

**Pelham School Committee Meeting  
Wednesday, March 1, 2017  
Community Room, Pelham Library**

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Cara Castenson, Chair  
Ron Mannino  
Emily Marriott  
Tara Luce

Mike Morris, Interim Superintendent  
Sean Mangano, Finance Director  
Lisa Desjarlais, Principal  
Debbie Westmoreland, Recorder

**ABSENT**

Trevor Baptiste

**1. Call to Order and Approve Minutes 6:35 p.m.**

Ms. Castenson called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. The minutes of February 1 were tabled until next month.

**2. Announcements and Public Comment 6:35 p.m.**

There were no announcements or public comments.

**3. Interim Superintendent's Update 6:35 p.m.**

Dr. Morris reported that the Massachusetts Board of Elementary and Secondary Education voted 7-2 to deny expansion of the PVCICS. He expressed thanks to Chair Castenson for her strong statements during the public comment period of the meeting and thanked the community for their advocacy, which made a real difference. Ms. Marriott extended the appreciation of the committee for Dr. Morris' hard work on the issue and Ms. Castenson's advocacy. Ms. Desjarlais extended the thanks of the Pelham staff, noting that they asked her to do so at today's staff meeting. Dr. Morris reminded the committee that the Massachusetts Rural School Coalition's Annual Summit is next Tuesday, March 7 at Mohawk Trail Regional High School at 6:30 p.m. He noted that the group would like to have a strong coalition from Pelham to attend. He also noted that there will be a community-wide meeting on immigration at the Grace Episcopal Church on Saturday, March 4 at 3:00 p.m. Dr. Morris reported that he is working with UMass professor Laura Valdiviezo to do additional research on questions that came out of the homework discussions, noting that she will support a stakeholder group to complete their work in May and June. On Friday, March 10, Dr. Morris and several members of the Regional School Committee are attending an MASS/MASC conference titled *Poverty: It Isn't Just Someone Else's Problem Anymore*. He encouraged any members who may be interested in attending to contact Ms. Westmoreland to be registered. Ms. Desjarlais reported that Leann Hunt has been selected to receive a Pioneer Valley Excellence in Teaching Award, and noted her incredible commitment and service. There will be a dinner at the Delaney House in April to honor the award recipients. Ms. Desjarlais spoke about the African-American Read-In Day that was held to honor Black History Month, noting that it was an impactful, wonderful experience for both the students and staff members. She acknowledged her administrative assistant, Georgia Malcomb, for arranging the event. Upcoming events include a Lasagna dinner this Friday night, which is a fundraiser for the sixth grade to visit Nature's Classroom. Family fun Night is scheduled for April 1. Ms. Desjarlais noted that it looks like the preschool will be full again next year, with a waiting list. For kindergarten, there appears to be a small cohort of Pelham students entering. Ms. Desjarlais reported that the Pelham PTO will be receiving more than \$2,000 in a community grant from Florence Savings Bank. She then distributed and reviewed current school enrollments, including choice students.

**4. New and Continuing Business 6:50 p.m.**

**A. FY18 Pelham School Budget Vote**

***DOCUMENT: FY2018 Proposed Budget dated Wednesday, March 1, 2017; Memo to Michael Morris, Superintendent and the Pelham Public School Committee from Sean Mangano, Director of Finance regarding FY18 Budget Vote***

Mr. Mangano briefly reviewed the highlights of the budget, including the adds and cuts that are included. Ms. Castenson moved to adopt a budget of \$2,025,381 for fiscal year 2018 for the Pelham Elementary School. Ms. Luce seconded and the motion was unanimously approved. Mr. Mangano acknowledged the Pelham Finance Committee for releasing \$22,000 to cover unanticipated Special Education expenses in FY17.

**B. Fees Vote**

**DOCUMENT: FY2018 Proposed Budget dated March 1, 2017**

Mr. Mangano explained that unanticipated expenses led to the need to utilize funds from the preschool surplus funds in FY2017. A proposal is being made to increase preschool fees as follows in FY2018:

	<b>FY17</b>	<b>FY18</b>	<b>Increase</b>
<b>Preschool</b>	\$6.63 per hour	\$7.00 per hour	5.66%
<b>Reduced</b>	\$2.50 per hour	\$2.80 per hour	12.00%
<b>Before School</b>	\$4.00 per day	\$4.25 per day	6.25%
<b>After School</b>	\$4.00 per day	\$4.25 per day	6.25%

The increases are projected to generate an additional \$7,000 to \$10,000 per year. Ms. Marriott moved to adopt the FY18 fee schedule as proposed. Ms. Luce seconded and, after brief discussion, the motion was unanimously approved.

**C. Special Education Stabilization Fund**

**DOCUMENT: Handout titled Elementary School District (to be voted by the School Committee and Town Meeting)**

Mr. Mangano noted that this is a reserve fund that has been approved by Massachusetts General Law to help districts address unanticipated special education needs. He explained that the balance in such funds cannot exceed 2% of the annual net school spending, which is approximately \$33,000 in Pelham. Use of the funds would be subject to approval by the School Committee and the Select Board. Ms. Luce moved that the School Committee vote to accept the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40, Section 13E, which allows the establishment of, and appropriation or transfer of money to, a reserve fund to be utilized in the upcoming fiscal years, to pay, without further appropriation, unanticipated or unbudgeted costs of special education, out-of-district tuition or transportation. Ms. Marriott seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

**D. School Options Group Update**

Ms. Castenson reported that the possibilities being discussed at this time are reducing special education spending and/or Central Office spending or exploring having Pelham pursue a magnet school or specialization school option. She noted that the group will meet again next Monday, and Mr. Trickey will be talking with the group on March 13.

**E. School Improvement Plan**

**DOCUMENT: Pelham School Improvement Plan 2016-2017**

Ms. Desjarlais acknowledged that last year was a hard year in many respects, which challenged the Pelham School Community to look at how things could be improved or done differently. She noted that they wanted this to be a reset year and that informed the School Improvement Plan, which includes three goal areas:

- School climate and equity;
- Aligning social-emotional curriculum with standards and evidence-based practices; and
- Ensuring a positive classroom and school-wide climate for every student.

Ms. Desjarlais provided highlights of the plan, with a focus on the School Climate and Equity goal, and answered clarifying questions from the committee. Ms. Marriott noted that it would be helpful to see a target for each goal, as well as more information about how attainment of the goals will be measured. She said she would like to see educational opportunities or partnership opportunities with parents for the Olweus curriculum strategy under the Aligning Social-Emotional Curriculum goal. Ms. Desjarlais thanked her for the feedback, noting that it is very helpful.

#### **F. Immigration Resolution**

##### ***DOCUMENT: Pelham Schools Resolution: Rights of Undocumented Students and Protocols for ICE Access to Schools***

Dr. Morris distributed and briefly noted changes that have been made to the Immigration Resolution based on discussion at the Regional School Committee meeting last night. After discussion, it was agreed that points four and five will be edited and combined to read:

“Pelham public schools staff will not refer students or families to ICE if they inadvertently or intentionally disclose their immigration status, and pursuant to FERPA shall not disclose, without parental consent, the immigration status of any student.”

Ms. Castenson then moved to approve the resolution as amended. Ms. Marriott seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

#### **5. School Committee Planning **8:17 p.m.****

April topics will include second and third quarter budget update and school options group update

#### **6. Adjourn **8:22 p.m.****

Ms. Luce moved to adjourn at 8:22 p.m. Ms. Marriott seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Debbie Westmoreland