

**Preston Board of Finance
Public Hearing and Special Meeting
Thursday, May 26, 2022
Gymnasium and Art Room - Preston Veterans Memorial School**

Before the start of the meeting, Dr. Roy Seitsinger said a few words and then asked for a Moment of Silence to reflect on the tragedy that occurred in the rural elementary school in Texas, a school not so different than the schools here in Preston.

Call to Order - John Moulson called the meeting to order at 7:30 P.M.

1. Roll Call

Members

John Moulson - Chairman
Robert Congdon - Vice Chairman
Stacey Becker
Andy Depta
Denise Beale
Zachary Maurice

Alternates

Andrew Sawyer
Kayla Thompson - Clerk

Also Present

Sandra Allyn-Gauthier - Selectwoman
Ken Zachem - Selectman
Cindy Varricchio - Finance Director
Dr. Seitsinger - Superintendent of Schools
Sean Nugent - Board of Education Chairman

*46 members of the public attended in the Gymnasium
2 members of the public attended in the Art Room*

2. Recess Special Meeting to conduct Public Hearing

3. Public Hearing - see separate Minutes

4. Reconvene Special Meeting in the Art Room

John Moulson reconvened the Board of Finance Special Meeting at 9:43 P.M. in the Art Room to continue to conduct the business of the Board.

5. Discuss the public comments heard this evening

Stacey Becker shared that the Board received 17 emails concerning the budgets. Ten emails were in support of the Budgets, and 7 were in favor of the Board of Education specifically. The following emails were received:

- Frank Cuoco - support of the budgets moving forward
- Suzanne Curtis - support the Board of Education budget
- Cara Sawyer - supports the Board of Education budget
- John Clabbers - supports the budgets moving forward
- Laurie Castronova - supports the budgets
- Kaitlin Clabbers - supports the budgets moving forward with no cuts
- Jenna L. Wirth - supports the budgets moving forward with no cuts
- Megan Koniecko - supports the Board of Education budget
- Andrew Koniecko - supports the Board of Education budget
- Rebecca Brigner - supports the Board of Education budget
- Matthew and Birdie Savage - in support of the Board of Education budget
- Alexandra Seeger - supports the proposed Board of Education budget
- Nicole Serra - supports the Board of Education budget, but is concerned with teacher salaries and benefits. She feels that market analysis is needed to ensure the town buys into the most fiscally responsible plan.
- Khristopher and Christine Garcia - support the Board of Education budget
- Joy Hardesty - supports the Board of Education budget
- Ayla Childress - supports the Board of Education budget
- Jerry Grabarek - supports both budgets to move forward to the Town Meeting

6. Act on the proposed the Fiscal Year 2023 Board of Education Budget

Zach Maurice motioned to send the FY 2023 Board of Education Budget to a Town Meeting. Stacey Becker seconded the motion. John Moulson, Bob Congdon, Denise Beale, Stacey Becker, and Zach Maurice voted to approve the motion, while Andy Depta voted against the motion the motion was carried 5 to 1.

7. Act on the proposed the Fiscal Year 2023 General Government Budget

Zach Maurice motioned to send the FY 2023 General Government Budget to a Town Meeting. Stacey Becker seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

8. Act on the proposed the Fiscal Year 2023 Revenue Budget

Zach Maurice motioned to send the FY 2023 Revenue Budget to the Town Meeting. Stacey Becker seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

9. Public Comment

Jill S. Keith, 26 Tanglewood Drive, stated her concerns with a meeting that occurred the previous night and urged the Board to look into statutes that may affect the legality of such meetings.

10. Adjournment

Zach Maurice motioned to adjourn at 9:40 P.M. Bob Congdon seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kimberly Lang

Recording Secretary

**Preston Board of Finance
Public Hearing
Thursday, May 26, 2022
Gymnasium and Art Room - Preston Veterans Memorial School**

Call to Order - John Moulson called the meeting to order at 7:34 P.M.

