

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE CITY OF PLAINFIELD
IN UNION COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

MINUTES of a **WORK & STUDY** of the Board of
Education Held on Tuesday, November 10, 2015

A **WORK & STUDY MEETING** of the Board of Education of the City of Plainfield was held this day in the Plainfield High School Conference Room. Notice had been provided to Board members and to the Courier-News, Star Ledger, Public Library, City Clerk, Plainfield Police Department, and posted in all Plainfield Public Schools and on the Plainfield Public Schools' website. Mrs. Lisa Fittipaldi, Board Attorney called the meeting to order at 6:38 p.m. and the following action took place:

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

II. WELCOME

WELCOME to a **WORK & STUDY MEETING** of the Plainfield Board of Education. Members hope you will find the meeting interesting and informative. We thank you for taking the time to attend. Please be advised this and all meetings of the board are open to the media and public, consistent with the Open Public Meetings Act (Ch. 231 Laws of 1975), and that the advance notice required therein has been provided to the Courier News and Star Ledger on Thursday, October 29, 2015 for advertisement on Saturday, November 7, 2015.

III. ROLL CALL

PRESENT

Mrs. Wilma G. Campbell, President
Mr. Frederick D. Moore, Sr., Vice President
Mr. Terrence S Bellamy, Sr.
Mr. John C Campbell
Mrs. Deborah Clarke
Mrs. Jackie Coley
Mr. David M. Rutherford
Mr. Richard Wyatt

ALSO PRESENT

Mrs. Anna Belin-Pyles, Mrs. Belin-Pyles
Mrs. Lisa Fittipaldi, Esq.

Mrs. Carletta D. Jeffers, excused

The following resolution was moved by Mrs. Campbell seconded by Mr. Moore and unanimously approved by the Board:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A.10:4-11, permits the Board of Education to meet in closed session to discuss certain matters, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, the Board of Education adjourns to closed session to discuss:

- Personnel
- Legal

and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, the minutes of this closed session be made public when the need for confidentiality no longer exists.

The Board of Education adjourned into its Executive Session at 6:45 p.m.

The Plainfield Board of Education resumed the public session of its Work & Study meeting at 8:03 p.m.

IV. REMARKS FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

Mrs. Campbell stated that as a Board they had an option to change the Board Elections to April after four years of having November elections. She questioned whether the process had become too political. It was supposed to be separate and apart from partisan elections and people were confused in thinking that when they voted for a particular board candidate they were voting a party line. She stated a resolution had been prepared to change the election back to the third Tuesday in April and then read the resolution out loud.

Mr. John Campbell stated that he believed education was too important to mingle in politics. The motion to move the election was carried by a 7-1 vote. Mrs. Campbell moved and seconded by Mr. Moore to move the election to April. The motion passed on a roll-call vote with seven members in favor and one opposed.

Mrs. Campbell stated the October 31, 2015 Special Meeting was very positive. The community came together and everyone expressed a willingness to work together. She said some students had been told they have to take double math and students are still not feeling relief. Mrs. Belin-Pyles said a student who needs college and career readiness math means they need additional assistance, but A.P. students don't need that. She said that about 59% of the students need additional math. Mrs. Johnson-Tucker spoke to that same parent and was trying to remedy the problem by November 13th.

Mrs. Campbell said 41% of the students who are proficient shouldn't be penalized. Mr. Moore sought assurance that scheduling would be completed by November 13, 2015. Mrs. Johnson-Tucker said that Principal Worley made the promise that it would be done. Mr. Moore wanted to know when they were going to start building the schedule for the following school year. Mrs. Johnson-Tucker said students did an assessment survey and made requested for election. They have to look at their transcripts as well.

Mrs. Coley asked if a child doesn't have a parent to advocate for them in this process, who is going to do it. Mrs. Campbell said the Board advocates for all children and students need the option to take electives. The Board expects a report at the Tuesday, November 17, 2015 board meeting that the plan is on track. Mr. Bellamy asked if people are asked to do things and they aren't done, would there be repercussions. Mr. Wyatt said for transparency purposes, is the staff going to explain to the public why they changed from block scheduling.

