meeting warrant. He informed the committee that Pembroke has about 4200 residents over the age of 60 and the
Council on Aging is serving 200 residents but hopes to serve more in this new building. Mr. Agnew said there were discussions around financing several years ago with talk about a public private partnership. Mr. Guimares said he was on the prior committee and that discussion was tabled due to the increased cost of having a private entity taking control of a public project. He explained that with a public project the rates on bonding are much less and it changes the revenue certainty. Mr. Tropeano asked about the plan for the existing Council on Aging building and Mr. Andrews said it is being looked at as a potential revenue stream. Mr. Tropeano asked about public access to this track and how it would be monitored. Mr. Sullivan said the Recreation Center will likely be the scheduler. Mrs. Scholl asked about the displacement of the Recreation Center during construction and Mr. Sullivan said that is still being worked on. Mr. Tropeano said the School Committee can take a vote to endorse the Article at Town meeting but can’t go beyond that.

**Consideration of Approval: School Committee Meeting Minutes of November 5, 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 November 5, 2019.

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

**Superintendent’s Report**

**Consideration of Approval: PHS Homeschool Request**

Mrs. Obey presented the homeschooling request for a junior.

**VOTE:** On a motion made by David Boyle and seconded by James Agnew, it was unanimously voted to approve the homeschooling request for Ryan Ambrose.

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

**Consideration of First Read: School Improvement Plans**

Dr. Glade highlighted the work done with Empowering Writers. She said EW consultants came in for PD with teachers and did after school workshops. She said using data from MCAS. Susie asked to elaborate on trauma awareness. Dr. G said there was a grant and created a trauma council and it meets once per month that started last year. Discuss book that is being read.

Mr. Murphy said Hobomock wants to do more work with teachers seeing other teachers and looking at writing products students are producing. He said he has changed staff meetings around making sure all students have an adult connection in the building. He said working on use of technology platforms for testing.

Mrs. Swift said she the principal advisory council is working on positive restorative justice instead of punitive justice and the desire is to develop a universal approach for social emotional wellness. She added that she is also working with PTO on ways to improve the courtyard and playground.

Mrs. McGarrigle highlighted the achievement goal. She said last year MCAS data was reviewed and meetings were built in the schedule to allow for data discussions through grade levels and content areas. Mrs. Scholl asked for clarification on Edulastic and Mr. McGarrigle explained that it is a math platform that captures student achievement for teachers. Mrs. Brust added that teachers can see as students are answering questions and see where they are going wrong all in real time.
Mr. Talbot said the PHS staff worked over the summer realigning their curriculum to the new standards. In English, Math and Science, teachers are designing lessons that are requiring the students to utilize technologies that they are going to see with MCAS 2.0. He said there is concern over the functionality affecting the scores. He added that AP teachers are utilizing the College Board AP Classroom Dashboard. Mr. Talbot said the major piece of the achievement goals will be around the semester and final exams. He said they are working with EAB and received a turnaround report in the fall. It included schools that are using quarterly assessment and why. He said the Content Supervisors, Assistant Principals and he, recently had a conference call with EAB and they are doing an 8-week deeper dive and he will have those results in late February. He said it is clear that more frequent formative assessments will help students retain knowledge better. He said instead of going all quarterly or keeping the current semester and finals the consideration is blending the two. He believes a benchmark assessment in November/term 1 will help students be more successful in retaining that information come January, the semester exam. He said the same apply would apply to term 3 where there is quarterly exam at the end of the term, which will help students come the finals at the end of the school year. The committee discussed mid-term and final exams.

Mrs. Scholl asked what the communication plan will be for this change, and Mr. Talbot said there will be communication beginning late winter, early spring 2020. He said he would like to open coffee with the principals for parents and use advisory time for the students. He confirmed there will also be written information pushed out.

Mr. Tropeano said he would like the district to highlight Mr. Hall’s innovation room which has a large TV, laptops, a green screen and podcast lab. This will show how the district is creating more ways for students to interact with technology and take a role in their learning.

Review of School Committee Goals & Discussion of tracking tool and timeline
Mr. Tropeano suggested the committee members markup draft document and have a discussion at the second meeting in January.

Policy Subcommittee
Consideration of First/Second Read and Approval:
Mrs. Obey asked the committee to suspend the policy requiring a first and second read as this came out of an audit and the three policies have to be resubmitted this week.

JFABD: Homeless Students Enrollment Rights and Services
JC: Residency and School Admission
JFABF: Educational Opportunities for Children in Foster Care

VOTE: On a motion made by Suzanne Scroggins and seconded by David Boyle, it was unanimously voted to suspend BGB: Policy Adoption and adopt as a second read and approval policy JFABD: Homeless Students Enrollment Rights and Services, JC: Residency and School Admission and JFABF: Educational Opportunities for Children in Foster Care.