1. Roll Call

Members

John Moulson - Chairman
Robert Congdon - Vice Chairman
Stacey Becker
Andy Depta
Denise Beale
Zachary Maurice

Alternates

Andrew Sawyer
Kayla Thompson - Clerk

Also Present

Sandra Allyn-Gauthier - Selectwoman
Ken Zachem - Selectman
Cindy Varricchio - Finance Director
Dr. Seitsinger - Superintendent of Schools
Sean Nugent - Board of Education Chairman

46 members of the public attended in the Gymnasium

2. Presentation of the Fiscal Year 2023 General Government Budget

Sandra Allyn-Gauthier shared that while dealing with the uncertainties of the times the Board of Selectmen has put together a budget that will meet the needs of the town while keeping spending in check. Each department was asked to put together its budget and any department with more than a 5% increase was asked to appear before the Board and justify the expenses increases. While there is an increase it is the best budget that we can present with 8% inflation rates, interest rates on the rise, fuel costs fluctuating, and disruptions in the supply chain throughout the country.

The First Selectwoman did point out that there was a focus on keeping as many line items flat as possible. Some solutions were to reallocate within a department. As far as salaries were concerned they were handled centrally. It is hoped that moving forward that with a Human Resource person salary increases can be justified by staff evaluations and job performances, rather than a blanket increase. This year a 4% salary increase for all employees has been budgeted. This is due to the increases in inflation, COLA increase of 5.9%, Health Care and Dental 8% increase, and in the past two years, there were minimal increases.

She noted that Health Care and Dental is calculated at an 8% increase as was advised.

Public Works has a 27% overall increase in their budget. They would like to hire a full-time person that would cover the Transfer Station on the weekend and complement the road crew 3 days a week. This would help with a staffing shortage and support their work in town without outsourcing jobs.

It was pointed out that technology needs to be more reliant, secure, and up to date. CIRMA insurance has a 5% increase and this does include cyber liability. Traditionally, an Equity Distribution has been awarded to the town yearly. It was suggested that the Equity Distribution be used to offset the increases rather than put back into the General Fund.

The Fire Department has budgeted \$7,000 and will continue to do so in order to replace equipment in rotation rather than all at once.

There have been two items added to the budget per request of the Board of Finance, \$25,000 for the 10-year reevaluation that will occur in the near future and \$5,000 for the POCD which is presently being worked on.

After reviewing the Budget it was noted that there would be an 8.7% increase over last year. With current inflation rates, and cost and services increases, the increases in the budget are unavoidable. It was shared that several large ticket items would be paid with ARPA Funds.

She shared that the Grand List has a 4% increase and that it's more prudent to have small increases over time rather than large jumps.

It was stated - *We need to strive to be prepared to be poised for growth and to make our community the best it can be.*

3. Presentation of the Fiscal Year 2023 Board of Education Budget

Sean Nugent, Chairman of the Board of Education, shared that the Board of Education has put together a student-centered budget. It is the best possible budget to meet the needs of all our students. Preston's student population is growing and we need to expand to meet the needs of our students and families.

Roy Seitsinger shared that the highlights of the budget which is based on the validation of students' needs. The school is in a Restore and Revitalize mode, and the needs of all the students in Preston are by far the most important. He stated that there are no additional changes in staff.

He then pointed technology is vital moving forward. The state has provided technology so that every student has access, but now we need to maintain and sustain that technology moving forward.

He then pointed out that 98.3% of the budget is fixed costs driven by 4 categories - Salaries, Health Care, Special Education, and High School Tuition all of which the Board of Education has no control over.

Students' wellness is essential to ensure that we recover from the past several years by supporting students, families, and staff. The federal funds that we have received will be used to

allow us to thrive beyond the basics, but we need to acknowledge the challenges of a diverse student body.

Preston has:

- 439 students
- 184 high school students in 8 high schools

Of those students:

- 10% have a 504 (44)
- 20% have an IEP (86)
- 33% have free and reduced lunch
- 16% BIPOC students

The Board of Education was able to make reductions in their budget to flatten the budget. Reductions totaled \$499,000.

Dr. Seitsinger then explained the influx of recent federal funds. He stated that they will eventually go away over the next few years and that the spending of all funds needs to be approved by the state and that any changes to the approved planned spending need to also be approved before the money is allocated and spent. The federal funds received *must* supplement school programs not support them.

Finally, it was reviewed that psychologists, social workers, school counselors, and school nurses have very different roles, degrees, and certifications, and they work together to provide support to not just the students of the schools but the families and staff as well. Their role is essential to the well-being of the school communities. The audience was shown three years 2022 this year - kindergartners start school, 2034 the year kindergartners will graduate high school, and 2100 the year that most will likely live to see the next century and we need to prepare them for that.

