

BOE Regular Meeting

March 13, 2023 7:00 PM

PPMS Library

1. Call to Order

Dr. Nugent, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:00PM. Other members present: Deborah Burke-Grabarek, Charles Raymond, Megan Gallant, Dan Harris, and Courtney Ennis. Cindy Luty was excused. Also present: Dr. Roy Seitsinger; Superintendent, and Gloria Homiski; Recording Secretary.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Public Comment

Andrew Sawyer: Resident/Parent 100 Miller Rd.

Andrew expressed his concern over the Math curriculum at the middle school. He is requesting more structure to ensure that students get into top colleges and universities in the future. He suggested that the candidates interviewing for the open Principalship are asked their opinions about Math curriculum.

Susan Strader: Resident/Teacher/EAP President 463 Route 164

Susan stated that the schools are bursting at the seams. She encourages Central Office to relocate ASAP. Teachers do not all have classrooms and it is very disruptive to teaching. Electric Boat is hiring 6000 people and this will impact enrollment in Preston. She hopes a Town Building Committee will be formed ASAP and that Capital Projects are moved on quickly by the BOF. Susan also asked that Central Office consider scheduling parent teacher conferences right before a PD day or a holiday. She explained that this would be a no cost morale booster.

Susan stated that the holiday donation (sock, hat glove drive) was a huge success. She asked BOE members to take a minute to look at Martin Luther King projects in the hallway. She explained that she is working on STEM projects with Legos and hopes to have a Maker's Space at PPMS in the near future.

Dr. Nugent reviewed the Public Comments that were received through email:

Jill S. Keith requested a budget allocation to screen for gifted and talented students. She would also like to know the current number of identified students.

Andy Depta asked how equity, diversity, and inclusion curriculum is taught. Dr. Nugent explained that it isn't a specific course or curriculum. Grant money is available to ensure equity and inclusion in the district.

4. Consent Agenda

Megan Gallant asked that policy 3280.1 be pulled from the consent agenda for further review.

Dr. Seitsinger stated that the Curriculum Committee has been assigned to review the gifted and talented policy.

The remainder of the consent agenda was accepted as submitted.

5. **Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Seitsinger explained that the District received AED and CPR training on Friday, March 10th.

A time will be determined in the near future for Local and State Police, as well as the Fire Marshal, to walk through and evaluate our buildings to ensure that we are as safe as possible.

HFC Statement for School Meals:

Moved, Pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-215f, the board of education or governing authority certifies that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools under its jurisdiction, and not exempted from the CT Nutrition Standards published by the CSDE, will comply with the CT Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, culinary programs, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or non-school organizations and groups. Burke-Grabarek/Gallant. Unanimous. Motion Carries.

Moved, that the BOE or governing authority will allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the CT Nutrition Standards and beverages not listed in Section 10-221q of the CT General Statutes provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the food and beverage items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An "event" is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. For example, soccer games, school plays, and inter-scholastic debates are events but soccer practices, play rehearsals, and debate team meetings are not. The "regular school day" is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. "Location" means where the event is being held and must be the same place as the food and beverage sales. Gallant/Burke-Grabarek. Unanimous. Motion Carries.

Non-Tenured Faculty Members:

The District has no intention of laying anyone off, but must advise all non-tenured teachers in writing that there is a possibility of being laid off.

Moved, that pursuant to CT General Statutes 10-151, the Preston Board of Education non-renew the teaching contracts of Emma Lotreck, Zoe Robert, Rebecca McGlone, Jessica Golemba, Katherine Stapleton, Hailey Bresnan, Jillian DePina, Jessica Boucher, Marc Murray, Lisa England, Janine Paige, and Tatyany Jacobsen at the end of the 2022-2023 school year as recommended by the Superintendent. We further

move that the Superintendent be directed to communicate this action in writing to the teachers and that the Superintendent of Schools be authorized to respond on behalf of the Board to any requests for a hearing, if required by law, or for other data which may be forthcoming from the teachers and/or their representative pursuant to applicable provisions of CT General Statutes Section 10-151; and that the Superintendent be directed that any response to a request for a hearing, if a hearing is required by law, indicate that such hearing is to be before the Board of Education. Burke-Grabarek/Harris. Unanimous. Motion Carries.

