

Regular Meeting of the Pelham School Committee
Thursday, June 5, 2014
Community Room, Pelham Library

In Attendance:

Tara Luce	Maria Geryk, Superintendent
Emily Marriott	Lisa Desjarlais, Principal
Dan Robb	Mike Morris
Trevor Baptiste	Sean Mangano
Darius Modestow	Public
	Wendy Bloomenthal, Recorder

1. Welcome and Call to Order **7:03 p.m.**

Ms. Geryk opened the meeting at 7:03 PM. School Committee members re-organized as follows: Mr. Baptiste moved to nominate Mr. Modestow as Chairperson. Ms. Marriott seconded and the nomination was approved unanimously; Ms. Marriott moved to nominate Mr. Baptiste as Vice Chair. Mr. Robb seconded and the nomination was approved unanimously. Mr. Robb moved to nominate Ms. Luce as Secretary. Ms. Luce seconded and the nomination was approved unanimously. Mr. Robb and Mr. Baptiste were unanimously approved as representatives to the Regional School Committee. Mr. Robb moved to approve the minutes of May 1, 2014. Mr. Baptiste seconded and the motion was approved with one abstention (Ms. Luce).

2. Announcements and Public Comments **7:05 p.m.**

- No public comments.
- (8:31 p.m.) Mr. Modestow moved that Pelham School Committee members refer to one another by first name while in Pelham School Committee and defer to Regional etiquette for referencing colleagues when participating in Regional meetings. Mr. Robb seconded and the motion was approved unanimously.
- Mr. Robb reported on his participation in a meeting of the Social Equity Task Force. Mr. Robb spoke of the great attendee turnout. Ms. Geryk described the Social Equity Task Force as an advisory group to the School Committee. Both Mr. Robb and Ms. Geryk identified that the task force is in the early stages of norming the function of the group and all involved are hopeful of the collaboration going forward. The task force has reportedly suggested that one of the functions may be to act as a forum to hear grievances and offer feedback. Mr. Robb referenced this as a potential resolve to the feelings that community members have when presenting during public comments at School Committee meetings, since that is a venue where little to no solution or feedback may be given.

3. Superintendent's and Principal's Update **7:08 p.m.**

Ms. Geryk invited Mr. Robb to attend the Amherst Regional High School graduation on Friday June 6, 2014. Ms. Desjarlais recognized the following staff members and celebrations:

- Kelly Carlisle has completed Orton Gillingham Training.
- Melissa Marchetti has obtained Professional Status.
- Nettie Harrington-Pangallo was recently honored as a recipient of the 2014 Harold Grinspoon Excellence in Education Awards.
- Pelham hosted a successful and well attended Student/Family Book Fair, organized by parent and School Committee member Emily Marriott.
- Several (edible) trees were recently planted on campus and initial discussions have taken place with Administration and Food Services regarding the planning of an edible garden.

Upcoming end of the year dates/events:

- June 18th at 5:30 PM, Moving On ceremony for preschool
- June 19th at 7:00 PM, Sixth grade graduation
- Current Pelham Elementary Artist-in-Residence will join in Summer Reading kick off to connect literacy to summer reading. Date to be determined (during the last two weeks in June). Summer reading lists (per grade level) are expected to be available in the coming weeks.

Mr. Modestow expressed public gratitude to Ms. Desjarlais for her work and commitment.

4. New and Continuing Business

7:10 p.m.

A. PARCC/MCAS Vote (7:40 p.m)

DOCUMENT: Choosing PARCC or MCAS for Spring 2015

Mr. Morris presented advantages and disadvantages of PARCC / MCAS (see handout). Pelham is the one district (from Amherst-Pelham) which did not participate in the PARCC pilot this year. Discussion regarding lessons learned within the Region-at-large; paper and pencil vs. computer; student access and competency with technology; student feedback/testimony; availability of results; staff training; student accommodations. Mr. Morris reported that the Administrative Team has come to a broad-based consensus to administrate PARCC in the 2014-2015 school year (a low-stakes, hold harmless year). Ms. Desjarlais concurred with the recommendation to move forward with PARCC for 2014-2015. Upcoming time-line: Districts must notify the State by June 30, 2014 of the decision to move forward with either PARCC or MCAS for 2014-2015. On the June 30th deadline, districts need only have a *projection* of whether they will utilize paper/pencil vs. online. Mr. Baptiste made a motion to move forward with PARCC as the identified assessment of 2014-2015. Ms. Luce seconded and the motion passed with one abstention (Mr. Modestow).

B. Collaborative Articles of Agreement (7:10 p.m.)

DOCUMENT: Memo from Bill Diehl, Executive Director CES; Agreement of the Collaborative for Educational Service; Serving Our Members brochure

Mr. Diehl provided contextual background information on the CES, collaboration with member districts, and the myriad services available (professional development, educator licensure, district support/coaching, vendor bid discounts, etc.). Mr. Diehl acknowledged and thanked Mr. Baptiste for his participation on the Board of the CES, representing Pelham School District. Current district membership is \$3.50 per student. Following a discussion of the Articles of Agreement, Mr. Baptiste moved to accept the revised Articles as presented. Ms. Luce seconded and the motion was approved unanimously.

C. FY14 Third Quarter Budget Update (8:20)

DOCUMENT: Pelham Elementary School FY14 Consolidated Operating Budget Third Quarter Report; Pelham Preschool Financial Projection Budget v. Actual dated April 28, 2014

Mr. Mangano presented the Third Quarter Report for Pelham Elementary, stating that FY14 is “on track.” Mr. Mangano also presented the April 28, 2014 Pelham Preschool Financial Projection. Mr. Robb acknowledged that while the preschool is succeeding and operating with “no deficit,” it is also “great programming” with Ms. Desjarlais and staff to be congratulated. School Committee members and Ms. Desjarlais requested that Mr. Mangano explore the possibility of processing tuition checks in a faster time frame than is currently taking place.

D. Accept Gifts 2015

DOCUMENT: Memo to Pelham School Committee from Mary Wallace, Treasurer, dated May 21, 2014

Ms. Luce moved to accept a gift of \$320.90 from the Pelham Parent Council for purchasing paper. Mr. Robb seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

5. School Committee Planning

9:00 p.m.

A. Calendar Review: Ms. Geryk reported that Ms. Westmoreland will send a master calendar with projected meeting dates to all School Committee members. The June 24, 2014 Joint Meeting will begin with an executive session to review the updated Organization Chart. Agenda items for the June 14 regular meeting will focus on Regionalization and the Superintendent’s Evaluation.

6. Adjournment

9:05 p.m.

Mr. Modestow moved to adjourn at 9:05 p.m. and the motion was unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted,
Wendy Bloomenthal