

BOE Regular Meeting

September 12, 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, Dan Harris, Cindy Luty and Cindy Dupointe. 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

Dr. Seitsinger reported that the Governor has ordered flags to fly at half-mast until the interment of Queen Elizabeth on September 19th. He also noted 911 was 21 years ago Sunday.

He also stated that the Board approved a Transportation MOU that was reviewed during Executive Session.

Summer School Update: Chris Pickett shared that 67 students participated in summer school this year. This number is lower than last year. This year summer camps and sports camps were open again, whereas they were limited last year due to COVID. Students attended for 5 weeks. The program required 9 teachers and 14 para-educators. Preston Public Schools partnered with the Mystic Seaport and students visited the Seaport every Thursday. Overall, the summer school program focused on academic opportunities and enrichment. It improved on student readiness and small group work, as well as targeting behavioral and social growth. Pre and Post assessments were conducted. Seventy-nine percent of students showed growth in targeted areas.

Re-opening Plan: This plan was modified as required by the state. The plan will be reviewed and updated again after January 1st. The Board gave their consensus.

Board Retreat: The next BOE Retreat is scheduled for 10-15-22 from 9AM to 12 Noon in the Preston Plains Library. Patrice McCarthy from CABE will present.

Newspaper Articles: Dr. Seitsinger shared several articles with the Board. One of which covers the pay equity examination of Town and School unaffiliated employees.

Policy at Second Read: Policy 0521.2 Religious Neutrality:

Moved, to accept version 1 of policy 0521.2 Religious Neutrality as presented. Harris/Luty. Nugent, Burke-Grabarek, Dupointe and Gallant also in favor. Raymond opposed. Motion Carries.

Dr. Seitsinger reiterated that 988 is the U.S. mental health and wellness crisis number, similar to 911. The number must be present on all student ID's, but not the cards we are using for the transportation department at this time.

6. Principals'/Director of Special Education Reports

Ann Perzan: Director of Pupil Services stated that Preston has a total of 85 special education students at this time. The year is off to a good start. CT-SEDS was rolled out by the state and is the new special education database system being used throughout. The system has some bugs to be worked out and our staff is working hard and staying positive. Dr. Nugent suggested that we contact our state representatives to let them know that all districts are struggling with this new system. Our PK is participating in NAEYC Accreditation this year. Their first meeting will take place later this month.

Ray Bernier: Principal PVMS stated that they are off to a good start. Only real problems are staffing shortages in the transportation department and the need for more substitute teachers. On 8/29/22, PVMS held their first assembly in several years. It was very nice to have some normalcy back in the daily schedule. The scholastic book fair is taking place this week. Open house is on 9-14-22 from 6pm to 7:30pm. A Grandparents Luncheon will be held on 9-16-22. September 23rd team building activities will be held at PVMS. October 4th is picture day. Three hundred and fourteen students are enrolled at PVMS. That number is up 5% from last year.

Dr. Ivy Davis-Tomczuk: Principal PPMS and Director of Curriculum stated that despite bus driver shortages, the FY23 school year is off to a calm, successful start. There are 2 sections of grade 6, and 3 sections of grades 7 and 8. She reported that she has hired a full time building substitute and a Lunch Monitor. Open house will be held on Thursday, 9/15 from 6:30PM to 8PM. Representatives from the boy scouts and girl scouts will be in attendance, as will PTO representatives, and someone from the Town Library. The first Newsletter of the year will go out on Friday. It will be sent to BOE members as well. On September 30th, PPMS will engage in a team building session.

7. Committee Reports

Megan Gallant proposed the idea of the Board participating in Trunk or Treat this year on October 28th from 6:30PM to 8PM. Cindy Dupointe said she would like to help. The other members offered their support through candy donations, etc.

8. Financial Report

Dr. Seitsinger presented the financial report to the Board due to the excused absence of Mrs. Varricchio. He stated that the FY22 budget is over 97% expended. Roughly \$168,000 will be returned. Mrs. Varricchio is working on a precise definition of encumbrances. Central Office is beginning to prepare for the upcoming budget season. They would like to start earlier and not hold as many meetings in January and February. A health care analysis was completed by Brown and Brown for the Town and the School. The new plan provided by United Healthcare will ensure stability and financial savings to the district and the employees. Central Office is

looking at new software called Clear Gov. It is a user friendly dashboard that will take data from Infinite Visions and present it clearly and succinctly to the boards and to the community.

9. Adjournment

Dr. Nugent thanked Dr. Seitsinger for including the Board in the opening day orientation on 8-23-22. He stated that he would like a representative of the Board to speak at the next one.

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