

## **Board of Education Regular Meeting**

October 07, 2019 7:00 PM

PPMS Library

### **1. Call to Order**

Charles Raymond; Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:08PM. Other members present: Deborah Burke-Grabarek, Cindy Luty, Ed Gauthier, Tom Turner and Dan Harris. Sean Nugent was absent. Also present: Dr. Seitsinger; Superintendent, John Spang; Director of Finance, and Gloria Homiski; Recording Secretary.

### **2. Pledge of Allegiance**

### **3. Public Comment**

Andy Depta: He saw an attachment in the agenda from LEARN that talks about the necessity for sexual harassment training for all employees. He asked if all employees have been trained. Dr. Seitsinger explained that CIRMA handles that training for us. Certificates are issued to participants and are then placed in personnel files.

### **4. Consent Agenda**

**Moved, to accept the consent agenda as presented. Gauthier/Luty.  
Unanimous. Motion Carries.**

### **5. Principals' Reports**

Dr. Davis-Tomczuk explained that after the September BOE meeting grade 8 was broken down into 3 sections. The District is also advertising for a Spanish Teacher.

Dr. Davis-Tomczuk handles the Title IV grant monies. This money has been used for STEM and STEAM in the past. Preston received \$10,000 a year for 2 years in a row. This grant must now be used for SEL requirements. Preston will receive \$10,000 a year for 2 years. Each school has a leadership team that will help determine how the money will be spent. SEL purchases will be made for Advisory meetings and PD for teachers. The PD will include trauma information and restorative action planning.

A Memorial Service will be held on October 19<sup>th</sup> at 1PM at the Preston Library to honor the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 2 fallen Navy pilots. Several Preston students will participate in this service.

High School Night will be held at PPMS on Oct 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30PM. This is the start of the 8<sup>th</sup> graders' high school choice process.

Mr. Bernier stated that today was Fire Safety Day at PVMS. Students were able to see a local fire truck and ambulance.

On October 25<sup>th</sup>, "Trunk or Treat" will be held inside the classrooms at PVMS in order to avoid the threat of mosquitoes.

A Veterans' Day Assembly will be held at PVMS on November 8<sup>th</sup> at 10AM.

Mr. Bernier was happy to announce that our new Social Worker started today. She is working 2 days a week with a flexible schedule to accommodate student needs.

Chelsea Groton Savings Bank began "An Act of Kindness Program" in 2014. This year an employee at the bank nominated her son's classroom. Mrs. Crugnale's classroom recently received a donation in the amount of \$165.00.

## 6. Recognition

Dr. Seitsinger acknowledged the kindness of Chelsea Groton for their donation to Mrs. Crugnale's classroom. This act of kindness supports the entire community.

Dr. Seitsinger also acknowledged 2 bus drivers; Sandy Lussier and Deb Armstrong, who assisted a car in distress. This random act of kindness was another example of community support.

## 7. Superintendent's Report

HR and Technology Updates: Dr. Seitsinger stressed the growing demand for both human resource and technology needs within the district. He has reviewed the possibility of shared services for both areas with LEARN. He publicly thanked Kate Ericson; LEARN's new Director, and her entire administrative team, for meeting with Preston and discussing the district's upcoming needs and various ways to address them. Dr. Seitsinger noted that technology will be a prime topic in the upcoming budget discussions.

Project Oceanology Revisions: Preston has had a long standing arrangement with Project O. Project O is updating their organizational documents and Dr. Seitsinger has reviewed these updates with legal counsel. He asked the Board to grant permission to continue their long standing relationship with Project O.

**Moved, to approve that the Preston School District maintains its relationship with Project Oceanology, and signs off on their new organizational documents as presented. Luty/Gauthier. Unanimous. Motion Carries.**

Policies: The following 5 policies were presented to the Board for a first reading. CABE recommended that each of these policies be revised and updated to meet the requirements of the General Assembly:

- Policy 5113.2 Truancy
- Policy 6159 Individual Education Program
- Policy 6172.1 Gifted Children Program
- Policy 5114 Suspension/Expulsion/Due Process
- Policy 5131 Conduct at School and Activities

Dr. Seitsinger stressed the need for review and an abundance of caution lead him to not edit or modify CABE'S recommended policy until the BOE has read through them. Board members agreed to review the current policies and the recommended adjustments to these policies before the November 18<sup>th</sup> BOE Meeting.

Superintendent's Update: Dr. Seitsinger stated that Preston's Long Society Meeting House has been updated and there will be a ceremony on October 13<sup>th</sup>. Jan Clancy; former Chair and her husband Mike, helped out with this project.

Dr. Seitsinger also reinforced the need for updated cyber-security and Safety and Security measures for the district. He advised everyone to have inclement weather plans in place as winter is approaching. He also stated that he would like to upgrade our District website if additional funds become available.

#### **8. Expenditure/Projection Report**

John Spang presented his expenditure/projection report to the Board. There are no significant variations from the 2019-2020 budget to date.

Mr. Spang also reviewed the Capital Projects with the Board. The plan is to move forward with the Science Lab renovations ASAP. Last week Dr. Seitsinger, Dr. Nugent and Mrs. Luty visited Smith Middle School in Glastonbury. It has been determined that the money set aside for the project (\$105,000) will not be enough to do an adequate job. A lengthy discussion followed. Additional funding is a priority. The Board wants to move ahead with the project ASAP.

Mr. Spang also reviewed the following business updates with the Board:

Policy 3000 Concepts and Roles in Business and Non-Instructional Operations  
Policy 3432 Financial Records and Reports  
Policy 3160 Approval and Authorization

These policies were also presented as a first read. They will be brought back to the Board in November.

#### **9. Public Comment**

Heather Helwig asked if the District could put new hire information on the website. Dr. Seitsinger said that he would do so.

Melissa Lennon asked the social worker's name. Dr. Seitsinger stated that her name is Leigh Reposa. Mrs. Lennon also asked what additional steps will be taken to assist the 8<sup>th</sup> grade class. Dr. Davis-Tomczuk explained that the Spanish teacher posting went up right after the last board meeting but that there had not been any interest until very recently. Mrs. Lennon asked if the decision to post that position was seen as the best solution by the administration. Dr. Davis-Tomczuk said that it was considered to be the best solution.

#### **10. Adjournment**

**Moved, to adjourn the meeting at 8:09PM. Gauthier/Burke-Grabarek. Unanimous. Motion Carries.**

