

**Pelham School Committee Meeting
Wednesday, July 19, 2017
Community Room, Pelham Library**

IN ATTENDANCE

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

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

1. Call to Order and Approve Minutes **9:30 a.m.**

Ms. Castenson called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. and invited public comments. There were none.

2. New and Continuing Business **9:31 a.m.**

A. Letter to the MA DESE Regarding Charter School Costs

DOCUMENT: Chronology of Events regarding Pelham/Charter School Issues; Letter to Paul Sagan, Chair, Massachusetts Board of Education from the Pelham School Committee

Dr. Morris reviewed the chronology of events, beginning in January 2017, which led to the unanticipated charter school costs to the Pelham School district for FY17 and FY18. He noted that he finds the events troubling, not only due to the impact on the education of Pelham's students, but due to the process that provides such a significant amount of public funding to schools that have no oversight by publicly elected officials. Ms. Castenson reviewed the letter she drafted to the Massachusetts Board of Education reviewing the issues and requesting fiscal relief in FY18 due to the reporting errors by PVCICS and DESE. Ms. Marriott moved to approve and send the letter, Ms. Jean-Louis seconded and discussion followed. Ms. Castenson stated that she has a letter from the Pelham PTO regarding this issue that she will share with the press, noting that Pelham has an extremely dedicated, involved parent community that supports Pelham School. After brief comments, the motion was unanimously approved. Dr. Morris noted that it would be beneficial to have representatives from Pelham speak at the Board of Education meeting to help them understand the impact on the community. The board meets next in September.

B. FY17 Fourth Quarter Budget Update and Vote to Appropriate Additional School Choice Funds

DOCUMENT: FY17 Fourth Quarter Budget Update

Mr. Mangano reviewed the FY17 Fourth Quarter Budget Update, particularly highlighting the impact of the unanticipated charter school costs. He noted that \$400,000 in School Choice funds was budgeted for use in FY17, and an additional \$50,921 is needed to cover the budget shortfall. After Mr. Mangano and Dr. Morris answered clarifying questions from the committee members, Ms. Jean-Louis moved to appropriate the additional amount of \$50,921 from the School Choice operating fund. Mr. Mannino seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

C. Accept Gifts

DOCUMENT: Memo to Pelham School Committee from Jill Berry, Region Treasurer, dated July 17, 2017

Ms. Castenson moved to accept \$354.69 from the Stop and Shop A+ Awards Program for use at the Pelham Principal's discretion. Ms. Marriott seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

6. Adjourn **10:23 a.m.**

Ms. Marriott moved to adjourn at 10:23 a.m. Ms. Jean-Louis seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted,
Debbie Westmoreland