PEMBROKE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING  
Wednesday, January 8, 2020  
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 DeLorenzo, Director of Student Services

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

Absent: Suzanne Scroggins

Acknowledge & Schedule Visitors
Mr. Tropeano welcomed the visitors.

Adjustments to the Agenda
Addition of possible waiver for girls’ softball.

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

Communications
None

Consideration of Approval: School Committee Meeting Minutes of December 17, 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 December 17, 2019 as presented.

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

Wellness Program/Social Emotional Health Presentation
Ms. DeLorenzo said she will highlight the focus for the year and three practices that are being used. She said the focus is a proactive and prevention approach around students' behavior. She said on practice is the use of a therapy dog, another is restorative justice practices and the third is relationship mapping. She explained the idea as using proactive steps before a behavioral incident occurs. These include de-escalation techniques, behavior intervention plans, relationship building and appropriate staffing with the necessary training and/or professional development. She said
staff are working with behavior intervention plans in order to support students with accommodations. She added that they are taking a close look at staffing within the classroom settings and making sure students feel connected using relationship building. She said the BCBA hours have increased from 8 to 12 hours to help staff use tools for supporting students who present with challenging behaviors. The BCBA will also provide professional development opportunities for teachers and paraprofessionals around prevention strategies. Mr. Agnew asked how the BCBA’s time is split and Ms. DeLorenzo said more time is spent at the elementary level but flexible based on the needs of schools. She introduced Amanda Carr, social worker, and said she is the owner of the therapy dog Bodie. Ms. Carr said they work at Hobomock and PCMS this year. Ms. Carr said Bodie is a 6-year-old licensed therapy dog and he is hypoallergenic. She explained the training he went through last year to get his certification. She said Bodie is a cuddly friend to student’s when they are upset. He also works with students in the hallway at PCMS and helps to create social connections between students. She said Bodie helps students in trauma situations by allowing them to vent their problems to him and this can provide helpful information to a social worker. She added he is also certified as a trained reading dog, so he can go to libraries and nursing homes to be read to. She said a few students that were afraid of dogs at beginning of year are now willing to touch Bodie. Mr. Tropeano asked if there are any plans to expand this program and Mrs. Obey said other staff members are interested in becoming a handler to a therapy dog. Ms. Carr explained the process she went through to acquire and license Bodie. Mr. Tropeano requested the committee receive more information on what’s involved, such as training/cost, with acquiring a therapy dog for each school and have the committee consider it to in order to expand the program. The other members agreed.

Mrs. Swift said she will talk about restorative practices versus restorative justice. She said restorative practices means mindset, culture shift, and steps taken to avoid the justice component. She added that the justice component is what is done to repair the harm, and this includes restorative chats, restorative circles, peer mediation, and parent conferences. She explained punitive discipline as being reactive where restorative discipline is proactive. She said restorative discipline involves respect, engagement, support, understanding and reflection. The approach is to develop a community by setting expectations together, building relationships and managing conflict. Mrs. Swift went on to explain the three tiers of Multi-Tiered System of Support/Trauma Informed/PBIS. She explained that Tier 1 is universal support which includes community building, social-emotional learning and affective statements and questions. Tier 2 is targeted intervention which includes restorative discipline and support and Tier 3 is intensive intervention and support. She said there is a teacher at Hobomock using restorative circles and she has seen improvements in students. Mrs. Scholl what grade levels are using this approach and Mrs. Obey said this practice has just started at the elementary level and Mrs. Swift has taken it on at North Pembroke. Mrs. Swift said she has seen less students in her office since starting this. She said a committee will be looking at a restorative toolkit which will include strategies to respond to behaviors, de-escalation techniques and positive reinforcement, universal expectations, consistency in follow through. She presented a behavior reflections example used with students.

Mrs. McGarrigle said PCMS is doing a lot of work on relationships. She said they administered a student relationship survey and a staff-student relationship survey in order to cross reference and create follow up plans. She explained the questions in the student survey. She said it was non-anonymous and students completed it on Google Classroom during 21st century skills class. Mr. Tropeano said the school committee would like to see cohorts to see if there is an uptick or downtick. He suggested expanding this to 6th grade to see how the transition to middle school impacts students. Mrs. McGarrigle said the survey data was cross referenced and was shared with her staff. She said teachers met in Titan time teams during December to review and discuss student lists and begin planning for follow up. She said follow up planning will continue during faculty meetings. Mr. Tropeano said he would like to see 4-5 high level metrics of the 7th and 8th grader survey data.

Superintendent’s Report
Consideration of Second Read and Acknowledgement: School Improvement Plans
Mrs. Obey said there is addition to the PHS Technology goal that Mr. Talbot said he forgot to include at the last meeting.

VOTE: On a motion made by David Boyle and seconded by Susie Scholl, it was unanimously voted to acknowledge the school improvement plans as presented.

Voting Yes: Michael Tropeano, David Boyle, Susie Scholl and James Agnew
**Discussion of FY21 Budget Process and Timeline**

Mrs. Obey discussed the timeline for the departmental budget presentations. Mr. Tropeano suggested all presentations stay to 15 minutes. Mrs. Obey said she will present the Maintenance of Effort (MOE) budget at next meeting.

**MIAA Waiver for 8th grade Softball**

Mrs. Obey said this waiver is for 8th graders to play high school softball. She said last year there were 14 girls on varsity and nine on JV and four seniors graduated so there is concern about numbers. She said there will be 22-24 players so Mr. Domingos is asking for a waiver as there are six 8th graders are interested in playing on JV.

**VOTE:** On a motion made by David Boyle and seconded by James Agnew, it was unanimously voted to approve a waiver for 8th graders to play JV softball.

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

**Policy Subcommittee**

**Consideration of Second Read and Approval: EFD: Meal Charge Policy**

Mrs. Obey said this has the additional section regarding the charging cap of $25. She said this change will go in the weekly broadcasts to all schools. Mr. Tropeano recommended a letter be mailed home to families after February vacation.

**VOTE:** On a motion made by James Agnew and seconded by Susie Scholl, it was unanimously voted to adopt as a second read and approval policy EFD: Meal Charge Policy as amended.

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

**Future Meeting Dates and Topics**

1/21, 2/4, 2/11

**VOTE:** At 9:17PM, on a motion made by David Boyle and seconded by James Agnew, 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. No further business will be discussed.

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

**APPROVED:** January 21, 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 December 17, 2019 as presented.

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

VOTE: On a motion made by David Boyle and seconded by Susie Scholl, it was unanimously voted to acknowledge the school improvement plans as presented.

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

VOTE: On a motion made by David Boyle and seconded by James Agnew, it was unanimously voted to approve a waiver for 8th graders to play JV softball.

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

VOTE: On a motion made by James Agnew and seconded by Susie Scholl, it was unanimously voted to adopt as a second read and approval policy EFD: Meal Charge Policy as amended.

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

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