



72 Pilgrim Road, Pembroke, MA 02359
www.pembrokek12.org
pembroke@pembrokek12.org

PEMBROKE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
Tuesday, December 21, 2021
North Pembroke Elementary School Library

7:00 PM

Call to Order

Mr. Tropeano called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

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

Present from Committee: Michael Tropeano, Chair; David Boyle, Vice Chair Susan Bollinger, Secretary; Lance Kennedy and Susie Scholl

Acknowledge & Schedule Visitors

No audience members.

Adjustments to Agenda

Masking update

Communications

Mr. Tropeano said the committee received a request to send a similar letter to the one the Kingston School Committee sent to Commissioner Riley regarding data being used to establish masking provisions for schools. Mrs. Scholl said she is behind the idea of getting more information and asked that the letter request that information around the various Covid variants be included in their assessment. Mr. Kennedy said the concept applies to Pembroke and he supports getting the additional details. Mr. Boyle said he wonders how Silver Lake feels and that he would like the committee to sign their names to the letter. Mrs. Bollinger said she would like all committee members name on the letter as well. Mr. Tropeano said he likes that the letter is asking for the off ramp to get out of where we are today and said he will work with Mrs. Obey to adjust the letter to be more specific to PPS and then the committee will vote on it in January.

Mrs. Obey said she sent a communication to families and community around school safety. Given all that has happened around the country it is good time to have a conversation about school safety and protocols. She and Chief McDonald will hold a virtual public safety forum on January 10th at 6PM. An FBI agent that works on this throughout the nation will be attending. The intent is to get feedback from families in order to address some concerns and people will be asked to submit questions ahead of the meeting. She would also like to schedule Chief McDonald and the school resource officer to come to a school committee in January.

Approval of Bill Schedule

Warrants were sent out electronically for approval.

Consideration of Approval: School Committee Minutes of December 7, 2021

VOTE: On a motion made by Susie Scholl and seconded by David Boyle, it was unanimously voted to approve the school committee meeting minutes of December 7, 2021 as presented.

Voting Yes: Michael Tropeano, David Boyle, Susie Scholl, Lance Kennedy and Susan Bollinger
Voting No: none
Abstaining: none

Absent: none

Superintendent's Report

Interrupted Learning Update

Mrs. Brust said three exciting things are happening which includes tutoring, acceleration academies and teacher professional development. At this point work is being done on developing interventions and progress monitoring. Data has been collected on where students are at in relationship to the skills that are identified as their core standards and tutors will be hired to work with students. Tutoring will start in January with the K-2 students and they will work on literacy and skill sets, grades 3-6 will work on reading and math and grades 7-10 will work on English, math and science. Students will be in the tutoring program for a short period of time in order to remediate a particular skill. There is a better pool of applicants for the tutoring positions and the district hopes to bring back some retired teachers.

Mrs. Brust said she is also excited about getting a \$160k grant from the State to provide Math acceleration academies. It is based on student population in grades 3-10 and the money is to pay teachers stipends. It is geared for February and April vacation with requirements around how much math time is provided, and specialists are required for the lower grades, so their day is not just math. It will be offered Tuesday-Friday of the vacation weeks due to holidays on Monday. Grant guidelines are very specific as to how students are learning, and teachers should balance instructional time around conceptual understanding, application, and procedural fluency with an emphasis on problem-based learning. Lastly, there is teacher professional development by Ribas during in service days around accelerated learning versus remediation.

Consideration of Approval Surplus Materials: 2 Pembroke owned School Buses

Mrs. Obey said two buses were purchased following the split from Silver Lake and this saved \$60k - \$80k per year versus using a transportation provider. They are old busses and both buses have failed inspections this year and the district can fund new buses out of the transportation revolving account. The district has been saving money in the revolving account knowing the busses would need to be replaced. Mrs. Obey said she suggests replacing the two buses and deeming the current buses surplus and put the money toward the purchase. Mrs. Obey said the cost is \$192k for two buses and the current buses will be traded in for about \$1k each. The lead time is July for the buses and the district is currently renting buses until the purchase.

VOTE: On a motion made by David Boyle and seconded by Lance Kennedy, it was unanimously voted to deem P1 and P2 surplus per the memo.