Principal Search Update: The first orientation meeting was held with Mary Broderick from CABE. The posting closes on March 24. There are 5 applicants so far.

School Security Grant: Preston is 38% eligible for funding. We are fortunate to have some security measures already in place which is why we are only 38% eligible.

A couple of property owners in Town are interested in renting office space to Central Office. The final proposals will be brought to the BOF because this is a long term lease.

6. Principals'/Director of Special Education Reports

Ray Bernier: Principal PVMS: 80% of all parents attended parent/teacher conferences virtually or in person. PK and K screening will take place on March 21 and 22. An Art Show will be held at PVMS on March 24th from 6-7:30PM. The 4th Grade State Fair will be held on March 30th. Spirit Week is the week of April 3rd. SBAC testing will begin the week after April vacation. The Indoor Garden is a big hit! Members of the Environmental Club will be the first to sample the vegetables.

Chris Pickett: Acting Principal PPMS: 49 families participated in parent/teacher conferences. Chris thanked all the parents who provided meals to faculty and staff. He also thanked Amy Brosnan from Parks and Recreation for arranging for "Hidden in Plain Sight" to set up a table at conferences. "Hidden in Plain Sight" demonstrates how easy it is for children to purchase items that look like every day products and yet be used to hide alcohol or drugs, etc. The Staff/Student Basketball Game will take place at 6PM on Thursday night. Grades 6 and 8 will be traveling to Project Oceanology. Grade 8 will be going to Mystic Seaport in April to learn about immigration in the 1800s.

Dr. Seitsinger read Ann Perzan's Special Education Report:

Tuition accounts and expenses are stable. We received a \$10,000 grant to support teachers who are putting in extra time to manage CTSEDS.

7. Committee Reports

Megan Gallant had nothing to report this month. Dr. Nugent asked new member, Courtney Ennis, if she would work with Megan on this committee. Courtney agreed.

8. Financial/Capital Report

Cindy Varricchio stated that the 2021-2022 audit has been filed with the state. The BOF will receive a report from the auditors at their meeting on Wednesday night.

FY23: 63.6% of the Budget has been expended. We received 69% of PK tuitions by the end of February.

BOF Workshop Dates: BOS March 29th at 7:30PM at PPMS and BOE March 30th at 7:30PM at PPMS. A final workshop date is set for April 5th at 7:30PM at PPMS.

Cindy reviewed the draft Municipal Facilities Building Needs and Assessment Advisory Group Charge with the Board. A final copy will be brought back to the Board.

FY24 Budget:

Dr. Nugent stated that the BOE Finance Committee had fewer meetings but worked diligently to get to the point they are today. Overall it was a smooth process.

April 27th Public Hearing PVMS
May 11th Town Meeting PVMS
May 25th Referendum PPMS

He thanked Cindy and Roy for implementing the Citizens' Guide. He believes it is very helpful. After the budget is reviewed the Board can vote or reconvene at a special meeting on March 20th to vote.

Victoria Schwery; Fiscal Assistant, presented the FY24 Proposed Budget. Every section of the budget was reviewed and discussed as necessary.

Cindy Varricchio; Director of Finance, presented the budget summary and the acceptable risks that were considered by the BOE Finance Committee totaling \$281,067.

The current FY23 Budget is \$13,459,494.
The proposed FY24 Budget (with acceptable risk reductions) is \$14,780,777.
It is an increase of \$1,321,283.

Discussion followed.

Moved, to recommend moving forward the FY24 Proposed Budget in the amount of \$14,780,777 to the Preston BOF. Burke-Grabarek/Raymond. Unanimous. Motion Carries.

9. Adjournment

Moved, to adjourn the meeting at 8:54PM. Burke-Grabarek/Raymond. Unanimous. Motion Carries.

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Cindy L Palmer
PRESTON TOWN CLERK

Asst,