

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, February 7, 2017

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. Yolanda Koon, Interim Board Secretary, called the meeting to order at 6:40 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 Tuesday, January 31, 2017 to be advertised on Saturday, February 4, 2017.

III. ROLL CALL

PRESENT

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

Mr. Richard Wyatt, absent

ALSO PRESENT

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

The following resolution was moved by Mr. Hurtt and seconded by Mr. Bellamy 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 8:03 p.m.

IV. REMARKS FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

Mrs. Morgan stated that she visited Cook School and meet Mr. Gore and he donated \$15,000.00 for 20 students to attend the Tennis Camp at the Netherwood facilities.

She also mentioned that the NJ Senate is holding a hearing on School Funding on February 9th at 11:00 a.m. and the public is allowed to speak for up to 3 minutes at the Paul Robeson Hall, Rutgers.

Mrs. Morgan mentioned that in the absence of our Superintendent, Anna Belin-Pyles our Assist. Superintendent, Dr. Sheard will be standing in.

V. REMARKS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

NONE.

VI. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Mrs. Koon passed out a Human Resources walk-on item and a vote was taken and passed.

Ms. Anderson, made a correction on an item and asked for any questions. Questions were answered and the chair move the C & I agenda to business agenda.

Finance Chair yielded to Mr. Ottmann. He was pulling item "H" because we went out for a Bid on our exterior Walk-in Freezer (PHS) and we only received one possible bidder and that bidder exceeded the budget amount projected for this project.

Finance remaining agenda items were moved to business agenda.

Also, Mrs. Jeffers wanted to donate \$250.00 along with Mr. Bellamy to support the Homeless. The agenda item will be updated to include Mrs. Jeffers.

A board member inquired about the Direct Install Program item on agenda. Mr. Ottmann explained that several of our schools qualify to be a part of this NJ Clean Energy program & PSEG. They will repair some of our old equipment and help to save the district approx. \$101,000.00 over a period of time (depending on each bldg.).

A board member inquired if an agenda item could be put on for a company to donated i.e. clothes, shoes, haircuts, salons, etc. for our seniors for the upcoming Prom.

VII. REMARKS FROM THE PUBLIC

Mr. Graves appreciated the Board's report on the various trips they've attended; but how will this be implemented into the curriculum or how is it useful to the District.

The public at tonight's meeting was very supportive to see the agenda item of the Board Election being moved back to the November Election. They encouraged the Board to vote for the November time-frame.

Public wanted to know if the schools will be closed during the day of the Election. Eric Jones, mentioned if it was a Presidential election, we would normally close school but for a local election, we were opened.

Dr. Sheard and Mr. Ottmann mentioned that next year's school calendar is not prepared; but will be working on it in the near future and will communicate that to all.

Dr. Durham was in support of Election being moved back to November.

Ms. Coleman was in favor of the move.

Mr. Hurtt reiterated that it was specifically put it on the agenda so that all could see and come and be a part of this change. We didn't want to have any behind the door deals. We wanted to be very open and transparent on this change.

Mrs. Morgan repeated Mr. Hurtt's comments on the Board Election.

Public thanked the Board

VIII. BOARD ELECTION DATE CHANGE

**Establishing the Election of Members of the Plainfield Board of Education
As the First Tuesday after the First Monday in November**

The Superintendent of Schools recommends, and moved by Mrs. Morgan, and seconded by Mr. Bellamy for adoption of the following:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, P.L. 2011, c. 202 authorizes changing the election date of school board members from the third Tuesday in April to the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November (the General Election); and

WHEREAS, such action requires the adoption of a resolution by a school district or the municipality or municipalities constituting such district, as set forth in P.L. 2011, c. 202; and

WHEREAS, P.L. 2011, c. 202 requires that the change to a November election remain in effect for four years; and

WHEREAS, P.L. 2011, c. 202 eliminates the annual voter referendum on the proposed general fund tax levy (i.e., the base budget which is at or below the statutory tax levy cap) in school districts where board of education members are elected at the General Election; and

WHEREAS, P.L. 2011, c. 202 requires that an additional general fund tax levy proposal (i.e., for an expenditure in excess of the tax levy cap) be presented to voters as a separate question at the General Election; and

WHEREAS, the Plainfield Board of Education believes that the financial interest of its constituents is safeguarded by the state's tax levy cap and the thorough review of the proposed school budget by the Executive County Superintendent and the Executive County School Business Administrator; and

WHEREAS, the Plainfield Board of Education believes that more citizens will participate in the selection of school board members at the General Election than on the third Tuesday in April and that the higher level of participation will foster positive interest in our public schools; and

WHEREAS, the Plainfield Board of Education is committed to the non-partisan status of school board membership and the non-partisan conduct of school elections, and believes this principle will not be compromised by conducting board member elections in November, now therefore be it,

RESOLVED, that, pursuant to P.L. 2011, c. 202, the Plainfield Board of Education changes the annual election date for school board members from the third Tuesday in April to the November General Election, beginning in 2017; and be it,

