

BoE Special Meeting/Board Retreat
June 8, 2024 9am
PPMS Library

1. Call to Order:

Megan Gallant (MG), called the meeting to order at 9:04 am. Present board members include: Daniel Harris (DH), Cindy Luty (CL), Deb Burke-Graberek (DBG), Michael Hinton (MH) and Courtney Ennis (CE).

Also present: Dr. Roy Seitsinger (RS), Preston Schools Superintendent, and Jody Goeler (JG) Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE) Senior Policy Associate. Nicole Serra (NS) was excused.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Business:

- Exploration of Preston Public Schools (PPS) Grading Practices.
 - A. Introductions and Purpose of Session
 - a. Attendee Introductions
 - B. Framing the Morning
 - a. RS reviewed intended goals for the meeting and highlighted the value of holding a special session to allow for a more dedicated discussion on a specific district topic as this would be difficult, if not impossible, in a regular BoE meeting because of other required business.
 - C. Purpose: Identifying the District Artifacts that Guide the Work: Coherence
 - a. JG and RS reviewed the multiple influencing factors that guide decision-making in the district coupled with processes and policies that would need to be revised, including; Panther Pride Core Values, Preston Public School's Vision of the Global Citizen/Graduate, Policy 5121 (and roughly 7 additional grading-related district policies), Position Paper, and BoE Discussion.
 - D. Context/Contextualizing the Current Systems
 - a. Board members reviewed "through lines" that they felt were district strengths, including; Individualized student care, a focus on the "whole student," forward thinking and future planning, expanding world views and opportunities for students, equity, and continued honoring of the history of this community.
 - E. Moving Forward/Next Steps
 - a. Board members, as facilitated by JG and RS, offered suggested next steps to be formalized by CABE facilitator JG to be reported back to the full board. Some discussed action steps include:
 - i. Clearly identify and define the problems related to current grading practices in the district, asking Dr. Seitsinger to craft descriptions of traditional and standards based report grading.

- ii. Surveys, customized to specific stakeholder groups including teachers and student caregivers
 - iii. Review impacted policies and consider how district procedures would need to be revised if practices change
 - iv. Review current profession development and increase faculty education specific to current grading systems
 - v. Leverage Communications Committee and Curriculum Committee to review current district practices, as well as communicate to student caregivers about the topic to increase understanding and engagement
 - vi. Carefully examine potential “unintended consequences” in addition to the impact on all district students
- b. The board consensus was to use the summer months to formalize a process and plan for reviewing grading practices with the intention of reinitiating the discussion/process in the Fall of 2024.

4. Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn was made by CE and seconded by CL. All in favor; motion carries.
Meeting adjourned at 11:38a.