

Regular Meeting of the Preston Board of  
Education  
Monday, February 11, 2008 7:00 PM Eastern

Preston Plains Middle School Library  
1 Route 164  
Preston, CT 06365

- I. Call to Order
- II. Pledge of Allegiance
- III. Approval of Minutes
- IV. Public Communication and Comments
- V. Board of Education Committee and Other Reports
- VI. Superintendent Reports and Recommendations
  - VI.A. BOE Expenditure/Projection Report
  - VI.B. Preston Cafeteria Profit and Loss Report
- VII. Old Business
  - VII.A. Votes Required
  - VII.B. Discussion
- VIII. Executive Session
- IX. New Business
  - IX.A. Votes Required
  - IX.B. Discussion
- X. Information
- XI. Adjournment

**Regular Meeting**

January 22, 2008 08:00PM  
PPMS Library

**Attendance Taken at 8:11pm:**

Present Board Members:

Deborah Burke-Grabarek  
Daniel Harris  
Sue Hess  
Gregory Keith  
Jessica Pappas  
Charles Raymond

Absent Board Members:

James Jancewicz (arrived at 8:27pm)

**1. Call To Order**

Greg Keith called the meeting to order at 8:11pm. Members present: Sue Hess, Deborah Burke-Grabarek, Jessica Pappas, Charles Raymond and Daniel Harris. James Jancewicz arrived at 8:27pm. Also present: Dr. Welch; Superintendent, Ivy Davis; Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Special Education, Al Notarianni; Network Administrator and Gloria Homiski; Recording Secretary. Guests: Michael House, Raymond Bernier, Pauline Andruskiewicz, Katie Meyerhoff, Elizabeth Lowney, Andrew Bilodeau, Chester Sajkowicz, Gina Fafard, Daniel Harris III and Megan Bard from The Day.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

**3. Approval of Minutes**

Moved, to approve the regular minutes of December 10, 2007. Keith/Hess. All in favor. Motion Carries.

**4. Public Communications and Comments**

Andrew Bilodeau, Preston resident, addressed the Board. He would like to see improved communication between the BOE and BOF. He questioned when and where minutes are placed on the website. His questions were answered by the Recording Secretary.

**5. Board of Education Committee and Other Reports**

Greg Keith invited BOE members to participate on subcommittees. Deborah Burke-Grabarek and Jessica Pappas will serve on a joint facilities/budget subcommittee. Charles Raymond also expressed interest but is unable to attend the scheduled meeting on 2/7/08 at 3pm with Dr. Welch and Lesley Wysocki. Mr. Raymond will be kept informed by the Superintendent.

**6. Superintendent Reports and Recommendations**

Dr. Welch presented the BOE Expenditure/Projection Report and Cafeteria Profit and Loss Report to the Preston BOE. The Board asked questions regarding the warranty period for our buses. Dr. Welch stated that he would provide the Board with more specific information on that line item.

Ivy Davis addressed the additional monies needed in the textbook line item. Our Guided Reading Program uses different materials for different skill levels and therefore additional texts were needed to support the program's implementation at Grade 1.

James Jancewicz asked why the Town's monthly report does not balance with the monthly BOE report. Dr. Welch confirmed that the end of the year audit report does balance between the two.

Dr. Welch explained that both PPMS and PVMS have now passed the necessary Radon Testing requirements. One classroom and one office at PVMS did require the installation of a radon mitigation system. A report will be posted to our website as soon as it is available.

Dr. Welch also reviewed the previously discussed problem with the oil tank at PVMS. After performing numerous tests and several corrective measures, the tank is no longer taking on any water. The temporary tank will soon be moved off site and the underground tank will be carefully monitored to ensure that it continues to work efficiently.

#### **6.1. BOE Expenditure/Projection Report**

#### **6.2. Preston Cafeteria Profit and Loss Report**

### **7. New Business**

#### **7.1. Votes Required**

Moved, to adopt Administrative Operations Policies 2210, ~~2221~~, ~~2231~~, ~~2240~~, ~~2250~~, 2300 and 2400 as presented. Burke-Grabarek/Pappas. All in favor. Motion Carries.

#### **7.2. Discussion**

Moved, to take the agenda out of order to discuss 7.2 New Business/Discussion. Keith/Burke-Grabarek. All in favor. Motion Carries.

Gina Fafard, Assistant Principal at Grasso Tech addressed the Board with respect to the educational program they offer. Two students who attend the High School (Katie Meyerhoff and Daniel Harris III) spoke to the Board about their educational and athletic experiences at Grasso Tech. Ms. Fafard stated that their program offers not only a technical preparation program but college AP courses as well, with 80% of their graduates enrolling into college.

