

**Town of Preston
Board of Education
Finance Committee Regular Meeting
Thursday, January 10th, 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, Jill Keith, and Mike House

2. Pledge of Allegiance:

3. Public Comment

Andrew Bilodeau raised concerns about the BoE Finance Committee holding FY20 budget meetings at the same time that the BoS will be holding Town budget meetings. He asked that either group work together to alleviate this conflict.

Jill Keith supported the request for coordination between departments. She also raised a concern that the District's web site is not user friendly as some in Town have a difficult time navigating it (i.e. to find agendas and/or meeting minutes).

4. Approval of Minutes:

- **A motion was made by EG and seconded by TT to accept the December 6th Regular Meeting minutes as submitted. All in favor; the motion carries.**

5. Business:

- FY19: JS again indicated that we are on track to be at or close to the budget for the full school year.
- Capital Projects: JS indicated that the RFP for the next three buses had been issued. JS also provided an update on the sale of the surplus school buses. He recommended that the BoE-FC support the recommendation that the bid be awarded to the highest bidder (A&J Salvage) for \$4300. The FC concurred with this and asked JS to present to the full BoE for endorsement. JS also reminded us that the Town would receive \$6500 from our insurance company for the bus that was totaled in the last fall's automobile accident.
- FY20 Planning: The FC reviewed and updated the FY20 Budget Development/Approval calendar and finalized the dates.
- Proposed New ECS Formula: JS provided an overview on the new formula which is supposed to be more clear, easier to estimate, and won't be fully rolled in until 2028.
- Pump House Controls: SS and Mike House briefed the FC regarding a major issue related to the PVMS pump house controls system that is 18 years old. Specifically, it appears that the system is in an increasing failure mode, which, if it goes down fully, would result in the school being closed until repairs could be completed. Mr. House indicated that there has been a significant increase in problems (e.g. shutdown)

since Thanksgiving. He is also finding that replacement parts are becoming more difficult to find. As such, he reached out to our service provider (LaFromboise; Mr. Justin Linde) to assess the situation. Both see this as an urgent need and recommend that we replace and upgrade the pump system completely. The total cost for this will be shy of \$30,000 and the parts are a long lead-time. As such, the FC concurred with the recommendation to upgrade and have this presented to the full BoE so that this can be moved forward quickly. It was also suggested that this situation be presented to the BoF at their next meeting.

- **Business Case Form:** During the last meeting, the need for a 'standard business case form' was discussed and agreed to. SN developed a template, which was reviewed by the FC. Some immediate adjustments were noted and it was agreed that we would review this on a yearly basis.
- **A motion was made by EG and seconded by TT to add "Meeting Schedule Conflict" to the agenda. All in favor; the motion carries.**
- **Meeting Schedule Conflict:** The team discussed the pros/cons of rescheduling our BoE-FC budget workshops so that they do not overlap with the ones the BoS will hold. While the FC understands that this does not work for everyone, the FC agreed to continue with our schedule as planned.

6. Public Comment

Jill Keith indicated that she was pleased that we were making progress on aligning the Phoenix tool with our budget tracking and reporting.

7. Adjournment

A motion was made by EG and seconded by SN to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 pm. All in favor; motion carries.

The next regularly scheduled FC meeting will be held on February 7th, 2019.

Respectfully submitted,

Sean Nugent