FURTHER RESOLVED, that, pursuant to P.L. 2011, c. 202, the annual organization meeting of the Plainfield Board of Education will take place in the first week of January following the November General Election and that the Board of Education's next organization meeting will take place in the first week of January 2018; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that, pursuant to P.L. 2011, c. 202, members of the Plainfield Board of Education whose terms would have expired by May 2017 will continue to serve in office until the January 2018 organization meeting; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be transmitted to the Union County Clerk; the Union County Board of Elections and/or Superintendent of Elections; the City of Plainfield municipal clerk(s) and school board secretary or secretaries; the Department of State, Division of Elections; the Department of Education's Executive County Superintendent; and the Department of Community Affairs, Division of Local Government Services; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution also be provided to the New Jersey School Boards Association and New Jersey State League of Municipalities.

The motion carried on a roll-call vote with eight members in favor. None were opposed.

IX. REPORT OF THE HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Mrs. Morgan moved Item A and seconded by Mr. Hurtt. The motion carried on a roll-call vote with seven members in favor. Mr. Rutherford was opposed.

“The Board of Education of the City of Plainfield reaffirms its commitment to ensure that the district provides equal employment opportunities regardless of race, color, creed, religion, sex, age, ancestry, national origin, handicap and social or economic status...”

It is the policy of this district to provide, through a positive and effective affirmative action program equal opportunities for employment, retention, and advancement of all people.

The equal employment objective for the Board of Education calls for achieving full utilization of minorities and women, and handicapped persons at all levels of management and non-management and by job classification; to prohibit discrimination in employment because of race, color, religion, national origin, sex or age; and to have a work environment free of discrimination.

A. 2016-2017 – Retroactive Salary Adjustment

Strategic Plan Link:

Goal 2: Human Resources

To improve the recruitment, retention, and development of district staff.

The Superintendent of Schools recommends and I so move, adoption of the following:

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, that the Plainfield Board of Education approves the negotiated salaries of the employees for the Fiscal Year 16-17. The staff names and salaries are on file with the Business Office.

F. Leaves of Absence

The following is recommended for adoption and moved by Mrs. Morgan and seconded by Mr. Hurtt:

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, that the Plainfield Board of Education approves the following Leaves of Absence:

	<u>Name</u>	<u>Position/Location</u>	<u>Dates/Reason</u>
1.	Anna Belin-Pyles	Superintendent/Superintendent’s Ofc.	02/06/27 – 02/17/17 Personal

The motion carried on a roll-call vote with seven members in favor and Mr. Rutherford abstained. None were opposed.

V. Administrative Leave

The Superintendent of Schools recommends and moved by Mrs. Morgan and seconded by Mr. Hurtt for the adoption of the following:

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, that the Plainfield Board of Education approves the administrative leave of a staff member, pending the outcome of an investigation. The staff member's name is on file with the Interim Board Secretary.

(A roll-call and an affirmative vote of 5 board members are required for passage.)

The motion carried on a roll-call vote with eight members in favor. None were opposed.

X. REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Ms. Pile moved Items E & K, seconded by Mr. Hurtt. The motion carried on a roll-call vote with six members in favor. Mr. Hurtt and Ms. Pile is in favor of Item K, but abstained on Item E. None were opposed.

E. Out-of-District Travel

The Superintendent of Schools recommends and I so move, adoption of the following:

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, that the Plainfield Board of Education approves

- 1) Dorien Hurtt and Carmencita Pile to attend the NJSBA Technology Conference, on Thursday, March 2, 2017 in West Windsor, New Jersey at a cost of \$99.00 each.
- 2) Dorien Hurtt to attend the NJSBA Board President's Meeting, on Saturday, February 4, 2017 in Jackson, New Jersey at a cost of \$50.00.

The availability of funds for these items has been verified and will be charged to account 11-000-230000-580A-01-000 (Board Travel).

K. Consultant

The Superintendent of Schools recommends and I so move, adoption of the following:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Plainfield Public Schools has identified a need for a consultant to deliver Board Governance & Equity Training at the Board Retreat, and

WHEREAS, the Plainfield Public Schools approves payment to Keynote Speaker Deborah L. Keys, Equity Programs (NSBA) for February 17 & 18, 2017 to discuss electronic board pre-assessment survey and results; training sessions and discussion on educational equity, now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Plainfield Board of Education approves payment to Deborah L. Keys, in the amount of \$4,500.00. The availability of funds for this item has been verified and will be charged to account 11-000-230000-331A-01-000 (Prof. Svc).

Mr. Hurtt moved and seconded by Ms. Person to return to the executive session to discuss personnel matters and will return to public in 15 minutes at 8:45 p.m.

Ms. Anderson moved and seconded by Mr. Bellamy and unanimously approved by the Board to return to the executive session at 9:15 p.m. and will not be returning to the public.

Recorded by,

Yolanda Koon, Interim Board Secretary
YK/bsc