1. Call to Order
Sean Nugent; Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 7PM. Other BOE members present: Deborah Burke-Grabarek, Cindy Luty, George Carver, Ed Gauthier and Charles Raymond. Dan Harris was absent. Also present: Dr. Seitsinger; Superintendent, John Spang; Director of Finance, and Gloria Homiski; Recording Secretary.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Public Comment
Heather Helwig: She wished that the hiring of the new Spanish Teacher had been posted on the District website. She thanked the Board for inviting Wheeler High School to Preston. She is in favor of sending Preston students to Wheeler as a high school option.

Kimberly Demara: Our students come from a small community and she believes Wheeler would be a nice transition for them. The communities are similar in size.

Tom Turner: He is also in favor of offering Wheeler as a high school choice if everything works out financially, etc.

4. Consent Agenda
Accepted as submitted.

Moved, to take the agenda out of order to listen to the presentation given by members of Wheeler High School. Luty/Gauthier. Unanimous. Motion Carries.

Peter Nero; Superintendent of North Stonington Schools, introduced Kristen St. Germain; Wheeler Principal, as well as Allison Reyes; Assistant Principal. He also introduced Christine Wagner; Board Chair, and other current and past North Stonington BOE members.

Together, Mrs. St. Germain and Mrs. Reyes gave a powerpoint presentation to the Preston BOE and audience members. They revealed the strong sense of community involvement at Wheeler. Climate, culture and core values are all very important to their district. The high school offers virtual learning, a program for exchange students, and a wide variety of AP/ECE courses. They shared their successful test scores and Pathway Programs. Wheeler collaborates with the Westerly Education Center which means students can obtain credit while participating in internships. Interventions are in place for math and ELA as necessary. Sixty percent of students participate in sports (co-op program), and there is a wide variety of clubs and extra-curricular opportunities for all students.
Currently, Wheeler houses 188 students in grades 9 through 12. They could comfortably take on an additional 40-50 students. The current annual tuition to attend Wheeler is $11,433.00 per student. North Stonington would welcome Preston students into their District. If Preston buses were to pick up Preston students and bring them to a pre-determined pick up point, North Stonington buses could pick up our students and bring them to Wheeler.

Peter Nero and Christine Wagner offered tours of Wheeler High School to any interested students and their parents.

The Board took a 5 minute recess.

Moved, to take the agenda out of order to hear a presentation from Eagle Scout Dylan McGuire. Gauthier/Raymond. Unanimous. Motion Carries.

Dylan McGuire presented a slide show outlining the successful installation of a track at PPMS. The completion of the track required 330 man hours. Dylan thanked all those involved in the project. Dylan also asked the BOE for a $1500.00 donation for a plaque to be engraved and installed at the track site. The Board supported this request and stated that a check would be cut in 2-3 weeks, made out to Troop 75 Preston.

5. Principals' Reports
Raymond Bernier: Elizabeth Mattern is the Student Council Advisor at PVMS. The group recently prepared dog treats from scratch for the humane society. They are also preparing a suggestion box for the school. The PVMS Unified Club worked out with NIKE employees as part of NIKE’s community program. Diane Hansen also painted Kindness Rocks with the Unified Club. Grade 4 is working with Safe Futures and Grade 5 is finishing up the D.A.R.E Program. March 2nd is Dr. Seuss Day at PVMS. Representative Mike France will read to the school. The Choose Love Program is up and running. Parent/Teacher conferences will be held on March 4/5. Staff and Faculty members at PVMS have started a book club. They are currently reading “High Achievers” about addiction.

Ivy Davis-Tomczuk: Excused

6. Superintendent's Report/Update
Dr. Seitsinger shared our new Preston School District brochure with the Board. The brochure was created by LEARN at no cost. We hope to send it home to families and have copies available at Town offices and local businesses. Dr. Seitsinger shared the postcards that were created as well. He will use them to drop off positive notes to faculty and staff members.

Dr. Seitsinger stated that Preston has been contacted by Yale University to participate in a Social Cognitive Development Study. He will begin talking to them about this collaboration later this week.
Leigh Reposa; Social Worker, has been doing some grant writing for the district and has been awarded $2000.00 thus far. This money can be applied to all areas of social emotional need.

Dr. Seitsinger prepared four positive Preston Public School District stories for an upcoming CABE Publication.

We are monitoring the coronavirus closely. Our own staff and student absences are up due to flu and viruses, but the nurses have no major concerns at this time.

Dr. Seitsinger is being interviewed by a reporter at the Panther Press; the PPMS Newspaper, tomorrow afternoon.

The Superintendent will be meeting with Preston High School students who are interested in participating at Board Meetings in the near future.

We received word from NFA that their tuitions are rising. The regular tuition rate will increase by 3%. The Sachem Program tuition will increase by approximately 24% and the PACE Program tuition will increase by approximately 60%.

Dr. Seitsinger is currently working on the Superintendent’s Report for the Town’s Annual Report.

Students have already participated in a Panorama survey and one will be prepared for staff and faculty in the near future. This is a culture/climate survey.

The signage for PPMS has been approved by the D.O.T.

The FY21 Budget preparation is underway. The BOE Finance Committee has already reviewed salaries and transportation cost. On 2-20-2020 they will meet to review health benefits, tuitions, and special education. It will probably be another couple of weeks before we have a concrete idea of our % increase.

Bus bids were opened last week. The BOE Transportation Sub Committee met to make a recommendation:

**Moved, to recommend that the District contract with School Lines, Inc. for the purchase of 3 Bluebird Buses in the amount of $264,474.00. Also moved, to sell the four 2006 buses outright. Burke-Grabarek/Gauthier. Unanimous. Motion Carries.**

7. **Expenditure/Projection Report**
   John Spang presented his expenditure reports and capital project report to the Board.

   The Science Lab Renovation Bids will be opened on Tuesday, February 18th. The award can be made at the March BOE meeting. Dr. Seitsinger thanked John Spang and Mike House for all of their hard work on this project.
8. **Public Comment**

Ray Bernier regrettably announced that Glenn Braunhardt, Preston PE teacher, passed away on 2-9-2020. Glenn retired in 2013 after working in Preston Public Schools for 35 years. His wife would like to present an award in Glenn’s honor annually to a grade 8 student.

9. **Adjournment**

Moved, to adjourn the meeting at 9:07PM. Gauthier/Raymond. Unanimous. Motion Carries.