

BOE Regular Meeting

April 17, 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, Courtney Ennis and Cindy Luty. Also present: Dr. Roy Seitsinger; Superintendent, and Gloria Homiski; Recording Secretary.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Public Comment

Dr. Nugent read the March 19th letter from community member Jill Keith. Mrs. Keith asked about the destruction of student records and stated that her sons who graduated in 2015 and 2018 would like to pick up their records prior to destruction. Central Office is in the process of preparing the paperwork necessary to receive permission for record destruction.

4. Consent Agenda

Cindy Luty asked that the LEARN documents be pulled from the consent agenda. She reviewed the importance of RESCS and asked that LEARN's information be posted to our website.

The remainder of the consent agenda was accepted as submitted.

5. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Seitsinger announced that the Board is about to enter contract negotiations with MEUI on May 3rd. Megan, Cindy and Sean will represent the Board. Dates for CSEA Negotiations will be scheduled shortly. Deborah, Charles and Sean will represent the Board in these negotiations. There is no guarantee that negotiations will be completed prior to the budget being finalized.

Dr. Seitsinger stated that April is the month of the Military Child. We have a great military liaison who holds monthly meetings for local school districts.

- a. Technology Network Map: LEARN created a network map for Preston Public Schools. They are also working on a 5 year device replacement plan. It will be brought to the Board during Executive Session on May 8th due to the security information it will contain.
- b. Transportation Swipe Card Update: Brendan Merrill explained that the swipe system is up and running at the Middle School. It will be implemented at the Elementary School next year. Parents are beginning to sign up for the app as well. Dr. Nugent asked if high school students can be enrolled in the system and if we have taken IT connectivity into consideration. Annie and Brendan will review whether or not high school students can be added.
- c. Principal Search Update: 14 applicants applied for the Middle School Principalship. Six applicants will be interviewed on April 18th at PVMS. Finalists will have a second interview on April 25th at PPMS. A recommendation for hire will be brought to the May 8th BOE Meeting.

- d. 2023-2024 School Calendar: The draft calendar was reviewed. Suggestions for changes were reviewed. The calendar will be brought back on May 8th.
- e. HVAC Grant Award: Preston Public Schools received \$55,000 in reimbursement money. Twenty districts across the state were awarded money.
- f. Policies at Second Read:
Policy 3231 Medical Reimbursement for Special Education Students: This policy will be revised and returned next month.

Policy 3161 Audit Sub Committee:

Moved, to approve Policy 3161 with revisions. Luty/Burke-Grabarek. Unanimous. Motion Carries.

Policy 0525 Hate Crimes and Bias Incidents in Schools: This policy will be revised and brought back to the next meeting.

Policy 1421 Community Relations: Fire Department:

Moved, to approve policy 1421 as presented. Burke-Grabarek/Luty. Unanimous. Motion Carries.

Policy 2111 Administration: Equal Employment Opportunity:

Moved, to approve policy 2111 as presented. Gallant/Luty. Unanimous. Motion Carries.

6. Principals'/Director of Special Education Reports

Mr. Ray Bernier, Principal PVMS, reported that Justin Mazzella came to PVMS during Spirit Week to host a Magic Show. A total of 327 students are enrolled at PVMS. This is 9% higher than at the highest enrollment point last year. SBAC Testing will begin next week. Field Day is scheduled for 6/7/23. The Preston Palozza will also be held in June.

Mr. Chris Pickett, Interim Principal PPMS, reported that the Student Leadership Committee has been reinstated at PPMS. They will work with 4th and 5th grade members of the student council at PVMS. This is an opportunity for mentorship and guidance. Spanish, Math, AFA, and Unified Clubs are all meeting regularly at PPMS. On Wednesday, Mr. Pickett will be meeting with Elle Gosselin. She is the Talent Pipeline and Youth Pathways Coordinator for the Eastern CT Workforce Investment Board. This is to introduce the manufacturing field to students. SBAC and NGSS testing is ready to begin. Chris thanked both Laila Griffin and Evelyn Gallegos for their help as Test Coordinators. Chris is also exploring the possibility of having grade 8 students work on a Capstone Project before graduating. Dr. Seitsinger stated that we may be able to fundraise to help support such projects. Dr. Nugent stated that Mr. and Mrs. Hobart, the owners of Village Pizza, intend to hold a fundraiser for Preston Public Schools in the near future with bands and food vendors. Dr. Nugent also asked Mr. Pickett to speak to Phil Ludlow about the Capstone Projects. Perhaps they can be incorporated into Eagle Projects as well. Dr. Nugent would also like to explore the possibility of having middle school students serve on the Board of Education. He asked that this be pursued further.

Dr. Seitsinger delivered Ann Perzan's Report. Ann Perzan, Director of Special Education, is working on summer program staffing. She received a \$10,000 grant to help with CTSEDS implementation. She meets with Cindy Varricchio regularly to review overall budget spending.

7. Committee Reports

Megan Gallant had nothing to report this month.

Dr. Nugent asked for a motion to discuss the Superintendent's Annual Evaluation.

**Moved, to add Superintendent's Annual Evaluation to the agenda.
Luty/Gallant. Unanimous. Motion Carries.**

Dr. Nugent explained that Dr. Seitsinger will complete his own self eval/goals. In May, an Executive Session will be held to discuss the 3 year rolling contract of the Superintendent. Legal Counsel will be contacted and the contract will be completed by July.

8. Financial/Capital Report

Cindy Varricchio stated that 2022-2023 budget spending is tracking well. Seventy-five percent of PK fees have been collected. A couple of parents are on a payment plan. Cindy shared the Citizen's Guide with the Board. It will be posted online and distributed at BOF and Town Meetings.

Upcoming Meetings:

April 19th (and 20th if needed) BOF PPMS

April 27th Public Hearing PVMS

May 11th Town Meeting PVMS

May 25th Referendum PPMS

9. Adjournment

Moved, to adjourn the meeting at 8:40PM. Gallant/Luty. Unanimous. Motion Carries.

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Cindy L Palmer

Asst. PRESTON TOWN CLERK