

**Town of Preston  
Board of Education  
Finance Committee Regular Meeting  
Thursday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018  
PPMS Library  
6:00 pm**

**1. Call to Order**

Chairman Nugent called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm.

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

Guests: Andy Depta, Dr. Carmela Smith

**2. Pledge of Allegiance:**

**3. Public Comment**

Andy Depta noticed a posting for the ‘Wellness Committee’ and inquired as to what this was about and whether it was a public meeting.

**4. Approval of Minutes:**

- **A motion was made by TT and seconded by EG to accept the October 11<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting minutes as submitted. All in favor; the motion carries.**

**5. Business:**

- FY18: SS provided an update regarding the Districts response to the October 26<sup>th</sup> SDE letter indicating that the FY19 budget was below the MBR by \$8,311. We plan on asking for a waiver and the response letter is in progress.
- FY19: SS provided an overview on the behalf of JS and indicated that we are on track to be at or close to the budget for the full school year.
- Capital: The RFP for the next three (3) replacement school buses has been sent out. EG asked whether there was an opportunity to fast track the PPMS lockers such that our capital focus for the Spring/Summer of 2019 would be the science labs. SS indicated that he felt it was best that we wait until our March meeting to entertain that questions as we will have better information on the buses and science labs by then.
- Phoenix Reporting Format: JS is now providing the monthly Phoenix report using a new, revised format. The new format fully aligns with the documentation and discussions the BoE uses in developing the districts annual budget. For at least two months, both the new and old Phoenix reports will be provided to assist with the transition.
- Proposed New ECS Formula: Tabled until the next FC meeting as JS was absent.
- FY20 Planning:
  - Cost Benefit Analysis: Dr. Smith, the district’s SPED Director, provided a business case to opt out of the Medicaid School Based Child Health (SBCH) Program. As it exists today, we are required to submit regular reports using CompuClaim. CompuClaim receives a percentage as a fee. Dr.

Smith contacted CompuClaim and they indicated that (a) our current student population doesn't justify the cost of using their system and (b) that our resources would be better focused on student Social Emotional Learning needs. Participating in this system is funded by a grant but we lose roughly \$5000 annually using the CompuClaim system. Opting out frees up roughly 400 hours of staff time that is better used to focus on our student's wellbeing. Should our student population increase, we are able to opt back in. Final approval to opt out requires approval of our business case by the Department of Social Services. It is important to note that this request is related only to the reporting of SBCH. The FC agreed and asked Dr. Smith to present this at the next full board meeting.

- Status of Other Studies: The FC discussed the value of having an official business case form and agreed to the following outline:
  - What (brief description showing how this links to our Strategic Plan)
  - Why (importance?)
  - Other approaches/options considered
  - Pros/Cons (for the proposal and the other approaches/options)
  - Impact (what is the effect of this on budget, resources, students, etc.)
  - Cost (what is the cost and sources for paying)
  - Other (important factors the BoE should consider)
- Calendar: The FC discussed the FY19 Budget Development/Approval calendar and finalized the dates. This will be presented/shared at the next full board meeting.

## **6. Public Comment**

Andy Depta asked whether the cost analysis/business case would be a public document.

## **7. Adjournment**

**A motion was made by EG and seconded by SN to adjourn the meeting at 7:32 pm. All in favor; motion carries.**

The next regularly scheduled FC meeting will be held on January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

Respectfully submitted,

Sean Nugent