

**BOE Regular Meeting**  
January 9, 2023 7:00 PM  
PPMS Library

**1. Call to Order**

Dr. Nugent, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:01PM. Other members present: Deborah Burke-Grabarek, Charles Raymond, Megan Gallant, and Cindy Luty. Cindy Dupointe was absent. Dan Harris was excused, Also present: Dr. Roy Seitsinger; Superintendent, and Gloria Homiski; Recording Secretary.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

**3. Public Comment**

Chet Stefanowicz, PPMS teacher and AFA Club Advisor, asked to address the Board regarding one of the policies at first read. Mr. Stefanowicz spoke in favor of adopting Policy 5145.53 Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming Youth. He stated that all students should feel safe and valued. Currently he has seven active students in his AFA Club (COVID did lower participation). Dr. Nugent invited Mr. Stefanowicz to return to the Board on February 13<sup>th</sup>. By then the Board will have reviewed Policy 5145.53 and they may wish to discuss the policy further.

**4. Consent Agenda**

The Board pulled the Food Service Charging Policy 3542.43 from the consent agenda. All other items were accepted as submitted.

Megan wanted to clarify that ALL students would receive the same meal. No one would be called out for needing to charge a meal by serving them a different menu choice.

**5. Superintendent's Report**

Cadence Calendar Revision: Dr. Nugent asked if the following could be added to the cadence calendar: 1. Budget Development Meetings (Dec., Jan., Feb. and March). 2. Collective Bargaining (March, April and May). 3. Preston Palozza (May). 4. Strategic Planning is to be added once we begin working on it. Dr. Nugent also asked if the calendar could be condensed into one page.

Policies at Second Read:

Policy 1212 Community Relations: School Volunteers

**Moved, to adopt Policy 1212 as modified and presented. Gallant/Luty. Unanimous. Motion Carries.**

Policy 1325 Community Relations: Advertising and Promotion. A legal reference was added to this policy.

**Moved, to adopt Policy 1325 as modified and presented. Gallant/Burke-Grabarek. Unanimous. Motion Carries.**

Policy 1331 Community Relations: Smoke Free Environment.

Moved, to adopt Policy 1331 as amended. Luty/Gallant. Unanimous. Motion Carries.

Policy 1700 Community Relations: Otherwise Lawful Possession of Firearms on School Property.

Moved, to adopt Policy 1700 as modified and presented. Luty/Gallant. Unanimous. Motion Carries.

Policy 0220 Goals/Objectives for School Operations.

Moved, to adopt Policy 0220 as modified and presented. Gallant/Burke-Grabarek. Unanimous. Motion Carries.

Central Office Move: The summary was shared with the BOE Finance Committee on Thursday and shared with the full board on 1-9-2023. Options are as follows: 1. Modular Building: 400,000 to 500,000 dollars. 2. Leasing an existing building: 3000-5000 dollars a month. 3. Build new building on existing property 850,000 - 1.5 million dollars (quote from Mattern Construction). Leasing seems to make the most sense. Central Office employees looked at two properties; SPAFAS (Route 165) and Barry Property (Halls Mill Rd.). SPAFAS is located on 400 acres. It must be remodeled and Mattern Construction quoted a price of 700,000 to do this work. The owner would incorporate the remodeling fee into the monthly lease. Central Office can remain in PPMS for one more school year, but would need to move in 2024. Board discussion followed. Should we move forward now or wait? We would need to go out to bid and then the contractor would need a couple of months to complete the work. Dr. Nugent asked Cindy Varricchio to look into available grant opportunities and federal monies for the project.

Potential Administration Search: Dr. Seitsinger talked with both CABA and NESDEC about handling our anticipated Administrator Search. CABA's search runs from \$2000 to \$11,800. NESDEC's search runs from \$3500 to \$20,000. Cindy Luty and Megan Gallant have trouble supporting this 3<sup>rd</sup> party cost. Dr. Nugent asked if we could negotiate the cost and create our own package based on what we need. After discussion, the Board consensus was to have the Superintendent negotiate with the two agencies.