Mrs. Campbell questioned about the training on AESOP and the new resolution they were provided with updated and corrected information. Mrs. Johnson-Tucker explained that AESOP was a human resource tracking tool for attendance of staff and the people who were going to the training are going to learn how to integrate AESOP with the district system.

Mrs. Campbell asked about number 3 on page 10 regarding training for Google and Chromebooks and questioned what was the difference. Mrs. Johnson-Tucker explained that the District used tablets before and is now transitioning to Chromebooks so information has to be transferred and the training will then be turn keyed to other staff. The training they plan to do from December to June.

V. REMARKS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

NONE.

VI. REMARKS FROM COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

The finance committee report was then given and Mr. Ottmann said that Item c transfers resulted from the PEA settlement. Mrs. Campbell asked for an explanation regarding the Statement of Assurances on page 29. Mr. Ottmann said it meant that the District is addressing all the items on NJQSAC. Mrs. Belin-Pyles said the District rated 100% on governance. Mrs. Campbell said she was on the Board when the State rated governance as 11% and that the District needs to celebrate the accreditation of the Plainfield High School. Mr. Wyatt asked Mrs. Johnson Tucker how she felt about readiness for evaluation in C&I since that was problem area. Mrs. Johnson Tucker reported they told principals what data they needed to collect and supervisors are collecting the data from the principals and creating a binder with the information to answer any questions that come up about NJQSAC.

Mr. Moore said there were people at school boards who wanted to speak to the Board about what was happening next in PARCC assessments and another gentlemen to speak about keeping positive thinking in the District.

Mrs. Campbell had a question about the finance report and the comprehensive maintenance plan. She asked whether the Board members reviewed it. Mr. Ottmann handed out copies and explained it was a mandated submission. Mr. Moore asked Mr. Ottmann if all principals were certified in Integrated Pest Management.

Mr. Bellamy said he had spoken to the Mayor about the crossing guard on the corner of East Central and 7th; he is overwhelmed. Mr. Bellamy also mentioned that in other districts, plain clothes officers are writing tickets when drivers don't obey the crossing guards.

Mr. Bellamy said that we should send a letter to the City Manager about crosswalks as they haven't been painted and Mrs. Campbell restated her plea for school zone signs to warn people when they are approaching the school district.

Mrs. Belin-Pyles attended a presentation about safe routes to school. The DOT came, Rutgers came, and they want to use Plainfield as a model to work with the district and the City to do a feasibility study so they can get grants for sidewalks and safe passage for children. They do surveys of families on how children travel to school. This gives the District good data to use for applying for grants. There will be a MOU between Rutgers and the DOT and the District. Graduate students would be used to do mapping to see where students are walking. They chose Plainfield because they were amazed at how well the City of Plainfield and the District work together. Plainfield will be the first in the State to do this type of feasibility study.

Mr. Moore asked what could be done about cyberbullying. Mrs. Belin-Pyles said Maxson was having individuals come in to address cyberbullying and she asked that the program also be done at Hubbard and the high school. She said she had information available for parents about cyberbullying, as well as the use of vans carrying too many children to school.

The Policy Committee was then asked to make its report. Mr. Moore said they need language in the policy to deal with political campaigning and how people misbehave around the schools. With respect to the nepotism policy, Mrs. Coley asked for questions, that it was the second reading, and it had been taken off the agenda last month because of questions from the community, but no questions were received by the committee from the community and so she wanted to move the policy at the November 17th meeting.

It was decided that a policy be created to prohibit campaigning on school grounds.

The Board discussed whether they needed quarterly special meetings to address problem areas and they want a meeting about an improvement plan for priority schools to get them moved out of that category.

Mrs. Campbell moved and seconded by Mr. Bellamy and unanimously approved by the Board to return to executive session at 10:15 p.m.

Mrs. Coley moved and seconded by Mr. Bellamy and unanimously approved by the Board to return to the public session at 10:51 p.m.

