

Board of Education Regular Meeting

March 11, 2019 7:00 PM

PPMS Library

1. Call to Order

Charles Raymond, BOE Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:05PM. Other members present: Tom Turner, Ed Gauthier, and Deborah Burke-Grabarek. Sean Nugent, Cindy Luty and Dan Harris were absent. Also present: Dr. Seitsinger; Superintendent, John Spang; Director of Finance, and Gloria Homiski; Recording Secretary.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Public Comment

None

4. Consent Agenda

Moved, to approve the items under the consent agenda as presented. Gauthier/Turner. Unanimous. Motion Carries.

5. Principals' Reports

Dr. Davis-Tomczuk:

7th grade pasta dinner fundraiser will take place at PPMS on Thursday, March 14th at 5PM. The funds raised will offset the cost of the New York trip.

The student/faculty basketball game will take place on Tuesday, March 19th at 5PM. This is a fundraiser for the 8th grade class.

The “See Something Say Something” campaign was underway at PPMS all week.

Approximately 48% of all middle school parents attended parent/teacher conferences.

Mr. Bernier:

The PVMS PK is working with Carole Glen from LEARN to become fully accredited through NAEYC. Currently our program is conducting a self-study. Next year we will conduct a self-assessment, and the following year we will submit our plan.

The 4th grade state fair will be held in the PVMS gymnasium the afternoon of March 29th.

SBAC testing will begin shortly after returning from Spring Break.

6. Superintendent's Report

Polling Location: The committee reached a decision and will recommend to the BOS that PPMS is used as the primary polling location in town.

School Zone Designation: The application process is moving along well. We applied for a permit. The DOT will come on location after that is granted. A sign and flashing lights will be set up near PVMS and a different type of designation will be used at PPMS.

Governor's Budget: This budget was presented and may impact towns in various ways. One proposal is school regionalization. This is a very complicated process. Our approach is to "remain calm" and monitor.

Dr. Seitsinger has been selected to participate in a National SEL Consortium later this month. The goal is to create national recommendations for social and emotional learning.

Dr. Seitsinger said that a Special BOE Meeting will be held on March 25th. That will give the Board time to review the budget before they are asked to vote on the 25th.

John Spang reviewed the Expenditure/Projection Report and the Capital Project Updates prior to the proposed budget presentation. There will be a bid opening on March 19th at 3:30PM for PPMS lockers and one at 4:00PM for playground re-surfacing at PVMS. Several architects have reviewed our science labs at the middle school and lab visits are currently underway.

Dr. Seitsinger: Proposed Budget Review. The BOE Finance Committee met 5 times to discuss budget drivers, district needs, etc. The budget proposed to the full board is just over a 3.7% increase. He noted that some additional reductions will need to be considered. The entire budget is linked to the School's Strategic Plan. Business Case Strategies were created for each large change/addition to the budget. Dr. Seitsinger explained that it is very important to remain aware of what the district sees as coming needs, i.e., HR and SEL. He also stated the importance of maintaining a running list of Capital Projects. Our district must rely on steady incremental growth and a leap of vision and faith. Dr. Seitsinger then reviewed the FY20 Budget Development Powerpoint presentation. Three categories drive the budget this year: salaries, health and utilities/supplies. Six categories have actually decreased by a total of 6.8%.

The proposed budget includes a .5 FTE Social Worker, (2) .5 FTE Para Educators, 1 school bus driver, an increase in the FTE of the School Psychologist at PPMS (.8 to 1.0 to be paid by a grant), and a .1 FTE increase to the Director of Special Education position (.5 to .6).

Dr. Seitsinger reviewed the proposed budget document section by section in order to address any questions from the board. He stated that Preston is unlike neighboring communities. Our student population is holding and growing incrementally, the enrollment in other districts is going down. Preston remains in solid financial shape due to good planning over the years. Dr. Seitsinger thanked the BOE Finance Committee and the administration for their assistance in preparing the proposed budget.

7. District Overview/Update

8. Expenditure/Projection Report

See above.

9. Public Comment

Andy Depta: He asked when he could review the budget document presented to the board tonight. Dr. Seitsinger stated that it would be available to the public after the BOE vote on March 25th.

10. Adjournment

Moved, to adjourn the meeting at 8:25PM. Turner/Burke-Grabarek. Unanimous. Motion Carries.

Next Meeting: March 25th, 2019, Special BOE Meeting