Dr. Welch explained that Dr. Walsh, Principal of PVMS, is planning various activities for the week of February 4th in order to celebrate the 5th Anniversary of Preston Veterans' Memorial School.

A Proposed FY09 Budget will be reviewed at the February 11th meeting of the BOE. The BOF has requested a copy of the Board's proposed budget for their March 11th meeting. The Budget/Facilities Subcommittee will be able to preview the document at their 2/7/08 meeting.

Tom Reynolds will be in attendance at the Board's February 11th meeting. He was unable to attend this evening because the General Assembly was in session.

Michael House explained that the BOE entered into a contract with Mike Daniels in order to assist with snowplowing. Originally, he planned to train one of his custodians to use the red truck for plowing at PPMS. He himself would continue to plow PVMS and the Bus Garage. However, the Town took the red truck away.

Sue Hess stated that the BOF was told that the BOE always plowed all school sites without the aid of the Town. Mike House explained that he plowed PVMS and the Bus Garage himself and that he always performed clean up at PPMS after the Town's initial plowing.

Charles Raymond stated that in the past, the Town always plowed all school lots and that it was part of the Town Budget. Sue Hess suggested that the BOE void the current plow contract and ask the Town for assistance.

Moved, to request that the Town plow/sand both schools and the Bus Garage as needed. Jancewicz/Hess. Keith Opposed. Motion Carries.

Moved, to discuss the issues raised at the BOS/BOF meeting to the BOE's current Agenda. Hess/Jancewicz. All in favor. Motion Carries.

Board members agreed that better communication is needed between the Town and the BOE. In order to help accomplish this, Greg Keith believes that BOE members should attend BOF meetings as often as possible. James Jancewicz will attend the February BOF Meeting and Greg Keith will attend the March Meeting. Dr. Welch stated that he and Business Manager, Lesley Wysocki, will take turns attending the BOF meetings. Greg Keith suggested that BOE members e-mail him with any questions from the BOF meetings they attend. He will then meet with Dr. Welch, as necessary, and provide the BOF with appropriate answers.

The Board deferred discussion regarding the appropriation of funds for a Financial Manager to be shared with the Town.

#### **8. Executive Session**

These grievances will be heard at the February 11th meeting of the Board.

#### **9. Old Business**

##### **9.1. Votes Required**

##### **9.2. Discussion**

#### **10. Information**

#### **11. Adjournment**

Moved, to adjourn the meeting at 9:56pm. Burke-Grabarek/Keith. All in favor. Motion Carries.

**Principal's Newsletter,  
January 25, 2008**

**PRESTON PUBLIC  
SCHOOLS**

**Preston Preschool Program  
Preschool Screening**



**On Tuesday, January 29, 2008, Preston Public Schools will conduct preschool screening of 3 and 4 year old children whose parents or guardians reside within Preston. The screening will be conducted between 9:00 am and 11:00 am at Preston Veterans' Memorial School. The purpose of this screening is determine if a child evidences signs of possible special needs which would require additional evaluation. The screening accesses fine and gross motor skills, basic cognitive abilities, and speech-language development. If you would like your child to be screened, please contact Margie LePage, Special Education Assistant, for an appointment at 889-6098.**

**While we try to teach our children all about life, our children teach us what life is all about.**

**Angela Schwindt**

**PTO NEWS**



**Family Movie Night was a lot of fun. Thank you for all of your sweet Valentine's for deployed troops. PTO is still collecting Valentine's treats for the troops, so if you would like to bring one in please put it in the box in the office. The troops also like DVD's, candy and other treats that ship well. The VFW post 9452 will be sending the items to the troop that they sponsor.**



**Please remember to bring in your Box Tops for Education and Campbell Soup Labels so that our volunteers can send them in for \$\$\$\$ toward school equipment. We would like each family to try to meet a goal of 10 Labels or Box Tops!**

**We just received a check from them for over \$500. This money will be used to give free books to each child.**



**School Library Update**

**In order to encourage reading, we are changing the policy of not allowing children to check out books at their library time if they have lost or damaged books that have not been returned or replaced. Families will still be responsible for paying for the damaged or lost books before the end of the school year, but children will not lose their library privileges. Please help your child keep track of their books and return them in a timely manner.**

TOWN OF PRESTON

Voter Registration Session

The Preston Registrar of Voters will be holding a special primary election registration and voter enrollment session on Tuesday, January 29<sup>th</sup> 2008 at the Preston Town Hall from 3:00pm – 6:00pm.

The session is to register new voters and enroll electors who will be entitled to vote in the Presidential Preference Primary on February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2008

The cut-off for voter registration for the primary is noon time on February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2008. New voter registrations MUST BE postmarked by January 31, 2008 or presented in person at Town Hall by noon on February 4<sup>th</sup>.

