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PEMBROKE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
Tuesday, January 25, 2021
North Pembroke Elementary School Library

7:00 PM

Call to Order

Mr. Tropeano called the meeting to order at 7:07 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 and Lance Kennedy

Absent: Susie Scholl

Acknowledge & Schedule Visitors

Mr. Tropeano welcomed the audience members.

Adjustments to Agenda

Consideration for Approval: Adjustments to Facilities Usage Forms

Discussion: Draft Communication to DECA

Communications

None

Approval of Bill Schedule

Warrants were sent out electronically for approval.

Superintendent's Report

FY22 Budget for Certification

Mr. Tropeano said the committee needs to certify the line items of the FY22 budget of \$35,500,000.00. Mrs. Obey said the categories are based on the Chart of Accounts from the State.

VOTE: On a motion made by Susan Bollinger and seconded by Lance Kennedy, it was unanimously voted to certify the FY22 budget.

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

Voting No: none

Abstaining: none

Absent: Susie Scholl

FY23 Maintenance of Effort Budget

Mrs. Obey said MOE means Maintenance of Effort Budget. This means doing everything this year at next year's prices. The FY22 budget was \$35,500,000. The FY23 MOE as of January 2021 is \$36,675,085, a difference of \$1,175,085. Mrs. Obey cautioned it is early in the budget cycle so this budget gap should not be alarming.

The drivers for the overall budget increase include the CBA agreements/COLAs and the SPED tuition pre-buy. The district had a \$585k pre-buy of special education tuition last fiscal year and the goal is to do it again this year. This will bring down the current budget gap. The district is on target to do it and there are placeholders for possible special education placements.

The areas to keep in mind when building out the budget priorities for FY23 include measures to close achievement gap associated with remote/hybrid learning which include additional summer school programs, additional instructional opportunities for students and additional materials/intervention software/credit recovery. Special education tuition has stabilized within the district over the past few years and a 2.4% increase for FY23 can be planned for. This increase includes placeholders so there is the potential for the percentage increase to come down. The focus areas for the FY23 budget are social emotional supports, achievement and technology. Budget presentations from the elementary and secondary levels, Teaching and Learning, Student Services, Facilities/Athletics and VPA will occur over the next few weeks and will supply more detail around the focus areas. The areas to develop for possible revenue and reductions are the Special Education pre-buy, elementary class size and sections, the restructuring of the specialist schedule, the support structure (social workers, RBT model and paras), program offerings/level of student choice, and fees. This will all be looked at before the administrative recommended budget is presented. This process will continue through March and April with a public budget hearing in April and the final budget number given to the Selectmen for Town Meeting in May.

Mrs. Obey said the state numbers aren't out yet but possibly this week. The Governor's budget is the first look at the Chapter 70 funding for FY23. In January, the Budget Subcommittee will meet with the Town Administrator and Town accountant to discuss funding. During January and February the Administration will work with the staff and school committee to determine priorities, and budget drafts will be developed to bring to the school committee for review and discussion. There will be an update on ESSER funds at the next meeting.

Consideration for Second Read and Approval: PHS Program of Studies

Mrs. Obey said the Education Subcommittee met recently and created the career pathways document for the Program of Studies. The pathways are Business and Entrepreneurship, Computer Science and Digital Arts. The long term goal is to offer a Manufacturing and Engineering and Biotechnology pathways. Mr. Kennedy said this will put the district at the forefront. Mrs. Bollinger said she is excited to see this happen. Mrs. Obey said the budget impact will be a half time teacher and a half time coordinator. Mr. Tropeano asked about the new course proposal for Physical Science and Mrs. Brust said it is a college prep class that will introduce students to the essential concepts of chemistry and physics before they take a full year of either. Mr. Tropeano asked about the funding of the materials and Mrs. Obey said the initial purchase can be paid through the district curriculum line and any materials needed after that to maintain the course will come from the building based budgets.

VOTE: On a motion made by Susan Bollinger and seconded by Lance Kennedy, it was unanimously voted to approve the changes to the PHS Program of Studies as a presented.

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

Voting No: none

Abstaining: none

Absent: Susie Scholl

Consideration for Approval: Surplus Materials – Technology

Mrs. Obey said have 106 projectors and 90 screens that are surplus due to the new wall mounted projector replacement project. Also, there are 120 laptops, but some will be used as emergency loaners.

VOTE: On a motion made by David Boyle and seconded by Susan Bollinger, it was unanimously voted to approve the surplus request as presented.

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

Voting No: none

Abstaining: none

Absent: Susie Scholl

COVID/Masking and Testing Update

Mrs. Obey said PHS 76.98% of the PHS population is vaccinated and she is confident PHS will get to 80% soon and be eligible for the masking waiver. DESE highly recommends unvaccinated people still wear masks. PCMS vaccination rate is at 71.12% and is expect to go up in next week or two as more students will be getting their second shot. The district will begin collecting staff attestation data now that PCMS is at 70% of students.

