

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, December 6, 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. Morgan, Board President called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m. and the following actions 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 Tuesday, November 29 2016 to be advertised on Saturday, December 3, 2016.

III. ROLL CALL

PRESENT

Mrs. Emily E. Morgan, President
Mr. Dorien Hurtt, Vice President
Ms. Lynn B. Anderson
Mr. Terrence S. Bellamy
Mr. John Campbell
Mrs. Carletta D. Jeffers
Ms. Carmencita T. Pile
Mr. David Rutherford, arr. @ 8:04 p.m.
Mr. Richard Wyatt

ALSO PRESENT

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

The following resolution was moved by Mrs. Morgan and 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, that the Board of Education adjourns to closed session to discuss: Personnel and 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 Board of Education resumed the public session of its Work & Study Meeting at 8:00 p.m.

IV. REMARKS FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

Mrs. Morgan stated there would be a presentation on the Avid Program.

The Avid program is essentially to close the Achievement Gap by preparing all students for college readiness and success in a global society. Ms. O'Connor and her colleagues presented for approximately one hour in explaining what AVID is and what it has to offer our students and staff if all are engaged and following the necessary steps in making this a successful program.

A few board members had an opportunity to visit the Elizabeth BOE to see the Avid program in action. They were very inspired, excited, and interested in seeing if it would be a good fit for Plainfield.

Several questions were ask concerning the program and how it would work for Plainfield Public School. A community person and others brought to our attention that Plainfield once had the Avid program but was unsuccessful. Others explained that the Avid program did not work because during that time approx. in 2007, there were so many changes in leadership that the Program never was implemented properly.

The presented emphasized that you must follow the step outline in the program and its hard work and that everyone involved must be commit to making things happen.

A former student also commented about the Avid program and wished the program was here when she attended PHS. She mentioned that the teacher need to be encouraged and there should be unity amongst the schools and peers.

V. REMARKS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Mrs. Belin-Pyles thanked the presenters for coming out and sharing what AVID has to offer.

The Board would like to see on C & I, some measurements as to whether or not a program is working towards closing the academic gap of our students. Mrs. Belin-Pyles and Dr. Sheard stated that in the rational booklet the Board receives that they will start to place in there some measurement to show the history and need for the programs (i.e. attendance, participation, objective, etc.).

Other Board members did mention that for some of the programs presented may be a challenged on getting data for every piece.

There was discussion on Teacher Evaluation model using the Danielson. More training is needed for everyone.

VI. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Mr. Ottmann explained the two (2) change order items on the agenda. The change orders were from unforeseen conditions once the roofers started working. Cook School a whole section was not a part of the original bid and since they were already up there, it was feasible to include it.

The Board wants to be sure every effort is made to minimize the change orders.

Mr. Ottmann mentioned briefly the annual audit and that Gary Higgins, auditor will be at the next meeting to go into details of the 2015-2016 annual audit. Mr. Ottmann mentioned that we have a 2 % cap and that right now we have a shortfall due to increase in health insurance, large increase in charter school's tuition, etc.

The Finance agenda was moved to the business agenda.

Community persons mentioned that the Board should live by our own policies by meeting with all stakeholders involved.

Others mentioned that we need to send the policies to employees; however, the Board consensus was to include the draft policies on the website along with the business agenda.

Policy was moved to the business agenda.

VII. REMARKS FROM THE PUBLIC

Community wanted to know who is instructing the training on the teacher evaluations and to make sure each teacher is properly trained.

Mr. Hurtt moved and seconded by Mr. Wyatt and unanimously approved by the Board to return to the executive session at 10:20 p.m.

Mr. Hurtt moved and seconded by Ms. Pile and unanimously approved by the Board to adjourn the meeting at 11:55 p.m.

Reported by,

Yolanda Koon, Interim Board Secretary
YK/bsc