Only electors registered as Democrat or Republican are eligible to vote in the Presidential Preference Primary.

If you have questions or require further information please contact call the Registrars Office at 887-5581 ext. 7 or the Town Clerk's office at 887-5581 ext. 2

Reminder: School-Community Event!!!

Red Grammer, children's singer/song writer is coming to PVMS on January 30<sup>th</sup>!

We will be holding two assemblies for your children and all of you are invited to attend, too!

The preK – 2<sup>nd</sup> grade concert will take place at 10:00 a.m.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grade concert will take place at 1:15 p.m.

The children will be offered special bag lunches to purchase on that day. Parents are invited to purchase a bag lunch and join your child at lunch, too!

If interested in a bag lunch please use the order form below. You can tear off the bottom and send it in with your child.

Red Grammer Bag Lunch Order Form

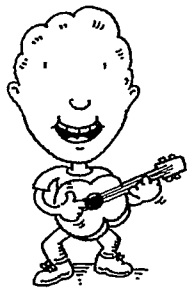
# \_\_\_\_\_ Turkey Sub, chips & drink

# \_\_\_\_\_ Ham Sub, chips & drink

lunches \$3.50 each for adults

Adult Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Return by Monday January 28, 2008



Week of Jan 25th – Menu B

Partial menu below.

For a complete listing of the week B lunch menu see:

<http://www.prestonschools.org/lunchmenu.htm>

WEEK B				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Hot Dog on Bun OR Turkey Wrap	Popcorn Chicken OR Chicken Caesar Wrap	RED GRAMMER BAG LUNCH Turkey or Ham Sub	French Toast Sticks OR Egg, Cheese, Sausage on Bagel	French Bread Pizza OR Tuna on Roll

**PRESTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
Preston Veterans' Memorial School  
325 Shetucket Turnpike  
Preston, CT 06365

*Dr. Kathryn Walsh*  
Principal

(860) 887-3113  
Fax: (860) 889-5478

**Principal's Newsletter,  
February 1, 2008**



**School Library Update**

In order to encourage reading, we are changing the policy of not allowing children to check out books at their library time if they have lost or damaged books that have not been returned or replaced.

Families will still be responsible for paying for the damaged or lost books before the end of the school year, but children will not lose their library privileges. Please help your child keep track of their books and return them in a timely manner.

**Feb. 12 is a FULL Day of school at PVMS!**

**Wed. Feb. 13 is a half-day** of school for students. Teachers will be attending Professional Development workshops in the afternoon.

**PTO NEWS**



**Annual Cookie Bake will take place on Feb 12<sup>th</sup>. More information will be coming home soon.**



Please remember to bring in your Box Tops for Education and Campbell Soup Labels so that our volunteers can send them in for \$\$\$\$ toward school equipment. We would like each family to try to meet a goal of 10 Labels or Box Tops!

We just received a check from them for over \$500. This money will be used to give free books to each child.

**What's for Lunch!**  
**Week of Feb 4th – Menu C**  
Lunch tickets should be purchased on Mondays.



Our 3rd through 5<sup>th</sup> grade students will be taking the Connecticut Mastery Tests (CMT) during the first two weeks in March.

These standardized tests are used to measure student achievement and to tell schools which skills students need to improve. The information gathered from CMT's can help teachers design lessons to raise your child's academic performance. The results of standardized tests are also used to evaluate our school's performance. So, it's important to everyone involved for every child to do well on these tests.

You can help your child feel confident, be well-prepared and ready to be successful on the CMT's.

- Attendance makes a difference – teachers can't teach students who aren't in school.
- There is strong evidence that regular school attendance can result in significant test-score gains.
- Please do not schedule medical appointments during school hours.
- Please do not take your child out of school for a family trip or activity.
- Please help your child to not be tardy.
- Help your child get ready the night before so he/she can get to school on time.

CMT's  
March 3rd through March 14th

## **DOWN BY THE SEA** by Red Grammer

**Down by the sea my family and me  
We love to jump in the waves...swish swish**

**Down by the sea we all agree  
Is the very best place in the world to be**

**We get to jump in the waves... swish  
swish**

**Isn't it wonderful, isn't it grand  
Just wiggling your toes in the warm hot  
sand**

**We love to ride on the raft...yahoo  
Lay in the sand...hot hot  
Look for shells...ooo ahh  
Feed the gulls...akh akh  
Make sand castles...thsmmp  
Swim underwater...blub...blub  
Fall into bed..ahhhhhh**



The Yearbook committee is looking for current photos. If you have any you would like to share, please send them in an envelope marked "Yearbook" – Thank you!

