PEMBROKE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING  
Tuesday, February 4, 2020  
North Pembroke Elementary School Library  
7:00PM

Call to Order  
Mr. Tropeano called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

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 and Susie Scholl, Secretary  
Absent: Suzanne Scroggins and James Agnew

Acknowledge & Schedule Visitors  
Mr. Tropeano welcomed the visitors.

Adjustments to the Agenda  
Added discussion about Hatch Building and the MOU for Foster Care Transportation.

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

Communications  
None

Consideration of Approval: School Committee Meeting Minutes of January 21, 2020

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 January 21, 2020 as presented.

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

Superintendent’s Report  
Consideration for First Read: PHS Program of Studies

Mrs. Obey said the proposed new courses, change to wellness requirement, delayed start change recommendation, and seal of biliteracy were all discussed in an Education Subcommittee meeting. Mr. Talbot said PHS is looking to eliminate the language around students satisfying their PE/Wellness requirement outside of school. He said there are 8 students earning PE credit outside of PHS and they will be allowed to do so until they graduate. Mrs. Obey said this originally was started when the PHS population was around 1100 and there were only two teachers. She added that administration will meet with families regarding exceptions. Mr. Tropeano said he is concerned about the delayed start and the supervision of the students that come to PHS during the one-hour delay. Mrs. Obey said most students don’t take the
bus so she believes there would not be a large number of students there. Mr. Talbot said his conservative estimate is 40% of students. Mrs. Obey said this is a proposal and she has some reservations about the structure and how it would work but common planning time is important. She added she would like to start this conversation and no action has to happen on this now for the Program of Studies to move forward. Mr. Talbot added that PHS staff does not have common planning time during the school day, but the other schools do. He said this delayed start will impact teaching and learning in real time. Mrs. Scholl said she expressed concern in Education Subcommittee about the liability piece and the roll out piece. Mrs. Obey said there has to be a really well thought out plan. The committee decided to table this until further information.

VOTE: On a motion made by David Boyle and seconded by Susie Scholl, it was unanimously voted to accept as a first read the PHS Program of Studies.

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

Elementary/Secondary Budget Presentation
Mr. Talbot said PHS enrollment is trending down at 816 this year down from 843 last year. He reviewed the class sizes and the rationale behind the numbers for the committee. He said the PHS budget priorities include the want of a teacher for the Compass Program and also a Technology Integrator. He said he would like to grow the Compass program to have a more instructional component to be able to fill in content gaps. He explained the students attending the program. He said the Technology Integrator aligns with the district goals of achievement and technology. He added that PHS has ample devices at this time, so they now need to teach the teachers how to integrate the educational technology more readily. He said he is forecasting for FY22 priorities and would like to create courses that are more hands on for students so that they create, design and manufacture finished products. Mrs. Scholl asked if this could alleviate the students that are going off to vocational schools and Mrs. Obey explained that there isn’t a critical mass of students participating in one vocation.

Mrs. McGarrigle said PCMS enrollment is dropping and she is predicting 430 students next year, down from 451. Mrs. Obey pointed out that accelerated class sizes are higher than others. Mrs. McGarrigle reviewed literacy and math foundations numbers. She said World Languages has 75% enrolled in Spanish, 17% in French and 8% in Latin and she added that most middle schools only offer two languages. Mrs. McGarrigle went on to review attendance data and explained the role of the guidance counselors, school psychologist and nurse in social/emotional learning. She said PCMS budget priorities include a request to increase social emotional supports from .5 to 1.0 to keep pace with rising student needs, maintain current level of supports for Literacy and Math foundations, phase out Latin and continue to explore the schedule for potential savings.