Voting Yes: Michael Tropeano, David Boyle, Susie Scholl, Lance Kennedy and Susan Bollinger

Voting No: none

Abstaining: none

Absent: none

Consideration of First Read: PHS Program of Studies

Mrs. Obey said the full red line version of the POS is included in the packet along with all new course proposals. This is a first reading, and the Education Subcommittee will meet the first week in January to make a recommendation to the full committee for a second reading in January. New course proposals include pathways to Business and Entrepreneurship, Computer Science, and Digital Arts. Mr. Tropeano said he would like to see where the pathways will get students and what the desired outcomes are. Mrs. Brust said the internship opportunity and the certification option will address this. The district has partnered with Mass Hire, and they advise as to where the job market is going to be in the next five, ten and fifteen years. She said the two pathways that are on the back burner because they are more elaborate in terms of implementing is a biomedical certification and a manufacturing and engineering certification. These are different in terms of training and capital purchases. Mr. Tropeano said it may not get students a certification, but it might get them the first year of a two year certification program. Mrs. Brust said grants are being written for the biomedical and manufacturing and engineering pathways. The pathways will be brought to the Chamber of Commerce with pathways.

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

Voting Yes: Michael Tropeano, David Boyle, Susie Scholl, Lance Kennedy and Susan Bollinger

Voting No: none

Abstaining: none

Absent: none

Review of FY23 Budget Timeline and Scheduled Presentations

Mrs. Obey said in January she will present the MOE budget. The timeline she drafted shows February will be the Teaching and Learning and Student Services and Elementary and Secondary budget presentations. March will be Athletics/Facilities and Technology and Visual and Performing Arts. April will be the administration recommended budget, the fee discussion and budget balancing. May is the Public Budget Hearing and Town Meeting is on 5/10/22. Mr. Tropeano said he thinks the numbers coming from the State will be later this year and suggested pushing some things to March. The decision was to start presentations in February with Athletics/Facilities and Technology and Visual and Performing Arts. March will be Teaching and Learning and an interrupted learning update along with Student Services and a social emotional update and the elementary and secondary budget presentations.

Mrs. Obey said there is no new information about the 1/15 DESE masking mandate as Commissioner Riley wants to wait until after the holiday. The requirement is still 80% vaccination or greater for the masking waiver. The municipal vaccination rate as of 12/16 has had minimal movement since 12/2. Current PHS vaccination rate is 73.47% off by 59 to get to 80%. PCMS vaccination rate is 64.78% and once it reaches 70% the district will start collecting vaccination data of staff. School aged covid cases spiked following the Thanksgiving break and a spike is expected after winter break. Families that take home tests and are positive should contact the Pembroke BOH, so the numbers are accurate. If there is a spike greater than Thanksgiving, the elementary level support staff will be shifted to supply more support to at home students. Some teachers live stream but are not required to. Another option is to fill substitute positions with college students. At the secondary level, the National Honor students will be available on Google Meet during Titan Time to help at home students with assignments and an at home support schedule will be created by content area for student check ins.

Mrs. Obey said the Test and Stay program is only available to unvaccinated school based exposures per DESE and students should quarantine outside of school hours during that timeframe. State contact tracing has been disbanded but PPS nurses are managing school contact tracing. Mr. Tropeano confirmed that no students have been hospitalized. Mr. Tropeano asked if any cases are from school based exposure and Mrs. Obey said a cluster was seen in grade 6 at North Pembroke but it was related to Thanksgiving break and a cluster of preschool students and the BOH has not determined that it's school based because all students are participating in something out of school. If leaving the country, students need a negative test from a doctor or lab to return to school.

Future Meeting Dates and Topics

1/4 virtual meeting at 7:30pm to approve the draft letter to Commissioner Riley.

1/25

VOTE: At 8:25PM, on a motion made by Lance Kennedy and seconded by David Boyle, it was unanimously voted to adjourn.

Voting Yes: Michael Tropeano, David Boyle, Susie Scholl, Lance Kennedy and Susan Bollinger

Voting No: none

Abstaining: none

Absent: none

APPROVED: January 25, 2022

MOTIONS

VOTE: On a motion made by Susie Scholl and seconded by David Boyle, it was unanimously voted to approve the school committee meeting minutes of December 7, 2021 as presented.

Voting Yes: Michael Tropeano, David Boyle, Susie Scholl, Lance Kennedy and Susan Bollinger

Voting No: none

Abstaining: none

Absent: none

VOTE: On a motion made by David Boyle and seconded by Lance Kennedy, it was unanimously voted to deem P1 and P2 surplus per the memo.

Voting Yes: Michael Tropeano, David Boyle, Susie Scholl, Lance Kennedy and Susan Bollinger
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 PHS Program of Studies as presented as a first read.

Voting Yes: Michael Tropeano, David Boyle, Susie Scholl, Lance Kennedy and Susan Bollinger
Voting No: none
Abstaining: none
Absent: none

VOTE: At 8:25PM, on a motion made by Lance Kennedy and seconded by David Boyle, it was unanimously voted to adjourn.

Voting Yes: Michael Tropeano, David Boyle, Susie Scholl, Lance Kennedy and Susan Bollinger
Voting No: none
Abstaining: none
Absent: none