

APPROVED

TOWN OF PELHAM
BUDGET COMMITTEE – MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, October 20, 2022

CALL TO ORDER – Ms. Bressette opened the meeting at approximately 6:35 PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PRESENT: Meg Bressette
Eduardo Martony
Garret Abare
Debbie Ryan
Megan Larson
Paul Grant
Bob Sherman
Ellen Cormier
Jason Croteau

ABSENT: Philip Haberlen (excused)
Gregg Smith (excused)

MINUTES REVIEW

MOTION: (Mr. Sherman/Mr. Martony) To place the October 6, 2022, meeting minutes on file.

VOTE: (7-0-1) Motion passes. Ms. Bressette abstained.

Mr. Croteau joined the meeting.

BY-LAW UPDATE

Ms. Bressette said she will postpone the voting on the revised by-laws until next week, since she just received two small changes from Attorney Ratigan.

REVIEW OF SCHOOL BUDGETS

Ms. Bressette said the total operating budget is \$41,095,065.00.
Pelham Elementary School recommended 2023-2024 budget is \$8,908,889.00
Pelham Memorial School is \$5,837,730.00.
Pelham High School is \$9,075,274.00.
The district-wide budget is \$15,309,280.00.

Dr. Chip McGee introduced himself as the superintendent of schools and Ms. Mahoney introduced herself as the business administrator for the school district.

Dr. McGee said he would go over the proposals for the 2023-2024 budget and then he and Ms. Mahoney would go through each of the schools and address key lines they want to make sure this committee is aware of.

Dr. McGee said the bottom line is proposing a budget that is 2.96% up overall in the warrant article. He said it has taken a lot of work since last July to prepare the budget. He said the three principals are also in the audience tonight if any questions come up for them. (Ms. Mead for PHS, Ms. Maghakian for PMS and Mr. VanVranken for PES). He said there were adjustments based on enrollment and there were proposed reductions where they had historically overbudgeted. He said they used their technology plans; facility plans and textbook or instruction in order to know what significant expenses were coming. He said they prioritized professional development in the area of mathematics, social and emotional development.

He said the most important driver is enrollment and he said although enrollment is declining, there is a slight increase this year compared to last year. He said now that there is full-day kindergarten this year which has helped. He said the second reason is we had a large 1st-grade class. The third reason is they retained a lot of students from the 8th to the 9th grade. He said that was more than usual and as a result they have 15 more students. He said that doesn't change next year's prediction of being down from this level by 2 and based on the distribution they are proposing changes to professional staffing.

First, at Pelham High School, they are going to transfer a math teacher position that is currently unfilled from the High School to the Elementary school to be the instructional coach for mathematics.

The second position is special education. Currently, there is an unfilled special education teacher at the high school, and they don't intend to fill it this year nor is it in the budget for next year.

The third is a part-time position in world language, which is currently unfilled at a .72 full-time FTE (full-time equivalent). Given they now teach Spanish in 8th grade he is confident they can cover the world language demands next year without that position. That is 2.72 FTE fewer at the high school next year.

For Pelham Memorial School the renovations are ongoing with huge progress being made. He said they will be able to maintain the projected current class size and current offerings with one fewer classroom teacher there. At the Elementary school, they are projecting the school be at the same size from a teacher classroom point of view, aside from the mathematical instruction coach, they are proposing no reductions there.

The teacher's association are aware of these changes and the goal is to ensure they are all addressed through attrition, resignations or retirements as opposed to having to not offer someone a contract.

The next piece are the fixed costs, and he is going to highlight four of them.

The first are the instructional assistants are in an association called PESPA and they are in negotiations with that association for a contract. Their contracts end at the end of this year. There will be a separate warrant article with a dollar amount, and he is hoping everyone comes to terms with this.