The updated testing protocol is that the State will discontinue the Test and Stay program and contract tracing as of 2/4 and she suggests the district follows that timeline. Staff and families would opt-in to the home testing program and would be provided with an at home testing kit. They can get two tests every other week and can test weekly regardless of vaccination status. At home positive tests should be reported to the school nurse and BOH. Per DESE, it was determined that close contacts in school are unlikely to contract or spread Covid-19 in schools. The shift away from contact tracing will allow for a return to traditional cafeteria seating and for additional flexibility in classroom seating arrangements. Mrs. Obey added that the school mask mandate was extended through 2/28/22. The updated testing option is available to schools 1/24-4/2/22.

Mr. Tropeano read a portion of an email from Saturday from a Sandwich school committee member.

VOTE: On a motion made by Susan Bollinger and seconded by David Boyle, it was unanimously voted to transition to the at home testing protocol and cease Test and Stay and contract tracing as of 2/4/22.

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

Voting No: none

Abstaining: none

Absent: Susie Scholl

Mrs. Barone read an email she sent to Mrs. Obey and Mrs. Bollinger (attached).

Mrs. Jasie said she would like to see more of an effort and action on behalf of students' mental health as she feels the school committee has been complacent. Mr. Tropeano said he takes offense to that, and Mr. Boyle agreed. He said the committee has not been complacent and they have taken action as requested, and in addition, putting in many hours beyond the monthly public meetings. Mrs. Obey said there are likeminded superintendents and school committees on the south shore, but this is not the case throughout the entire State. She added that the school committee consistently advocates for the student's and district's needs.

Mrs. Jasie asked about the Covid Cares funding and Mrs. Obey said that funding expired 12/31/21. Mrs. Obey went on to break down the various funding that has been available as a result of the pandemic.

Mr. Hamilton asked if Camp Bournedale will take place this year and Mrs. Obey said she will look into it and give an update at the March 1st meeting.

Discussion: Draft Communications to DECA

Mr. Tropeano said the host site of DECA is requiring students to be vaccinated. The superintendent has drafted a letter asking DECA to have an alternative to the vaccination requirement, such as a testing option for students or offer a virtual option.

VOTE: On a motion made by Lance Kennedy and seconded by Susan Bollinger, it was unanimously voted to authorize the superintendent to send the letter to DECA on the school committee's behalf as amended.

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

Voting No: none

Abstaining: none

Absent: Susie Scholl

Consideration for Approval: Adjustments to Facilities Usage Forms

Mrs. Obey presented the redline version of the updated forms indicating the rate for 1:1 tutorial/instruction of Pembroke students will be 10% of receipts and instructions on how to submit an online facilities usage request.

VOTE: On a motion made by Susan Bollinger and seconded by Lance Kennedy, it was unanimously voted to approve the facilities usage form as presented.

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

Voting No: none

Abstaining: none

Absent: Susie Scholl

Consideration of Approval: School Committee Minutes of December 21, 2021 and January 4, 2022

VOTE: On a motion made by Susan Bollinger and seconded by Lance Kennedy, it was unanimously voted to approve the school committee meeting minutes of December 21, 2021 and January 4, 2022 as presented.

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

Voting No: none

Abstaining: none

Absent: Susie Scholl

Future Meeting Dates and Topics

2/1

VOTE: At 8:59PM, on a motion made by David Boyle and seconded by Susan Bollinger, it was unanimously voted to adjourn.

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

Voting No: none

Abstaining: none

Absent: Susie Scholl

APPROVED: February 1, 2022

MOTIONS

VOTE: On a motion made by Susan Bollinger and seconded by Lance Kennedy, it was unanimously voted to certify the FY22 budget.

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

Voting No: none

Abstaining: none

Absent: Susie Scholl

VOTE: On a motion made by Susan Bollinger and seconded by Lance Kennedy, it was unanimously voted to approve the changes to the PHS Program of Studies as a presented.

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

Voting No: none

Abstaining: none

Absent: Susie Scholl

VOTE: On a motion made by David Boyle and seconded by Susan Bollinger, it was unanimously voted to approve the surplus request as presented.

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

Voting No: none

Abstaining: none

Absent: Susie Scholl

VOTE: On a motion made by Susan Bollinger and seconded by David Boyle, it was unanimously voted to transition to at home testing protocol and cease Test and Stay and contract tracing as of 2/4/22.

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

Voting No: none

Abstaining: none

Absent: Susie Scholl

VOTE: On a motion made by Lance Kennedy and seconded by Susan Bollinger, it was unanimously voted to authorize the superintendent to send the letter to DECA on the school committee's behalf as amended.

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

VOTE: On a motion made by Susan Bollinger and seconded by Lance Kennedy, it was unanimously voted to approve the facilities usage form as presented.

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

VOTE: On a motion made by Susan Bollinger and seconded by Lance Kennedy, it was unanimously voted to approve the school committee meeting minutes of December 21, 2021 and January 4, 2022 as presented.

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

VOTE: At 8:59PM, on a motion made by David Boyle and seconded by Susan Bollinger, it was unanimously voted to adjourn.

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