1. Call to Order

Sean Nugent, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:00PM. Other members present: Deborah Burke-Grabarek, Cindy Luty, Ed Gauthier, Tom Turner, Dan Harris and Charles Raymond. Also present: Dr. Seitsinger; Superintendent, John Spang; Director of Finance, and Gloria Homiski; Recording Secretary.

Mr. Nugent turned the meeting over to Dr. Seitsinger; pro tem, for the Election of Officers.

Deborah Burke-Grabarek nominated Sean Nugent for the position of Board Chair. Charles Raymond seconded the nomination.

No other nominations were made.

Board unanimously voted to appoint Sean Nugent as Chair (Sean abstained).

Cindy Luty nominated Charles Raymond for the position of Board Vice Chair. Deborah Burke-Grabarek seconded the nomination.

No other nominations were made.

Board unanimously voted to appoint Charles Raymond as Vice Chair (Charles abstained).

Charles Raymond nominated Deborah Burke-Grabarek for the position of Board Secretary. Cindy Luty seconded the nomination.

No other nominations were made.

Board unanimously voted to appoint Deborah Burke-Grabarek for the position of Board Secretary (Deborah abstained).

Discussion followed regarding the possibility of modifying the BOE Election of Officers Policy to align with the Town Election Process. The Board decided to leave the policy as it is.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Public Comment

Andy Depta asked a question about Policy 5145.5 Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment. He asked if the 3rd party mentioned includes certified and non-certified personnel.

4. Consent Agenda

Cindy Luty asked that the December BOE Meeting Minutes be removed from the Consent Agenda.

Moved, to accept the Consent Agenda minus the regular meeting minutes of 12-10-18. Luty/Grabarek. Unanimous. Motion Carries.
Cindy Luty asked that a change be made under the Superintendent’s Report on the December minutes.

Moved, to accept the Regular BOE Meeting Minutes of December 10, 2018 as modified. Luty/Raymond. Unanimous. Motion Carries.

5. Principals' Reports
Dr. Ivy Davis-Tomczuk announced that the Winter Band Concert will be held on January 24th at PVMS. She also stated that the school will be participating in the “See Something – Say Something” campaign from February 25th through March 1st. Ivy also reviewed the STAR testing performance summary for grades 6 through 8. This universal screening tool has benchmarks that align with Smarter Balanced Testing.

Mr. Ray Bernier also addressed the Board. Trooper Bettini has begun the DARE Program with the 5th grade students. The Citizen of the month luncheon will be held on Friday. January 25th a Family Fun Movie Night will be held at PVMS. On February 15th Parks and Rec will host a “Me and My Guy Dance” at PVMS.

6. Superintendent's Report
Student Recognition: Isabella Ruta was awarded a $1000.00 savings bond from the State Department of Agriculture for her cabbage plant.

Two Preston students who attend NFA received CT Scholastic Art Awards. Sylvia Liang received an award for Drawing and Illustration and Madison Marquez received two awards; one for Mixed Media and one for Design.

Dr. Seitsinger is happy to report on and follow up on these student recognitions.

Resignation: Dr. Seitsinger accepted with regret Dr. Carmela Smith’s resignation letter. Her last day will be January 31, 2019. An interim will be hired to finish out the school year and then an extensive search will be conducted to find a permanent hire.

Human Resource Update: This addresses a Strategic Planning goal. Our website has been updated to include an HR section. Ray Bernier volunteered to take on this project with the assistance of Evelyn Gallegos. Ray shared the projected link with the Board and audience members. The information will be continually updated and modified.

Dr. Seitsinger said that HR Directors across the state attend monthly training sessions. We do not have a person who can regularly attend these training sessions. The Principals, John Spang, Vicki Schwery, Gloria Homiski and Dr. Seitsinger all share the HR duties in our district. He noted last year that he identified this as an issue for further review and planning, stating the HR webpage is a partial response to the HR concern.

High School Choice Update: We have 47 8th graders. Currently, 37 students plan to attend NFA, 6 plan to attend Norwich Tech, 3 plan to attend the Ledyard Vo-Ag Program and 1 student plans on attending the Marine Science Magnet High School. All students will take the placement tests administered by NFA since it is our designated high school. The other high schools will only administer their placement tests to those students who have been accepted to their schools.
Medicaid Opt Out: As previously reported, it is not currently cost effective to continue to participate in this program. Dr. Smith has opted out of the program and we are working with Medicaid to complete the paperwork to make this happen.

