

**BOE Regular Meeting**  
November 13, 2017 7:00 PM  
PPMS Library

**1. Call to Order**

Jan Clancy; BOE Chair, called the meeting to order at 7pm. Other members present: Deborah Burke-Grabarek, Charles Raymond, Karin Davis, Dan Harris, Sean Nugent and Cindy Luty. Also present: Dr. Seitsinger; Superintendent, John Spang; Director of Finance, Gloria Homiski; Recording Secretary, Ray Bernier; Principal PVMS, and Dr. Ivy Davis-Tomczuk; Principal PPMS and Director of Curriculum.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

**3. Approval of Minutes**

Moved, to approve the Regular BOE Meeting Minutes of 10-16-17 as amended. Nugent/Burke-Grabarek. Clancy, Luty, Davis and Raymond also in favor. Harris abstained. Motion Carries.

Moved, to approve the Special BOE Meeting Minutes of 11-1-17 as presented. Nugent/Burke-Grabarek. Clancy, Luty and Davis also in favor. Burke-Grabarek, Raymond and Harris abstained. Motion Carries.

**4. Public Comment**

None

**5. Principals' Report**

Dr. Davis-Tomczuk: High School Choice Night was held in October and was well attended. Horizon Wings will be presenting at both schools on November 30<sup>th</sup>. Preston is entitled to receive a new grant, known as Title IV. This grant will entitle the district to \$10,000 a year for the next 3 years as long as the necessary criteria are met.

Ray Bernier: Trunk or Treat was a successful and well attended event held in October. A Veterans' Day assembly was held on Nov 9<sup>th</sup>. Students sang songs and read essays. Chris Fleming; local Veteran, is working with grade 5 students to raise and lower the school flag. On November 17<sup>th</sup> a Student of the Month luncheon will be held.

**6. Chairperson's Report**

Jan Clancy asked that Mike House address the burned out light at the end of the PPMS driveway. He assured her that he would. She also thanked Dr. Seitsinger for his ongoing informational updates. She did express concern over the fact that the BOE is still short one member after the recent election results.

Dr. Seitsinger stated that the BOE has 30 days to fill the open seat. If the BOE does not find someone, the BOS will appoint someone. The Board agreed to post the open seat on the school and Town websites, as well as on Facebook. The deadline for citizens to express an interest is 11-27-17 at 4pm. An interview process will then be held sometime during the week of 12-4-17. Dr. Seitsinger also stated that he received one letter of interest for the seat from Melissa Lennon today.

## 7. Reports of Sub Committees

LEARN: Cindy Luty attended the November meeting. The meeting synopsis is attached to these minutes.

CABE: Sean Nugent stated that the Delegate Assembly will be held on 11-16-17 and that the CABE Convention will be held on 11-17-17 and 11-18-17. Both he and Dr. Seitsinger will be in attendance at the Convention. Melissa Lennon is also interested in attending this convention. Sean queried CABE and they said that as a Preston Citizen and BOF member, Melissa is welcome to attend. Both Sean and Dr. Seitsinger will also attend the CABE Workshop for New Board Members on 12-7-17. The invitation to attend will be extended to newly elected BOE member Ed Gauthier as well. Other CABE information attached to minutes.

Finance Sub Committee: Sean Nugent stated that the last meeting was held on 11-9-17. The following topics were addressed, budget history, capital planning and the role of the Finance Sub Committee as it pertains to Strategic Planning. The FY 19 Budget Plan was also discussed.

Transportation Sub Committee: Charles Raymond stated no meeting was held.

Curriculum Sub Committee: Cindy Luty stated that no meeting was held.

Community Relations Sub Committee: Jan Clancy stated that no meeting was held.

## 8. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Seitsinger stated that discussion regarding the Strategic School Plan is already underway. The Plan will be used as a guide for the FY19 budget process.

Dr. Seitsinger also stated that he sent a memo to Norm Gauthier; Finance Board Chair, regarding the BOE Capital Plan which was reduced by 16% overall.

Dr. Seitsinger also talked about High School Choice decisions made thus far. Currently, the following choices have been made by a total of 39 grade 8 students: 29 will attend NFA, 2 are applying to Ledyard High School, 5 are applying to Norwich Tech, and 3 are applying to Grasso Tech. Dr. Seitsinger is meeting with Preston students at NFA on Thursday. Although the students are no longer in district, they are Preston students. Dr. Seitsinger wants to hear about their experiences etc. He will reach out to other high schools attended by Preston students soon.

Next, Dr. Seitsinger presented both Jan Clancy and Karin Davis with plaques commemorating their years on the Board and also their dedication to Preston children.

Two teachers from Preston Plains Middle School (Jen Foltz and Chris Pickett) prepared a presentation on PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention Supports). They did so with the help of 2 students; Marisa Wolfe and Claire Watrous. PBIS was first implemented in Preston in 2009. All students must be taught expectations. This process is an ever changing one and is now managed by students for the most part. Claire and Marisa prepared a Powerpoint presentation that was shared with 5<sup>th</sup> graders to prepare them for Middle School expectations.

