

**Town of Preston
Board of Education
Finance Committee Regular Meeting
Thursday, June 7th, 2018
PPMS Library
6:00 pm**

1. Call to Order

Chairman Nugent called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm.

Sean Nugent (SN)
Ed Gauthier (EG)
Tom Turner (TT)
Melissa Lennon (ML) – BoF Liaison
Superintendent Seitsinger (SS)
John Spang (JS)

Guests: Andy Depta; Jill Keith

2. Public Comment

Mr. Depta thanked the Committee, Superintendent, and Mr. Spang for responding to his FOIA request regards the gym floor/new bleachers at PVMS. He commented that he was pleased with materials that were presented and thanked Mr. Spang for working with him.

Mrs. Keith thanked the group for responding to her FOIA request on UPK. She noted that she had hoped that there would be more substantive data regarding the impact of our UPK program.

3. Approval of Minutes

- **A motion was made by EG and seconded by TT to accept the May 10th minutes as submitted. All in favor; the motion carries.**

4. Business

- **FY18 Update**
 - JS presented the May YTD budget report and indicated that the BoE may come in slightly under budget (which does include the \$84k Excess Cost monies for FY18 which will be captured as revenue to the Town this fiscal year). JS also indicated that a greater amount of Excess Cost state aid was received totaling \$94k rather than the previous estimate of \$84,011. The group agreed that this should all be returned to the Town as ‘revenue’ for FY18. It was also noted that staffing expenses are expected to exceed budget by \$130k and that this shortfall will be covered from monies previously set aside for two special education high cost out-of-district tuitions. It was also noted that our transportations costs would exceed our budget due to the need to contract the unplanned bus mechanic work.
- **FY19 BoE Town Meeting**
 - SN reminded the team that the referendum for FY19 will be on June 12th. Currently the BoE is looking at a \$120k reduction if the referendum passes. If it does not, then we should expect a larger reduction. As such, no action is being taken at this time to determine what areas will be reduced to meet the reduction. SN mentioned that he had no appetite to repeat last year’s 31-motion exercise. To help prevent this, he will work with SS to develop a ‘reduction proposal’ that

will first be reviewed and discussed by the FC. The FC would recommend the 'FC proposal' to the full board at which time the full board will finalize the areas to be reduced to meet the final budget target.

- There was a brief discussion on the need to align the Phoenix reporting segments with how we developed the budget. Currently they are not aligned. SN will work with JS to see how best to address this disconnect.

- **Capital Plan Status**

- JS provided an overview on the current status of our capital projects. Three new areas which we are now focusing on are (a) re-paving of the Bus lot this summer, (b) the playground resurfacing at PVMS, and (c) the PPMS Science Labs.
 - The specifications for the Bus lot re-paving are complete and the RFP has been posted online. It will be presented for discussion to the full board on June 11th. Two alternate bid requests were included (a) parking striping and (b) a trench for connecting the bus garage to the main building to address communication and safety concerns. The latter may be covered by Operational dollars. The specific action required will be determined once the bids have been received, reviewed, and discussed.
 - The playground resurfacing RFP is in development.
 - We continue to look at separating the abatement/infrastructure assessment phase from the installation/renovation phase and anticipate that we will complete the former this summer and target to complete the final refurbishing of the labs in the summer of 2019. The driver for this separation remains as stated previously.
- JS also indicated that a new online link is being finalized wherein a summary of the capital projects will be available for the community to download.

5. Public Comment

Mrs. Keith indicated that she was pleased to hear our discussion regarding the budget report alignment and suggested there was an expert in Putnam regarding the use of Phoenix. She also noted that her data suggests that we have a high rate of teacher absences that then leads to the need to hire more substitutes. She asked that we look at this more closely. She also was pleased to see that our legal fee was being reduced from previous years and that we were looking to manage the capital fund more rigorously.

6. Adjournment

A motion was made by EG and seconded by TT to adjourn the meeting at 7:19 pm. All in favor; motion carries.

The regularly scheduled meeting for July 5th will be cancelled.

Respectfully submitted,

Sean Nugent