

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

MINUTES of a **WORK & STUDY** Meeting of the Board of
Education Held on Tuesday, September 1, 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. Yolanda Koon, Interim Board Secretary called the meeting to order at 6:30 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 Monday, August 24, 2015 for advertisement on Saturday, August 29, 2015.

III. ROLL CALL

PRESENT

Mrs. Wilma G. Campbell, President
Mr. Terrence S Bellamy, Sr.
Mr. John C Campbell, arr. @ 6:40 p.m.
Mrs. Deborah Clarke, arr. @ 6:45 p.m.
Mrs. Jackie Coley
Mrs. Carletta D. Jeffers
Mr. Frederick D. Moore, Sr.
Mr. David M. Rutherford, arr. @ 6:50 p.m.

ALSO PRESENT

Mrs. Anna Belin-Pyles, Superintendent
Mrs. Yolanda Koon
Mrs. Lisa Fittipaldi, Esq.

The following resolution was moved by Mr. Moore seconded by Mr. Bellamy 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 6:35 p.m.

The Plainfield Board of Education resumed the public session of its Business Meeting at 9:00 pm.

IV. REMARKS FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

Mrs. Campbell mentioned that there are Board vacancies, Committee Re-assignments, and nomination to elect a vice president for the Board.

Mrs. Coley suggested Mr. Richard Wyatt would be able to fill the vacancy until the end of the term.

Mrs. Coley moved and second by Mr. Campbell and unanimously approved by the Board to appoint Mr. Richard Wyatt to fill the board vacancy.

Mr. Wyatt was sworn in by Mrs. Koon.

Board members made suggestions about having a Welcoming Committee for the first day to school to welcome the students back to school.

Board members will make an effort to support the event at PHS (outside of the Café) at 7:30 a.m.

A board member mentioned that we need to reinvest in our students and this would increase the moral at our Flagship school.

V. REMARKS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Mrs. Belin-Pyles highlighted other events happening around the District i.e., calling all Fathers (Cedarbrook) and Students Lead welcoming committee at Cook, etc.

We need to encourage more men to be involved and participate in their children's education.

Some suggestions were to give out flyers and post on the District website and use the School Messenger, and apps.

Board members inquired when the first football game is scheduled for PHS. It was mentioned that we only have two (2) home games this year.

VI. REMARKS FROM COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Mr. Moore, commented that we need to have a District-wide calendar to showcase all the events going on in the District for the entire school year. This would help in eliminating conflicts as it pertain to school events.

Mrs. Johnson-Tucker, indicated that we are currently working on the District wide calendar. She's already reached out to all Principals for their information so that it can be compiled.

The Board wants all events marketed and advertised better. We need to use all venues (blast, apps, flyers, media, etc.) to highlight our plays and events and activities on the master calendar.

VII. PRESENTATIONS

Cenergistic was scheduled to appear, however there was a conflict and was unable to attend.

Mr. Ottmann distributed information highlighting the challenges for the upcoming school year budget. He stated due to the increase in the number of charter schools and raises for employees, this almost depleted our surplus. Other options are being reviewed and researched.

A board member inquired if the Capital Reserve funds can be used. Mr. Ottmann indicated that the Capital Reserve must be used for capital projects.

A board member wanted to make sure there was no other place to pull funds from. Another board member wanted to know if could petition the State to request use of the capital reserve funds.

A board member mentioned we may now not want to do the renovation to the field house at Hub Stine. Another board member disagreed, citing a need for restrooms.

It was suggested that the Finance Committee should meet monthly. Mrs. Campbell requested this should be done with all committees.

The Board inquired about the corrective action plan for the Perkins Grant. Mrs. Belin-Pyles indicated that she spoke with Mr. Worley; who received some training with the State. The Board requested Mr. Worley attend the October meeting to give an update on Perkins.

C & I, Finance and Policy was moved to Business Agenda.

The Board thanked Mr. Eugene Campbell, he has resigned to pursue another opportunity.

Mr. E. Campbell thanked all for the opportunity and hope that he has left a positive impact on the District.

Mrs. Clarke nominated Mr. Moore for Vice President and seconded by Mrs. Coley, the motion carried on a roll-call vote, with eight members in favor and opposed.

Mr. Moore moved and seconded by Mr. Bellamy and unanimously approved by the Board to return to executive session at 9:00 p.m.

Mr. Moore moved and seconded by Mrs. Clarke and unanimously approved by the Board to return to the public session of the meeting at 10:50 p.m.

VIII. REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

G. Appointment of Board Member

The following is moved by Mrs. Coley and seconded by Mr. Campbell for adoption:

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, that the Plainfield Board of Education approves the appointment of Richard Wyatt as Board Member until the next organization meeting.

The motion carried on a roll-call vote with eight members in favor and none opposed.

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

Reported by,

Yolanda Koon, Interim Board Secretary
YK/bsc