**9. Expenditure/Projection Report**

John Spang reviewed his projection and expenditure reports with the Board. More encumbrances are being added to the system in order to prevent financial surprises in the future. ECS money is down \$150,000 this fiscal year, but will go back up to \$137,000 in FY19. Two part time para-educators are in the process of being hired to work in Grade K classrooms.

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

None

**11. Old Business: Discussion and Votes Required**

Policy 3515: Use of School Facilities (2<sup>nd</sup> read)

This policy was amended by way of Town and community input. Preston has never charged for field or building use and this policy update does allow for charges. The intent is not to make a profit but to use the money to pay for custodial coverage or field upkeep. The amendments align with what other districts are doing.

Moved, to accept the amended Policy 3515; Use of School Facilities, with proposed changes as discussed. Nugent/Clancy. Unanimous. Motion Carries.

**12. Public Comment**

Heather Helwig thanked Jan Clancy and Karin Davis for their years of service on the Board.

**13. Information**

**14. Adjournment**

Moved, to adjourn the meeting at 8:18PM. Nugent/Davis. Unanimous. Motion Carries.

Next Meeting: 12-11-17  
Assignment of Officers

## LEARN - November meeting synopsis

The purchase of the 660 Ocean Avenue property for the Student Support Service Academy has been completed. The building committee has met with the architects and project manager to view proposals for renovations. It is the intention to have the Academy up and running for the start of the next school year.

During the Superintendent's Perspective report Guilford Superintendent, Dr. Paul Freeman, addressed proposed changes to high school start times in his district. While he discussed the many benefits based on scientific evidence that support later start times for high school students, many challenges exist such as scheduling after school sports, the added cost for bus schedule changes and the ability for students to have part time jobs after school. He added that any such changes would most likely have to come from a regional or legislative approach.

Patrice McCarthy, Deputy Director and General Counsel for CAFE, presented updates from the legislature. The state's two year budget is in place with modifications to be made in the Feb.-May session.

Dr. Howley shared that LEARN received a clean report from the accounting firm of Blum Shapiro on the 2016-2017 draft audit.



# Connecticut Association of Boards of Education

*Vincent A. Mustaro, Senior Staff Associate for Policy Services*

## PRESENTS POLICY HIGHLIGHTS

November 10, 2017

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**New Policy Issued for English Learners:** In a memorandum to school superintendents, dated June 9, 2017, Commissioner of Education Dr. Dianna R. Wentzell addressed the current status pertaining to the identification, accountability and assessment of English Learners. Her memorandum outlined a new policy for English Learners (ELs) in Connecticut public schools. She indicated that the portion of ELs has reached an all-time high, nearly seven percent, in our schools. The state's policies and practices concerning this population have changed to be in concert with Connecticut's plan for the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

Beginning with this school year, the CSDE is instituting statewide, standardized identification protocols for English Learners. These are fully described on the CSDE English Learners web page.

Regarding accountability issues, the Commissioner stated, "When ELS make progress toward English proficiency, they perform better in the academic subjects and become more engaged within the broader school community. Therefore the CSDE is developing a growth model for the English language proficiency assessment (i.e. the LAS Links) using an approach similar to that used for the Smarter Balanced assessments."

The Commissioner's memorandum also indicated that the LAS Links assessments are adequately aligned to the Connecticut English Language Proficiency standards and offer a vertical scale suitable for measuring growth. The CSDE will continue to use the LAS Links as the annual assessment for all ELs in all grades.

**Policy Implications:** A new, sample policy has been developed pertaining to this topic. Policy #6141.311, "Programs for English Learner Students." In addition, a new administrative regulation has been prepared based upon information provided by the Connecticut State Department of Education. The policy and regulation are available upon request.

This policy is considered a recommended policy for inclusion in a district's policy manual.

**Recent Legislation Impacts Nondiscrimination Policies:** Recent legislation, P.A. 17-127, "An Act Concerning Discriminatory Practices Against Veterans, Leaves of Absence for National Guard Members, Application for Certain Medicaid Programs and Disclosure of Certain Records to Federal Military Law Enforcement," prohibits discrimination on the basis of someone's veteran status in employment, public accommodations, the sale or rental of housing, the granting of credit, and other laws over which the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities (CHRO) has jurisdiction.

This new legislation, effective as of October 1, 2017, authorizes any veteran aggrieved by an alleged discriminatory practice to file discrimination complaints with CHRO, which enforces antidiscrimination laws in these areas. A “veteran” is defined as anyone honorably discharged or released under honorable conditions from active service in the U. S. Armed Forces, or their reserve components, including Connecticut National Guard members performing duty (e.g. certain Homeland Security missions) under Title 32 of the U. S. Code.

The Act also:

1. requires the employer of anyone serving in another state’s National Guard to allow the employee to take a leave of absence to perform ordered military duty during regular work hours;
2. allows active-duty members of the armed forces to register certain family members for Medicaid home- and community-based programs; and
3. explicitly includes U. S. Department of Defense military law enforcement authorities among the federal law enforcement officers to whom Department of Children and Families (DCF) records are disclosable without the consent of the person who is the subject of the record, under certain circumstances specified in law.

