

Board of Education Regular Meeting
Monday, March 10, 2008 7:00 PM Eastern

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

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

Regular Meeting of the Preston Board of Education

February 11, 2008 07:00PM

Preston Plains Middle School Library

Attendance Taken at 7:05pm:

Present Board Members:

Daniel Harris
Sue Hess
Gregory Keith
Jessica Pappas
James Jancewicz

Absent Board Members:

Deborah Burke-Grabarek (arrived at 7:08pm)
Charles Raymond (arrived at 7:10pm)

1. Call to Order

Greg Keith called the meeting to order at 7:05pm. Members present: Dan Harris, Sue Hess, Jessica Pappas and James Jancewicz. Deborah Burke-Grabarek arrived at 7:08pm and Charles Raymond arrived at 7:10pm. Also present: Dr. John Welch; Superintendent, Ivy Davis; Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Special Education, Lesley Wysocki; Business Manager, Al Notarianni; Network Administrator and Gloria Homiski; Recording Secretary. Guests: Mr. Raymond Bernier; Principal PPMS, Dr. Kathryn Walsh; Principal PVMS, Mike House, Attorney Nicholas Grello, Amy Campbell, Pauline Andruskiewicz, Sam and Lisa Barile, Dhelean Rivera, Chester Sajkowicz, Andrew Bilodeau, Gail Smith, Marie Burton, Theo Horesco, Susan Strader, Stacey Wilbur, Nancy Mattern, Lisa Feltes, Chris Pickett, and Meissa Durkee.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Approval of Minutes

Moved, to approve the regular minutes of January 22, 2008 as amended. Pappas/Hess. All in favor. Motion Carries.

4. Public Communication and Comments

Nancy Mattern, a teacher at PPMS addressed the Board. She spoke in favor and appreciation of the advancement in Technology at PPMS. She and fellow teachers are in support of further technological advancement for the 08-09 school year.

5. Board of Education Committee and Other Reports

BOF Meeting: Tuesday February 12, 2008.

6. Superintendent Reports and Recommendations

1. FY 2007 Audit

Dr. Welch and Lesley Wysocki met with members of the Town and members of the auditing firm (Marien and Co.) in order to review the most recent audit of the Town and the BOE. The report concluded that the finances of the BOE are in good order.

**2. Meeting with Norwich Hospital
Advisory Board**

Dr. Welch met with 3 members of the Norwich Hospital Advisory Board. They met to discuss the projects' possible impact on school enrollment. Unfortunately, without definitive grade/age information, this impact would be difficult to determine.

6.1. BOE Expenditure/Projection Report

Lesley addressed the Board with regard to the monthly financial reports. She explained that vocational services will now be combined with special education tuition per the advice of the auditor. She stated that more money will be needed in the referee line item due to tournaments and championships. She will request a copy of the auditor's contract in that the audit bill was higher than expected.

6.2. Preston Cafeteria Profit and Loss Report

Both cafeterias were recently inspected by the State Department of Public Health. They each received perfect scores of 100.

7. Old Business

7.1. Votes Required

1. Snowplowing

Greg Keith stated that the BOE should make good on the verbal agreement with the plowing contractor. Greg spoke to the BOS. If the contractor does not plow the school lots and Bus Garage, the Town said they would plow them once the public roads are complete.

Moved, to pay the plowing contractor for his services for the rest of this winter and assume that the town will resume plowing for the schools/bus garage next year. Keith/Burke-Grabarek. Other members opposed. Motion does not carry.

Dr Welch explained that the "contract" was not a legally binding document. Therefore, the Board could legally walk away from this gentleman's agreement.

Dr. Welch will call Mr. Daniels and send him a letter regarding the Board's decision.

7.2. Discussion

8. Executive Session

Moved, to take the agenda out of order to go into Executive Session following 9.2 New Business: Discussion. Pappas/Burke-Grabarek. All in favor. Motion carries.

Mr. Horesco addressed the Board publicly. He presented a grievance involving a payroll issue.

Moved, to convene in Executive Session at 7:37pm. Burke-Grabarek/Jancewicz. All in favor. Motion Carries.

Moved, to leave Executive Session at 7:50pm. Hess/Papps. All in favor. Motion carries.

Moved, to deny the grievance involving Lisa Harris. Pappas/Jancewicz.. All in favor. Motion carries.

Greg Keith excused himself from hearing the next 2 grievances due to personal involvement.

Mr. Horesco publicly presented the next 2 grievances involving duties of MEUI members.

Moved, to convene in Executive Session at 8:05pm. Jancewicz/Raymond. All in favor. Motion carries.

Moved, to leave Executive Session at 8:49pm. Harris/Pappas. All in favor. Motion carries.

Moved, to deny the grievance involving Dhelean Rivera. Harris/Jancewicz. All in favor. Motion carries.

Moved, to deny the grievance involving Lisa Barile. Pappas/Jancewicz. All in favor. Motion carries.

9. New Business

9.1. Votes Required

1. Presentation of FY09 Budget.

Dr. Welch presented his 2008-2009 Itemized Estimate to the BOE. His Budget Proposal represents an increase of \$409,521 (4.03%) over fiscal year 2008. Current obligations in salaries, benefits, tuitions, special education services, utilities and technology account for \$324,325 of the overall increase.

New personnel initiatives include a .4 Instrumental Music Teacher and a one day a week increase in psychological services at PPMS. It also includes an increase in Summer School staff and hours for at risk students.

Funding requests for library materials and technology equipment (including echalk: a parent/teacher/student communication system), as well as an allotment for Strategic School Profiling are also included.

Dr. Welch discussed the possible reduction of 6 paraprofessionals and 1 teacher for next year due to projected enrollments.

Sue Hess asked whether or not we could do anything to bring down energy expenses. Lesley Wysocki stated that CL&P visited our buildings last year and said that both buildings were energy efficient.

Sue Hess asked if the BOE could personally see the technology already purchased and in use at the Middle School. Dr. Welch suggested a walk through prior to next month's BOE meeting.

9.2. Discussion

Legislative Update from Representative Tom Reynolds and Senator Maynard.

Moved, to take the agenda out of order to hear the Legislative update (9.2 New Business: Discussion) following 4. Public Communication and Comments. Burke-Grabarek/Ewing. All in favor. Motion Carries.

Representative Reynolds addressed the BOE. He reviewed the different types of funding that the Town of Preston receives. A primary non-education grant is the Pequot-Mohegan Fund. A significant education grant is Education Cost Sharing (ECS).

Senator Maynard also addressed the Board. He believes the current trend is for better educational funding. He is a newly appointed member of the subcommittee on Education Appropriation.

10. Information

11. Adjournment

Moved, to adjourn the meeting at 10:10pm. Burke-Grabarek/Pappas. All in favor.
Motion carries.

Chairperson

Superintendent