

BOE Special Meeting

March 1, 2023 6:00 PM

PPMS Library

1. **Call to Order**

Dr. Sean Nugent: Board Chair

Dr. Nugent, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:00PM. Other members present: Deborah Burke-Grabarek, Charles Raymond, and Cindy Luty. Megan Gallant was excused. Dan Harris was absent. Also present: Dr. Roy Seitsinger; Superintendent, and Gloria Homiski; Recording Secretary.

2. Public Comment

Dr. Sean Nugent: Board Chair

Jill Keith: Jill thanked Dr. Nugent and the Preston Town Clerk for sharing the steps and necessary qualifications for those interested in applying for the open vacancy on the Board.

3. Interviews (Potential Executive Session)

Dr. Nugent: Board Chair

Dr. Nugent reviewed the steps leading up to the current vacancy. Cindy Dupointe resigned on 1/25/2023. (Email attached). Jill Keith, Town Clerk, explained the qualifications needed to fill the vacant position. (Memo attached). Central Office posted the vacancy on 2/3/2023. Responses were expected by 2/17/2023. Four individuals responded to the posting. One was a Democrat and was therefore ineligible. Another candidate withdrew her application on Sunday, 2/28/2023. Two applicants remain: George Carver; Republican, and Courtney Ennis; Unaffiliated. (Must change to Republican before being sworn in if she is chosen).

Dr. Nugent then reviewed with the Board the possibility of holding these interviews in Executive Session. Neither candidate was opposed to this happening.

Moved, to enter into executive session at 6:14PM per CT General Statute 1-206 to interview applicants to fill the vacancy on the Board brought on by the departure of a current Board member on 1/25/2023. Luty/Burke-Grabarek. Raymond also in favor. Nugent opposed. Motion Carries.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 7:05PM. No actions were taken.

4. Deliberation (Potential Executive Session)

Dr. Nugent: Board Chair

Dr. Nugent reminded everyone that a vote was required to go into executive session to deliberate and that a. the candidates could weigh in first and b. then the board could vote but only if the candidates were comfortable with executive session. Both candidates indicated that they did not have any concern with the board entering executive session to deliberate without them present.

Moved, to enter into executive session at 7:13PM to deliberate on the Board vacancy. Burke-Grabarek/Luty. Raymond also in favor. Nugent opposed. Motion Carries.

The board came out of executive session at 8:28PM. It was noted that the board felt that the selection of one candidate over the other was difficult and that if we had 2 openings, both candidates would have been selected. Following this discussion, a motion was made.

5. Selection of Board Member
Dr. Nugent: Board Chair

Moved, to appoint Courtney Ennis to fill the newest board vacancy. Burke-Grabarek/Nugent. Raymond opposed. Luty abstained.

6. Adjournment

Moved, to adjourn the meeting at 8:55PM. Burke-Grabarek/Nugent. Unanimous. Motion Carries.

MEMO

TO: Board of Education
Sean Nugent, Chair

RE: Vacancy

FROM: Jill Keith
Town Clerk

DATE: January 31, 2023

On January 25, 2023, we received a letter of resignation from Cindy Dupointe.

Cindy Dupointe was a Republican with term dates of 11/16/2021 to 11/18/2025.

Sec. 10-219 Procedure for filling vacancy on local board of education. If a vacancy occurs in the office of any member of the local board of education, unless otherwise provided by charter or special act, such vacancy shall be filled by the remaining members of said board until the next regular town election, at which election a successor shall be elected for the unexpired portion of the term, the official ballot specifying the vacancy to be filled.

The maximum from one party under Sec. 9-204a is four. There are currently two Republicans and four Democrats remaining on the board.

The next municipal election will be held on November 7, 2023. The term dates for filling this vacancy will be from the date of the appointment until November 7, 2023.

Cc Roy Seitsinger, Superintendent of Schools
Board of Selectman
Democratic Town Committee
Republican Town Committee

MEMO

TO: Board of Education
Sean Nugent, Chair

RE: Filling vacancy

FROM: Jill Keith
Town Clerk

DATE: February 15, 2023

This memo serves to clarify who is eligible to be appointed to the recent BOE vacancy.

The current composition of the BOE in regard to minority representation dictates how the recent vacancy will be filled. The BOE has four (4) seats that are democrat and three (3) republican. This makes the Republican Party the non-controlling party, therefore the seat can only be filled by a republican.

An individual who is currently a registered republican with party privileges would meet the criteria for an appointment to the Board.

A person who has applied for transfer from a party to the Republican Party is considered a member of his original party for three months from the date of their party enrollment change being accepted. For example, a democrat or independent transferring to the Republican Party.

An individual who is currently registered as unaffiliated (non-party) would assume party privileges immediately upon transferring to the Republican Party. This change would have to occur prior to being selected to fill this vacancy.

Cc Roy Seitsinger, Superintendent of Schools
Board of Selectman
Democratic Town Committee
Republican Town Committee

Filling Vacancies

Appointments

If a vacancy occurs in the office of any member of the Board, it shall be filled by a citizen of the community selected by the remaining members of the Board until the next regular election unless otherwise provided by Charter or special act. At that election, a successor shall be elected for the unexpired portion of the term, and the official ballot shall specify the vacancy to be filled.

Oath of Office

Appointed Board of Education members shall, before entering upon their official duties, take the oath of office and be sworn in by the Town Clerk.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

[9 187a](#) Date term to begin.

[9 203](#) Number and term of members of boards of education.

[9 204](#) Minority representation on board of education.

[10 219](#) Procedure for filling vacancy on local board of education.

[1 24](#) Who may administer oaths.

[1 25](#) re oath of office.

[10 218a](#) Oath of office.

Bylaw revised by the Board: 4-6-15