Previous legislation makes it a discriminatory practice to deprive someone of any rights, privileges, or immunities secured or protected by Connecticut or federal laws or constitutions, or cause such a deprivation, because of religion, national origin, alienage, color, race, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, blindness, or mental or physical disability. This legislation adds veteran status to this list, thus authorizing CHRO to investigate claims of discrimination based on veteran status.

The legislation prohibits an employer or the employer’s agent, except in the case of a bona fide occupational qualification or need, from refusing to hire or employ someone; barring or discharging someone from employment; or discriminating against someone in pay or in employment terms, conditions, or privileges because the person is a veteran. This prohibition applies to public or private employers with three or more employees. It applies to all employees except those employed by their parents, spouse, or children.

The Act:

1. subjects any professional or trade association, board, or other similar organization whose profession, trade, or occupation requires a state license, to a fine of \$100 to \$500 for denying someone membership because of his or her veteran status;
2. requires state officials and supervisory personnel to recruit, appoint, assign, train, evaluate, and promote state personnel on the basis of merit and qualifications, without regard to veteran status, unless the person’s status as a veteran prevents performance of the work involved;
3. requires state agency services to be performed without discrimination based on veteran status;

4. requires any state agency that provides employment referrals or placement services to public or private employers to reject any job request that indicates an intention to exclude anyone based on his or her veteran status;
5. prohibits state departments, boards, or agencies from granting, denying, or revoking a person's license or charter on the grounds of veteran status; and
6. requires all educational, counseling, and vocational guidance programs and all apprenticeship and on-the-job training programs of state agencies, or in which state agencies participate, to be open to all qualified persons, without regard to veteran status.

The legislation extends employment protections afforded to employees who serve in the state armed forces or any reserve component of the U. S. Armed Forces to employees who are members of another state's National Guard who take time off from work during regular working hours to perform ordered military duty. This includes time off for meetings or drills. Employment protections include protection from (1) loss of vacation or holiday privileges or (2) prejudice in promotions, continuances, or reappointments due to absences.

The Act allows an armed forces member on active duty to apply on behalf of his or her spouse or child for any Medicaid home- or community-based program in Connecticut for which the spouse or child is eligible.

"Armed Forces" means the U. S. Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and Air Force, and reserve components, including the Connecticut National Guard performing duty under Title 32 of federal law (e. g., some Homeland Security missions).

**Policy Implications:** Policy #4118.11/4218.11, "Nondiscrimination" is affected by this legislation. This is a mandated policy for inclusion in a district's manual. Several versions of this policy are available for consideration. In addition, policy #0521, "Nondiscrimination" is also impacted by this legislation. Several versions of this policy are available for consideration.

**American Education Week:** The National Education Association's (NEA) America Education Week (AEW) is November 13-17. This week provides an opportunity to honor public education and recognize those who work hard to ensure that every child receives a quality public education at all grade levels and through college. AEW was created in 1921. It celebrates public education and honor individuals who are making a difference in the lives of students in the public schools.

The NEA has provided a complete tool kit to assist districts plan for this celebration. It can be accessed at [www.nea.org/aew](http://www.nea.org/aew).

**Food for Thought:** "Seasoned leaders actually pay attention to the research on employee motivation and know that most of us are inspired by having a strong sense of purpose, a fair amount of autonomy, and the ability to demonstrate our personal strengths on a regular basis. Savvy leaders seek to energize and inspire people, not terrify them."

"Now You're In Charge" by Allison Vaillancourt in *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, July 21, 2017 (Vol. LXIII, #14, p. B16-17)

November 2017

# CABE Liaison Newsletter



## **CABE Liaisons:**

*Please talk with your Board about these upcoming events at your next meeting.*

### **Upcoming Professional Development**

November 16, 2017  
CABE Delegate Assembly  
Mystic Marriott Hotel, Groton

November 17-18, 2017  
2017 CABE/CAPSS Convention  
*"Out of the Public Schools  
Grows the Greatness of A Nation"* – Mark Twain  
Mystic Marriott Hotel, Groton

December 7, 2017  
2017 New Board Member  
Orientation/Leadership Conference  
Sheraton Hartford South Hotel, Rocky Hill



December 11, 2017  
Current Legal Issues  
Registration: 8:30am  
Program: 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM  
CAS, Cheshire  
Program includes:  
Sexual Identity · Displaced Students · Social Media

*For those delegates attending  
the Delegate Assembly*

**CABE Delegate Assembly  
Webinar  
November 8, 2017  
3:00pm**

CABE's Delegate Assembly will be held November 16th at 3pm at the Mystic Marriott Hotel in Groton, CT. It is the democratic process CABE utilizes to form our positions for the association. To better understand the issues and process please sign up for the webinar on November 8th, where we will explain how we form the resolutions that will go before the assembly and how they affect your district.

To register go to  
[goo.gl/cY8XuJ](http://goo.gl/cY8XuJ)

Please make sure central office staff updates your board members in the CABE database immediately following the election. This ensures your board members will receive valuable CABE information.

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