Mr. Murphy said Hobomock enrollment is declining with 403 students this year down from 425. He went on to review the number of students on IEPs and 504s at each elementary school. He said social/emotional supports for students are provided by the school psychologists and social workers. He said there is more consistency around what their job role is each day. He went on to explain the work of the social worker and psychologist as it relates to small groups, individual interventions and the classroom-based interventions. Mr. Murphy said elementary budget priorities include a .5FTE social worker for Hobomock because they currently share a social worker with PCMS, restorative practices professional development, grade 6 science curriculum alignment, a screening tool for incoming kindergarteners and transition program for those kindergarteners identified with a need.

Dr. Glaude said the current focus is on Tier 1, 2 and 3 social emotional supports, Empowering Writers, Science, intervention software for math and reading, trauma informed practices PD, and technology/updating devices. She said the elementary schools are seeing in-coming kindergarten themes around readiness inequities of those attending preschool and those not. In addition, they are seeing the need for increased social emotional support, increased academic expectations, and increased Title I/reading intervention support. She added that a screening tool to identify children who need extra support for the transition to school is needed.
Teaching & Learning Budget Presentation
Mrs. Brust said we need to do all we are doing now and go deeper for next year. She said OpenSciEd curriculum will need to be adopted for grades 6-8. She informed the committee that the State passed legislation around requirements for a Civic project and this will require time and development. She added that she would like to continue giving teachers professional development on empowering writers and continue to offer the Studying Skillful Teaching course for 2nd year teachers. Mr. Tropeano asked about any online offering for students to take and get college credit. Mrs. Brust explained the U Lowell engineering program. Mrs. Brust then reviewed the requests for FY21 material and curriculum recommendations from the Content Supervisors.

She highlighted the next steps for the department which include the expansion of Empowering Writers across disciplines K-6, continued training and implementation of Illustrative Math 7-8, Integration of OpenSciEd 6-8, continued expansion of PLTW at PHS, implementation of a the BIO Medical Pathway for 2021, implementation of certificate pathway in Early Childhood Education for 2021, development of a PLTW engineering pathway for 2022 and a U Lowell partnership to provide dual enrollment opportunities.

Student Services Budget Presentation
Mrs. DeLorenzo reviewed the data for this year and said special education enrollment has stayed consistent around 14%-15% or 30-32 students. She added that out of district placements have stayed consistent as well. She reviewed the student placement options which include full inclusion at 70%, partial inclusion at 14%, substantially separate at 7%, public day at 4%, private day at 2% and residential at 1%. Mr. Tropeano questioned health insurance coverage for special education medical services and Mrs. DeLorenzo said there is some Medicaid reimbursement for services documented in a student’s IEP and health insurance usually only covers home services. Mrs. Obey noted that parents have to sign off for the school to get a Medicaid reimbursement and some parents do not. She added that last year’s reimbursement was $58K and it goes directly to the Town. Mrs. DeLorenzo explained 504 plans and said 136 students across the district are on 504s. She went on to say that the ELL population is at 60 students for 19-20 which is up from 48 last year so the district required an additional ELL teacher. Mr. Boyle said there has been a big jump and it will most likely continue to grow. Mr. Tropeano asked if there is a different way to deliver the services and Mrs. DeLorenzo said a full immersion program would be great but it would be difficult to implement. She explained the four levels of need with Level 1 ELLs needing the most support which is about a 45-minute block, and Level 1 makes up 24% of the ELL population. She explained the special education increases are made up of tuition increases, transportation increases, out of district placements, and the increased number of supports needed for student with social/emotional and behavioral needs.

Mrs. DeLorenzo said the Special Education Department goals include exploring PD opportunities for teachers and paras around Restorative Justice. Also, to continue to align staffing to student needs across levels and departments. She said another goal is to sustain the current level of mental health staff relative to student need. Mrs. DeLorenzo went on to say that she is always seeking input from families and the district has not had a solid SEPAC since 2010. She said the SEPAC is a parent run group that works with her around disseminating special education information and supports. Mr. Tropeano suggested partnering with three other towns.