4. Presentation of the Fiscal Year 2023 Revenue Budget

John Moulson introduced Cindy Varricchio the newly hired Finance Director, and the members of the Board - Stacey Becker, Kayla Thompson the Board Clerk and an alternate, Zach Maurice the Board of Finance liaison to the Board of Education, Bob Congdon - Vice-Chair, and former Selectman, Andy Depta, Andrew Sawyer an alternate, Denise Beale, and the recording secretary.

He then reviewed the proposed estimated expenditures for FY2023 compared to the adopted expenditures for FY 2022. He pointed out that the General Government increased by \$347,782 an 8.6% increase. The Board of Education increased by \$977,438 a 7.8% increase. In Debt Services, the interest and principal paid on Bonds actually decreased by \$22,386 a 2.9% decline. That brings the total expenditures to a 7.5% increase.

He then spoke on how the mil rate calculations were done. He stated that the Board of Finance has chosen to calculate the Grand List by 98.5% as opposed to the traditional 98%. He also shared that the Board of Finance has proposed to use \$850,000 from the Undesignated Fund Balance to offset the proposed expenditures. Then Mr. Moulson shared that there would

be a 1.05 mil increase and showed what that would mean for the average homeowner in town. He stressed that the average home valued at \$250,000 would assess at \$175,000 and would see an increase of \$183.00 in property tax. That would be about \$0.50 a day.

He then opened the floor to anyone who would like to speak on the presented budgets.

5. Public Comment

Courtney Ennis, 95 Miller Road, stated her support of the Board of Education Budget and pointed out they have already made significant cuts in their own budget. The Town needs to give students more than the bare minimum. Our teachers and students need the tools for success.

Susan Strader, 463 Route 164, reiterated her support for both budgets and the use of money from the Undesignated Funds account. She stated that taxpayers need small increases over a period of time to maintain financial stability.

Victoria Spicer, 20 Mattern Road, pointed out that there are instructional gaps that need to be addressed as well as social-emotional issues. She stated that the Town has a very healthy Undesignated Fund of over 4 million dollars and those funds need to be used. She asked the Board to send the budgets to a Town Meeting.

Britany Vernetzy, 120 Ross Road, stated that she supports the budgets moving forward as presented.

Nicole Semmelrock, 137 Route 12, also stated that she supported the budgets moving forward.

Kristina Cuoco, 164 River Road, supported the Board of Education budget as presented.

Haleigh Bresnan, 265 Miller Road, stated she appreciates the time and effort the Board has spent presenting the budget. She's grateful for a school and community that work together and supports the Board of Education budget.

Denielle Sandoval, 24 Prodell Road, stated that her child is part of the class that a 3rd section/class was added and that the addition of that classroom was very important for the educational growth of the children and support the continuation of that support by moving the Board of Education budget forward with no cuts.

Beth Bonosconi, 5 Tyler Drive, stated that she is a 30-year resident of Preston and a Kindergarten teacher. She shared that one of her students has had a difficult time adjusting to school. She shared that that child because of the pandemic had never been in a grocery store, gone to a birthday party, or played with other children and it's the Town's obligation to launch children on their educational journey with the very best tools and resources possible and anything less is disrespectful to them.

Cindy Luty, 20 Julian Drive, shared that when her son went to kindergarten they worked on letter sounds, and this year when her grandson went he was reading books. Education has

changed over the years and we need to keep up for the sake of the children. We need to give them what they need by supporting the full Board of Education budget.

Birdie Savage, 108 Krug Road, stated that while we make sure that the school is supported we also need to take care of those on fixed incomes. Fortunately, her daughter is now speaking with the hard work of the support team that is working with her daughter. All the services that the school provides are important.

Robert Martin, 57 Old Jewett City Road, stated that he supported the budget and reminded people that it takes a village to raise children and that he feels that support here in Preston. He also stated the importance of bridging the educational gap for students.

Nicole Hanks, 159 Branch Hill Road, stated that she supported the budgets and stressed the importance of the schools keeping up with technology.

Jill S. Keith, 26 Tanglewood Drive, stated that she supported the Board of Selectmen budget, but recommended that the Board of Education budget be reduced by \$250,000. She stated her concerns that the teachers were given 9% raise and that doesn't mean the children will be given 9% more education. She also cited that the Board of Education typically gives back \$125,000 to the Town at the end of the fiscal year.