The second cost is energy waste costs and he wanted everyone to be aware of the new rubbish removal contract that the towns and the schools worked through. There are increases as that had been rebid. On the school side, the energy costs have been held well in check thanks to their business office and they had engaged them in long-term contracts that helped them avoid cost increases. Those contracts are ending and so they have to budget accordingly with the rising costs of natural gas and electricity.

The third item is health insurance, and they had a guaranteed maximum rate increase of 11.3% and it's an overwhelming figure that's over \$660,000.00 of increase for health insurance.

The last is salary increases, incorporating, what is the 5th year of a 5-year contract with the Teacher's Association (PEA). All of those increases net out to over \$380,000.00.

Altogether fixed costs are over \$1.3 million dollars. The budget is a little of \$1.1 million and so they've done some work in other areas to address these fixed costs.

Another issue is some of their driving priorities. The school board has set some goals and one is in the area of mathematics. They are looking to transfer a position from the high school to become an instructional coach at the elementary school. They are also looking to increase professional development opportunities, especially elementary teachers who have had to become math teachers as well. He said there is a scheduled proposal to update their math program. He said they no longer use textbooks; it is now a subscription service and after 6 years the subscription runs out. It is on schedule in their textbook replacement plan for \$121,000.00 for the next 6-years at the elementary level. They are also planning to work on adjusting 6th grade accelerated math to allow for students to earn algebra 1 credit for 8th grade. There is no budget impact for that.

As a goal, the board has set two other goals. One is to create a sense of belonging for students, staff, families and administrators in this community. He said they are also looking to do things to make Pelham one of the best places to work and that is sometimes called a destination employer. He said they are working to improve Pelham's ability to recruit and retain teachers. Two things they are doing to create that is to get a full-time receptionist in their office. The second thing is they are looking into software to integrate human resources and finance to improve the onboarding process. The third part is long terms plans such as technology plans and capital maintenance. In terms of technology, they have 1:1 Chromebooks and they are scheduled for 4 years of life. The lease plans are continued for that. The instructional material replacement is scheduled for the middle school for a science program.

In terms of capital maintenance, the plan was to continue air conditioning at the elementary school. They were able to put in 2nd floor A/C and a cafeteria A/C last year. This was from almost entirely federal money they received from COVID. The plan was to include phase II in this budget, but they've decided to take at least one more year before they put that forward.

Mr. Abare asked him to explain why the receptionist is going full-time? Dr. McGee said at the district office, they do not have a full-time receptionist. When a parent or new employee comes in needing service, they either have no one at the desk or have someone in another position fill in for the receptionist. This takes away from that person getting their full-time job completed.

Ms. Larson added that that person is also an assistant to their business office, and they have a very high volume. She said that person also works with Ms. Mahoney on the budget. She said the bulk of that \$37,000.00 is health insurance and that is the estimate of someone taking a 2-person plan. She said the salary piece to bring that to full-time is very small.

Mr. Abare asked about students having a Chromebook? Dr. McGee said yes, starting in 4th grade each student has one. Mr. Abare asked what happens if a Chromebook breaks? Dr. McGee said there are two types of breakage, one being willful and that is rare and that is the family's responsibility. The second is normal wear and tear and they are now proposing to discontinue the insurance program they had. They are proposing an in-house repair service at a lower cost. Mr. Abare asked if they got rid of the insurance, are they assuming the in-house service repair people can fix them? Dr. McGee said yes and that has been their more recent practice. Our internal turnaround time is quicker also.

Mr. Sherman asked who pays if a child loses their Chromebook? Dr. McGee said if the student loses it, it is their responsibility.

Mr. Abare said if a student loses it, is it gone for good? Dr. McGee said these are not like laptop computers, and they are about \$340.00 each.

