

Regular Meeting of the Pelham School Committee
Thursday, September 4, 2014
Community Room, Pelham Library

In Attendance:

Darius Modestow, Chair
Emily Marriott
Dan Robb
Trevor Baptiste
Tara Luce

Maria Geryk, Superintendent
Lisa Desjarlais, Principal
Sean Mangano, Assistant Finance Director
Mike Morris, Assistant Superintendent
Debbie Westmoreland, Recorder
Public

A. Welcome and Call to Order 6:30 p.m.

Mr. Modestow called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Mr. Baptiste moved to accept the minutes of June 5, 2014. Ms. Luce seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

B. Announcements and Public Comments 6:32 p.m.

Bill Martel, Selectman, announced that Selectman David Goldin passed away last week. No arrangements have been announced yet by the family yet. Mr. Martel noted that he will serve as the Select Board liaison for the School Committee until a special election is held in November or December. Mr. Modestow asked for a moment's pause to offer prayers and thoughts for the Goldin family.

C. Superintendent's Update 6:36 p.m.

Ms. Geryk reported that we have had a very positive start of the school year across the district. She noted that School Committee member Tara Luce was honored this year with the Community Building Award, which recognizes two employees for outstanding service in making connections for students, staff and families. The other awardee this year is Peter Crouse, Transportation Coordinator. Ms. Geryk noted that Pelham staff members George Graiff and Suzanne Quinlan were also nominated for the award this year. Ms. Desjarlais reported that the opening of school was seamless. She noted that Pelham School now has a burglar alarm and new technology throughout. Ms. Desjarlais also noted that there are several new staff members at Pelham this year including:

- Tom Fanning, Technology Teacher and Support
- Kate Thurston, Second Grade Teacher
- Sarah Mattison, Art Teacher
- Eleanor Lincoln, Music and Movement Teacher
- Sue Scott, PE Teacher
- Cindy Burch, School Psychologist (.20 shared with Fort River)

Ms. Desjarlais distributed and reviewed an enrollment update as of today. Mr. Modestow asked how the increasing enrollment of Pelham resident students will impact choice funds in the future. Mr. Mangano noted that he spoke to John Trickey from the Finance Committee today, and Mr. Trickey recommended a target for where the Finance Committee would like to see choice numbers. Based on that information, choice funds should be at a comfortable level for at least the next two years. Mr. Mangano noted that this is the first year in which Pelham will expend more choice funds than will be received.

D. New and Continuing Business 6:48 p.m.

A. FY14 Final Budget Update

DOCUMENT: FY14 Pelham Elementary School FY14 Consolidated Operating Budget EOY Budget Report

Mr. Mangano distributed the end-of-year FY14 budget report, noting that the district ended the year \$7,398 under budget. He then reviewed the details of the report, including the history and projections of school choice from 2004 to 2016. Mr. Mangano answered clarifying questions for the committee and the public. Mr. Vanderbeck,

Finance Committee member, asked how the Pelham Preschool finished the year financially. Mr. Mangano explained that the program fell just short of being self-supporting, by approximately \$1,000. There was some discussion of building-in a factor for potential non-payments in the FY16 budget. Mr. Mangano will bring a more in-depth report on the preschool to the next meeting.

B. Superintendent Evaluation Orientation/Process Discussion

DOCUMENT: Required v. Local Control; The Massachusetts Model System for Educator Evaluation--Part III: Guide to Rubrics and Model Rubrics for Superintendent, Administrator, and Teacher Appendix A. Superintendent Rubric and Part IV: Implementation Guide for Superintendent Evaluation

Ms. Geryk noted that she has asked Mr. Morris to provide an overview of the Superintendent evaluation process for each of the school committees. In addition, he is available to meet with individual members or small groups to provide in-depth information about the process if that is desirable. Mr. Morris then provided an overview of the evaluation process required by DESE, including:

- What is required for every evaluation and what is open to local school committee control;
- The evaluation cycle; and
- Timeline

Extensive discussion followed regarding the process and potential elements of the evaluation. There was discussion of the potential to find a way to get community feedback as a part of the evaluation process. It was agreed that it would be helpful to see sample surveys that have been used by other districts to guide the discussion and decision on the issue. Ms. Geryk suggested having Pelham identity priority elements at their next meeting on October 6.

C. Regionalization Update

Mr. Baptiste reported that the RAWG meeting planned for September 2 was postponed due to a death in the facilitator's family. He noted that, at the last meeting, three of five contentious issues were dealt with: 1) the entrance ramp for towns that do not join the Region initially, 2) governance, and 3) how to equalize savings from regionalization.

School Committee Planning

8:46 p.m.

A. Calendar Review—The committee discussed potential agenda topics for upcoming meetings including the preschool financial report in October, priority elements for the superintendent evaluation in October, and communication around safety and other issues at an undetermined meeting. There was discussion regarding a gesture of condolence for the Goldin family. Ms. Luce moved to authorize Ms. Westmoreland to expend funds to send an arrangement to the family. Mr. Robb seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

6. Adjournment

9:17 p.m.

Mr. Robb moved to adjourn at 9:7 p.m. Ms. Luce seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted,
Debbie Westmoreland

Approved 10/2/14