Lynn DePina, 101 Middle Road, stated that keeping teachers' salaries competitive after the pandemic is important. The schools need to hold onto the staff they have so teachers don't go elsewhere and to ensure that teachers stay salaries need to stay competitive. She supports the Board of Education budget.

John Moulson stated that the Board of Finance received emails concerning the budgets, he would not read them all but that they all supported the budget for various reasons.

John Moulson closed the Public Hearing at 9:29 P.M. at which time the Board member moved to the Art Room.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kimberly Lang

Recording Secretary

From: Frank Cuoco
Sent: Wednesday, May 25, 2022 10:13 PM
To: Board of Finance; jmoulson@preston-ct.org
Subject: "EXTERNAL" Town budget

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I am in support of the budget moving forward intact with no cuts. Thank you.

Frank Cuoco

From: Susanna Curtis
Sent: Wednesday, May 25, 2022 10:15 PM
To: Board of Finance
Subject: "EXTERNAL" School Budget

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Members of the Preston Board of Finance:

I am a parent at PVMS. I am in support of passing the 2022-2023 school budget as recommended by the Board of Education. Our children deserve the best.

Sincerely,
Susanna Curtis

From: Cara Sawyer
Sent: Wednesday, May 25, 2022 10:22 PM
To: Board of Finance
Cc: Roy Seitsinger; Gloria Homiski; Sandra A. Gauthier
Subject: "EXTERNAL" BOE Budget

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Board of Finance
Attn: Chairman John Moulson

I am unable to attend the town meeting on 5/26/22 so I am writing to the Board of Finance to voice my support of the 2022-2023 Board of Education budget as presented. I think it is critical our schools continue to receive the necessary funding to prioritize education and provide essential resources, both academic and emotional, for the students. Understanding that 98% or more of the budget are contractual obligations and that the requested budget is not adding any additional programming, it is imperative that we continue, at a minimum, to keep the status quo for our children. School is finally beginning to return to "normal" after the past 2 years, but many of our kids are still struggling. As a community, we must do our best to keep up that normalcy for the students so they can continue to thrive and prepare for the future.

Thank you for your time.

Cara Sawyer
Miller Road

Cc: Roy Seitsinger, Superintendent Preston Public Schools

Cc: Sandra Allyn-Gauthier, First Selectwoman, Town of Preston

From: John Clabbers
Sent: Thursday, May 26, 2022 10:05 AM
To: Board of Finance
Subject: "EXTERNAL" Pre school program

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Good morning,

I am emailing in regards to to support the budget moving forward intact with no cuts.

My wife and I have just recently purchased property in preston and in the process of building our home. We currently have an 18 month old son and maybe another child in the near future.

With that being said, a town can only survive with new young families moving in and contributing to their community. I am not asking for free services and handouts like Norwich, I feel like the programs that Norwich has is what is killing that town, but a town is a community that has to have services and programs to support its citizens.

Thank you,

John Clabbers

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

From: Laurie Castronova
Sent: Thursday, May 26, 2022 10:00 AM
To: Board of Finance
Subject: "EXTERNAL" This year's budget

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Just wanting to send my support for this year's budget
We need to make the investment in our kids and our community

From: Kaitlin Clabbers
Sent: Thursday, May 26, 2022 9:55 AM
To: Board of Finance
Subject: "EXTERNAL" Budget

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to state that I approve of the budget moving forward intact, with no cuts. As a family with a young child I believe it is important for Preston to promote facilities and programs that make it marketable to young families. Young families moving to the town provide the support we need to make Preston thrive for generations to come.

Thank you for your time,

Kaitlin Clabbers

From: Jenna L. Wirth
Sent: Thursday, May 26, 2022 8:26 AM
To: Board of Finance
Subject: "EXTERNAL" Preston Budget

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To Whom It May Concern,

I am in support of the budget moving forward intact with no further cuts.

This will help ensure the BOE budget does not get cut.

Thank you,

Jenna Wirth
102 Cooktown Road
Preston, CT 06365

Sent from my iPhone

From: Megan Izbicki Koniecko
Sent: Thursday, May 26, 2022 7:52 AM
To: Board of Finance
Cc: seitsingerr@prestonschools.org; Sandra A. Gauthier
Subject: "EXTERNAL" budget meeting 5/26

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello!

I unfortunately will not be able to attend this evening's meeting to discuss next year's budget. Therefore, I wanted to send in a quick message to say that I am in support of the budget moving forward with no cuts.

