

**Regular Meeting of the Pelham School Committee
Thursday, October 2, 2014
Community Room, Pelham Library**

In Attendance:

Darius Modestow, Chair	Mike Morris, Assistant Superintendent
Emily Marriott	Lisa Desjarlais, Principal
Dan Robb	Public
Trevor Baptiste	Debbie Westmoreland, Recorder
Tara Luce	

1. Welcome and Call to Order 6:34 p.m.

Mr. Modestow called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m. Mr. Morris noted that Ms. Geryk is home with a sick child and sends her apologies for being unable to attend. Ms. Marriott moved to accept the minutes of September 4, 2014 with a minor spelling correction. Mr. Baptiste seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

2. Announcements and Public Comments 6:38 p.m.

Mr. Modestow read a note of thanks from Sally Goldin for the bereavement arrangement the School Committee sent in memory of her husband, Selectman David Goldin.

3. Principal's and Superintendent's Update 6:40 p.m.

Ms. Desjarlais reported that Pelham School just had a very successful week-long book fair and recognized Ms. Marriott for her assistance with the event. She noted that every student was able to get a book. Pelham School also hosted their Curriculum Night. Upcoming events include a Latino Dancers Assembly planned for October 14, arranged by Marta Guevara, Director of Achievement and Accountability, and a Family Math Night planned for Wednesday, October 18. Mr. Morris reported that he visited Pelham School last week and was able to visit each classroom. He noted that he was impressed with the great sense of community building being done by the staff. Mr. Morris also noted that Pelham School is working with Enchanted Circle Theater to integrate theater and the arts into the fifth grade social studies curriculum through the Living History Project. Mr. Morris reported that all elementary and middle school families will be invited to provide feedback at an information meeting about the new high school math sequence being considered. He explained that it is important to hear from these families since their children will be the ones impacted due to the incremental implementation of the new sequence.

4. New and Continuing Business 6:50 p.m.

A. Superintendent Evaluation Priority Elements

DOCUMENT: Regional School Committee Priority Element Rubric Shared at September 16, 2014 Regional Meeting

Mr. Morris reviewed the priority elements that were identified by the Regional School Committee as areas of focus for the Superintendent evaluation. Mr. Modestow noted that he wants to ensure that the priorities identified for the Superintendent reflect the goals of Ms. Desjarlais' School Improvement Plan. Ms. Desjarlais noted that the priority elements identified by the Region fit within her goals. Discussion then followed regarding the School Committee members' priorities for the Pelham Elementary School. The members identified the following as their individual priority elements for Pelham:

Ms. Luce: IB2; IIE1; IIIB1 and IVB1
Mr. Modestow: IIB2; IVF3; IIIB1 and IB3
Mr. Baptiste: IIE1; IVE1; IB3; and IIB2
Mr. Robb: IB3; IVF3; IIE1 and IIB2
Ms. Marriott: IB3; IIIB1; IVF3 and IIB2

Since it was clear that the Pelham School Committee has two priority elements that are different than the Region, discussion followed regarding how those priorities can be included in the evaluation. Options include asking Ms. Geryk to write goals for these areas or simply weighing these areas more heavily when evaluating her

performance. There was particular discussion regarding the priority element IIE1: Fiscal Systems and members moved away from supporting it as a priority element needing a separate goal. Instead it will be more heavily weighed by the Pelham School Committee when doing the evaluation. Priority Element IIB2: Induction, Professional Development and Career Growth Strategies received support from four of five members, and Mr. Morris noted that it can easily be integrated into the Superintendent's four goal areas.

B. Safety Planning/Crisis Response

DOCUMENTS: District Safety Information 2014-2015; Pelham School 9/29/14 School Safety Evaluation

Mr. Morris gave an overview of the district-level work done regarding safety planning and crisis response. Mr. Modestow noted that the district's use of the terms lockdown and shelter-in-place are opposite of what the State Police use with his district. He encouraged the administration to revisit the terms with the local police department. Mr. Robb spoke about the perception of the terminology versus the use. He suggested developing a term that sounds less threatening for events that are not for safety threats. Ms. Marriott suggested including the definition of lockdown and shelter-in-place in any email message that goes out after a lockdown in order to help educate parents about the terminology. Ms. Luce noted that, from her perspective, the students' experience of lockdown is not stressful.

C. RAWG Update

Mr. Baptiste reported on the RAWG meeting on September 30, noting that the group is making progress toward resolving the controversial issues around regionalization. He said he will bring information to the Pelham School Committee for their feedback before the RAWG's final recommendation goes to the Regional School Committee.

D. Approve Gifts

Mr. Robb moved to accept all gifts received for Pelham School since the September 4, 2014 meeting, at the Principal's discretion. Ms. Luce seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

5. School Committee Planning

8:31 p.m.

A. Agenda Items & Calendar Review—Preschool financial report; Explanation of five year projections; How School Committee can disseminate information to the larger community; Next meeting is November 6, 2014

6. Adjournment

8:46 p.m.

Ms. Luce moved to adjourn at 8:46 p.m. Mr. Baptiste seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted,
Debbie Westmoreland