

Preston Public Schools
Board of Education
BOE Finance Committee Meeting
February 12, 2026
6 PM
Preston Plains Library

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:01 PM by Kelly McNamara, BOE Finance Committee Chair.

Members Present: Kelly McNamara, Courtney Ennis, and Charles Raymond.

Thomas Wright, BOE liaison, was also present.

Superintendent Dr. Seitsinger, Cynthia Varricchio (Finance Director), and Victoria Schwery (Finance Dept.) were present.

Administrators/Supervisors present: Raymond Bernier, Craig King, Michael House (Buildings & Grounds)

2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Public Comment
None.

Members of the public in attendance: Eric McGlone

4. Approval of Minutes

- a. Minutes from February 5, 2026 meeting not available for review.

5. Business

- a. 2026-2027 Budget Discussion

- i. Dr. Seitsinger provided an update regarding the projected healthcare premium costs for FY 2026-2027. The district's insurance broker was able to negotiate the increase in the healthcare premium back down to a 7% increase.
- ii. With movements in budget development since the last meeting (including changing student counts, healthcare costs, etc.), FY 2026-2027 budget proposal represents a 5.58% increase over the FY 2025-2026 budget.
- iii. FC Chair Kelly McNamara asked how much of the \$37,000 budgeted for Schoolwide Summer Support Staff in the Salaries section is budgeted for Extended School Year (ESY) services.
 1. Dr. Seitsinger said that approximately \$25,000 is earmarked for ESY staff. The other ~\$12,000 is for staffing for the general education Summer Voyages program that is done in partnership with the Mystic Seaport.
- iv. Dr. Seitsinger reviewed Acceptable Risks and reductions to the proposed budget that were developed in response to discussions held over the last three weeks with the BOE Finance Committee and administration. These

items can be brought forward to the full BOE for discussion and consideration.

- v. The benefits and drawbacks to presenting an early retirement incentive to staff was discussed. If there is an interest in pursuing this option, the full BOE would need to vote to approve.
- vi. BOF Liaison Thomas Wright asked if there is consideration to eliminate the proposed addition of the Assistant Athletic Director stipend, why not also reduce the assistant coaches for athletics.
 - 1. Dr. Seitsinger reported that assistant coaches support safe practice opportunities for students by reducing the student-to-coaching ratio.
- vii. BOF Liaison Thomas Wright asked about the Social Media stipend included in the FY 2026-2027 budget.
 - 1. Dr. Seitsinger explained that this is a proposed addition to the budget and not an official stipend yet.
- viii. BOE Chair Courtney Ennis asked if the \$17,000 increase in stipend positions are all contractual.
 - 1. BOF Liaison Thomas Wright asked if the stipend positions not currently listed in the collective bargaining unit could be identified with an asterisk.
- ix. A brief discussion occurred of the BOE's non-lapsing fund and its relationship to the budget development process.

6. MOTION #1:

- b. At 7:09 PM, BOE Chair Courtney Ennis asked for a vote to move the current FY 2026-2027 budget with the current proposals to the full BOE at a special meeting of the BOE on February 23, 2026. Motion carried, two in favor, none opposed, one abstention.

7. MOTION #2:

- c. A motion for adjournment was made by Kelly McNamara and seconded by Courtney Ennis at 7:10 PM. Motion carried, all in favor, none opposed, no abstentions.

The next BOE Finance Committee meeting will be held on March 5, 2026.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kelly McNamara, BOE Finance Committee Chair