

Preston Public School District

Board of Education

Special BOE Meeting

August 16, 2021

7:00 PM

Virtual

1. The meeting was called to order at 7 PM by Sean Nugent, chair.

BOE members present: Sean Nugent, George Carver, Tom Turner, Cindy Luty, Dan Harris and Deborah Burke-Grabarek. Charles Raymond was absent.

Administration present: Superintendent Dr. Roy Seitsinger, Mr. John Spang (Financial Director), Dr. Ivy Davis (Principal), Ray Bernier (Principal) and Ann Perzan (Director of Special Education).

2. Public Comment:

Amy Velazcaz: Spoke in favor of adding an extra section of both PK and K, citing large class sizes

Kim Tondreau: Spoke in favor of adding an extra section of both PK and K.

Richard Thayer: Spoke in favor of adding an extra section of both PK and K.

Johanna Thibdeau: Spoke in favor of adding an extra section of both PK and K. Also cited difficulty with office-parent communication regarding acceptance and or wait list status of child for PK. Applied in April. Not notified child was on wait list until last week. Caused frustration and difficulty making childcare arrangements.

Amanda: Spoke in favor of adding an extra section of both PK and K.

Khrist Garcia: Supports hiring two new teachers for new sections of PK and K.

Megan Koniecko: Spoke in favor of adding an extra section of both PK and K.

Christopher Moyer: Spoke in favor of adding an extra section of both PK and K.

Alison Amero: Spoke in favor of adding an extra section of both PK and K. Cited her situation: one child wait listed for PK other child going into K.

Moran Family: Spoke in favor of adding an extra section of both PK and K.

Kayla Thompson: Supports adding extra PK and K sections.

Cassie Houle: Supports adding extra PK and K sections.

S. Vanase: Supports adding extra PK and K sections.

3. New Business

a. Grades PK and K review and discussion

Dr. Seitsinger thanked all parents for their comments. He also agreed that the confusion over wait list/PK entry was not acceptable, nor was the delay in the notification of such status. He apologized to parents for the problems and said that it will not happen again. The process will be restructured. At present PK count @43 students.

Dr. Seitsinger cited Kindergarten numbers, at present @45-46 students, as being too high for that grade level. By applying pandemic relief federal funds to the K level an extra teacher & para will be able to be hired without budget impact. He absolutely recommends that we hire a new K teacher now.

BOE Discussion:

Cindy Luty: Vote for both PK and K.

Deb B-G: Fully support both PK and K extra section. Do we have enough classroom space for both classes?

Dr. Seitsinger: Yes, we have the square footage now. One classroom may have to use a hall bathroom.

Dan: Disappointed we didn't have more notice of these extra kids. Parents should not have to wait until August to hear whether their child will get into PK. How and where will the extra money come from for another PK class? What lines in the budget?

Tom: In favor of adding both PK and K teacher. What will impact be for para-educators? Costs?

Dr. Seitsinger: Staffing requirements are one teacher and one para for each classroom.

George: In favor of adding both PK and K teacher. Sorry about the PK notification issues.

Sean: We need to put a process in place to know when and how many kids are accepted into PK. Financially, we need to let the Board of Finance know where stand every month. They need to be informed.

Motion #1

Motion to add a new PK and a new K this year.

Cindy Luty/George Carver.

Motion approved.

b. Revised 2021-2022 school calendar-updated

Dr. Seitsinger: Adding two new half days.

Motion #2

Move to accept new school calendar with changes.

Cindy Luty/Tom Turner

Motion approved.

Motion #3

Move to adjourn.

Cindy Luty/George Carver

Motion approved.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Burke-Grabarek

BOE Secretary

