1. Call to Order
Sean Nugent; Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:30PM. Other BOE members present: George Carver, Ed Gauthier, Deborah Burke-Grabarek, and Cindy Luty. Dan Harris and Charles Raymond were excused. Also present: Dr. Seitsinger; Superintendent, John Spang; Director of Finance, and Gloria Homiski; Recording Secretary.

2. Use of Google Meet (overview)
Dr. Seitsinger and Dr. Nugent gave an overview of Google Meet to the Board members. They reviewed muting and unmuting, practiced using the chat tool, and also made note of which members require additional equipment to use this format in the future.

Dr. Nugent explained that once the Board has all the bugs worked out, a public meeting will be held to present the FY21 Budget.

3. Preston Public Schools and Our COVID-19 Response/Tasks
Currently, 4500 people have been tested in CT. Of that number, 415 people have tested positive and 10 people have unfortunately passed away.

Dr. Seitsinger stated that the Governor has determined that schools will be closed through April 20th. Currently, Preston Public School employees are not on vacation and are not unemployed. They are being re-deployed. To date, Preston Public Schools has been sending home learning packets and setting up virtual learning for students.

Dr. Seitsinger is making random phone calls to staff. Everyone is hard at work making things run as smoothly as possible. All staff are fully engaged and offering to help as needed. Dr. Seitsinger is holding daily virtual Leadership meetings. The Principals are holding virtual staff meetings. The food service personnel are providing "Grab and Go" meals from 10AM to 2PM weekdays to any students 18 and under. On the first day they gave out 98 meals and now they are up to 250 meals a day. Custodial staff are working hard deep cleaning the buildings and working on necessary maintenance projects. Teachers and para-educators are routinely contacting students and providing them with learning packets and virtual learning opportunities. PE, music and art teachers are providing interactive videos, etc. Nurses, psychologists and our social worker are all fully engaged and reaching out to families as needed. Central Office is fully functional, albeit in different home locations. The Special Education office is hard at work providing students what they need under these difficult circumstances.

Dr. Seitsinger stated that our current situation enforces the need for a technology coordinator in the future. We will not have "snow days" in the future. We will have virtual learning days.

Dr. Nugent opened the meeting to questions.
Cindy Luty asked if the renovation of the science labs will be affected by the school closure. Dr. Seitsinger and John Spang stated that they have been talking to the architect and are meeting virtually later this week to work out the details of the project. The architect has significantly lowered the cost of the project.

Cindy also asked if students are receiving work packets weekly. Dr. Seitsinger explained that due to social distancing, we have moved to different forms of virtual learning instead.

Cindy also asked if we will reimburse PK tuitions. Dr. Seitsinger said that as of the date that school closed, no PK tuitions were due. Any pre-payments made will be returned, depending on the date we return to school.

Cindy also asked if students could go to school in the summer to make up for what they have missed. Dr. Seitsinger explained that this is not possible. Teachers are working now. Per contract we cannot require them to work 2 additional months. All schools will close on the day determined by their 2020 school calendar. Ours is June 18th.

George Carver asked if families without wifi could use bus hot spots for wifi. We do not have wifi on buses and due to social distancing, students can't be together on the buses.

George also asked what NFA is doing for our Preston high school students. Dr. Seitsinger stated that he will be reaching out to David Klein and Dr. Nugent will be reaching out to the Board of Trustee Chair in order to obtain details. Unfortunately, there has not been a lot of communication. Ed Gauthier is an NFA parent and stated that he would share an email he received from NFA.

Deborah Burke-Grabarek asked if bus drivers and non-teaching staff are getting paid. Dr. Seitsinger explained that we are trying to engage every employee as best as we can. Bus Drivers may have to go on unemployment if they are not protected at the state level.

Dr. Seitsinger explained that he and the EAP and MEUI unions created MOUs for their members during this time.

George Carver asked what the MOU actually is. Dr. Seitsinger explained that the MOUs describe how working conditions have currently changed for union members.

John Spang, Director of Finance, stated that in addition to the science lab renovation, he is working on the PPMS repaving project. The cost of asphalt is directly related to the cost of oil, so we expect reasonable bids.

Mr. Spang also stated that he locked in on heating oil and diesel fuel prices for the next school year. Both prices are much lower than the prices we are paying this year.

Dr. Nugent asked Board Members to send him any concerns they might have with the virtual meeting by email.

4. Public Comment
None. This meeting was a test and was not open to the public. No votes or actions were taken.
5. **Adjournment**  
The meeting ended at 8:07PM.