

**Regular Meeting of the Pelham School Committee  
Thursday, March 6, 2014  
Community Room, Pelham Library**

**In Attendance:**

Debbie Gould, Chair  
Emily Marriott  
Dan Robb  
Trevor Baptiste

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

**Absent:**

Darius Modestow

**1. Welcome and Call to Order 6:30 p.m.**

Ms. Gould called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and welcomed everyone. Mr. Baptiste moved to accept the minutes of February 6, 2014. Mr. Robb seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

**2. Announcements and Public Comments None**

There were no public comments.

**3. Superintendent's Update 6:38 p.m.**

Ms. Geryk reported that candidates were interviewed today for the Middle School Principal position. There will be a public forum to meet the two selected finalists next Monday, March 10 at the Middle School. Ms. Desjarlais reported that next Friday is the first ever Pelham Family Fun Night, which was planned by Pelham Dads. The next event on April 16 will be a Family Literacy Night. This event will focus on how parents/guardians can support their child's literacy at home, and there will be Mount Holyoke students on hand to lead activities for children while parents attend informational sessions with teachers. Ms. Desjarlais distributed a draft of guidelines regarding the Pelham Preschool enrollment process. She asked that the School Committee review the draft and provide feedback. Mr. Baptiste asked if the proposed limit of 15 students in the Preschool will ensure that it is self-sustaining financially. Ms. Geryk noted that she and Mr. Mangano will review that data and report back. The document will be discussed at the next meeting.

**4. New and Continuing Business 6:45 p.m.**

**A. FY15 Pelham School Budget Vote**

***DOCUMENT: FY15 Proposed Pelham Budget dated March 6, 2014***

Mr. Mangano reviewed the updates that were made to the FY15 Pelham budget based on discussion at the public budget hearing on February 6, 2014, noting that there were no changes to the budget figures themselves. After very brief discussion, Mr. Baptiste moved to approve a Pelham School Budget for FY15 in the amount of \$1,911,928, with an appropriated amount of \$1,406,064. Mr. Robb seconded and the motion was unanimously approved. Ms. Gould expressed deep appreciation to Mr. Mangano for the assessment information he sent to the Four Towns boards and for his work on the budget development.

**B. Special Education Coordinated Program Review (CPR)**

Dr. Brady provided a brief summary of what is included in a Coordinated Program Review and described the process of the review. She outlined the areas in Pelham that were identified as being out of compliance and the way in which they are being addressed. These areas include 1) providing a summary of the IEP meeting at the end of the meeting and getting the final IEP mailed out within the 10 day timeline, and 2) no active Parent Advisory Council. As part of the corrective action plan, a summary draft IEP and the team meeting notes are being provided to parents at the end of the meeting. In addition, a review of all IEPs is being conducted to determine what percentage is being mailed within the timeline. Dr. Brady noted that she considers meeting the timeline for 100% of IEPs to be a non-negotiable goal. The second area of non-compliance—not having a Parent Advisory Council—is controversial because the three districts have an established Special Education Parent Advisory Council comprised of parents from all three districts. Dr. Brady noted that one of the current Co-Presidents of SEPAC is a Pelham parent. After extensive discussion, DESE has agreed to accept that group as the

Pelham SEPAC if they revise their Executive Board and bylaws to reflect that the group represents all three districts separately and the SEPAC literature reflects that it functions as the Amherst, Pelham and Amherst-Pelham Regional PAC. Dr. Brady, Ms. Geryk and Ms. Desjarlais answered clarifying questions about the CPR and the special education program in general. Although Dr. Brady does not have oversight of Civil Rights, she briefly reviewed the areas identified as not fully implemented in this area as well. The only issues revolved around the need to add "gender identity" to policies, which has been addressed by the Policy Subcommittee. Dr. Brady also noted that Pelham was noted to be "commendable" in the area of bullying prevention. Ms. Gould thanked Dr. Brady for the very helpful report.

**5. School Committee Planning**

**8:01 p.m.**

**A. Calendar Review**—The next Pelham meeting is scheduled for April 3 but there are no topics. The decision was made to cancel the April meeting and meet next on May 1.

**6. Adjournment**

**8:04 p.m.**

Mr. Robb moved to adjourn at 8:04 p.m. Ms. Marriott seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Debbie Westmoreland