Ms. Mahoney said yes, if one is lost, they will buy another one and there is a fee associated with that loss.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Dr. McGee said he will start with the elementary school, page 27. He said the first item is salaries. He wanted to note this is an area they are up \$238,000.00. There are two reasons, 1) they are budgeting for the move of the high school math teacher to this line. 2) For year 2024 the cost of the additional kindergarten teachers are there (from the warrant article voters approved last year). Dr. McGee talked about line 114, instructional assistant salaries. Ms. Larson said it's important to note there are positions coming out of this line. Ms. Mahoney said this is regular education and that would be noted in special education. Ms. Mahoney said this is where they budget their kindergarten IA's, lunch, recess monitors and there are no changes in that section. Ms. Mahoney said they do have some vacant positions and there are SAU notes for those. Ms. Mahoney said on line 211 health insurance and there is an increase of \$186,390.00 and that is reflective of election changes and the way they budget for this is based on what people elect. There is also a cost increase for the guaranteed maximum increase of 11.3% gets applied and then budgeted upon what people actually enroll in.

Ms. Bressette asked if the 11.3% was the actual number of the increase? Ms. Mahoney said that 11.3% is the number you will see and it will not change at reconsideration. She said they don't get their actual rates until May. Dr. McGee said it is a guaranteed maximum that they will have, and it will not go up in May.

Ms. Mahoney said last year it did not go down and they got the same as their guaranteed maximum. She said their dental rate went up 1.5%. Life insurance and disability had an increase of 10% and the contract is ending at the end of the fiscal year. They estimate the 10% increase for the new contract they will negotiate in the spring. The NH retirement determines the rates the employer pays, and they are now in a 2-year window. Below that is Worker's Compensation and that is an 8% rate which is also a maximum rate within an assurance program that we're in with our insurance company. She said that shows in every section where there are salaries, there are benefits with the increases.

Ms. Mahoney said on page 4, there is a reduction of \$23,435.00 under supplies. This reason is that they had budgeted some kindergarten costs last year, which weren't needed. Page 5, there is a furniture request for replacement of grades 4 and 5 furniture. Line 737 is increased by \$11,384.00 and line 6 shows the details of that number. Dr. McGee said he commented during the walk through that the Elementary school is now or will be their oldest school. Ms. Mahoney said this is spread out over multiple years, as to spread the costs out. This is the third year for the grade 5 chairs. Page 7 shows the textbook replacement for the math program. Dr. McGee mentioned this prior.

Ms. Bressette asked about the stool replacement in the art room. Ms. Mahoney said those are original with the building, line 737 under art to purchase replacement art stools. She said they get really loose, and they are not the right size for their kindergarteners.

Dr. McGee said on page 9, supplies for social sciences, that there is an increase for expanding Scholastic News up through 5th grade and for the belonging theme for social and emotional learning (increasing that from \$200.00 to \$500.00 for the \$4,020.00 increase).

Ms. Bressette asked how many grades received the Scholastic News before? Dr. McGee said it was for grades 1-3.

Mr. Abare asked if they knew which students read or did not read those? Ms. Bressette said she's been a substitute in the schools for five years and she said it is read with the teachers. Ms. Larson asked if it was to supplement the curriculum? Ms. Mahoney said yes. Ms. VanVranken said it is for current affairs. Ms. Larson asked if it was replacing something else? Ms. VanVranken (unintelligible). Dr. McGee said he would repeat that, and he said it is supplemental curriculum materials for current affairs since we don't have a social studies text for elementary social studies. Mr. Abare asked if he could have a sample of the Scholastic News? Dr. McGee said he would get him one.

Dr. McGee said page 11, textbook replacement under reading you'll see there is a decrease of \$80,033.00

And that is reflected of the budget committee and the residents supporting the purchase of the reading program for 1-5 grade called Wonders for this year.

Ms. Mahoney said they will now talk about the special education for the elementary school, on page 12. Dr. McGee wanted to address salaries and the first is to note a year ago there was a position called KABC (special education program). That was a 50% half-time position that was used in part to create one of the kindergarten positions that they added. They also have two special education positions that are budgeted for next year that they are trying to fill. He said they have yet to find a qualified teacher for those positions. He said they also have another one for the preschool in case that required that program.

