

Preston Public Schools
Board of Education
BOE Finance Committee Meeting
January 29, 2026
6 PM
Preston Plains Library

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Kelly McNamara, BOE Finance Committee Chair.
Members Present: Kelly McNamara, Courtney Ennis, and Charles Raymond.
Thomas Wright, BOF liaison, was also present.
Superintendent Dr. Seitsinger, Cynthia Varricchio (Finance Director), and Victoria Schwery (Finance Dept.) were present.
Administrators/Directors present: Raymond Bernier (PVMS), Christopher Pickett (PPMS), and Michael House (Buildings & Grounds)

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Public Comment

Ms. Jill S. Keith notified the committee that she would be recording the meeting. She stated that she was distressed at the last meeting to discover that the Board of Education was presented with a piecemeal budget this late in the process. She is used to an entire budget book with every line item budgeted and a rationale provided for all line items with full Board discussion and disclosure by November so that it can be presented to the community by the full Board earlier in the process. She stated that she shared with the Board of Selectmen that she is hoping that the Municipal Meetings Committee did not appropriate \$90,000. She hopes that tuition opportunities for students in grades 6-8 will be a reality that will support the budget. She also hopes to see the current PPMS building turned into a commercial center.

Members of the public in attendance: Jill S. Keith and Bill Holmes

4. Approval of Minutes

- a. **MOTION #1:** A motion was made by Courtney Ennis and seconded by Charles Raymond to discuss additions to the minutes from the January 22, 2026 meeting at 6:04 PM.
- b. **MOTION #2:** A motion was made by Courtney Ennis and seconded by Charles Raymond to accept the minutes from the January 22, 2026 meeting and amend them on January 29, 2026 to reflect the addition of questions asked by members of the committee at 6:09 PM.

5. Business

- a. 2026-2027 Budget Discussion

1. Dr. Seitsinger addressed questions asked by the public, members of the Board of Education Finance Committee, and the Board of Finance liaison from the meeting held January 22, 2026:

- a. Copies of the Board of Education Non-Lapsing Fund administrative procedures were provided in response to a question posed at the previous meeting.
1. Dr. Seitsinger complemented Ms. Varricchio and Ms. Schwery for the work they completed in preparation for this meeting despite the significant weather interruptions.
2. BOF Liaison Thomas Wright asked for clarification regarding the change in the PPMS Administrator's salary from last year.
 1. Dr. Seitsinger and Ms. Varricchio explained that the Administrator's Union contract was finalized after the budget was approved which accounted for some of the increase. They also shared that a hold-back amount relative to that contract that was not reflected in last year's budget
 2. BOF Liaison Mr. Thomas Wright asked if that information also explained changes to Nurses' salaries.
 - a. Ms. Varricchio explained that the Nurses are unaffiliated (non-unionized) and their salaries get adjusted after the completion of the performance evaluations
3. BOF Liaison Mr. Thomas Wright asked if the BOE Finance Committee would be getting a list of positions with names of staff included, as was done last year.
 1. Dr. Seitsinger explained that they debated about providing names this year and decided not to provide the names this year.
4. BOE member Courtney Ennis noted that the Board of Education had asked Dr. Seitsinger to look into the possibility of combining Library and Technology last August and asked where things stand with that request.
 1. Dr. Seitsinger said that they are still considering this possibility and it is an option that is on the table. There is consideration for offering Library with a thread of Computer Technology. He noted that making this combination would eliminate a position.
2. Dr. Seitsinger and the Finance team presented additional categories of the administration's 2026-2027 budget:
 1. Secondary Education
 2. Student Services
 3. Plant Operations
 4. Transportation
 5. Operational Support
 6. Administrative Support
 7. Instructional Technology
3. Dr. Seitsinger reviewed the projected district student enrollment PK-8 for the 2026-2027 school year.
4. Members of the BOE Finance Committee and BOF Liaison asked general questions related to the information shared:
 1. BOF Liaison Thomas Wright followed up on his question from the previous meeting and asked for an update regarding items in the current 2025-2026 budget that are tracking over where they were at this time last year.

1. Dr. Seitsinger said that Ms. Varricchio is preparing that information to share with the full BOE at their next regular meeting on February 9, 2026.
2. BOE member Courtney Ennis requested that additional information be provided regarding the potential cost of utilizing a transportation company instead of maintaining our own fleet.
 1. Dr. Seitsinger said that it would be difficult to know without going out to bid
 2. Ms. Varricchio will check with other local Finance Directors to get a sense of costs in other districts.
3. BOE member Kelly McNamara requested a complete list of the transportation fleet with ages of vehicles.
4. BOE member Courtney Ennis asked for more information regarding what we are paying for in the contracted service rates for service providers budgeted in Student Services.
5. BOE member Kelly McNamara asked for more information regarding what is built into Tech Support in the Instructional Technology category.
6. BOE liaison Thomas Wright asked if the BOE Finance Committee would be provided with greater line item detail in each budget category. He noted that greater detail had been provided last year and he felt it was a benefit to the budget development process.

6. MOTION #3:

A motion for adjournment was made by Courtney Ennis and seconded by Charles Raymond at 7:40 PM.

The next BOE Finance Committee meeting will be held on February 5, 2026.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kelly McNamara, BOE Finance Committee Chair

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Cindy Palen
PRESTON TOWN CLERK

Asst.