Mrs. DeLorenzo review the department budget FY21 priorities. She said one priority is to hire a full time BCBA as the district currently contracts with PAC for 12 hours per week. A second priority is getting RBT training for paras, a third goal is establishing a partnership with Gosnold for social/emotional counseling and family needs independent of the school. She added the final priorities are expanding the Restorative Justice resources and adding a kindergarten transition program at each building to support at risk kindergarten students. She informed the committee of the medication delegation certification that the district does not have. She said it is based on the ratio of nurses to students and the requirement is 750. She said there is about 10 students with diabetes at PHS, so the recommendation is to swap out a paraprofessional position for a.6FTE LPN in order to qualify for the medication delegation certification.

Mrs. Obey said she asks each department to put together their budget and priorities, which is difficult knowing the current deficit. She said this is done in a vacuum and the next step is for her to come back to the committee with the administration recommended budget which is when everything is prioritized as a group. Mr. Tropeano asked the principals to pick one thing they have to have and one thing that could be given up so that the committee can figure out the best way to solve this.
Consideration of Approval: PHS Overnight Music Trip
Mrs. Obey said this was approved in the fall when the list of trips was presented. This is just to notify the committee of the confirmed dates and number of students/chaperones going.

Mr. Tropeano said Mr. Andrew Sullivan, Chairman of the Community Center project asked about the possibility of using some of the Hatch building for storage and Mr. Sullivan said they would advocate for the building to be renovated with CPC funds. Mr. Tropeano said he let Mr. Sullivan know that significant renovations were needed in order to move forward. He said he recommends on waiting on a motion for this until it is known what the Community Center looks like cost wise/program wise, and then take an all-encompassing motion. Mr. Tropeano added that the Historical Society is also interested in using part of the Hatch building. Mr. Tropeano said the district should consider this if it falls under the conveyance of the deed to the Town, but this is conceptual at this time.

Discussion of FY21 Town Meeting Articles
Capital Items
Mrs. Obey reviewed the capital items list which include:
- Security cameras for interior at PCMS, Hobomock, North Pembroke and Bryantville
- One HVAC unit replacement at PHS
- Bus to replace PM1 (2007)
- Vans to include one similar to the one used for the Transition Program
- Dodge Caravan 7D

Mrs. Obey said she suggests piloting in-district special education transportation services. She reviewed the district’s current costs. She suggested starting small with two vans. The committee agreed.

VOTE: On a motion made by David Boyle and seconded by Susie Scholl, it was unanimously voted to submit the capital items to the Town Meeting warrant as presented.

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

MOU for Foster Care Transportation
Mrs. Obey said this year districts are eligible for reimbursement of foster care transportation which requires a Town meeting vote. She said she would like to move forward to receive reimbursement in FY21. She presented the sample article language.

Vote: On a motion made by David Boyle and seconded by Susie Scholl, it was unanimously voted to authorize the Superintendent to submit the transportation article for the annual Town meeting warrant with the explanation including that there is no cost to the Town and allows the school district to file for reimbursement for children under foster care being transported.

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

Future Meeting Dates and Topics
2/12

VOTE: At 9:23PM, on a motion made by David Boyle and seconded by Susie Scholl, it was unanimously voted to adjourn.

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

**APPROVED: March 3, 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 January 21, 2020 as presented.

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

VOTE: On a motion made by David Boyle and seconded by Susie Scholl, it was unanimously voted to accept as a first read the PHS Program of Studies.

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

VOTE: On a motion made by David Boyle and seconded by Susie Scholl, it was unanimously voted to submit the capital items to the Town Meeting warrant as presented.

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

Vote: On a motion made by David Boyle and seconded by Susie Scholl, it was unanimously voted to authorize the Superintendent to submit the transportation article for the annual Town meeting warrant with the explanation including that there is no cost to the Town and allows the school district to file for reimbursement for children under foster care being transported.

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

VOTE: At 9:23PM, on a motion made by David Boyle and seconded by Susie Scholl, it was unanimously voted to adjourn.

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