Please do not take away our preschool program. My son is thriving this year because of full day preschool. He has gained so much socially, emotionally, and academically. As a mother of three, I am hoping that my two younger children will have the same opportunity to attend pre-k at PVMS. I can't say enough about how this program has helped my child grow this year.

We have many friends that have recently moved to our town as well. We are proud to be a part of Preston and proud to raise our children in this community. Please support us as we move into the school system, as we need the funding to maintain this outstanding early childhood program.

Thank you,

Megan Koniecko
17 McClimon Rd, Preston, CT 06365

From: Andrew Koniecko
Sent: Thursday, May 26, 2022 7:45 AM
To: Board of Finance
Cc: Megan Izbicki Koniecko
Subject: "EXTERNAL" Budget Meeting 5/26

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good Evening,

My family has resided in Preston for generations. Countless relatives have come through the Preston Public Schools and have attained success in whichever career that they chose. The educational foundation that Preston Public Schools lays is one that allows success in future endeavors.

I am a result of that school system. I am currently a public school educator that resides in town with my wife and 3 young children. I have always envisioned providing the same educational opportunities, and more, for my own children. This decision is the sole reason that my wife and I decided to raise our children in Preston. We knew that the educational opportunities that would arise would be beneficial to our children.

My son, Cash is 4 years old and currently attends the Preston Pre-K program at PVMS. Before attending school, he had only been in a small home daycare program. Although he possessed adequate academic skills, he needed to develop his social skills further. Since his first day of school he has blossomed socially with his classmates and teachers. He would not have developed these social skills in a smaller setting. His development is solely the result of the Pre-K program and the great staff that support our children. The only reason that someone might vote down an increase in the educational budget may be because they don't currently have children in the school system. When I think of Preston, I do not think of a collection of individuals who happen to live next to one another, I think of a community of families who support one another. I ask, when voting for this budget, please look outside of yourself and think of your neighbor. Think of all of the future leaders of this community and nation whom you can contribute. Their success is dependent on the support of this great community. Focusing on dollars and cents in the short-term cannot compare with the benefits of a stronger educational system. The compensation that will result will be exponential. Please keep in mind, that every person in this room right now: regardless of sex, race, socioeconomic standing, or political party has one thing in common. We have all benefited from our education. Take this time to allow others to benefit, as well.

Thank You,
Andrew Koniecko

Sent from my iPhone

Board of Finance Meeting 5/26

From: Rebecca Brigner (jacarusor@gmail.com)

To: john.23@comcast.net; sbeckerbot@yahoo.com; kaylathompsonbof@outlook.com

Date: Thursday, May 26, 2022, 10:20 AM EDT

Good Morning Team,

I hope this email finds you well.

I wanted to reach out as a Preston resident, but also as a parent of a toddler who will be enrolled in our wonderful school district in a few years.

Even though I am unable to attend tonight's meeting because of my child, I want to extend my support of the budget moving forward intact.

I have a strong belief that we can work together to make sure our children receive all the opportunities they can now and in the future. Thank you for your time, it is much appreciated.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Brigner

Support of Budget FY23

From: MS (savage10386@gmail.com)

To: john.23@comcast.net; sbeckerbof@yahoo.com; kaylathompsonbof@outlook.com

Date: Thursday, May 26, 2022, 08:50 AM EDT

Hello,

We are unable to attend tonight's meeting, but wanted to send a notice that we are adamantly and confidently in strong support of the current proposed town and BOE budgets for FY23.

We have faith that the BOF and all bodies involved will move forward in confidence with the proposed budgets and sustain our wonderful community financially.

Best,

Matthew and Birdie Savage
108 Krug Road

From: Alexandra Seeger
Sent: Thursday, May 26, 2022 11:15 AM
To: Board of Finance
Subject: "EXTERNAL" Budget

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To whom it may concern.

As a parent of school aged children I support the proposed budget. Our children are our future, we must do what we can to provide them the education they will need.

Thank you.
Alexandra Seeger

BOE Budget

From: Nicole Serra (nicolemarie0219@yahoo.com)

To: john.23@comcast.net; sbeckerbof@yahoo.com

Date: Thursday, May 26, 2022, 11:53 AM EDT

I am in favor of the BOE budget that is being presented tonight at the Public Hearing. I fully support the continuation of the Pre-K program as well as keeping the current staffing numbers, to ensure small classroom sizes and the variety of enrichment classes being offered such as music, art and library.

