

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

MINUTES of a **SPECIAL BUDGET MEETING** of the Board of
Education Held on Wednesday, April 5, 2017

A **SPECIAL BUDGET MEETING** of the Plainfield 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 6:51 p.m. and the following action took place:

- I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- II. WELCOME

WELCOME to a SPECIAL BUDGET 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

ALSO PRESENT

Dr. Debra Sheard, Acting 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 Mr. Wyatt 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 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 6:55 p.m.

The Plainfield Board of Education resumed the public session of the Special Budget Meeting at 7:35 p.m.

IV. REMARKS FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

Mrs. Morgan mentioned she was happy to see everyone and hope all is well. She mentioned that the submission for the budget is May 12th and that the Board is open and is working with administration to provide the best possible services and value all input.

Mrs. Morgan also mentioned to the public that the Board is trying to get a waiver as it pertains to the Charter School issue(s).

V. REMARKS FROM THE ACTING SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Sheard spoke on the Annual Kick-off at City Hall for the Early Childhood Program.

VI. REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Dr. Sheard & Mr. Ottmann presented another Budget Presentation and began explaining the budget and what it makes up. Then proceeded to present the new revised reductions\cuts.

VII. REMARKS FROM THE PUBLIC

Belinda Steven, Cook, she is very concerned over the last 24 hours of what was put on Facebook concerning a Board member. I hope you all are holding people accountable for their actions, and can the person do the job here on the Board. I would like a response and not talk about the elephant in the room.

Mrs. Morgan stated there is some housekeeping to do and we will handle it.

Sam Cooper, PAAAS parent, the school system is failing our students. The 2% tax levy impose on the average household is equivalent to how much of an increase is that on each household?

Mr. Ottmann responded that it is approximately \$44 per household. If we didn't have the 2% tax levy; that would equate to approximately an additional 20 more jobs.

Kevin Cooper, please remember that our kids need to be safe. Safety is important.

Horton-Mayes, where is the attorney tonight; shouldn't he be here. How many charter Schools are here in Plainfield? Is their new construction contributing to the tax base?

Nicole Horton, grew up in Plainfield and I would appreciate more information on what is causing the shortfall. Steps should have been taken before now.

Students mentioned that they were disappointed that their skating party was cancelled.

Dr. Sheard said she would look into this matter and get back to the students after her investigation.

The public wanted to know and make sure all board members are being responsible for their actions.

Charisse Parker, what are the logistics for project graduation? Are we receiving funds from the students that are attending charter schools that are participating in our project graduation? If not, we should charge them a fee which will help defer cost.

Jason Greer, I hope that we are not cutting the children's programs, like the skating party. We should embrace and protect them and we should do that. We should be more supportive.

Mrs. Morgan stated the children are our 1st priority at all times and we appreciate all comments and feedback.

Mr. Hurtt moved and seconded by Ms. Anderson and unanimously approved by the Board to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 p.m.

Reported by,

Yolanda Koon, Interim Board Secretary
YK/bsc