Electronic Nicotine Use: Vaping has become a National epidemic among our children. Programs are in place to help break the addiction. Our schools are monitoring the use of such devices by our students. Eric McGlone is addressing the topic in his Health Class.

Policy Approvals: 2\textsuperscript{nd} Read:

Policy 3542.22 Food Service Personnel Code of Conduct
\textbf{Moved, to accept Policy 3542.22 as presented. Turner/Raymond. Unanimous. Motion Carries.}

Policy 3542.43 Charging Policy Food Service
Remove “secondary students section” and return the policy to the Board at their next meeting.

Policy 4118.231 Drug and Alcohol Use and Possession
Cindy Luty asked that the phrase “during school hours” regarding tobacco use be removed from the policy.

Cindy was also concerned that the regulation allows for 4 different steps of discipline. Discussion followed.  
\textbf{Moved, to accept Policy 4118.231 as presented. Burke-Grabarek/Turner. Luty, Nugent and Turner opposed. Burke-Grabarek, Gauthier, Raymond and Harris in Favor. Motion Carries.}

Policy 9321 Time, Place, Notification of Meetings
\textbf{Moved, to accept policy 9321 as amended. Raymond/Luty. Unanimous. Motion Carries.}

Sean Nugent stated that Andy Depta’s public comments would be taken into consideration before the second reading of policy 5145.5.

Sean Nugent announced that the Area 9 Legislative Breakfast will take place at Fitch High School on Friday morning at 7:15. He and Dr. Seitsinger will be attending. He asked that any other interested Board members register for the breakfast on the CABE website.

7. Expenditure/Projection Report
John Spang presented his reports to the BOE. If existing trends continue, an unencumbered balance can be expected at year’s end. Capital Projects are progressing. Bids were recently received for 3 replacement school buses. The Transportation Committee was present at the bid opening. Six older, retired buses were recently sold in a sealed bid process.

\textbf{Moved, to recommend the Board award School Lines Inc. the replacement bus bid for $251,664.00. Luty/Raymond. Unanimous. Motion Carries.}

An urgent repair has surfaced. The pump house at PVMS is 17+ years old and is failing significantly since the end of November. It is becoming more and more difficult to acquire replacement parts for the aging system and a new one is being recommended by LaFramboise Well Drilling Co. The
estimated cost of the project is $28,760.00. Dr. Seitsinger asked that action be taken now (single source due to urgent need), and asked for a waiver of the bid process. The project could be paid for out of the current budget. He plans to speak to the BOF about the Board’s action tomorrow night. Discussion followed. M **ove**d, to set this repair in motion contingent upon third party confirmation. Turner/Luty. Nugent, Burke-Grabarek, Harris and Raymond also in favor. Gauthier opposed. Motion Carries.

Ed Gauthier stated that he doesn’t want to wait for a third party confirmation. He wants to prevent an emergency from occurring now. There is money in the budget for such things.

John Spang stated that BOE Finance Committee Meetings will be held on the next 4 consecutive Thursdays to discuss the FY20 Budget. The Jan 17th and Jan 31st meetings will be held at 6pm at PPMS. The Jan 24th meeting will be held at 5pm at PPMS. The Feb 7th meeting will be held at 6pm at PPMS. The budget will be reviewed line by line at these meetings.

Lockers: John Spang explained that we could install new lockers during the week of April vacation. He asked that the Board waive the bidding portion of Policy 3323 (Purchasing) and allow C & A Distributors to complete the job. C & A Distributors are highly recommended by members of the Buildings and Grounds Association.

Moved, to recommend that the Board waive policy 3323 and award the replacement of PPMS lockers to C & A Distributors (single source). Burke-Grabarek/Turner.

Discussion followed. The Board determined that this project is much different from the pump house project and cannot be considered as a single source project.

Burke-Grabarek in favor. Luty, Nugent, Gauthier, Turner, Harris and Raymond Opposed. Motion Fails.

Dr. Seitsinger stated that they will move forward with the formal bid process for this project.

8. Public Comment
None

9. Adjournment
Moved, to adjourn the meeting at 9:05PM. Burke-Grabarek/Luty. Unanimous. Motion Carries.