

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

Minutes of a **Work & Study** Meeting of the Board of
Education Held on Tuesday, April 11, 2017

A **WORK & STUDY** MEETING of the Board of Education of the City of Plainfield was held this day in the Plainfield High School cafetorium. 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, Interim Board Secretary, called the meeting to order at 6:36 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, March 27, 2017 to be advertised on Saturday, April 1, 2017.

III. ROLL CALL

PRESENT

Mrs. Emily E. Morgan, President
Mr. Dorien Hurtt, Vice President
Ms. Lynn B. Anderson
Mr. John C. Campbell
Mrs. Carletta D. Jeffers
Ms. Carmencita T. Pile
Mr. David M. Rutherford
Mr. Richard Wyatt, arr. @ 6:59 p.m.

ALSO PRESENT

Dr. Debra Sheard, Assist. Superintendent
Mr. Phil Stern, Esq.
Mrs. Yolanda Koon

Mr. Terrence S. Bellamy, Sr., absent

The following resolution was moved by Ms. Pile and seconded by Ms. Anderson 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 exist.

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 8:10 p.m.

IV. REMARKS FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

Mrs. Morgan welcomed all and then asked for a moment of silence for a student we lost Kassim Hayes.

Mrs. Morgan also mentioned that she will outline the process for the interim superintendent role at the next meeting.

V. REMARKS FROM THE ACTING SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Sheard mentioned to the public that the High Schools has completed the PARCC test and next week the Middle School's will complete the PARCC test.

VI. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Ms. Anderson presented her report on Aramark, Food Service Management Svc. She explained in detail the various topics and concerns with management of Aramark and laid out their response on their correction plan. It was very informative and the audience appreciated the discussion.

Deb Smith and Antoinia Lyons, Aramark provided answers from the public. Aramark rated themselves a 5 out of 10. Aramark received suggestions and items in need of improvement, such as food safety, food quality and cleanliness.

The C & I and Finance were agendas were moved to business agenda.

There were questions regarding Policy 3542, the agenda was moved to the business agenda.

VII. REMARKS FROM THE PUBLIC

Eric Jones, PEA president, mentioned that we've had so many interims and not sure why we are looking for somebody when we have someone. We should keep Dr. Sheard until there is a final search for superintendent. There are many interims and at the rate of \$600 or better and there is a \$8 million deficit doesn't make sense.

Paul Graves stated hasn't Dr. Sheard proven herself, why are we wasting time looking for an interim? Let her continue to do the job.

Sam Cooper stated Board members asked and fought for us to elect you and I can't believe the behavior of this board. I'm taking it personal about PAAAS having its own separate graduation and that I've reached out to several of the board members and to this date have NOT received a response; so I'm asking for a response tonight.

Sheryl Nagel Smiley, retired employee with 46 years in education stated she is currently a volunteer a couple of days a week. She is disappointed to hear that the Board is planning to go out and hire an interim superintendent, when there is an acting superintendent. Have you thought about how this will impact the students? You really need to listen to stakeholders from community, educators, etc.

Board member Rutherford spoke out and he agrees that PAAAS should have a separate graduation.

XI. TRANSFER AGREEMENT

The following is recommended for adoption moved by Mr. Hurtt and seconded by Ms. Pile:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Mrs. Belin-Pyles is employed by the Board as its Superintendent of Schools; and

WHEREAS, the Board and Mrs. Belin-Pyles have entered into a Transfer Agreement that was approved by the New Jersey Commissioner of Education on March 21, 2017; and

WHEREAS, the Board and Mrs. Belin-Pyles have entered into an Employment Agreement governing the terms and conditions of Mrs. Belin-Pyles' voluntary transfer to the position of Director, Student Intervention & Family Support Services, effective April 12, 2017;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board resolves as follows:

1. The Board hereby authorizes the Board President and Acting Board Secretary to execute the Transfer Agreement that was approved by the New Jersey Commissioner of Education on March 21, 2017; and
2. The Board hereby transfers Mrs. Belin-Pyles to the position of Director, Student Intervention & Family Support Services, effective April 12, 2017; and
3. The Board hereby authorizes the Board President and Acting Board Secretary to execute the Employment Agreement for the position of Director, Student Intervention & Family Support Services; and
4. By this Resolution, the Board expresses its gratitude for Mrs. Belin-Pyles' dedicated service to the School District, and its pleasure that Mrs. Belin-Pyles has agreed to remain in the District, and is looking forward to her continued contributions.

The motion carried on a roll-call vote with five members in favor. Mr. Campbell and Mr. Wyatt were opposed and Mr. Rutherford abstained.

XI(a) ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENT

The following is recommended for adoption, moved by Mr. Hurtt and seconded by Ms. Pile:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Dr. Debra Sheard (“Dr. Sheard”) is employed by the Board as its Assistant Superintendent of Schools; and

WHEREAS, the Board now has a vacancy in the position of Superintendent of Schools; and

WHEREAS, the Board currently wishes to retain the services of Dr. Sheard as its Acting Superintendent of Schools; and

WHEREAS, the Board recognizes its obligation to acquire the approval of the Executive County Superintendent of Schools for a contract with Dr. Sheard as the Acting Superintendent of Schools;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board resolves as follows:

1. Upon approval by the Union County Executive Superintendent of Schools, the Board hereby authorizes the Board President and Acting Board Secretary to execute an Acting Superintendent Contract with Dr. Sheard for a daily stipend of eighty-six dollars and fifty-four cents (\$86.54), retroactive to February 6, 2017, the first day that Dr. Sheard assumed the position of Acting Superintendent of Schools.
2. The Board shall retain Dr. Sheard as its Acting Superintendent until it appoints a full-time Superintendent of Schools, it appoints an Interim Superintendent of Schools, or until the close of business on June 30, 2017, whichever is sooner. If the Board no longer requires Dr. Sheard’s services as Acting Superintendent of Schools, she will immediately revert to her position as Assistant Superintendent of Schools, upon the terms and conditions of her Employment Agreement as Assistant Superintendent of Schools.

The motion carried on a roll call with six members in favor. Mr. Campbell was opposed and Mr. Rutherford abstained.

Mr. Hurtt moved and seconded by Ms. Anderson and unanimously approved by the Board to return to the executive session at 9:50 p.m.

Mr. Hurtt moved and seconded by Ms. Pile and unanimously approved by the Board to adjourn the meeting at 11:00 p.m.

Reported by,

Yolanda Koon, Interim Board Secretary
YK/bsc