

BOE Special Meeting

August 15, 2022 7:00 PM

PPMS Library

1. Call to Order

Dr. Nugent, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:05PM. Other members present: Deborah Burke-Grabarek, Charles Raymond, Megan Gallant, and Dan Harris. Cindy Luty was excused. Cindy Dupointe was absent. Also present: Dr. Roy Seitsinger; Superintendent, and Gloria Homiski; Recording Secretary.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Public Comment

None

4. Consent Agenda

Accepted as presented.

5. Superintendent's Report

a. Re-Opening/Continuity Plan

This plan must be updated every six months and is continuously changing. It will be posted on the website and sent to the state after the Board approves it. Discussion followed. A few changes were made. The plan will come back to the Board in September.

b. Transportation Safety Presentation

Annie Glaude and Brendan Merrill presented to the Board. Preston has purchased through a federal grant, a software tracking system that allows parents to know exactly where their student's bus is at all times. The bus garage also knows exactly who is on each bus on any given day. Every vehicle has been equipped with a tablet which will read student ID's and track riders. If parents register with the School Bus Hub they will get messages such as; bus is running 5 minutes late, etc. Students swipe their cards when they exit the bus and parents are then alerted that students have arrived at school.

Board discussion followed. The program will be launched on September 15th. They asked that they continue to be updated on the progress of this system.

c. Transportation Business Case

There are a limited number of school bus drivers in the state of CT. A total of 1000 driver openings exists. AT the start of the school year we have been guaranteed one full time substitute bus driver from STA. There are two parents who are interested in becoming drivers and they will begin training and certification. If anything in the CBA needs to be amended, it will come back to the Board for approval. Board consensed to move forward.

d. Free Lunches while Relief Money Lasts

Preston will receive \$57,000 in funding. We will be able to offer free breakfast/lunch to all students at the start of the 2022-2023 school year. This funding may get us through Nov/Dec. Tom O'Connor will report to the Board on this. We will ask parents to complete the appropriate forms and we will notify families before the money runs out and we need to go back to full/reduced/free meals.

e. Board Retreat

The Board will check CABE's availability to attend a retreat in October (not Columbus Day weekend).

f. Policies First Read

Policy 5141.213 Opioid Overdose Prevention

Two examples of this policy were presented to the Board. One was from North Stonington and one was from NFA. The Board was asked to review the two policies and work on creating our own. The policy will be brought back to the September meeting.

Policy 0521.2 Religious Neutrality

The board was asked to review the existing policy and choose version 1 or version 2. This policy will also be brought back in September.

6. Principals'/Director of Special Education Reports

Ray Bernier: PVMS Principal introduced Jessica Golemba, new grade 2 teacher. Other teachers hired: Rebecca McGlone; Grade 4, Katherine Stapleton; Grade K and Zoe Robert; Grade PK. There were 4 para-educator openings at PVMS. Amy Velasquez and Ashlee Hoitt have been hired, Deanna Martinez is coming over from the middle school. One opening remains. PVMS needs 5 long term substitute teachers. The enrollment at PVMS is 320 students. On 8-23 PVMS PTO will host an ice cream social from 3:30-4:30. PK/K Orientation will be held on 8-26. First day of school for students is 8-29-2022. A book fair will be held on 9-12 and Open House will be held on 9-14 from 6pm- 7:30pm. A Grandparents' Luncheon will be held on 9-16 and the second annual Team Building Day is 9-23.

Ivy Davis-Tomczuk: PPMS Principal and Director of Curriculum: Happy to report that all faculty members are returning. There will be 2 sections of grade 6 and 3 sections each of grade 7 and grade 8. Open House will be held on 9-15 at 6:30pm. Dr. Davis-Tomczuk reviewed the PD schedule for faculty and staff on 8-23, 8-24, and 8-25.

Dr. Seitsinger read the report from Ann Perzan; Director of Special Education. The Special Ed Department is working hard to make the transition from IEP Direct to CTSEDS. It entails a significant amount of work. She is monitoring students whose tuition costs could possibly impact the budget.

7. Committee Reports

None

8. Financial Report

Cindy Varricchio, Director of Finance, presented to the Board. She stated that the FY21 audit is complete and that an action plan has been shared with the Board. The FY22 audit is underway with auditors returning in November. Remaining funds from FY22 equal \$173,000. Budget books are available for those who are interested. The book combines the school and the town budgets. The FY23 Budget is tracking well so far. In FY24 we will have the expense of finding Central Office a new location.

Brown and Brown presented an alternative health care plan which would provide significant savings to the district. They are recommending United Healthcare. A joint meeting between the BOE Finance Committee and the BOS was held on 8-11. This plan and the current plan are about a 95% match. Both the Town and the District must make the switch together to receive the benefit.

The Board consensus was to ask the Superintendent to have formal conversations about the suggested health plan with the unions.

9. Adjournment

Moved, to adjourn the meeting at 9:40pm. Nugent/Gallant. Unanimous. Motion Carries.