I am a bit concerned with the increase in regards to teacher salaries and benefits. I would like to suggest that a market analysis be conducted in regards to benefits in the future to ensure that the town is being as fiscally responsible as possible in this area.

Thank you,
Nicole Serra

School budget

From: Khristopher Garcia (khrisgarcia@icloud.com)

To: john.23@comcast.net; sbeckerbof@yahoo.com; kaylathompsonbof@outlook.com; financeboard@preston-ct.org

Cc: christinemaloney@icloud.com

Date: Thursday, May 26, 2022, 05:00 PM EDT

Hello,

We are unable to attend tonight's meeting (5/26) but wanted to express that we, Christine and Khristopher Garcia, are both in support of the proposed school budget.

Regards,
Khrls

79 Swantown Rd.
Preston, CT

Sent from my iPhone

BoF Budget Comments

From: Joy Hardesty (vision_617@hotmail.com)

To: financeboard@preston-ct.org

Cc: john.23@comcast.net; sbeckerbof@yahoo.com; kaylathompsonbof@outlook.com

Date: Thursday, May 26, 2022, 11:58 AM EDT

Good morning,

I hope this email finds you well. I am, unfortunately, unable to attend tonight's meeting. However, I am hoping that my comments can be heard by the board.

My family moved here to Preston a little over a year ago from Massachusetts. Admittedly, we did not have much knowledge of Connecticut towns or what makes each "a great place to live." Our research centered around the quality of education provided in our new prospective hometown. The town not only had to be "safe" and "cute," but it had to meet educational needs for our two young, barely school-aged daughters. This involved looking at school performance, checking the schools' websites, gauging the quality of communications from the superintendent on down, and having to pore through old BoE meeting notes. Needless to say, my fine-tooth comb got a workout.

Our older daughter is thriving in Kindergarten. I have nothing but great things to say about PVMS thus far, and our excitement grew knowing that next year, our youngest daughter would be enrolled in Pre-K. She has been so excited to join her big sister on the school bus and has had her backpack picked out for the longest time! I was taken aback to find that this opportunity has essentially been yanked not only from our hands, but from the hands of families across the town of Preston. I am astounded to find that the balance of their educational futures now rely on simple chance of being picked in a lottery.

I believe that it is vitally important to these very young children that they get the start they all need and deserve. I am not an educator myself, but I am well aware of the benefits the town's youngest citizens will reap from getting this jumpstart. There are potential students who need this extra year to be set up for success. There are potential students with (possibly unrealized or undiagnosed) developmental disabilities who need this extra year for the sake of continuity of services.

I know that I am a town "newbie," but Preston is my home, now. Please consider the needs of these children. They need the support of family, friends, and schools. Please help the town be the village that everyone says it takes to raise children right.

Respectfully,

Joy N. Hardesty

119 Old Jewett City Rd

Preston, CT 06365

781-866-2586

BOF meeting tonight

From: Ayla (ayla.r.phillips@gmail.com)

To: financeboard@preston-ct.org

Date: Thursday, May 26, 2022, 11:55 AM EDT

BOF,

Good morning. Unfortunately, I am unable to attend tonight's meeting. I advocate for the current preschool program to remain and support the current budget moving forward.

My daughter is autistic. If it weren't for the preschool program, I know she would be struggling to keep up with her now first grade classmates.

She was nonverbal prior to attending. During the course of that school year she had learned ASL, letters, numbers, and how to communicate and interact with her peers well.

She is now six years old, has great communication skills and has skills that I was initially told she would never have. I am so grateful for the preschool program.

Very respectfully,

Ayla Childress

Testimony

From: Deborah Grabarek (prestonfarmscommaze@gmail.com)

To: financeboard@preston-ct.org

Date: Thursday, May 26, 2022, 01:10 PM EDT

▲ Why is this message in your Inbox?

We think this message is spam. We still put it into your Inbox as the sender is in your contact list. You can mark this message as safe or remove the sender.

Remove sender and mark as spam

It's safe

Since I've tested positive for Covid I will not attend tonight's public hearing.

Could this be read into the record.

I would like to express my gratitude to all the staff at our schools putting kids first under trying circumstances. I support both budgets going forward to a town meeting with the numbers presented as shown.

Thank you,

Jerry Grabarek