Dr. McGee said for the instructional assistants for special education and this line is down by \$67,215.00 on page 13. This was reduced by two positions that they don't believe they'll need for next year. He said that same decision was made at the memorial and high school as well. He said this is under the SAU note and that was a reduction that he was able to make once they looked at the overall pool of IAs for the district. This line doesn't reflect the contract that is currently being negotiated.

Ms. Mahoney said there is a budget for co-curricular activities on page 16. There are no highlights there. Page 17 is guidance. Page 19 is the nurse section. Page 20 is psychology services. Page 21 is speech. Ms. Bressette asked if we do not have a nurse's aide? Ms. Mahoney said there is a current vacancy for a nurse's aide. Ms. Bressette asked what the increase was for \$4,927.00? Ms. Mahoney said that was the budgeted amount for what the market is paying for this position. She said they budgeted higher in hopes they would be able to secure a person next year, as this is a needed position.

Mr. Sherman asked if the co-curricular elementary positions are contracted? Ms. Mahoney said under 1410 section, yes, they are all listed in the collective bargaining agreement for the teachers. Ms. Bressette said if the banking program wasn't going on, then that money isn't spent. Ms. Mahoney said yes and there is an opportunity for the CBA for the school to request a new activity be appointed by the board and then that program gets rolled out to the students.

Mr. Abare asked why there are two math clubs? Ms. Mahoney said there are two positions in the collective bargaining for a math club advisor. So, each of those are listed individually. She said it's one math club with two advisors.

Ms. Mahoney on page 23 is the library. On page 27 is the computer technology section, they budget 4-hour robotic items and there is a reduction under equipment replacement for \$35,513.00 because they completed the purchase of all of the Promethean boards that are needed at the elementary school. Dr. McGee said the director of technology is here, Keith Lord. He wanted to let the committee know that Promethean board is a brand name for the flat-screen panels that works with the Chromebooks.

Ms. Bressette asked what the life is for those boards? Dr. McGee said they are hoping for 6 years and the oldest one in the district isn't that old yet.

Mr. Abare asked if those replace whiteboards? Dr. McGee said they do not replace whiteboards, but they do replace projectors. They also have interactive features. Mr. Abare asked if there was a service contract with these boards? Dr. McGee said no, they are essentially flat, touchscreen panels. They have a simple operating system.

Ms. Mahoney said page 30 is building services. Line 421 there is an increase for disposal there per the new contract throughout the budget. Page 31 are the electrical and natural gas increases. She said they are under contract for supply of the electricity until November. She said they are in good shape with that, and this increase is only for part of next year. She said they may be able to go out and bid for the second half of next year. She said for utilities, they budget for usage as well as the rates. The usage is similar to the usage throughout each section, with the exception of the high school, where there is a reduction in the usage number. For natural gas they are under contract until October for supply there.

Mr. Abare asked what the breakdown was for the elementary building services are? Ms. Mahoney said on page 30, there are six full-time custodian positions. She said there is a full-time maintenance position and a half-time maintenance position that is district wide. She said they are looking to make that second maintenance position full-time, so they'll have two. Mr. Sherman asked if they are hoping to fill that vacant position? Ms. Mahoney said they are hoping to fill that position and applications are online.

MEMORIAL SCHOOL

Dr. McGee said page 1 for the Memorial school, and he started with salaries and general education. He said the salaries are down about \$7,000.00. In order to create the full-day kindergarten they had to move a computer teacher position from Memorial to the elementary school. The second thing is that given the enrollment they can keep the same average class size with one fewer classroom teacher there next year. He said the benefits all reflect that same change.

Ms. Mahoney said on page 6, for family consumer science education and these are supplies. There is an increase of \$3,494.00 for additional supplies. This is a new program for next year and this year the focus is on personal finance and next year it will be the food and there are start-up costs with that.

