



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

PEMBROKE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
Tuesday, February 1, 2021
North Pembroke Elementary School Library

7:00 PM

Call to Order

Mr. Tropeano called the meeting to order at 7:08 pm.

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

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

Acknowledge & Schedule Visitors

Mr. Tropeano welcome the audience members.

Adjustments to Agenda

Executive Session on collective bargaining

Approval of Bill Schedule

Warrants were sent out electronically for approval.

Superintendent's Report

FY23 Visual and Performing Arts Presentation

Mrs. Chapman said the VPA department strives to provide outstanding performing and artistic opportunities. Three students were accepted to the All State Chorus and students were accepted to the Junior District and Senior District. The ongoing goals are to improve achievement for all students by providing outstanding performing and artistic opportunities both in and out of the classroom, supporting and developing excellent instruction by continuing to refine and share best instructional practices, aligning, developing and revising curriculum and recruiting and retaining students in the music program.

Current staffing total is 14.2. Bryantville, Hobomock and North Pembroke have one visual art and one music teacher. PCMS has one visual art and 1.2 music teachers and PHS has three visual art and 1.8 music teachers.

5th and 6th grade instrumental enrollment for 2021-2022 is 168 students. VPA class enrollment at PCMS is 82% enrolled in art and 77% enrolled in music and PHS has 42% enrolled in art and 21% in music.

The FY23 costs for preserving the VPA programs total \$90k and are made up of textbooks at \$6K, instructional supplies at \$35k, contracted services at \$12,500, subscriptions at \$4k, instructional technology at \$3,500, instructional equipment at \$14k and transportation to festivals, parades and competitions at \$15k.

The priority budget requests for FY23 are to restore a .2FTE at PHS to restore piano and guitar lab at a cost of \$15k. Restore a .4FTE to PCMS to get chorus and orchestra classes back in the school day and not a pull-out club at a cost of \$30k. Replace the Clavinova digital piano in the PHS choir room as it is no longer working at a cost of \$7k. Right now the department is loaning one. Total of these requests is \$52k.

The next steps for the VPA department are to continue to look at K-12 learning gaps and curriculum modifications. Explore new ideas to attract and retain students in the string and choral programs. Continue to embed SEL in the K-12 arts curriculum and continue to seek out and apply for grants.

Mrs. Bollinger asked if it is possible to start planning the “world tour” concert and Mrs. Chapman said it will have to be worked on with Mrs. Obey to see where it can fit in. Mrs. Bollinger said with the emotional toll of COVID she feels art and music are very important right now and she would like to see chorus offered at PCMS. Mrs. Obey said the orbit model was created three year ago and worked best in providing exposure to the music and art classes and provided efficiency in the PCMS schedule. She said she can look at the schedule with Mrs. McGarrigle to see if anything can be done. Mr. Tropeano said going down this path and making a change could cause a cut somewhere else. Mrs. Scholl confirmed that enrollment increased as a result of the orbit model. Mrs. Obey said the district can get creative with the schedule such as considering Monday Titan Time as a block that could be used. Mrs. Chapman said the current model works well as students are not missing academic time, Mr. Kennedy asked where she would like to see the VPA department go, and Mrs. Chapman said she is excited to grow the digital art pathway and with music the next piece is looking at the music theory elective and morphing the course into a music technology lab to gain student interest. Mr. Tropeano asked about additional costs for the digital art pathway and Ms. Brust said around \$7k. Mr. Tropeano suggested looking at offering the certificate program to members of the community as a revenue source.

FY23 Technology Presentation

Mr. Hall said the department goals and outcomes are broken into four buckets, faculty/staff, students, hardware and infrastructure. The department goals include providing staff with best practices in educational technology using frequent professional development on cutting edge curriculum planning.

