

**Board of Education Regular Meeting**  
February 12, 2018 7:00 PM  
PPMS Library

**1. Call to Order**

Sean Nugent; Chair, called the meeting to order at 7pm. Other members present: Cindy Luty, Deborah Burke-Grabarek, Tom Turner, Ed Gauthier and Dan Harris. Charles Raymond was absent. Also present: Dr. Seitsinger; Superintendent, Gloria Homiski; Recording Secretary, John Spang; Director of Finance, and Dr. Ivy Davis-Tomczuk; Principal PPMS and Director of Curriculum.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

**3. Student Recognition**

Dr. Seitsinger recognized and presented certificates to two students.

Delaney Phelps; grade 7, was recognized as the winner of the State VFW Patriot's Pen contest for her essay entitled "America's Gift to My Generation." Her essay is currently being reviewed at a National competition.

Savannah Meaike; grade 11, was recognized as Student of the Month at NFA. Savannah was nominated for her academic improvement as well as the kindness and consideration she shows towards her peers.

Moved, to place Public Comment before the Approval of Minutes on this agenda and all future agendas. Luty/Burke-Grabarek. Unanimous. Motion Carries.

**4. Public Comment**

No public Comment.

**5. Approval of Minutes**

Moved, to approve the Special 7:30pm BOE Meeting minutes of 1-11-18 as presented. Luty/Burke-Grabarek. Unanimous. Motion Carries.

**6. Principals' Reports**

Dr. Davis-Tomczuk explained that the Preston Youth Service Bureau is under new leadership. They are talking about bringing NFA students to PPMS for after school tutoring, as well as reinstating the Empower Program. YSB is sending out surveys to students, staff and community members in order to plan future activities. On March 29<sup>th</sup>, at 1:45pm, they will host "The Courage to Speak" which details the life of a family dealing with the loss of their son to a drug overdose.

**7. Chairperson's Report**

Sean Nugent thanked Melissa Lennon; BOF Chair, Heather Helwig; PTO President and community members for all their help in making the Capital Project Referendum a successful one.

Sean also talked about the BOE Retreat that was held on Saturday, 2-10-18 from 9am to 12pm at PVMS. Nick Caruso from CABA facilitated this retreat. It was a free flowing discussion with the Strategic Plan as the focus point. Sean acknowledged and thanked Katarina Potter and Kim Heinzelman for the delicious breakfast they prepared and served.

Sean called attention to the most recent edition of the Preston Pipeline. Sean and Dr. Seitsinger co-wrote the front page article.

Sean shared an educational article from Bloomberg Business Week, as well as an email from Emma Kuehnle who wishes to recruit Preston foster parents. It was determined that Dr. Seitsinger and Sean will meet with her in the near future.

#### **8. Reports of Sub-Committees**

LEARN: Cindy Luty (please see attached)

CABA: Sean Nugent (please see attached)

Finance Sub Committee: Sean Nugent. Two meetings were held (2-1-18 and 2-18-18) to discuss Capital Projects and FY19 Budget.

Transportation Sub Committee: Charles Raymond (no meeting held)

Curriculum Sub Committee: Cindy Luty (no meeting held)

#### **9. Superintendent's Report**

State Compliance Report: Dr. Seitsinger was happy to report that Preston is in full compliance with all faculty certifications.

Hugh Birdsall's EL Observation Report: Hugh is a retired EL teacher at LEARN. He provided a positive report for our current EL program and offered various suggestions. Dr. Seitsinger explained that EL is something we need to monitor closely.

The flu outbreak is being monitored closely at PVMS and PPMS. Common school areas and buses have been wiped down as much as possible. Dr. Seitsinger will notify the Board when and if further action needs to be taken.

#### **10. Expenditure/Projection Report**

John Spang reviewed his January 2018 YTD Expense Report. To date, John, using a conservative estimate, expects to return approximately \$119,000 to the Town at the end of the school year.

#### **11. Business: Discussion and Votes Required**

Snow Day Planning: Preston Public Schools has been closed for 6 days due to inclement weather. The Board discussed different ways to address this matter. It was determined that the March 9<sup>th</sup> PD day will become a regular school day. That will make the last day of school for students be June 21<sup>st</sup>. The last day for faculty will be June 22<sup>nd</sup>, a PD day.

Moved, to make the March 9<sup>th</sup> PD day a regular school day. Only faculty will return on June 22<sup>nd</sup> for PD. Luty/Gauthier. Unanimous. Motion Carries.

Capital Projects: Thanks to a successful referendum, our schools are in the midst of multiple planning steps to replace the PVMS gym floor, revamp the PPMS Science Labs, resurface the PVMS playground, pave the Bus Garage parking lot and purchase new school buses.

A lengthy discussion followed, whereby possible start and completion dates were discussed. Bonding will have an impact on this timeline as well.

FY19 Budget: Sean explained that the Finance Sub Committee reviewed the FY19 budget line items, along with John Spang and Dr. Seitsinger, on 2-1 and 2-8. Another meeting will be held on 2-15. Sean also stated that he wishes to hold a special BOE Meeting on March 5<sup>th</sup> to vote on the FY19 budget. An approved budget must be presented to the BOF on March 6<sup>th</sup>.

