

**Board of Education Regular Meeting**

August 08, 2016 7:00 PM

PVMS Library

**1. Call to Order**

Jan Clancy called the meeting to order at 7PM. Other members present: Deborah Burke-Grabarek, Cindy Luty, Dan Harris, Charles Raymond, Sean Nugent and Karin Davis. Also present: Dr. John Welch; Superintendent, Gloria Homiski; Recording Secretary, and John Spang; Director of Finance. Audience: Dawn Stanford, Mary Foley, Penny Patch-Bartnicki, Andy Depta and Melissa Lennon.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

**3. Approval of Minutes**

Moved, to approve the Regular BOE Meeting Minutes of 5-9-16. Burke-Grabarek/Luty. Unanimous. Motion Carries.

Moved, to approve the Regular BOE Meeting Minutes of 5-31-16. Nugent/Burke-Grabarek. Harris, Luty, Raymond, Clancy in favor. Davis abstained. Motion Carries.

Moved, to approve the Special BOE Meeting Minutes of 6-23-16 as amended. Nugent/Burke-Grabarek.

**4. Public Comment**

Dawn Stanford recited a quote from the Board website: "The Board's main purpose is policy setting designed to improve student learning." She asked that transportation to St. Bernard's, Magnet and Charter schools be reinstated. If it cannot be reinstated, she asked if another alternative could be reached so that students would be able to remain at their school of choice (see letter attached).

Andy Depta questioned the reduction memo in the BOE packet which raised a concern over school lunch prices being raised in FY17.

Penny Patch-Bartnicki shared Dawn's statements with regard to transportation. She asked that the Board find a workable transportation solution for students attending Magnet and Charter schools.

Mary Foley also shared the sentiments of Dawn and Penny. Her grandson will be attending STEM Middle School in the Fall.

Melissa Lennon thanked the Board for putting the allergy policy on the agenda. She understands that time constraints may lead to it being tabled until the September Meeting.

**5. Principals' Reports**

None

**6. Chairperson's Report**

None

7. **Reports of Sub-Committees**

Moved, to table reports of the sub-committees until the September BOE Meeting. Clancy/Nugent. Unanimous. Motion Carries.

8. **Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Welch prepared a memo reviewing food service re-organization, the quality control circle, technology support, opening day, Superintendent's Goals and staffing (see memo attached).

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

John Spang stated that the auditors began their work in Central Office today, 8-8-16, and will return in October. He also presented his expenditure and cafeteria reports.

10. **New Business: Discussion and Votes Required**

FY17 Budget Reduction:

Sean Nugent stated that he feels badly about cutting Magnet School Transportation. Deborah Burke-Grabarek and Karin Davis also expressed their concern over the matter.

Jan Clancy stated that if buses had been outsourced, Preston would have the money to transport the Magnet population. The current PK to 8 budget is actually \$4000 less than last year.

Sean Nugent suggested the possibility of eliminating the secretary at the Bus Garage as well as cutting from Plant Operations, Miscellaneous and IT line items.

Dan Harris suggested that perhaps we resort to larger class sizes for FY17 in order to get by and reinstate Magnet Transportation.

Moved, to reinstate transportation to Magnet and Charter Schools and also to hold a special BOE Meeting on Tuesday, August 16<sup>th</sup> to discuss the means to maintain this transportation. Nugent/Davis. Raymond, Harris and Burke-Grabarek also in favor. Luty and Clancy opposed. Motion Carries.

P.O. 136561:

Moved, to approve P.O. 136561 to Nutmeg International for bus #5 repairs. Clancy/Nugent. Unanimous. Motion Carries.

FY17 Salary Adjustment for Unaffiliated Personnel:

Sean Nugent stated that he will support the 2% increase for unaffiliated personnel but that he disagrees with it. Although other BOE faculty/staff are represented by unions, many corporations are imposing wage freezes.

Dr. Welch stated that the 2% increases are already in the budget. Melissa Lennon asked where the increase is in the budget. Dr. Welch explained that it is represented in a separate line item.

Moved, to approve a 2% salary increase for unaffiliated personnel for FY17. Clancy/Burke-Grabarek. Unanimous. Motion Carries.

2016-2017 School Lunch Prices:

Dr. Welch explained that the cafeteria finished in the "red" in FY16. Therefore he proposes a slight increase in FY17 for school lunches. The cost of a school lunch will go from \$2.75 to \$3.00. The last time the cost of lunch was raised was in 2011-2012. Cindy Luty worries that the increase

may lead to lower participation. Melissa Lennon asked if the District will continue to work with Tom O'Connor. Dr. Welch stated that he will continue to work with us. John Spang said that the group will meet on Thursday to discuss the FY17 cafeterias.

Moved, to approve the increase to the cost of school lunches for FY17 from \$2.75 to \$3.00. Clancy/Nugent. Unanimous. Motion Carries.

Social Studies Curriculum:

Moved, to table 10.5 Social Studies Curriculum until the September BOE Meeting. Clancy/Burke-Grabarek. Unanimous. Motion Carries.

Moved, to table policy 5141.25 Accommodating Students with Special Dietary Needs until the September BOE Meeting. Clancy/Raymond. Unanimous. Motion Carries.

Superintendent of Schools FTE Status:

Dr. Welch recused himself. Sean Nugent presented the Ad Hoc Committee's Power Point presentation to the group. The committee; made up of Sean Nugent, Charles Raymond and Cindy Luty, along with Mary Broderick from CAFE, acquired background information on this topic. Currently, there are 21 part time Superintendents in the state of CT. That is roughly 10%. The group evaluated Preston's unique situation and recommended that the BOE hire a full time Superintendent after Dr. Welch's retirement at the end of FY17.