Ensure faculty and staff are using the most up-to-date devices available for workload with a three-year device cycle. Expand makerspaces district wide with instructional technology budget line to include more robotics, drones, media creation, and guaranteeing all buildings have equal assets. Ensure our students are learning the using latest methods and materials while practicing good digital citizenship and safety. Guarantee device equity amongst all learners across the district. Safeguard and provide security for our technology infrastructure. Continue replacement cycles for network hardware based on life expectancy, eRate funding availability, other federal funding opportunities

The FY2021-22 successes within the faculty/staff bucket include the addition of a Digital Learning Specialist, Michael Tinker. The implementation of PearDeck as a student engagement platform. The use of EdTech coaching platform ConnectHub for professional development. Staff members presenting at, and attending, state and regional technology professional development. Weekly digital learning updates via Tech Tip Tuesday.

Successes within the students bucket include 3D printing and design in each elementary library as well as PCMS and PHS in courses. Continuation of the PLTW Curriculum at PCMS. Further expansion of STEAM-based makerspaces at all three elementary schools. Expansion of PHS Innovation Lab via a competitive grant from MassCUE for a total of \$2025. Provided T Mobile wireless internet for families in need. Expanded “Coding across the curriculum” and digital learning skills.

Successes within the hardware bucket include new secondary staff devices purchased with 40% subsidy from the Emergency Connectivity Fund via federal funding. Replacement and installation of new ultra-short throw projector and speaker systems in all three elementary schools and PCMS, digital upgrades via ESSER Funding. Replacement sound systems and digital video upgrades at PHS via ESSER Funding.

Successes within the infrastructure bucket include the continued upgrades to the wireless internet with new and larger access points via eRate Funding. Upgrades to our networking equipment with virtual backups using VMWare. Upgrades to our firewall and threat protection.

Current Staffing levels include one Director of Instructional Technology, one Software and Data Manager, one Network Manager, one Media Technician, one digital learning specialist and five building based Technology Integrators.

Current yearly recurring expenses are staffing at \$450K, software, licensing, support at \$345K, internet at \$12k and supplies and materials at \$50k.

Going forward the goal is to turn the elementary schools libraries into STEM Labs to start a pathway that leads to PCMS Project Lead the Way and then to PHS Computer Science and Engineering Pathway. This involves changing the library paraprofessional positions to teaching positions. An additional staffing need is a full-time junior network administrator to help with expansion of devices and network.

The priority 1 device requests for the department include 140 elementary laptops as the current ones are unable to meet staff needs. 30 additional projectors to complete the project. 785 student Chromebooks because the lease

agreement expires October 2022. Mrs. Obey said the district is working on what is correct number to be replaced as the district is not a 1:1 district.

The priority 2 requests include a secure storage solution for elementary Chromebooks and iPads in each classroom and desktop replacement for Computer Science and Digital Arts classes.

The priority hardware/equipment requests include security cameras for the interior of elementary and PCMS. VMWare Server Replacement as it is no longer supported after FY2023. Continued PA replacements in all buildings. Universal power supply battery backup in the event of a power outage. These requests total \$97,200.

Software needs for FY23 include GoGuardian Teacher and Admin Software, Seesaw Premium, Google Enterprise, PearDeck, Threat protections against DDoS attacks and network management software.

Summary of the requests:

Preserving existing staff, software and programs – \$857k

Addition of staff – \$255k

Device replacement cycle – \$460k

Hardware replacement cycle – \$97,200

The next steps for the Technology department are to develop STEAM specialist program and curriculum at elementary level, develop a Junior Network Administrator position, continue expansion of PLTW and Career Pathways, further build out of makerspaces at all levels and add a Digital Learning Specialist in each building.

Mr. Tropeano said the Governor's budget came out at \$30 per student. He said the committee does not have the Town number yet, so it makes sense to push out the meeting on the 2/15.

COVID/Masking Update

Current student cases as of 2/1/22 is 12 and that is less than .5 percent.

PHS vaccination as of today is 77.5% and PCMS vaccination is 72.76%. 35 more students will put it at 80% and then the district can file for the masking waiver.

VOTE: On a motion made by Susan Bollinger and seconded by Lance Kennedy, it was unanimously voted to authorize the superintendent to request the waiver from DESE when PCMS and/or PHS reaches 80% vaccination.

