

BOE Regular Meeting

January 12, 2026 7:00 PM

1. Call to Order

Moved, to exit Executive Session at 7:14PM. Serra/Koniecko. Unanimous. Motion Carries.

Courtney Ennis, Board Chair, stated that no action was taken regarding the personnel matter discussed in executive session. She also explained that there would be a change in protocol and procedure from this point on.

The Board also announced that Heather Helwig was selected by unanimous vote to fill the vacant seat on the Board of Education until November of 2027.

Courtney Ennis; Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:15PM. Other Members present: Dan Harris, Nicole Serra, Kelly McNamara, Andrew Koniecko and Charles Raymond. Also present: Dr. Roy Seitsinger; Superintendent, and Gloria Homiski; Recording Secretary.

Dr. Seitsinger stated that this is the Board's first meeting which can be viewed virtually. He hopes that it will go well, but knows we can work out any problems as we move along.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Public Comment

No written Public Comment emails were received.

No in person Public Comment.

4. Consent Agenda

Moved, to pull the Regular BOE Meeting Minutes of 12-08-2025. McNamara/Koniecko. Unanimous. Motion Carries.

Moved, to accept the rest of the consent agenda as presented. Serra/Koniecko. Unanimous. Motion Carries.

Kelly McNamara asked that on page 3, under agenda item 7, the last sentence of paragraph three be removed.

Moved, to approve the minutes of 12-08-2025 as amended. McNamara/Ennis. Unanimous. Motion Carries.

5. Old Business: Public Comment

Dr. Seitsinger decided to add this agenda item in order to follow up and answer questions from previous meetings' Public Comments.

- A statement was made that non-lapsing accounts are not legal. They are indeed legal and both the BOE and the BOF have documents explaining this. There is about 105K in the account currently. The auditors have

not given us a final number for 2025, but it should be about 92K. This amount will be added to the fund.

- A community member asked if we review health insurance costs every year. The answer is yes. The Business Office continually checks for the most efficient health care plan.
- The new bus passes for this school year are in place and being used.

6. Superintendent's Update

Dr. Seitsinger explained that feeder district Superintendents meet often in order to discuss topics such as Chronic Absenteeism at the high school level, etc. This topic was noted in NFA's Annual Performance Report that the Board received in their packets.

Dr. Seitsinger presented a Powerpoint outlining our draft Strategic Plan. This Plan was created in conjunction with the Town of Preston. Now is the time to add detail and review actions taken and assignments to be completed. There are six different priorities on the district side:

- Safety and Well Being
- High Quality Learning Environments
- Curriculum and Instruction
- Communication and community engagement
- Operations and Infrastructure
- Future Orientation

The town and the district are working together to meet all priorities. The District's motto is "Children First." The District also has a Theory of Action in Place. The next step is to create a billboard of critical data by holding meetings and asking pertinent questions. After a complete plan is in place, the District's data can be integrated into the plan and it can be shared with the community.

BOE Committee Re-establishment: The committees are coming along and members are almost all in place. Dr. Seitsinger stressed the importance of forming a Policy Sub Committee. All local districts do have one in place. Charles Raymond volunteered to sit on the Policy Sub Committee.

Policies at 2nd Read:

Policy 3240: Tuition Fees

Moved, to adopt the revised version of Policy 3240, Tuition Fees. Harris/Serra. Unanimous. Motion Carries.

Policy 4211: Recruitment

Moved, to adopt the revised version of Policy 4211, Recruitment. Serra/McNamara. Unanimous. Motion Carries.

Policy 6153: Field Trips

Moved, to adopt Policy 6153, Field Trips, with modifications as requested by Kelly McNamara. McNamara/Koniecko. Unanimous. Motion Carries.

7. Preston PTO

Kayla Thompson stated that the PVMS PTO still has a large sum of money that they are trying to give to teachers so they can arrange field trips. The PTO is reviewing other ways to use the money to enrich the school.

7. Principals/Director of Student Services Reports/Other Reports as Needed

Craig King; Director of Student Services, stated that the team met to review the gifted and talented rubric and Universal Screening. This information will be put in writing and will be posted on our website. OLSAT Testing will be administered at the end of January. Parents will be notified and scores will be sent home to parents once they are received. DESSA Testing has been administered. The Department is beginning to discuss ESY. All test data will be shared with parents.

