

BOE Regular Meeting
May 9, 2022 7:00 PM
PPMS Library

1. Call to Order

Dr. Nugent, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:04PM. Other members present: Deborah Burke-Grabarek, Cindy Luty, Charles Raymond, Megan Gallant and Dan Harris. Cindy Dupointe was excused. Also present: Dr. Roy Seitsinger; Superintendent, and Gloria Homiski; Recording Secretary.

2. Public Comment

None

3. Consent Agenda

The consent agenda was accepted as presented.

4. Superintendent's Reports/Updates

a. Continuation of State Teacher Evaluation Flexibilities. The CSDE letter is forwarded to all Board members.

Moved, to accept the State Teacher Evaluation Flexibilities for one more year. Luty/Burke-Grabarek. Unanimous. Motion Carries.

b. PK/K Registration Update

PK +40, K +45 Dr. Seitsinger is recommending 3 sections of each currently.

A discussion followed. Dan Harris asked if we would set a cut off number for class size or to have only two sections of PK.

The consensus is to have 18 students per class with no specific limitation of two sections or three. The following has been communicated to parents and will be reiterated again to them soon:

June 8th 10 AM a PreK Lottery: The first class of 18 students will be chosen, and will include those students with special needs who must automatically be placed.

A second set of 18 names will be drawn for PK classroom two.

The remainder of the students will go on a waiting list. Their entrance into PK will be based on budget contingency and may not be determined until August.

c. NFA-Meeting with Preston Students

Dr. Seitsinger met with Preston 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th grade Preston students at NFA. All the students said that Preston prepared them well for NFA. Dr. Seitsinger stated that all the students represented Preston in a positive manner.

Dr. Seitsinger plans to visit Preston students attending Norwich Tech in the near future. Currently about 30 Preston students attend this school.

d. Tom Turner Scholarship (The Grabareks)

Dr. Seitsinger thanked Jerry and Deb for their support of this award. The award (\$100.00 each) will be given out to two grade 8 students at the annual award ceremony.

e. Summer School Enrollment Update

Last summer approximately 92 students attended the program which partnered with the Mystic Seaport. Right now 80 students are already signed up for the 2022 summer program.

Other: Dr. Seitsinger recognized the stepping down of Rob Rader; CABE's Executive Director for over 26 years.

Traffic on Route 164 will continue to pick up as construction continues from PPMS to Griswold. Eversource will be redoing all the power lines on Route 12 and Route 2A this summer as well.

State and federal officials are talking about a spike in the pandemic. They are discussing the possibility of re-masking. We have seen one to two positive cases a day since students returned from Spring Break. Staying fully staffed continues to be a problem.

Other: Dr. Nugent stated that Cindy Dupointe is heavily involved as a community as a social worker and has therefor made the decision to step down from the BOE Finance Committee. Deborah Burke-Grabarek will fill this spot since she indicated an interest in it the same time that Cindy originally did.

Dr. Nugent asked both Megan Gallant and Cindy Dupointe to work on ways to improve a connection with parents and with the community at large. Dr. Seitsinger stated that during his parent group meetings, parents expressed that texting was the best way to communicate important information to them.

5. Principal and Special Education Director Reports

Mr. Bernier: SBAC testing is currently taking place and going well. The Writing Program Committee has chosen a writing curriculum for grades K-5 to share with Dr. Seitsinger. It is called Empowering Writers. The Curriculum Sub Committee has been discussing this topic since last year.

Important dates/events: May 18th, Band Concert, PVMS, 7PM
June 1st, PVMS Palozza
June 9th, PVMS Field Day Onsite
June 13th, PVMS Awards, 9:30AM

Mr. Bernier also shared a short video demonstrating Cereal Box Dominoes. Students will bring in boxes of cereal which will line the school hall and form a game of dominoes. Afterwards the cereal will be donated to the Preston Food Pantry.

Dr. Ivy Davis-Tomczuk: She is working on outdoor graduation for May 15th at PVMS. Fifth grade parent/student orientation will be held at PPMS on May 25th. A computer security class will be held on May 19th.

Mrs. Ann Perzan: She would like the name of her department to be changed to Pupil Personnel Services to align with other districts since the work includes 504's etc.

She is working with Sparkle Learn which has PK guidelines so that we can monitor student progress and track those students not enrolled in PK.

The PK Program will work to complete their NAEYC Accreditation during the 2022-2023 school year.

Staff continue to make the transition from IEP Direct to CT SEDS; a difficult and time consuming process.

6. Policy Review

Second Read:

a. Policy 5145.44 Students: Title IX

Moved, to accept Policy 5145.44 as recommended by CABE. Luty/Burke-Grabarek. Unanimous. Motion Carries.

7. Expenditure/Projection Report

Cindy Varricchio shared some important dates:

May 18th, BOF to discuss BOE Budget

May 19th, hold for possible additional BOF meeting

May 26th, Public Hearing, PVMS 7:30PM

June 9th, Town Meeting, PVMS 7:30PM

June 21st, Referendum, PPMS time TBD

FY21: Mrs. Varricchio and team are going through (forensic type) the budget line item by line item to acquire a fund balance by the 18th.

FY22: Vicki Schwery is making sure everything has been expended to the correct line item and is working on a year-end forecast. This is an internal forensic audit to ensure that everything is in order.

FY23: The team continues to work on the proposed budget.

FY24: Central Office will need to re-locate.

Audit Update: The BOF received a more detailed report of work not completed. The auditors made recommendations in 2020 that were not completed. Work was not properly entered into the system during 2021. Bill Merrill continues to assist the team with this important project. Mrs. Varricchio assured the Board that checks and balances would be put in

place to prevent this from ever happening again. Making the Treasurer position a hired vs elected position was a great start and corrective action procedures will already be put into action for 2022-2023. Dr. Seitsinger stated that indications are that FY 21 and FY 22 will finish strong.

8. Public Comment

None

9. Adjournment

Moved, to adjourn the meeting at 8:33PM. Luty/Burke-Grabarek. Unanimous. Motion Carries.