

**Town of Preston  
Board of Education  
Finance Committee Meeting  
Thursday, February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020  
PPMS Library  
6:00 pm**

**1. Call to Order**

Chairman Nugent called the meeting to order at 6:12 pm.

Sean Nugent (SN)  
Ed Gauthier (EG)  
George Carver (GC)  
Andy Depta (AD) - BoF Liaison  
Superintendent Seitsinger (SS)  
John Spang (JS)

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

**3. Public Comment**

Jill Keith congratulated the BoE FC on the approval for replacing the now defunct Phoenix system with Infinite Visions. She inquired about the timeline for making Infinite Visions fully operational and emphasized the importance of having this compliant with the recommended Universal Chart of Accounts. She also shared her view that our work with ZBB should improve the transparency and accuracy of MBR in the future.

**4. Approval of Minutes:**

**A motion was made by EG and seconded by GC to approve the amended Special Meeting minutes of January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020. All in favor; motion carries.**

**A motion was made by EG and seconded by GC to approve the Regular Meeting minutes of January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020 as submitted. All in favor; motion carries.**

**5. Business**

- FY20 Update:
  - JS indicated that this years operating budget remained on track and sees no issues at this time.
- Capital Projects:
  - PPMS Science Labs: JS indicated that the architect requested more time to fully address the questions raised by the potential contractors during their walk through of this space and our building. As a result, the new bid opening date is February 18<sup>th</sup>.
  - PPMS Science Labs: The team asked JS to follow up with the BoF during their February meeting seeking their direction regarding the current projected shortfall (current estimate of ~\$225k versus the approved funding of ~\$171k). Specifically, whether the BoF would prefer to transfer this shortfall from the Town's non-recurring capital funds or should the BoE first seek to cover the shortfall from our Operating Budget?
  - Buses: JS shared the recommendation of the BoE Transportation Committee (TC) to approve the expenditure of \$260,274 for the acquisition of three (3) new Blue Bird school buses. This price includes a buy-back value of \$4200. JS indicated that the TC felt that this was the best solution as all of our other newer buses are Blue Birds therefore allowing for common parts, maintenance, and mechanical solutions. This acquisition completes our replacement cycle and is ~\$13.6k less

than approved in the 5 year capital plan. The team noted that it would again be good to seek BoF support in approving these monies to address the aforementioned Science Labs project shortfall.

- PPMS Parking Replacement: JS indicated that the bid for this project should be issued in March of this fiscal year.
  
- FY21 Budget (ZBB):
  - Governors Proposal: JS & SS shared a summary of the governor's proposed FY21 budget adjustments in which (a) Adult Education and (b) ECS Grant are both lower than the original FY21 budget by almost \$20k. While this may not be the final numbers approved by the legislature, we should use these numbers in our FY21 budget development.
  - The team reviewed and queried the "Student Population" template that was updated following our previous discussion. This data shows that our student population for FY21 is the same as FY20. As such, we will require the same number of classes, teachers, and para-educators.
  - With our 'core data source' finalized, we then conducted review of (a) staff salaries and (b) transportation. A number of questions and inquiries were raised and will be reviewed during our next workshop.
  - The team agreed to discuss the following elements during our next workshop: (a) health/dental, (b) tuition, (c) special education, and (d) utilities.

#### **5. Public Comment**

Jill Keith stated that she thought teacher salary data was readily available via online portals that compare Preston to other districts. She stated that she was concerned with high teacher absenteeism in our District. She also stated that we should have a more inclusive curriculum for gifted students.

#### **6. Adjournment**

**A motion was made by EG and seconded by GC to adjourn the meeting at 8:54 pm. All in favor; motion carries.**

The next FC regular meeting will be held on February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020 beginning at 6 pm at PPMS.

Respectfully submitted,

Sean Nugent