

**Town of Preston  
Board of Education  
Finance Committee Regular Meeting  
Thursday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018  
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)

Guests: Andy Depta; Andy Bilodeau

**2. Public Comment**

No comments provided.

**3. Approval of Minutes**

- **A motion was made by EG and seconded by TT to accept the March 8<sup>th</sup> minutes as submitted. All in favor; the motion carries.**

**4. Business**

- **FY18 Update**
  - JS presented the February YTD budget report in two forms: (a) the historic ‘rolled up high-level summary’ report and (b) the Phoenix summary report. Both provide the same information but the former requires additional time and effort by JS. The latter is similar to the reports provided to the BoF by the First Selectman and the PRA. The team will compare and contrast and be ready to discuss and recommend the path forward (either ‘a’ or ‘b’) at the next full board meeting.
  - JS provided an overview of the recent discussion between the First Selectman, the Superintendent, the BoE chairperson, and himself regarding FY18 Excess Cost. Due to the confusion last year in State Educational Funding (i.e. the continuing roller coaster ride around ECS, Excess Cost, and a proposed SPED Grant) that the Town approved a BoE budget for FY18 in which Excess Cost was not contemplated. Following approval of the Town budget, the State changed the funding pools again and re-instated the Excess Cost grant. As such, for this year only, the recommendation is that the Board treat the Excess Payment (est. \$85k) as revenue to the Town. The caveat to this though is that the BoE budget must not go into the ‘red’ so the final amount transferred to the Town will be based upon the fiscal year-end numbers.
  - SS highlighted the fact that this represents a situation in which the Town and District worked together to address a community need/issue.
  - JS also shared a letter dated January 29<sup>th</sup> from CT-DoE regarding Fy18 revenue information on ECS, Adult Education, and Excess Cost grant. The letter emphasizes the point that Excess Cost is a capped entitlement grant in which the State currently covers 74.5% of the Districts portion but anticipates that this will drop to 73% for the April update. Based upon this letter, Preston’s FY18 educational revenue is estimated at:

- ECS: \$2,586,982 (vs. original estimate of \$2,861,416)
  - Adult Education: \$21,258 (vs. original estimate of \$20,876)
  - Excess Cost: \$84,071
- **FY19 BoF Presentation/Submission**
    - SN shared that the CT legislature has again failed to make any decisions regarding the final FY18 budget. The major reason stated in the local newspaper was that they lost time due to lost snow days.
    - SN shared that the BoF requested the BoE to consider a \$100k reduction to the proposed budget submitted to the BoF. The team agreed that we had spent significant time developing the FY19 proposed budget (4 separate meetings of approximately 2.5 hours each + 3 full board discussions) and, as such, no additional work should be done by the FC as this is a matter for the full board to discuss/address.
    - SN shared the graphic showing the details of what is leading to a potential 4 mil increase for FY19 over FY18. This graphic shows that 2.4 mils is directly related to the reduction in State Aid to both the Town and the District coupled with the impact of revaluation and Covanta's switch from being a PILOT revenue to now being a lower taxable resource. The requests by both the Town and BoE represent roughly a 1.8 mil increase. Note: The underlying assumption to these numbers is that the same amount of surplus used in FY18 would be used in FY19.
  - **Capital Plan Status**
    - The team discussed the progress on the PVMS Gym Floor that appears to be on target for completion and ready for use by April 22<sup>nd</sup>.
    - ML shared a concern raised to her regarding the BoE's inclusion of new bleachers to this project. The FC and SS see the bleachers as a change order related to the project as the bleachers were removed as part of the gym floor work. This afforded us the opportunity to address concerns which have been expressed by the community regarding the lack of seating and ADA compliance.
    - SS indicated that three new 71 passenger school buses have been ordered. The Transportation team is meeting on April 12<sup>th</sup> to finalize the specifications on the new wheelchair bus.
    - SS indicated that the RFP has been issued for the abatement of the PPMS science labs. The RFP for the renovation work has not been issued yet. He raised concerns regarding completing both the abatement and renovation over the summer. The two key drivers for this are (a) it is not uncommon for abatement work to reveal unknown environmental issues, (b) the Superintendents desire to have "iconic science labs" that excite our students and community, (c) the desire to visit other recently completed 'science labs', and (d) to ensure that we have the classrooms ready for the FY19 school year. The intent is to work toward having both completed over this summer but, if not, then to complete the abatement this summer and the renovation work next summer. It was suggested that the construction RFP is issued now – indicating the possible timing situation – such that the working relationship between the abatement contractor and renovation contractor can be established now.
    - SS indicated that the lockers RFP has not been developed yet but will be developed and issued soon.

## **5. Public Comment**

Mr. Depta asked whether the abatement work would be a fixed price RFP. JS indicated that it would but would also allow for Change Order requests.

## **6. Adjournment**

A motion was made by EG and seconded by TT to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 pm. All in favor; motion carries.

BOE Finance Committee  
April 5<sup>h</sup>, 2018

***DRAFT***

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 10<sup>h</sup> at 6:00 pm at PPMS.

Respectfully submitted,

Sean Nugent