Dr. Seitsinger prepared a Powerpoint Presentation for the Board. He stated that the completed Strategic Plan will be a part of the final budget document. The currently proposed FY19 Budget includes a .5 Social Worker, a district teacher and ELA Software. This budget reflects an overall increase of 3.7%. It does not include a part time HR position, an additional BCBA Teacher, a .4 Science Coach or a .2 Medicaid Specialist (all emerging priorities).

If we were to include ALL of the aforementioned priorities, the budget would increase by 5.49% overall. If the Budget is cut by 2%, \$204,000 would need to be cut from the budget. If the Budget has a 0% increase, \$413,000 would need to be cut. A -2% Budget Reduction would result in cutting \$646,000 from the budget. Dr. Seitsinger explained that after a review of our years of "0" and small budget increases, Preston has placed itself at \$500,000 below the cost of living increase over the years.

Sean Nugent stated that Charles Raymond wants to take another look at the scag mower and Sean wants to review staffing again.

Dan Harris, Cindy Luty and Deborah Burke-Grabarek all support the addition of a full time Social Worker. Sean asked that the numbers be run for this additional .5FTE and placed into the budget.

Further Budget discussion followed.

It was determined that an additional Special Meeting of the BOE may be scheduled if there is a need after the BOE Finance Sub Committee on 2-15-18. The sub-committee meeting will be held at 7pm in the PPMS Library on 2-15.

**12. Public Comment**

Andy Depta: He noted that the BOE sub-committees need to be updated on the District Website.

**13. Adjournment**

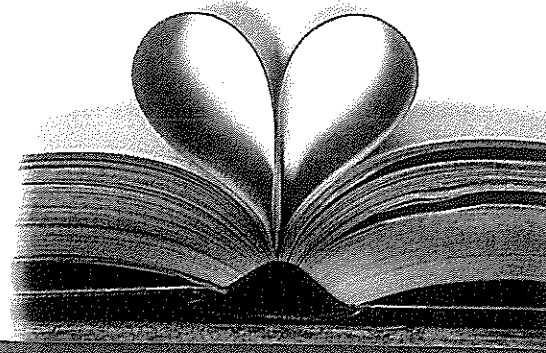
Moved, to adjourn the meeting at 9:15pm. Gauthier/Burke-Grabarek.  
Unanimous. Motion Carries.

LEARN Meeting, February 8, 2018

1. The Board approved the "State Bilingual Grant" application, which is funded by the Connecticut State Department of Education. It will provide \$11,025 to schools with 20 or more students of the same language group. LEARN will use the funding to support the bilingual education program at the Regional Multicultural Magnet School by hiring a bilingual educator.
2. The Student Support Services Building Committee met on January 26th. Planning of the project is in full swing. The Planning and Zoning Committee approved the proposed use for the Ocean Avenue LEARNing Academy with hours of operation on Monday through Friday from 6:00 AM to 8:00 PM and on Saturday from 8:00 AM to 5:00 pm. Building information, design and construction and financial updates were provided.
- 3..The Student Support Services 2018-2019 Magnet Evaluation Fees were approved. Those fees did not increase .
4. A LEARN Board Orientation called "Understanding LEARN" was presented to new members of the Board..
5. The future round table discussion item will be "Exploring Regional Transportation".

February 2018

# CABE Liaison Newsletter



## CABE Liaisons:

Please talk with your Board about these upcoming events at your next meeting.

### Upcoming Professional Development

February 15, 2018

**Hot Topic: School Start Times**

10:00 am-12:00 pm • CABE Office

Register at: [www.goo.gl/PiLyu5](http://www.goo.gl/PiLyu5)

February 21, 2018

**Connecticut's Big 5 Cities Roundtable**

3:00 pm-5:00 pm • CABE Office

Register at: [www.goo.gl/Ui97KR](http://www.goo.gl/Ui97KR)



Rescheduled

February 28, 2018

**Alliance District Roundtable**

9:00-11:00 am • CABE Office

Register at: [www.goo.gl/Gneapj](http://www.goo.gl/Gneapj)

### COMING SOON

**Board Chairs/Superintendents:**

**CABE/CAPSS Convention**

**Call for Proposals**

CABE will be emailing a Call for Proposals for workshops at the 2018 CABE/CAPSS Convention. *We are encouraging you to submit proposal(s) highlighting best practices in your district.* This year's theme is *Connecticut's Future: Transforming Schools, Transforming Lives.* The strands are : High Performing Boards and Superintendents; Innovation; Diversity, Equity and Excellence; and Student Growth and Well-Being. *Deadline for submission is: Monday, March 5, 2018.*

### Upcoming Advocacy Activities

#### Area Legislative Breakfasts



Rescheduled

**CABE Area 3**

Thursday, February 8, 2018

7:30-9:00am

Ellington High School

37 Maple Street, Willington

RSVP to Trish Buchanan, 860-870-6000 x4660

**CABE Area 2**

Thursday, February 15, 2018

State Capitol- Rm 310

RSVP to Maureen DePiero, CREC 860-509-3623

February 4-6, 2018

**NSBA Advocacy Institute**

Marriott Marquis, Washington, DC

For more information or to register go to  
<https://www.nsba.org/tags/advocacy-institute>

March 7, 2018

**CABE Day on the Hill**

8:30 am • The Bushnell, Hartford

Register at: [www.goo.gl/6P9T2s](http://www.goo.gl/6P9T2s)

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