

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, August 2, 2016

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 given to the 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, Asst. Business Administrator called the meeting to order at 6:41 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 provided to the Courier-News and Star Ledger on Tuesday, July 26, 2016 to be advertised on Saturday, July 30, 2016.

III. ROLL CALL

PRESENT

Mrs. Emily E. Morgan, President  
Mr. Dorien Hurtt, Vice President  
Ms. Lynn B. Anderson  
Mr. Terrence S. Bellamy, Sr.  
Mr. John C. Campbell  
Mrs. Carletta D. Jeffers  
Ms. Carmencita T. Pile  
Mr. David M. Rutherford  
Mr. Richard Wyatt

ALSO PRESENT

Mrs. Anna Belin-Pyles, Superintendent  
Mr. Phil Stern, Esq.  
Mrs. Yolanda Koon

The following resolution was moved by Mr. Hurt seconded by Ms. Pile 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 Business Meeting at 8:03 p.m.

IV. REMARKS FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

Mrs. Morgan continued with the agenda. The Board inquired about the elimination of a Special Education classroom.

Mrs. Belin-Pyles responded that she will provide the Board with information regarding the Special Education programs and money saving initiatives by bringing some programs back to the District.

A Board member inquired about bringing more kids back into the District.

Mrs. Belin-Pyles informed the Board that parents are happy with the program being brought back to the District; but bringing more kids would depend on the type of program and the class size. By law we have to follow certain square footage requirements for Special Education; so it becomes a challenge as the District has space issues.

Mrs. Morgan mentioned that she and other board members had visited Union County Educational Services which provides service of (OT, PPT, etc.). It was very informative.

V. REMARKS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

NONE.

VI. REPORTS FROM THE COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

There were several questions pertaining to the C & I agenda; all were answered. Mrs. Morgan mentioned that from her research, Genesis, our student software is under-utilized and we need to change this practice.

Mr. Eric Jones inquired about how school funding is being used. He also commented about the use of teachers' assistants.

There was a question about book orders in the District.

Mrs. Johnson-Tucker responded that principals are responsible for textbook ordering; unless the District is ordering a new series of a particular content area.

A Board member suggested that maybe there should be a sign-in sheet to verify each student received a textbook.

Mrs. Belin-Pyles explained how textbooks are supplemental material and teachers should be utilizing all resources.

A Board member inquired about school opening in September with the needed supplies.

C & I was moved to the Business Agenda.

Mr. Ottmann informed the Board that lead testing is expected to start on August 17, 2016. He informed the Board with the update on the expansion of the Barlow addition. He inquired if the addition was on a flood zone. The Dept. of Environmental Protection is working to making sure we are addressing all the concerns. The expansion consists of enlarging the gym, cafeteria, air condition, storage area, etc. Construction is expected in July of 2017.

Faye Clarke inquired about the lead testing and stated the City of Plainfield is doing the same thing.

Mr. Ottmann emphasized that the City of Plainfield was not testing the school buildings; that is our responsibility.

The new school will be a K-5 school; information regarding the school will be communicated to the community via forum, cable and robo calls as well as our public relations person.

Mrs. Morgan Stated that the legal RFP committee is meeting on Wednesday, August 10, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. in the PHS conference room.

The Finance agenda was moved to the business agenda.

The Policy agenda was moved to the business agenda.

Mrs. Morgan announced that the Board will be returning to executive session to discuss Human Resources items.

## VII. REMARKS FROM THE PUBLIC

The public inquired if any items would be voted on tonight. Mrs. Morgan stated no.

Mr. Campbell moved and seconded by Mr. Wyatt and unanimously approved by the Board to return to executive session at 10:00 p.m.

Mr. Bellamy moved and seconded by Mr. Wyatt and unanimously approved by the Board to adjourn the meeting at 11:31 p.m.

Reported by,

Yolanda Koon, Interim Board Secretary  
YK/bsc