

BOE Regular Meeting

July 11, 2022 7:00 PM

PPMS Library

1. Call to Order

Dr. Nugent, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:03PM. Other members present: Deborah Burke-Grabarek, Cindy Luty, Charles Raymond, Megan Gallant. Dan Harris was excused. Cindy Dupointe was absent. Also present: Dr. Roy Seitsinger; Superintendent, and Gloria Homiski; Recording Secretary.

2. Public Comment

None

Dr. Nugent shared the passing of Jim Bell, an active community member for many years in Preston.

Dr. Nugent stated that he would like to attend the CABA Summer Conference. He asked other Board Members to contact Gloria Homiski if they wish to attend as well.

3. Consent Agenda

The consent agenda was accepted as presented.

4. Superintendent's Reports/Updates

a. Staff Retirement Incentive

Retirees will be acknowledged at the start of the next school year during orientation. The Board agreed to move forward with the 3 retirement incentives that were received.

The Annual Paw Award will also be given out at orientation in August. During the year of COVID, each and every staff member received recognition for going above and beyond. Such recognition is documented in every personnel file.

b. New Transportation Safety System

Annie Glaude and Brendan Merrill will present this system at the August BOE Meeting. Students will have ID's that will allow us to know exactly who is on each bus at any given moment. This can be very useful during any type of emergency or substitute driver situation.

c. Juneteenth Day: June 20th

This is now a federal holiday. Most schools are out for the summer by this date, but it is something to keep in mind. Perhaps the district can acknowledge the date prior to the end of each school year. This will be further discussed when setting the yearly calendar and it will be incorporated into strategic planning.

d. Diversity, Equity, Inclusion Statement

As part of our strategic plan, we will review our current statement and modify as necessary. A CRT statement will also be contained in the strategic plan.

e. Staffing

There are openings at the elementary level. Last year we had a 15% shift in staffing. This year there will be approximately a 10% shift. Our primary goal is to select and maintain high-quality staff and faculty members. We are considering partnering with other districts to

hire a regional HR Coordinator. This has become a very complex role. We are looking at different health care plans for financial savings.

f. Correspondence from First Selectwoman

Sandra Allyn-Gauthier thanked Diane Hansen for sharing Preston student artwork with community members. Various artwork will continue to be displayed in the halls of the Town several times a year.

g. Correspondence from Commissioner

The Commissioner recognized the balancing act districts have been juggling over the last couple of years.

h. PK Correspondence

Ray Bernier shared two letters that explained the PK lottery process with incoming families. We are keeping three PreK sections open at this time but may make an adjustment as the year begins.

i. Technology

A Technology Plan will be incorporated into our strategic plan. Currently, our tech support consists of staff from LEARN and EASTCONN. Basically, we have 5 day a week coverage. We will begin to discuss the possibility of having our own in-house tech coordinator in the future. Perhaps we can share this person's services with the Town or another school district.

5. Principal and Special Education Director Reports

Dr. Seitsinger shared reports from Mr. Bernier and Dr. Davis-Tomczuk. The year ended well at PPMS. The students and staff were happy to have field day, grade 8 celebrations, and graduation restored. PVMS is going through the hiring process for open positions. Currently we have two full PK classrooms with no students on waiting lists. In August we will determine if a third classroom must be added.

Dr. Seitsinger stated that Chris Pickett is overseeing the summer school program for the second year in a row. We have 70- 75 students in attendance. The program is off to a very smooth start.

6. Policy Review

Order of Business: Policy 9325.2

The Board discussed this policy and suggested updates.

Moved, to approve Policy 9325.2 as amended. Gallant/Luty. Unanimous. Motion Carries.

7. Expenditure/Projection Report

Dr. Seitsinger presented the report for Cindy Varricchio. The FY22 audit begins on July 20th and 21st. Mrs. Varricchio will report on the FY21 audit after the BOF views the final report. The business office is cleaning up expenditures from FY21 and current employee health insurance is being processed.

The Board of Finance stated that they want to see the monthly financial report even if a cover letter is unavailable.

Dr. Seitsinger stated that there is approximately \$200,000 of unspent money for FY222.

Cyber Insurance is in place for the current FY23 school year. We are currently reviewing Active Assailant insurance. Superintendents are discussing this at both LEARN and local government levels. This will be discussed further at the August meeting. Dr. Nugent asked that Dr. Seitsinger send letters to state legislators requesting additional support for cyber security.

8. Public Comment

None

9. Adjournment

Moved, to adjourn the meeting at 8:24PM. Burke-Grabarek/Luty. Unanimous. Motion Carries.