

Board of Education Special Meeting  
June 23, 2016 7:00 PM  
PVMS Library

1. Call to Order

Jan Clancy; Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:05PM. Other members present: Deborah Burke-Grabarek, Charles Raymond, Cindy Luty, Sean Nugent. Karin Davis arrived at 8:20PM. Dan Harris was absent. Also present: Dr. John Welch; Superintendent, Gloria Homiski; Recording Secretary, John Spang; Director of Finance. Audience: Jill Keith, Beth and Rob Bonosconi, Patricia Hibbard, Nancy Mattern, Elizabeth Mattern, Judith Ghattas, Melissa Lennon, Sandra Bosko, Susan Strader, Raymond Bernier, Ivy Davis-Tomczuk, Elaine Lettiere, Victoria Spicer, Sam Chinigo, Denielle Beaudet-Sandoval, Jill Charron, Gary Deveau, Sarah Burton, Chrissy Pappas, Norm Gauthier, Claire Bessette from The Day and Joe Grogan from the Norwich Bulletin.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Moved, to take the agenda out of order to discuss 7.1: Request for Supplemental Appropriation. Clancy/Raymond. Unanimous. Motion Carries.

Moved, to request a Supplemental Appropriation to the approved FY16 budget of \$10,850,000 in the amount of \$98,000 in order to cover unanticipated special education out-of-district costs accrued during the 2015-2016 school year. Clancy/Luty. Unanimous. Motion Carries.

Moved, to take the agenda out of order to discuss 7.2: FY17 Budget Reductions. Burke-Grabarek/Luty. Unanimous. Motion Carries.

Dr. Welch reviewed a document that would address the necessary \$156,647 budget cut made by the BOF.

Moved, to approve a reduction of \$156,647 to the proposed FY17 budget of \$11,394,897 that comports with the details provided in the superintendent's memorandum dated June 21, 2016 (see attached). Clancy/Burke-Grabarek.

A lengthy discussion followed.

Final Vote: Burke-Grabarek, Clancy and Luty in favor. Raymond and Nugent opposed. Motion Carries.

Moved, to take the agenda out of order to discuss 4: Reports of Sub Committees. Luty/Raymond. Unanimous. Motion Carries.

3. Public Comment

4. Reports of Sub-Committees

Charles Raymond stated that the Transportation Sub Committee met on June 22 to review the bus bids. Another meeting will be scheduled soon to further discuss the purchase of 3 new buses for \$275,000.

Sean Nugent stated that the Superintendent Search Sub Committee met on June 21. Committee members joined Mary Broderick from CABA to discuss the pros/cons of hiring a part time/full time Superintendent after Dr. Welch's departure from Preston in June 2017.

Moved, to approve an expenditure of no more than \$10,000 to enlist CABA to help with the superintendent search. Nugent/Corky. Unanimous. Motion Carries.

Moved, to recess the current BOE meeting at 7:30PM in order to attend the Preston Town Meeting in the PVMS Gym. Clancy/Burke-Grabarek. Unanimous. Motion Carries.

The BOE Meeting reconvened at 7:50PM in the Library.

Jan Clancy asked for Public Comment:

Melissa Lennon suggested that the BOE send out Positive Communication so that the community could feel more involved. Jan stated that this would be a topic at the next Community Relations Sub Committee Meeting.

Jerry Grabarek asked if the motion regarding the \$156,647 in cuts would be in the minutes. Jan assured him that it would. Jerry then asked the BOE to state what would drive the FY17 budget over \$10,850,000. Dr. Welch reiterated that regular education and special education tuitions are the sole drivers of the necessary budget increase.

A lengthy discussion followed.

Jan stated that she stands by the BOE Budget. If programs and teachers are cut, it will not be in the best interest of the students.

Jill Charron, a parent of a grade K student, stated that her family decided to stay in Preston even though they had plans to move elsewhere. They made this decision because her daughter loves Preston Public School so much. She also has a 3 year old son who will soon enter the school. Jill does not want to see specials or people cut. Specials, such as Art, help to make a well-rounded student. She stated that the Town must reinvest in their kids if they want them to later invest in their community.

Bob Congdon suggested that the BOE recommend a small cut to the BOF.

Norm Gauthier reinforced the fact that Preston needs to have a good school system and a reasonable tax rate.

Melissa Lennon, speaking as a parent and not a BOF member, shared her personal frustration with cuts in the past and the impact they made on her daughter and others in limiting them from getting the help they need to learn and grow.

Denielle Beaudet-Sandoval stated that something must be done to get more parents to vote.

Jill Keith said that Killingly sends out a group message to everyone in the community when a referendum is scheduled.

5. **Superintendent's Report**

2016 ESY Program: 40 students will attend. Sixty students were recommended for the program. ESY will begin on July 5<sup>th</sup> and end on August 4<sup>th</sup>.

6. **Expenditure/Projection Report and Cafeteria Report**

John Spang addressed the board. He explained that the BOE has about \$290,000 in unencumbered bills. Most of these are special education bills. He also has about \$15,000 worth of other bills to pay and also payrolls to cover through June 30<sup>th</sup>. If anything is left of the \$98,000 appropriation after the bills are paid, it will go back to the Town. Sean Nugent reminded everyone that \$1,457,230 has been returned to the Town over the last 12 years.

A lengthy discussion followed regarding further budget reductions.

Moved, to recommend that the \$11,238,250 budget go back to Town Meeting fully intact, without reductions. Clancy/Burke-Grabarek. Luty also in favor. Nugent, Davis and Raymond opposed. Motion Failed.

Moved, to recommend a \$45,000 cut to the current \$11,238,250 budget. Nugent/Raymond. Luty, Davis, Burke-Grabarek and Clancy opposed. Motion Failed.

Moved, to recommend a \$30,000 cut to the current \$11,238,250 budget. Burke-Grabarek/Luty. Davis also in favor. Nugent, Raymond and Clancy opposed. Motion Failed.

Moved, to recommend a \$10,000 cut to the current \$11,238,250 budget. Davis/Burke-Grabarek. Clancy, Luty, Raymond also in favor. Nugent opposed. Motion Carries.

7. **Old Business: Discussion and Votes Required**

8. **Public Comment**

Jill Keith suggested that more students come to BOE meetings. Awards can be given out at meetings. This would create positive feedback etc. Jan Clancy stated that it would be a discussion topic at the next Community Relations Sub Committee meeting.

9. **Adjournment**

Moved, to adjourn the meeting at 8:50PM. Clancy/Burke-Grabarek. Unanimous. Motion Carries.