

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

MINUTES of a **BOARD RETREAT**
Friday, February 17, 2017

A **BOARD RETREAT** was held this day in the Emerson Community School, media center. 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 5:30 p.m. and the following action took place:

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

II. WELCOME

III. ROLL CALL

PRESENT

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

ALSO PRESENT

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

Mr. Dorien Hurtt, absent

Mrs. Morgan welcomed the public and announced Assist Superintendent, Dr. Sheard will be standing in for our Superintendent.

Mrs. Morgan mentioned to the public the purpose of having a Board Retreat. We want the Board to grow and to do the best job possible for our school district. We want to make sure the District has everything they need.

Mrs. Morgan introduced our guest speaker Deborah Keys, from CUBE. She is the Director of Equity Programming at the National School Boards Association. CUBE is a national membership organization dedicated to the needs of children in urban districts.

Everyone introduced themselves and was asked what each member expected from the Retreat. The Board had very high expectations and all were excited.

Ms. Keys stressed to the public that this was a Board Retreat and this workshop was specifically for board members.

Remarks from the public was open to anyone who wanted to speak for approximately 10 minutes.

David Graves, opened that there must be some consistency when we speak about excellence and transparencies. I want the Board to do what the people elected them to do and follow their own policies.

Teri Cabell, mentioned that she too believes the Board need to be more consistent with their actions. I know we had a Retreat in November, what was the outcome and will this too be kept to yourselves.

Dr. Durham, congratulated the Board and is happy this was open to the public and that we are all meeting together and have I hope to have some short term goals and some long-term goals to develop a strategic plan.

Ms. Keys thanked the public for its comments, welcomed them to stay, and observe. She again emphasized that this training is specific for board members. Her hope is to help the Board understand their roles and responsibilities better and she stated that you must have a passion for kids to be in this business. She hopes to share best practices and to have a high functional board, which research proves that the District would be high functioning. Please stay engaged, respect other's opinions, and be open to constructive criticism.

At this point, Ms. Keys show a video the people vs. school boards and it was very interesting and thought provoking. The video showed how everything around us has evolved with the exception of the classroom of a school.

There was dialog around this video and great observations were shared. The Board shared examples and issues we are now facing and possible solutions.

Ms. Keys spoke at great length on the Board knowing the roles of Board vs. Superintendent. She gave a little survey on what was Board role(s) vs the Superintendent's role. Then a discussion around each scenario to place.

She suggested the Board set some ground rules or some 'norms'. Understand your roles. Some discussions were held regarding the difference between Authority vs. Power. Board members shared their comments and views on its' impact on education.

Some discussion was held regarding the difference between Policies vs. Regulation. Board members shared their comments and views on its' impact on education. Ms. Keys shared more scenarios on whether or not an item was a policy or was it a regulation.

Some issues that school districts are facing were discussed.

Ms. Keys went over a survey (96 questions) that the Board took and the results were very informative and in some cases shocking and alarming. Discussion on the questions on the survey was very engaging.

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