

**Town of Preston
Board of Education
Finance Committee Special Meeting
Thursday, January 31st, 2019
PPMS Library
6:00 pm**

1. Call to Order

Chairman Nugent called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm.

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

Guests: Andrew Bilodeau and Andy Depta

2. Pledge of Allegiance:

3. Public Comment

Andrew Bilodeau raised asked whether the materials being discussed/reviewed could be shared with the public. He also re-iterated his concern regarding meeting scheduling conflicts between the BoE-FC and the BoS.

5. FY20 Workshop:

- SS Overview: SS provided a high level overview of his thoughts regarding the FY20 budget. He noted that (a) last year we did a deep dive during our development of the FY19 budget, (b) that the timing this year affords us to have more ‘up-to-date’ information, (c) the overall Town timing of the process aligns with the need to better understand both the State’s and District’s financial situations, (d) he will ensure we align our discussions with the Districts Strategic Plan, and (e) there are three staff additions he wants to discuss at length:
 - School Social Worker (0.5 position)
 - Increase PPMS School Psychologist to Full-Time (from 0.8)
 - The addition of 1.0 Para-educator
- SN Overview: SN highlighted some of the areas which need to be considered during our development of the FY20 budget:
 - MBR: The recent ‘deficiency notice’ by SDE indicates that the potential exemptions do not apply to Preston.
 - NFA recently announced that their increase to feeder districts would be 1.75% for FY20.
 - State Employees Retirement Commission recently informed the Town and the District that we should expect CMERS contributions to increase 2 – 2.5% per year over the next five (5) years.
 - Negotiations with the Teachers and Administrators Unions need to be included in FY20 budget projections (GWI of 1.8% and 2.0%, respectively).
 - As all materials being discussed are ‘draft’; handouts will not be provided. However, it was requested that the materials be projected on the video screen so that attendees can see what is being discussed.
- Salaries/Health Benefits: SS and JS walked the FC through the draft salary proposal. SN asked that a “5 Year History” be included in all assumption pages. JS walked the FC through his detailed Health & Dental spreadsheet.

- **Transportation:** JS provided an overview of the proposed transportation budget. SS noted that a review of in-house vs. outsourcing of transportation services may be required due to the difficulty of finding and hiring qualified drivers. It was noted that the last time this question was raised that a strong financial argument was not achieved; primarily due to the fact that school buses are a Town asset rather than a District asset. Hence they cannot be included in the financial assessment by the District.
- **Next Steps:** The FC was asked to review the materials presented tonight in detail and be ready with questions & comments at the next meeting. This includes the three business case proposals for new positions that SS provided.

4. Adjournment

A motion was made by EG and seconded by TT to adjourn the meeting at 8:15pm. All in favor; motion carries.

The next FC Budget workshop will be held on February 7th, 2019.

Respectfully submitted,

Sean Nugent