Dr. McGee said on page 11, these are salaries and special education. He wanted to recognize there has been a lot of staff rearranging and so last year they left a position unfilled, a special education case manager. He said that is now reflected as unfilled in the budget. He said with instructional assistants, the \$103,000.00 reduction is the same pattern of reductions as the elementary school and there are two unfilled positions that they don't anticipate needing in 2024. He said there are actually five. Ms. Mahoney said there were two at the elementary school and there are five at the Memorial School.

Ms. Larson asked about page 5 for the textbook replacements for science? Dr. McGee said this is part of the scheduled replacement plan and they are looking to make sure the science curriculum is up to date. This is necessary in order to have our science materials available next year. This was reduced from the original \$60,000.00 by negotiating the quote and they were able to get over \$9,000.00 off.

Ms. Bressette asked if that was every 6 years? Dr. McGee said yes. Ms. Bressette asked when the science towers would be done? Dr. McGee said they won't be available to students until that is completed in June of 2024.

Mr. Sherman asked what foreign student languages were taught? Dr. McGee said they teach Spanish in 8th grade, and this is the first year for this. He said it is actually high school Spanish I being offered. Ms. Bressette asked if that was a full or half year? Dr. McGee said a full year.

Mr. Abare asked what the cost associated with that was? Dr. McGee said none, they had a Spanish teacher, and it was a schedule change. He said when they added a STEAM teacher and a family consumer science teacher that changed the schedule of unified arts and they could move the Spanish class to only 8th grade instead of an exploration course for grades 6, 7 and 8. Mr. Abare asked if that was free? Dr. McGee said yes.

Ms. Larson said they reduced a part-time teacher at the high school for world language. She said the Spanish teacher that is at the memorial school was there and they were teaching all grades and they taught French and Spanish. Dr. McGee said he is proud of what the Memorial School did to be able to offer Spanish I to 8th graders as that would help them when going into high school.

Dr. McGee said on page 17, dues and fees under athletics, there is a small increase there. Ms. Larson asked to address the additional AED (nurse services). Ms. Mahoney said on page 20, line 734, there is a new request for an additional AED for the area near the new gym. This space will be used by the community, and they want to make sure this equipment is in place close to the area it can be used. Dr. McGee said this is the standard in the other two buildings.

Mr. Abare asked about EpiPens and if they're not available for free in 2024, is that for one EpiPen or multiple? Ms. Mahoney said she wasn't sure, and she would find out the answer. Ms. Larson asked if it was currently free? Ms. VanVranken from the audience said currently Convenient MD provides it for them, but she said every year they don't know if that will be provided, so they budget for them in case they don't get them.

Ms. Bressette asked if kids bring their own? Ms. VanVranken said yes, but sometimes there are situations they don't have it with them. Ms. VanVranken said at their level they have one child and one adult pen. Mr. Abare asked if they have two pens at all times? Ms. VanVranken said yes.

Dr. McGee said building services on page 25, he wants to make sure everyone is aware with the opening of the new portion of the Memorial school this summer that we'll need additional custodian support there. They are budgeting for one full-time FTE additional custodian there. Ms. Mahoney said right now they have 3.75 positions, so this would make it 4.75. Ms. Bressette said the school won't be open when this budget takes place, so is it necessary for a full-time custodian at this time and why not wait until next budget? Dr. McGee said the transition year next year will involve construction on one floor while students are on swing space on a floor that's not under construction and still using the portables. He said over the course of the year, there will be a

transition of students from one renovated floor to an unrenovated floor. He said he feels strongly they will need another custodian at Memorial next year.

Ms. Mahoney said on page 26, disposal costs per the new contract on line 421. Below that on page 27 are the electrical costs on 622. There is still propane at that building that supplies the modular buildings. Natural gas and electricity are for the building that was level funded because they are not fully in the building and don't have the experience yet.