**BookPals Storyline online – Using video streaming - screen actors read books aloud. Activities are included for each book.**

**<http://www.storylineonline.net>**

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT**  
**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH**  
**RADON PROGRAM**  
**SCHOOL RADON TESTING REPORT FORM**

Nov. 2005

The following form must be submitted to the Connecticut Department of Public Health Radon Program within five (5) working days of providing a final written report of radon measurement activities to school personnel. Submit the original, signed copy of this form to the Radon Program at the address listed below:

Attn: School Radon Testing Program  
 CT Department of Public Health Radon Program  
 410 Capitol Avenue, MS #51 RAD  
 Hartford, CT 06134-0308

**Name of School:** Preston Plains School

**Address:** 1 Route 164  
 (Street, town, zip code) Preston, Connecticut 06365

**Dates of Testing:** November 6-9, 2007

**NEHA/NRSB Tester:** Scott M. Adams  
 (or qualified school personnel)

**NEHA/NRSB Certification #:** 6SS0018


*Please provide the following summary information:*

**Total # of Rooms Tested:** 22

**Total # of Rooms Requiring Re-Testing:** 0

**Total # of Rooms Where Average Results Were At or Above 4.0 pCi/L:** 0

Radon measurement activities were carried out in accordance with United States Environmental Protection Agency protocols and the Connecticut Department of Public Health Radon Program's *School Radon Testing Guidance* at the location described above.

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature of Radon Measurement Professional  
 (or designated school authority)

12/17/07  
 Date

Phone: (860) 509-7367  
 Telephone Device for the Deaf (860) 509-7191  
 450 Capital Avenue - MS # 51RAD  
 P.O. Box 340308 Hartford, CT 06134  
 An Equal Opportunity Employer

**Enclosure (2) Page 1 of 2**

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT**  
**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH**  
**RADON PROGRAM**  
**SCHOOL RADON TESTING REPORT FORM**

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Attn: School Radon Testing Program  
CT Department of Public Health Radon Program  
410 Capitol Avenue, MS #51 RAD  
Hartford, CT 06134-0308

**Name of School:** Preston Veterans School  
**Address:** 325 Shetucket Turnpike  
(Street, town, zip code) Preston, Connecticut 06365  
**Dates of Testing:** November 6-9 & 26-29, 2007  
**NEHA/NRSB Tester:** Scott M. Adams  
(or qualified school personnel)  
**NEHA/NRSB Certification #:** 6SS0018

*Please provide the following summary information:*

**Total # of Rooms Tested:** 30  
**Total # of Rooms Requiring Re-Testing:** 2  
**Total # of Rooms Where Average Results Were At or Above 4.0 pCi/L:** 2

Radon measurement activities were carried out in accordance with United States Environmental Protection Agency protocols and the Connecticut Department of Public Health Radon Program's *School Radon Testing Guidance* at the location described above.

  
Signature of Radon Measurement Professional  
(or designated school authority)

12/17/07  
Date

Phone: (860) 509-7367  
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P.O. Box 340308 Hartford, CT 06134  
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# Mystic Air Quality Consultants, Inc.

1204 North Road (Rt. 117) Groton, Connecticut 06340

January 21, 2008

A&R Environmental, LLC.  
80 Webber Road  
Tolland, Connecticut 06084  
Attn: Al Bonner

Re: Follow-Up Radon Testing  
Preston Veterans Memorial School  
325 Shetucket Turnpike  
Preston, Connecticut 06365

Dear Mr. Bonner

As requested, Mystic Air Quality Consultants, Inc. conducted follow-up radon testing at the location cited above. Testing was conducted to verify the effectiveness of two recently installed sub-slab radon mitigation systems. The testing was conducted in accordance with Connecticut General Statute (CGS) 10-220(d), the Connecticut Department of Public Health Radon Program, and the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

The results are summarized below:

Location	Radon Test Kit#	Result (pCi/L)
Room 9	4149510	0.8
Room 9A (Duplicate)	4149519	0.6
Kitchen Office	4149511	<0.3
Blank	4149507	<0.3

The results indicate a substantial reduction from the previous sample values. Both sample locations were found to be well below the EPA and State of Connecticut action level of 4.0 Picocuries per liter of air.

If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Sincerely,

Christopher J. Eident, CIH, CSP, RS, CEO

Communications (24 hours):

Office: (860) 449-8903

FAX: (860) 449-8860

Toll Free: 1 (800) 247-7746

website: [www.mysticair.com](http://www.mysticair.com)

e-mail: [maqc2@aol.com](mailto:maqc2@aol.com)