The committee noted that the salary of the Superintendent would need to be increased. The study showed that Dr. Welch is the lowest paid full time Superintendent in the state. Sean Nugent believes the BOE can look at ways to optimize their budget now, in order to pay for the necessary salary increase for the new hire.

Moved, to accept the Ad Hoc Committee's recommendation to hire a full time Superintendent who will make school operations more effective (lean) and efficient (optimize the budget). Clancy/Burke-Grabarek. Unanimous. Motion Carries.

Both Cindy and Corky stated that they went into this process believing that a part time Super was the answer. The study opened their eyes and changed their minds.

Moved, to establish an Ad Hoc Committee that will search for a full time Superintendent. Clancy/Harris. Unanimous. Motion Carries.

Moved, that the current Ad Hoc members (Sean Nugent, Cindy Luty and Charles Raymond) serve as the search committee. Burke-Grabarek/Luty. Unanimous. Motion Carries.

Discussion followed. Perhaps a BOF member and a PTO member will be added to the search committee. Interested parties can contact Jan Clancy.

11. Old Business: Discussion and Votes Required
12. Information

13.           Adjournment

Moved, to adjourn the meeting at 9:40PM. Burke-Grabarek/Nugent. Unanimous.  
Motion Carries.

Dear Board of Education Members,

I would like to address the issue of magnet/charter/St. Bernard's transportation. First I would like to read a quote from your own website, "The Board's main purpose is policy setting designed to improve student learning. Board members are interested in the public's opinion on district issues, which can assist them in formulating policy that reflects community values and expectations."

In stating that the Board's main purpose is policy setting designed to improve student learning, your goal as members of the board should always be upholding that main purpose. Cutting transportation to any school outside of the district is not only fundamentally going against this main policy it is discriminating against a whole group of students who have chosen alternative learning options that are even promoted on your own school district website under Other Education Opportunities for students Pre k through 12 grade.

In stating board members are interested in the public's opinion on district issues, which can assist them in formulating policy that reflects community values and expectations, you are stating that the public's opinion does matter and that you as a Board encourage our input in creating policy that reflects community values and expectations. So, tonight I am standing before you as a parent, a taxpayer, and a fellow educator, and I am asking you to please reinstate transportation to magnet/charter/ and St. Bernard's schools to continue the optimal learning choices for all Preston students. This would be the optimal choice that certainly reflects community values and expectations.

If you will not consider reinstating Transportation to these schools, could you please look into other options to help assist families to continue giving these choices to their children by thinking outside the box.

1. Option would be to contact surrounding towns and see if we could work together to transport all the students from the region to these schools in a relay type fashion, Preston transports to Ledyard town Line, Ledyard transports to Groton. Preston transports to Montville, Montville transports to New London. Preston transports to Norwich, Norwich transports to Charter school.

2. Or another option would be to work with SEAT to help provide transportation to the outer district schools with the Preston district picking up the tab for 31 day unlimited ride passes for each student and Preston picks up the students from their homes and then brings them to a designated SEAT stop where they would transfer to their SEAT bus and then take the SEAT bus to their schools.

These options are not my ideal solutions because to me this is not putting the students first and they do not reflect our community values and expectations.

Thank you for taking the time to listen to my opinion, I really hope that you give it sincere thought and consideration.

Sincerely,

Dawn Stanford




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August 8, 2016

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To: Chairperson and Members of the Preston Board of Education

From: John J. Welch, Ed. 

Re: Superintendent's Report  
August 2016

1. Food Services Re-Organization

In an effort to reduce our overhead, we are modifying the manner in which food is purchased, prepared and served. Effective August 31, 2016, the first day of school for students, breakfasts (minimal) and lunches required by PPMS students will be prepared at PVMS and delivered by vehicle to the school. In addition, all purchasing will be handled exclusively by Katarina Potter, the Head Cook at PVMS. Finally, and in lieu of replacing Jeanne Craig, the former Head Cook at PPMS, who retired in June 2016, an individual will be employed for 25 hours per week to assist with the preparation, delivery and disbursement of breakfast/lunch at PPMS.

2. The Transportation "Quality Control Circle"

The Transportation "Quality Control Circle" comprising three transportation providers, a Board Member, the Transportation Supervisor and myself, is scheduled to meet on August 24<sup>th</sup>. I am, however, awaiting receipt of the names of the three CSEA members selected by the Union (presumably by random lottery) to participate in the first meeting.

3. Technology Support Services

We severed our dependency on CSI to provide technology support services, effective June 30, 2016, the expiration of our contract with them. While CSI performed admirably in addressing our everyday technology issues, EASTCONN, one of the state's several Regional Education Centers, is in a better position to support not only our need for repair and upkeep, but also the equally important obligation of integrating technology applications across the curriculum.

4. Opening Day

Opening Day for faculty/staff is August 30; the school year will commence for students on August 31.

## 5. Superintendent's 2015-2016 Goals

The Superintendent's 2015-2016 Goals are included with your agenda materials. I will comment further in September. By then, SBAC student performances should be received by the District and I will be able to augment my Goal #1 remarks accordingly.

## 6. Staffing

With respect to staffing, we are short one driver and are actively seeking a replacement. As you know, it is not easy to replace drivers. Additionally, we have yet to commit to employing two new teachers (Grade 1/Grade 3) that arose as a result of resignations/retirements until enrollment comes into sharper focus. My expectation is that we will fill both positions, but would rather take a "wait and see" approach first.