Mr. Sherman asked if the propane for the portables were for the two classroom portables? Ms. Mahoney said yes. Mr. Sherman said once the building is done? Ms. Mahoney said that is the only use of propane that they have left in that building.

Ms. Bressette asked about the modular on page 30, would that be the last payment? Ms. Mahoney said yes.

Mr. Abare asked about page 28, under 433, for the pest management kitchen for \$11,000.00? Ms. Mahoney said that is for all of the items above such as fire and burglar alarm, monitoring and inspection, wet/dry sprinkler, the pest management kitchen and general contracted and that is a total for all of those items.

HIGH SCHOOL

Dr. McGee said on page 1, salaries there is a reduction of \$126,000.00. They left a health teacher position last year when it became vacant, and they left that open. There was an open music teacher they assigned to a district-wide position so they can build the chorus program at all three levels.

Ms. Mahoney said on page 2 there is a reduction of a hall monitor position. It had been vacant for several years and determined that it's not needed.

Dr. McGee said on page 6, equipment replacement 738 for business education. One part of the technology plan that was postponed from last year was the replacement of the two labs.

Ms. Bressette asked about page 6, information access fees for \$3,950.00? Ms. Mahoney said they are seeing software increases from their vendors. They had taken advantage of free software during the pandemic but are now forced to sign up for the subscriptions.

Ms. Mahoney said on page 7, language arts there is a request for the replacement of one classroom's desks and chairs. They have been very careful with their replacements at times. Ms. Bressette said that is the same at every school, where they replace things on a rotating basis? Ms. Mahoney said yes.

Dr. McGee said on page 11, special education. Under salaries there is one position that became open this past summer for a teacher, and they were able to reassign the caseload and didn't fill that so it is not budgeted for next year.

Dr. McGee said on page 12, instructional assistant salaries are taking the same approach as the other two schools.

Dr. McGee said on page 21, guidance services. There are two things, 1st is he had recommended they switch an administrative position from a director of guidance to an assistant principal's position and that is reflected there. It shows up now on an admin line. The second is they are proposing expanding an administrative support position to become a registrar who will allow

parents and students to add and drop classes during the summer. He said the counselors are not available during the summer to keep up with those requests.

Ms. Bressette asked him to explain that? Dr. McGee said yes, they are expanding the position to become a registrar. Ms. Bressette asked what it was now? Dr. McGee said it is an assistant role in the guidance office.

Ms. Bressette asked if we have an assistant principal now? Dr. McGee said we now have two. He said they had one and a director of guidance. Instead of hiring a guidance director, they hired a second assistant principal.

Dr. McGee said on page 28 through page 21 there is an increase for administration salaries for \$104,000.00 because they moved from guidance to administrative.

Ms. Mahoney said on page 29 there is a new lease proposed for a new printer/copier in the high school library. This would be for student and staff use and be a central machine. That is \$4,700.00 for the annual lease payment.

Mr. Abare asked how long the lease is for? Ms. Mahoney said it's a four-year lease. Mr. Abare said it's like \$17,000.00 for the lease? Ms. Mahoney said yes. Mr. Abare asked who they use for the printer? Ms. Mahoney said they will go out to bid this shortly. She said they currently buy through New England Business Systems. Mr. Sherman asked if students could use this for free? Ms. Mahoney said yes, it would be free. Mr. Sherman asked if there was a limit on the number of pages? Ms. Mahoney said all their new equipment is equipped with paper-cut systems that control the amount of printing that is done. It uses a code system, and they are rolling these out throughout the district. Dr. McGee said the amount of paper has greatly been reduced in the last five years due to increased scanning and electronic ways of doing things. Dr. McGee said the amount of paper is not a concern at this time. Ms. Bressette said with codes then you can track who is using the printer. Dr. McGee said they are just beginning that process.

Ms. Mahoney said on page 32 is the disposal costs for the new contract. Page 33 the electricity and they took an average of the last two years of electricity. They were able to reduce the utilization down from 1.56 million to 1.5 million kilowatts, so that saved some money. This is at the same rate as the other schools. They were also able to reduce the natural gas by a little bit.