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

Consideration of Second Read and Approval:
IHBG & IHBG-R: Homeschooling
Mrs. Obey said it was found in favor of the homeschooling families that reading their names at a School Committee meeting is a violation of their privacy. She said she suggests allowing the Superintendent to give the School Committee a document of the families and the School Committee will accept it instead of approving it.
VOTE: On a motion made by Suzanne Scroggins and seconded by David Boyle, it was unanimously voted to adopt as a second read and approval policy IHBG & IHBG-R: Homeschooling.

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

EFC: Free & Reduced Lunch (replaces 5.71)

VOTE: On a motion made by Suzanne Scroggins and seconded by David Boyle, it was unanimously voted to adopt as a second read and approval policy EFC: Free & Reduced Lunch.

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

EFD: Meal Charge Policy
Mrs. Obey said the unpaid lunch balance is about $30k and the State cannot close the audit until it is paid off. She said internally we are trying to figure out how to get the balance paid down as much as possible. As a result, she said she would like to add a section regarding a $25 charging cap to this policy. She said this allows about two weeks of meals and gives some time for a school administrator or social worker to contact the family to find out what is going on and if they need free/reduced. She said this is the second time since she has been here that the district has had to pay off a large lunch balance, and it is not getting any better. She added that she talked to Town Hall about placing liens on properties with an unpaid lunch balance but that would need a Town Meeting vote and she is willing to go that route next fall. She informed the committee that the Auditor recommended having the policy in place by February but considering it is already January it would not be feasible. Mrs. Obey suggested putting this policy in for the next school year. Mrs. Scroggins said there is a lot going on at the beginning of the school year as is. Mr. Tropeano said he suggests mid-year, so this doesn’t go on. Mrs. Obey said March is doable. Mr. Boyle suggested detailed documentation around communication with families and Mrs. Obey said there is plenty of communication to families when there is an unpaid balance. Mr. Tropeano asked her to bring a plan to the committee around how this will be communicated to families before it is put in place.

VOTE: On a motion made by Suzanne Scroggins and seconded by David Boyle, it was unanimously voted to suspend policy BGB: Policy Adoption with expectation of a second read and adoption in January.

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

JLCC – Communicable Diseases (replaces 5.73)

VOTE: On a motion made by Suzanne Scroggins and seconded by David Boyle, it was unanimously voted to adopt as a second read and approval policy JLCC: Communicable Diseases.

Voting Yes: Michael Tropeano, David Boyle, Suzanne Scroggins, Susie Scholl and James Agnew
Voting No: none
Abstaining: none
Absent: none
VOTE: On a motion made by Suzanne Scroggins and seconded by David Boyle, it was unanimously voted to adopt as a second read and approval policy IHBEA: English Language Learner Programs.

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

Future Meeting Dates and Topics
1/8 and 1/21

VOTE: At 8:30PM, on a motion made by James Agnew and seconded by David Boyle, it was unanimously voted to enter Executive Session Pursuant to Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(3) to discuss collective bargaining strategy since 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, Suzanne Scroggins, Susie Scholl and James Agnew
Voting No: none
Abstaining: none
Absent: none

APPROVED: January 8, 2020

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 November 5, 2019.

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

VOTE: On a motion made by David Boyle and seconded by James Agnew, it was unanimously voted to approve the homeschooling request for Ryan Ambrose.

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

VOTE: On a motion made by Suzanne Scroggins and seconded by David Boyle, it was unanimously voted to suspend BGB: Policy Adoption and adopt as a second read and approval policy JFABD: Homeless Students Enrollment Rights and Services, JC: Residency and School Admission and JFABF: Educational Opportunities for Children in Foster Care.

Voting Yes: Michael Tropeano, David Boyle, Suzanne Scroggins, Susie Scholl and James Agnew
Voting No: none
Abstaining: none
Absent: none
VOTE: On a motion made by Suzanne Scroggins and seconded by David Boyle, it was unanimously voted to adopt as a second read and approval policy IHBG & IHBG-R: Homeschooling.

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

VOTE: On a motion made by Suzanne Scroggins and seconded by David Boyle, it was unanimously voted to adopt as a second read and approval policy EFC: Free & Reduced Lunch.

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

VOTE: On a motion made by Suzanne Scroggins and seconded by David Boyle, it was unanimously voted to suspend policy BGB: Policy Adoption with expectation of a second read and adoption in January.

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

VOTE: On a motion made by Suzanne Scroggins and seconded by David Boyle, it was unanimously voted to adopt as a second read and approval policy JLCC: Communicable Diseases.

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

VOTE: On a motion made by Suzanne Scroggins and seconded by David Boyle, it was unanimously voted to adopt as a second read and approval policy IHBEA: English Language Learner Programs.

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

VOTE: At 8:30PM, on a motion made by James Agnew and seconded by David Boyle, it was unanimously voted to enter Executive Session Pursuant to Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(3) to discuss collective bargaining strategy since 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, Suzanne Scroggins, Susie Scholl and James Agnew
Voting No: none
Abstaining: none
Absent: none