

Special Board of Education Meeting
November 15, 2021 7PM

1. Call to Order
Dr. Nugent; BOE Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:18PM. Other members present: Cindy Luty, Charles Raymond, Deborah Burke-Grabarek, Tom Turner, George Carver and Dan Harris. Also present: Dr. Seitsinger; Superintendent and Gloria Homiski; Recording Secretary.
2. Public Comment
Susan Strader thanked the Board on behalf of the teachers' union for ratifying their contract.
3. Consent Agenda
Accepted as submitted.
4. Superintendent's Reports/Updates
 - a. Current Board Member Recognition
Dr. Seitsinger presented plaques to Charles Raymond and George Carver to thank them for their service and dedication to the Preston Board of Education.
 - b. Educator Evaluation and Support Feedback
The state of CT is looking for district insight on Educator Evaluations.
 - c. NFA Preston Profile: This pamphlet reports information on Preston students attending NFA. Overall, Preston students are very successful at NFA. Out of 157 Preston students, 82 are honour students. Currently Chris Pickett is giving Preston students weekly updates regarding high school choices for next year.
 - d. 5 Year Capital Plan Update
Dr. Seitsinger and Mr. House have been working with Frank Zaino and Associates to finalize the 5 year capital plan. Last year we devised a rough draft that totalled 1.9 million dollars. Today the cost for these projects is between 7 and 9 million dollars. A final plan will be presented to the BOE Finance Committee, the full BOE and then the BOF. Dr. Nugent explained that now is the time to significantly upgrade or replace equipment. The 5 year plan is really a look towards the future. Do we renovate or determine end of life and create a building plan? Discussion followed. Dan Harris asked that the following projects be added to the 5 year plan: a new gym for PPMS and a new home for Central Office. It was also determined that anything under \$20,000 would be part of the regular budget and not the Capital Plan.
 - e. Child Nutrition Authorized Signature Change Form
John Spang left the district and therefore Preston must revise its signature page for our Child Nutrition claims. **The Board unanimously authorized Dr. Seitsinger, Mr. Merrill, and Deborah Burke-Grabarek to sign the signature change form adding Mr. Merrill as signature 2.**

Additional Updates:

Screen and Stay: The Department of Health is recommending screen and stay procedures to reduce quarantining impact. It reduces the quarantine time for school related cases. The information will be posted on our website tomorrow.

Dr. Seitsinger also announced that the Town hired a new Treasurer. Her name is Erin Gizio and she comes to our Town with a good deal of financial experience. He also introduced William Merrill; our Interim Director of Finance.

Dr. Seitsinger explained that the district is moving to Multi Factor Authentication for safety and cybersecurity reasons.

Dr. Seitsinger welcomes the Board's thoughts on the Blue Ocean RV Park that is planning to lease the property (65 acres) across the street from Preston Plains.

Staffing challenges remain at both schools. Two years ago teacher subs were paid \$85/day. Now teacher subs are paid \$150/day.

November 15th was called "National School Shooting Day." It was driven by social media. Uncertain of the intention, the state police determined that it must be interpreted as a threat. Central Office sent out an email to staff and families and posted the announcement on the webpage and facebook.

5. Principal and Special Education Director Reports

Dr. Davis-Tomczuk stated that as the school year progresses, we are normalizing. Tiered intervention is in place for any student below grade level in math and reading. Once the Bus Garage and PVMS are ready, after school tutoring will be reinstated. The following after school clubs are being reactivated: Alliance for Acceptance, Unified Club, Math and Spanish. PPMS held a Fall Field Day inspired by PVMS. It consisted of several team building activities. The afternoon was enjoyed by all.

Mr. Bernier thanked Heather Helwig for her help with the PVMS Fall Field Day. It was a good socialization activity for all students. PVMS is also beginning to normalize. They held spirit week before Halloween and went through an unexpected fire drill in a torrential downpour on Oct 26th! Despite the heavy rain, the drill went well. The Bus Garage offered shelter for all. The following clubs are starting up again at PVMS: Unified, Yearbook and Spanish. Report cards will be distributed and Parent Teacher Conferences will be held after Thanksgiving. The new PK and K teachers are working out very well. Morning traffic is much better than at the beginning of the school year. The resident trooper is there most mornings if assistance is ever needed.

Mrs. Perzan's report was read by Dr. Seitsinger. She has applied for a new ARP special education grant in the amount of \$20,000. The money will focus on Social Emotional Learning. She will also use some of the money to close learning gaps and do independent evaluations.

Dr. Seitsinger explained that Ann Perzan will be out of district for personal reasons and that we have an interim already lined up.

6. Policy Review

Policy 1120 Public Participation at BOE Meetings (2nd read)

Moved, to add a sign-up sheet for Public Comment at all meetings and incorporate that into Policy 1120. Luty/Burke-Grabarek.

Discussion followed.

Turner, Carver, Harris and Raymond Opposed. Motion does not carry.

Moved, to accept Policy 1120 as modified and submitted. Luty/Turner. Unanimous. Motion Carries.

7. Expenditure/Projection Reports

Vicki Schwery reviewed the reports with the Board. The unencumbered amount of approximately \$100,000 is still expected to be returned to the Town after the final audit. Vicki thanked Bill Merrill for his assistance since coming to Preston. Expenses have slowed down significantly. About 30% of the FY22 budget has been spent. The business office is monitoring the school supply line item. Four new teachers were hired at PPMS and two new teachers were hired at PVMS. Purchases are frozen while the account is reviewed. The last capital project is a new roof at PPMS. It has been entered into the new 5 year plan discussed earlier.

Dr. Nugent stated that for now Board meetings will alternate from in person to virtual from month to month. November was in person so December will be virtual. This will continue until our sound system is delivered and installed.

8. Adjournment

Moved, to adjourn the meeting at 9:04PM. Turner/Burke-Grabarek. Unanimous. Motion Carries.