

Pelham School Committee Meeting
Tuesday, June 27, 2017
Library, Amherst Regional High School

IN ATTENDANCE

Cara Castenson, Chair
Emily Marriott
Jesse Jean-Louis
Ron Mannino

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

1. Call to Order and Approve Minutes **5:48 p.m.**

Ms. Castenson called the meeting to order at 5:48 p.m. Ms. Marriott moved to approve the minutes of June 7, 2017. Ms. Jean-Louis seconded and the motion was unanimously approved with Ms. Castenson abstaining.

2. Announcements and Public Comment **5:49 p.m.**

There were no announcements or public comments.

3. New and Continuing Business **5:49 p.m.**

A. Superintendent Evaluation

DOCUMENT: Evaluation Summary from the Pelham School Committee

Ms. Castenson reviewed the highlights of the summary Superintendent evaluation of Dr. Morris, concluding that Dr. Morris' performance was rated "proficient" overall for the year. After the review, Mr. Mannino asked if there will still be three separate evaluations next year. Dr. Morris clarified that his contract is unchanged and it will be up to the School Committee to determine whether to do separate evaluations. Ms. Marriott commented that this is a very strong evaluation. Ms. Castenson said this has been a very smooth year that has restored the confidence of many people. Mr. Mannino echoed those thoughts, noting that he felt very comfortable with Dr. Morris from the first time he met him. Ms. Marriott then moved to accept the evaluation of Dr. Morris as presented. Mr. Mannino seconded and the motion was unanimously approved. Dr. Morris thanked the committee for their support and feedback throughout his first year. Since it was referenced in his evaluation, he reported that the elementary homework working group began their work today, noting that there is a Pelham staff member in the group.

B. Bill S223 Foundation Budget Resolution

DOCUMENT: Text of Bill S223; Pelham School Committee Resolution regarding Bill S223

Ms. Marriott noted that she suggested adding this topic since it has been under discussion at the Region. Dr. Morris explained that Representative Solomon Goldstein-Rose is one of the co-authors of this bill, which is designed to do a democratic, in-depth analysis of school funding. Passage of the bill would also be beneficial to the Fair Share amendment. Ms. Castenson noted that it would be beneficial for all of the school committees to have an information session on the foundation budget, which can be difficult to understand. Dr. Morris noted that MASC is hosting an information session this weekend. Mr. Mannino then moved to approve the resolution in support of Bill S223. Ms. Marriott seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

C. Regionalization Exploration

Dr. Morris noted that the committee agreed at last month's meeting to discuss the possibility of exploring regionalization with Amherst at tonight's meeting. Ms. Castenson stated that she thinks it would be beneficial to at least begin exploration. Mr. Mannino agreed, noting that he has been in support of exploring regionalization from the first time it was discussed. Ms. Marriott expressed her support for exploring regionalization as well. Discussion turned to how this process would proceed. Dr. Morris explained that the Pelham School Committee would enter talks with the Amherst School Committee to see if they are interested in

pursuing regionalization since official exploration would have to be approved by both Town Meetings. Ms. Marriott moved to recommend that the town of Pelham pursue exploration of regionalization with the town of Amherst. Ms. Jean-Louis seconded and the motion was unanimously approved. Dr. Morris noted that the Select Board, Finance Committee and the Amherst School Committee Chair should be informed of the vote. He suggested that Ms. Castenson reach out to the Amherst Chair and that the two committees consider a joint meeting on the topic.

D. Charter School Update

Dr. Morris noted that Mr. Mangano found out last Friday, June 19 that four Pelham students have been attending the Pioneer Valley Chinese Immersion Charter School for the school year, although they were not listed on the roster provided by DESE in either December or March. He reported that this information results in a \$7,000 cost to the FY17 budget and will have an impact of \$60,000 to \$90,000 for the FY18 budget. Dr. Morris noted that he and Mr. Mangano have been in touch with DESE multiple times since the information was received; however, due to the death of Commissioner Chester yesterday, there has been very little response to date. He will continue to keep the committee informed as additional information is received and will let the Chair know if a meeting is needed in July to deal with this in any way.

4. Adjourn

6:21 p.m.

Ms. Jean-Louis moved to adjourn at 6:21 p.m. Mr. Mannino seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted,
Debbie Westmoreland