

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

MINUTES of a **BOARD RETREAT**
Tuesday, October 11, 2016

A **BOARD RETREAT** was held this day in the Plainfield High School Cafetorium. 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 the district's website. The meeting was called to order at 6:49 p.m. and the following action took place:

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

II. WELCOME

III. ROLL CALL

PRESENT

Mrs. Emily E. Morgan, President
Mr. Dorian Hurtt, Vice President, arr. @ 7:00 p.m.
Ms. Lynn B. Anderson
Mr. Terrence S. Bellamy, Sr., arr. @ 7:00 p.m.
Mr. John 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
Mrs. Yolanda Koon

Mrs. Morgan wanted to change the format for tonight, by having the privilege of the floor first and then we would get into our goal setting meeting with Gwen Thornton, NJSBA.

David Graves, asked if there were any copies of the PowerPoint presentation and copy of our current goals. He wanted to know what drives our vision statement. One of his main concerns is that he never gets any evidence to show if the goals and strategies in place are working. As far as community involvement; we as a community feel that the Board and Superintendent do not talk to us. The community trust needs to be improved.

Dr. Inez Durham, before we can talk about goals we should first have a discussion on what they are, and how are we progressing towards our targeted goals. It appears that we are putting the cart before the horse. Will the public have another opportunity to make comments on the results from tonight.

Eric Jones, PEA president feels that one important goal is to recruit and retain highly qualified staff and a strategy to retain our students and to get our students back.

Ms. Thornton proceeded with going over her presentation which outlined how to craft goals. She noted that this process should happen during the May-June timeframe and we should look at various data to help develop goals.

The group brainstormed various ideas that they felt were important as a district goal. Ms. Thornton wrote them on a big pad for all to see.

Ms. Thornton informed the Board that for each goal there will be action-plans and timeframes set for each goal. She will compile all the notes and ideas that the group came up with and provide the finished product to the Superintendent and District.

Dr. Cooper asked the Board to please included the administrators in the process as they would be able to let you know their strategies and if things are working or not.

Eric Jones also mentioned that the sub-committee do not get together and the meeting are not happening; we really need to take a look at that.

Inez Durham, I agree with Eric Jones and she wanted to thank Ms. Thornton for facilitating the meeting. I also would like the Board to consider recruiting the "Best" staff for our kids. I feel maybe we should have another meeting to have an understanding of the State of the District.

David Graves stated he feels that the Board should have more training with the Superintendent to discuss the issues and share ideas; which will help Board members have a better understanding of the District.

Mrs. Morgan moved and seconded by Mr. Wyatt and unanimously approved by the Board to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m.

Reported by,

Yolanda Koon, Interim Board Secretary
YK/bsc