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

Voting No: none

Abstaining: none

Absent: David Boyle

Mrs. Obey said the turnaround time of the waiver is about 48 hours. At home testing program test distribution is Thursday 2/3 for any staff or families that opted in by 1/31,

Communications

Consideration of Draft Communication regarding trips (in state/out of state/overnight)

Administration will look at school trips that are going to a venue that is requiring vaccination to confirm that there is an exemption available.

VOTE: On a motion made by Lance Kennedy and seconded by Susan Bollinger, it was unanimously voted to authorize the superintendent to write a letter to venues that are not allowing a school exemption for a vaccine mandate.

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

Voting No: none

Abstaining: none

Absent: David Boyle

Mrs. Bollinger suggested that the committee should consider not going on field trips if all students can't go due to vaccination status. Mrs. Obey suggested the Policy Subcommittee meet to discuss field trips. Mr. Kennedy said the what's valuable to some may not be valuable to others so the committee can't know what's important to everyone. Mrs. Scholl said the committee doesn't want students to get excited only to find out they can't attend. Mr. Tropeano agreed and suggested having the Policy Subcommittee decide on a policy surrounding the field trips.

Student Vincent Barone read a letter regarding his concern over wearing masks in school. He feels it is detrimental to his health and mental well-being and said he will no longer complying with the mask mandate as he is suffering. Mr. Tropeano said he understands and appreciates the concern around social emotional health. Not getting the funding from DESE for not complying with the mandate means the district would have to shut down and this is not an option. The district is doing what it can and continues to work on supports for students. Mrs. DeLorenzo said the social workers are available and students are encouraged to reach out to them as well as to the Guidance Department. Mrs. Scholl suggested students reach out to the State Representatives about their feelings as well. Mrs. Bollinger reiterated that the committee is also frustrated about the masking mandate.

Mrs. Barone said her child is suffering and a dollar amount cannot be put on that. Mr. Tropeano said it will be a multiyear effort to get students back to where they should be socially, emotionally and academically. Mrs. Barone read a statement which in part suggests that like-minded south shore superintendents and school boards team up and apply for an emergency injunction over ruling the mask mandate while DESE litigation plays out in court or not comply with the mandate if they don't respond. She stands by her son not wearing a mask and said DESE does not know what is best for him.

Mrs. Jasie said she is concerned about the interior cameras being installed and the mental impact on students. She is also concerned about the leased devices with Google and asked if there are any other vendors aside from Google. Mrs. Obey said devices come from vendors not Google and said other products are also used in the district.

Consideration of Approval: School Committee Meeting Minutes of January 25, 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 January 25, 2021 as presented.

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

Voting No: none

Abstaining: none

Absent: David Boyle

Future Meeting Dates and Topics

VOTE: At 9:20PM, on a motion made by Lance Kennedy and seconded by Susie Scholl, it was unanimously voted to enter Executive Session pursuant to Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(3) to discuss strategy for collective bargaining as 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, Lance Kennedy, Susie Scholl and Susan Bollinger

Voting No: none

Abstaining: none

Absent: David Boyle

APPROVED: March 1, 2022

MOTIONS

VOTE: On a motion made by Susan Bollinger and seconded by Lance Kennedy, it was unanimously voted to authorize the superintendent to request the waiver from DESE when PCMS and/or PHS reaches 80% vaccination.

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

Voting No: none

Abstaining: none
Absent: David Boyle

VOTE: On a motion made by Lance Kennedy and seconded by Susan Bollinger, it was unanimously voted to authorize the superintendent to write a letter to venues that are not allowing a school exemption for a vaccine mandate.

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

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 January 25, 2021 as presented.

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

VOTE: At 9:20PM, on a motion made by Lance Kennedy and seconded by Susie Scholl, it was unanimously voted to enter Executive Session pursuant to Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(3) to discuss strategy for collective bargaining as 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, Lance Kennedy, Susie Scholl and Susan Bollinger
Voting No: none
Abstaining: none
Absent: David Boyle