Chris Pickett; PPMS Principal, reported that he and Chet Stefanowicz (teacher) allowed students to duct tape them to the cafeteria wall on 12-23-25. This was part of a fundraiser for the upcoming 8th grade trip. Mid-Year progress monitoring is underway. OLSAT and STAR testing will be administered at the end of January.

Ray Bernier; PVMS Principal, reported that December is a wonderful time at an elementary school. They played holiday BINGO, and had a senior luncheon, and wore pajamas to raise money for CCMC. PVMS is wrapping up STAR testing and will be starting OLSAT testing soon. On February 2nd, NFA students will be shadowing teachers at PVMS.

Mr. Pickett and Mr. Bernier then provided a brief presentation on PBIS (Positive Behavior Incentives and Supports). The system has been in place for about 15 years and fosters positive learning environments and supports social emotional growth.

8. Committee Reports

Finance Committee: They met on January 8th. Kelly McNamara; Chair, said they talked about the upcoming budget process which will begin on January 22nd. Meetings will continue throughout January and February. Dr. Seitsinger reviewed the important areas of the budget and also the overall process since all BOE Finance Sub Committee members are new.

Curriculum Committee: No meeting

Communication Committee: No meeting

LEARN: No representative

CABE: No representative

Building Needs Assessment Committee: No meeting

9. Financial/Capital Report

Both Cindy Varricchio and Vicki Schwery were out sick. Therefore Dr. Seitsinger was prepared to present the report to the Board.

Courtney Ennis stated that the Board met with Dr. Seitsinger and it was agreed that new procedures would be put into place. She stated that the Board will not change Policy 3160; Approval/Authorization. It will stand as is, with any new or non-budgeted item over 10K being brought to the Board for approval and Board vote. Also, the Board now requires specific line item management of the budget. No money is to be moved between major categories without Board approval and no movement of dollars within the line items can be made without the Board being notified.

Dr. Seitsinger then began to review Mrs. Varricchio's report. At this point it is a very fluid report. We are currently under budget in several areas. Over-all, we are tracking well to the bottom line and will continue to manage any changes, etc. The audit is not yet completed. If any members have questions, they can be addressed at the next BOE Finance Committee Meeting or the next BOE Meeting.

10. Public Comment

Johanna Thibdeau; parent, wanted to confirm that ALL OLSAT scores will be sent home without parents needing to request them. Mr. King stated they would be. She also asked if substitutes for staff absenteeism are the result of illness or vacant positions. It was confirmed that it is actually both.

Kayla Thompson; parent, stated that pick up at PVMS is dangerously unsafe. Too many parents are being housed in a very small area of the gym. This is not good considering it is flu season, etc. She understands the custodians need to clean the gym for games and practices, but can't they do that after dismissal?

Parke Spicer; community member, expressed his concern over what happened to the funds from last year. He doesn't believe the topic was addressed and therefore he asked for Dr. Seitsinger's resignation. He expects all answers within a month's time.

Andy Depta; community member, stated that the Strategic Plan presented tonight does not match the plan that is online. He met with the first Selectwoman and Dr. Seitsinger about a year ago. At that time, they had goals listed. Were they met?

Jill Keith; community member, agrees with everything Johanna, Parke and Andy have said. She is very disappointed. The Town is expressing concern and it isn't being addressed. She is disappointed and believes that Dr. Seitsinger is not leading the Board appropriately. She thanked the Board for offering the virtual option for the Board meeting, but she said it didn't work. Regarding gifted and talented students, she believes that acceleration is the best option. She also expressed her concern over whether or not Heather Helwig's appointment is valid. She asked that it be investigated. She was disappointed that the interviews were not held publicly. Courtney Ennis confirmed that the interviews were held publicly. Jill thanked her for that clarification.

Bill Holmes; community member, stated that in his opinion the entire meeting was a waste of time.

11. Adjournment

Moved, to adjourn the meeting at 8:48PM. **Serra/Konieczko. Unanimous. Motion Carries.**

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Cindy Palmer
PRESTON TOWN CLERK

Asst.