Preston resumed free/reduced/full pay breakfasts and lunches in their cafeterias on 1-3-2023. We are working to resolve any charges that are building up.

Dr. Seitsinger continues to support the formation of a Town Building Committee and action of the BOF to enact the Capital Improvement Plan.

Dr. Seitsinger clarified that he has been stating that the transportation department is fully staffed but clarified that this includes the assistance of the driver from STA.

Dr. Nugent received information from the state regarding curriculum instruction for indigenous peoples. Dr. Seitsinger and Dr. Davis-Tomczuk are waiting for further guidance from the state, but agreed that the two local tribes might be of assistance to our students.

6. Principals'/Director of Special Education Reports

Dr. Ivy Davis-Tomczuk: Principal PPMS and Director of Curriculum:

A band concert will be held on January 26<sup>th</sup> at 7PM in the PPMS Cafeteria. All are invited to attend. Eighth grader, Isabella Ruta, won the Patriot's Pen Contest at the state level and is moving on to the National level where she could win \$5000.

The District reactivated their relationship with the Mystic Seaport which was out on hold since COVID. Grades 3, 5, and 8 will participate in onsite visits and field trips to the Seaport. Both the onsite visits and the field trips will incorporate the current social studies curriculum of each grade level.

Ann Perzan: Director of Special Education: Two outplaced students will be returning to in house placements. One of our Special Education teachers is doing a wonderful job of providing inclusion for our students. She has some great ideas for the students that will also benefit the district. Special Education and 504 students at the high schools are doing well. Mrs. Perzan spoke very highly of her great working relationship with Wheeler High School. All staff members have been very responsive and caring.

Ray Bernier: PVMS Principal: He provided a reading program update. The committee has narrowed their selection to two programs. They are "Into Reading" and "My View." The cost for the startup of either program is approximately \$150,000 grades PK thru 5.

Personnel: 4 FMLA leaves are in motion. One long term substitute teacher left for a different job elsewhere. The daily building sub will take over this position which leaves the building without a spare sub.

The laser light show assembly was a huge hit the first day back from winter break.

#### 7. Committee Reports

Megan Gallant presented a Powerpoint to the Board outlining the current means of communication used by the district and the Town of Preston. The goal is to improve active engagement and community relationships. The final communication plan will be incorporated into the strategic plan.

Policy 1110.3 Communication with the Public: School Advisory Board: The Board decided to set this policy aside for now. No action taken.

#### 8. Financial/Capital Report

FY 22-23 Update: Cindy Varricchio reported that 5.7 million dollars of the budget has been spent to date. She hopes to have money to be set aside for more Infinite Vision training. She is keeping an eye on the long term sub line item. She will review the special education tuition line item with Ann Perzan. Currently 47.3 percent of PK tuitions have been collected. Friendly reminders will go out to those who have not yet paid.

FY23-24: Central Office must relocate. Central Office will upload 5 years of information into ClearGov. Budget meetings for FY24 are under way.

She did receive a one month extension on the audit. All district information has been submitted to the auditors. She hopes to have the auditor's completed copy by end of January. Auditors are confident about

future audits now that the work has been completed and we can move forward.

An updated Capital Projects Plan was also shared with the Board. The plan will be finalized and moved forward to the BOF.

Moved, to approve the updated draft of the 23-24 PPS Capital Projects with an emphasis on items 1 and 2 to be the priorities. Burke-Grabarek/Gallant. Unanimous. Motion Carries.

9. Adjournment

Moved, to adjourn the meeting at 9:26pm. Burke-Grabarek/Luty. Unanimous. Motion Carries.

RECEIVED  
PRESTON, CT.

2023 FEB 16 A 9:34

*J. Keefe*  
PRESTON TOWN CLERK