Mr. Campbell moved and seconded by Mrs. Coley to approve the minutes; subject to corrections, which are to be submitted to the Superintendent. The motion carried on a roll-call vote with eight members in favor. None were opposed.

VII. REPORT OF THE CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION COMMITTEE

M. National LEAD Conference – Phoenix, AZ (AMENDED – airline ticket cost increased)

Strategic Plan Link

Goal 1: Learning Outcomes:

To improve the learning and academic performance of all students in all PPS

The Superintendent of Schools recommends and moved by Mr. Moore and seconded by Mr. Bellamy for adoption of the following:

RESOLUTION

The Plainfield Board of Education is committed to ensuring all students succeed academically and reach their full potential in life. In doing so, it is also committed to providing opportunities for and ensuring all students meet the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards, achieve academic, and life-long success.

Five (5) Plainfield High School Student Council Student Leaders, grades 11-12, along with two (2) chaperones will attend the National LEAD Conference in Phoenix, Arizona, November 12-16, 2015.

Departure is scheduled from Newark Airport on Thursday, November 12, 2015 at 7:35 a.m., returning Monday, November 16, 2015 at 9:55 p.m.

The breakdown, is as follows:

Travel	Lodging <i>(inc. 14.07% taxes)</i>	Registration	Incidentals	Cost p/Person	Total Cost
\$700.00	\$570.36	\$220.00	\$143.00	\$1,633.36	\$11,433.52

The LEAD Conference provides student leaders with a unique opportunity to use democratic dialogue to discuss issues and learn to process to resolve issues in your school.

The workshops are designed to boost leadership skills, learn about innovative fundraising and project idea, create and maintain a positive school environment/ climate and culture. It also will provide students with experiences that cannot be duplicated in school, meeting the following NJCC Standards, 09-10.SL.03 – students will evaluate speakers' point of view reason and use of evidence and rhetoric identifying in any fallacious reasoning or exaggerated or distorted evidence, and 11-12.SL.ol.C – students will propel conversations by posing and responding to questions that probe reasoning and evidence, ensure a hearing for full range of positions on a topic or issue.

RESOLVED, that the Plainfield Board of Education approves five (5) Plainfield High School Student Council Student Leaders, grades 11-12, along with two (2) chaperones to attend the National LEAD Conference in Phoenix, Arizona from November 12-16, 2015 - total cost not to exceed \$11,433.52. The availability of funds for this item has been verified and will be charged to account 15-000-270000-512A-25-0000 (PHS Prin Field Trips) and 15-190-10000-800A-25-0000 (PHS Field Trip Admission Fee).

The motion carried on a roll-call vote with Mr. Bellamy, Mr. Campbell, Mrs. Campbell, Mrs. Clarke, Mrs. Coley, Mr. Moore, Mr. Rutherford and Mr. Wyatt in favor. None were opposed.

VIII. REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

A. Move Board Election to April

The Superintendent of Schools recommends, and moved by Mrs. Campbell and seconded by Mr. Bellamy for adoption of the following:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Legislature enacted Senate Bill 3148 in January 2012 empowering the Municipal governing body or the local Board of Education to change the date of school board elections to be held on the date of the November general election; and

WHEREAS, the legislature provided that the Board can switch back to the April elections after four years; and

WHEREAS, the legislature provided that after four years of conducting November elections the election may be changed back to the third Tuesday in April by Resolution of the Board of Education.

NOW, THEREFORE, upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools of the District:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the City of Plainfield elects to restore the election date for its school board positions to the third Tuesday in April beginning April, 2016.

The motion carried on a roll-call vote with Mr. Bellamy, Mr. Campbell, Mrs. Campbell, Mrs. Coley, Mr. Moore, Mr. Rutherford and Mr. Wyatt in favor. Mrs. Clarke was opposed.

Mrs. Campbell moved and seconded by Mr. Moore and unanimously approved by the Board to adjourn the meeting at 10:55 p.m.

Reported by,

Lisa Fittipaldi, Board Attorney
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