Mr. Sherman asked about the Spanish exchange program? Dr. McGee said there isn't a lot to talk about because during the last two years it hasn't happened. Dr. McGee said they left it in there as there is still a great deal of interest for this. Ms. Mead said because of COVID and travel they didn't plan on it this year. Ms. Mead said the students would be coming to us, not our kids traveling over there. Dr. McGee said those costs would be for us receiving those students.

Mr. Abare asked if Pelham is getting any benefit out of the Spanish students coming here? Dr. McGee said he is only on his third year here and hasn't experienced this actually happening. Dr. McGee said he has previous experience and the benefit of having native world language speakers visit this community is as great as the benefit of going there. He said there are huge advantages of this and plus this is the down payment of us going there because it would be an alternating-year approach.

Ms. Mahoney said on page 35 there is vocational transportation and there is a reduction of \$43,000.00. They bid last year and received favorable results from that for regular education. that was a reduction in the per day rate.

Ms. Larson asked if that was for the same number of buses? Ms. Mahoney said yes, and the daily rate was \$453.00 a day and the new rate is \$375.00.

Ms. Larson said she should note this is also a new fleet of buses. Ms. Mahoney said yes, they have new buses in the town.

Mr. Sherman asked how long the contract is for? Ms. Mahoney said it is a 3-year and they can extend one year up to five years total. Ms. Mahoney said gas is no longer in their budget.

Ms. Bressette asked about a \$1,000.00 increase in supplies on page 14 of the high school budget for special education programs? She said it looked like the actual expenditures were close to \$7,000.00. Ms. Mahoney said that is a resource room at the high school and they have added kitchen equipment (new stove and refrigerator) and they are starting to cook in there. That is for the supplies they need to support this.

Ms. Cormier asked what the graduation rate is? Dr. McGee said there are a couple ways to calculate it (depending on 4-year cohort versus just the senior class). He said it is very high but didn't know exactly and he will report that back to us. Ms. Cormier asked if most of the graduates are college bound? Dr. McGee said yes, the majority are. He said a point of pride for Pelham high school is college is an excellent option, as is work, as is military, as is vocational programming. Ms. Cormier asked if they had a list of colleges the students go to? Dr. McGee said yes, and he will get that to us.

Ms. Bressette asked how many students attend the vocational program? Dr. McGee said they budgeted 61 and they have 49. Ms. Mead said right now we have 63 and (unintelligible). Dr. McGee said they are projecting 58-60.

Ms. Larson said that is only for Juniors and Seniors? Dr. McGee said yes.

Mr. Abare asked if Pelham pays for any college organization as far as directing kids towards college? Dr. McGee said they have a school counseling program. Mr. Abare asked about a college board?

Ms. Larson said our state testing is through the college board as it is PSATs and SATs, she said it is called college and career readiness. Dr. McGee said they don't have a relationship with a college board to push college. Dr. McGee said their counselors use a tool called Naviance, which is an application tool to apply to college.

Mr. Grant asked if the kids still learn cursive? Dr. McGee said they teach cursive in third grade, and it isn't taught as much as it used to be. Mr. Sherman asked about typing? Dr. McGee said they do not teach typing/keyboarding. He said kids now naturally know how to use keyboards and begin using them in elementary school.

Ms. Bressette reminded everyone to send her any questions and she will pass them along. She said there will be a review of all the school budgets on November 3. Next week's meeting will be the district wide and special education budgets for review. Ms. Mahoney said they will go over the

other funds as well, such as the nutrition, grants, and other special revenue funds. The vote on the town budgets will be on November 10th as well as the vote on the school budgets.

ADJOURN

MOTION: (Mr. Sherman/Mr. Croteau) To adjourn the meeting.

VOTE: (9-0-0) The motion passes.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:02 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Castles
Recording Secretary