

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

Minutes of a **Special 2017 – 18 Preliminary Budget Meeting** of the Board of
Education Held on Wednesday, March 15, 2017

A **SPECIAL 2017–18 PRELIMINARY BUDGET 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 6:34 p.m. and the following action took place.

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

II. WELCOME

WELCOME to a **SPECIAL 2017-18 PRELIMINARY 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 Tuesday, February 28, 2017 to be advertised on Saturday, March 4, 2017.

III. ROLL CALL

PRESENT

Mrs. Emily E. Morgan, President
Mr. Dorien 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

ALSO PRESENT

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

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 6:40 p.m.

The Plainfield Board of Education resumed the public session of its Special 2017-18 Preliminary Budget meeting at 8:00 p.m.

IV. REMARKS FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

Mrs. Morgan welcomed the public to tonight's meeting and informed the public that the Board only had a very short time to review the budget and that there will be additional time to thoroughly review the budget. We want to make sure we follow our policy concerning the budget processes.

Mrs. Morgan stated Item "B" Maximum Travel resolution will be pulled from the agenda.

V. REMARKS FROM THE ACTING SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Sheard mentioned that on March 8th she conducted an Educational Forum which was very informative as we received from various stakeholders their opinions, perceptions and feedback on charters vs. public and that there will be more forums to come later in March \April.

Phil Stern, board attorney, stated to all assembled that tonight the Board's obligation is to approve a preliminary budget; this is required by law. Again, there will be changes based on various meetings with all parties and community feedback. The final budget must be approved by May 8th.

IX. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Rev. Cooper Jr., noted that both his kids went to PPS and he is a security officer for the District and most of the officers are Plainfield alumni. He mentioned that security officers help contribute to the positive environment and are typically the 1st line of defense and are the 1st responders. There are so many stories \ incidents to show how they are effective and needed in the schools. We are a part of the Plainfield family. He prays for your guidance and ask for you to reconsider terminating our Security Officers.

Mrs. Morgan again, thanked everyone for their comments and appreciates it; however, these proposals were just presented minutes ago and these are NOT the Boards recommendations.

Teri Cabell, stated you saw these approximately 1 hour ago but yet you still will be voting tonight on a budget you have reviewed. And if there will be a change in the budget when will the public get to see, if any changes to the budget will be?

Bridgett Rivers, Counsel woman, stated she once sat where you board members are and I understand the process; however, I have several families contacting me expressing their concerns that the Board are proposing to let security officers go due to budget shortfall. This is very important for you all and I'm asking for you to re-think before you vote tonight. This is wrong. Take the politics out and present a different budget. We fought to keep our children safe and we should continue to provide a safe learning environment.

Howard Dean, parent stated he has seen a lot of this happen in this district. I have put through 6 children through this system and if it wasn't for security officers I'm pretty sure my son(s) would have either been incarcerated or maybe killed. The security officers protected my son. My sons have no records and it was the help and guidance of the security officers. Please do not let security officers go.

David Graves, stated that it is a shame our reading levels are not meeting standards yet we are spending a lot of money on dittos and technologies. We have a lot of work to do. We need to revisit our expenditures.

Ronnie Thomas, security officer, stated he had 3 daughters that went through the system and then I became an officer. The security unit has been together for forty years. I'm asking the Board to take a hard look and reconsider its decision to let go security officers.

Tasha Davis, security officer, stated she is an alumni of Plainfield since 1991. She too put 3 daughters through PPS. She was the officer when some of the board members were in school. She mentioned that security officers greet the kids and have a relationship with these students. Security officers are important. Don't give up on this kids, they need us.

Various other community stakeholder and employees spoke up for the need of security officers and for teacher assistants. They asked administration to look at every possible way, every department and schools. There should be other options or suggestions other than what was put before them at this meeting.

Mrs. Morgan stated the Board appreciated everyone's comments and that you all expressed your opinions. She mentioned that the Board will ask the Administration to go back again and come up with other options\ recommendations.

X. REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

A. Adoption of Preliminary Budget for the 2017 – 2018 School Year

The Acting Superintendent of Schools recommends and moved by Ms. Pile and seconded by Mr. Hurtt for adoption of the following:

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, that the tentative budget be approved for the 2017 – 2018 school year using the 2017 – 2018 state aid figures and that the Secretary to the Board of Education be authorized to submit the following tentative budget to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools for approval in accordance with the statutory deadline:

| | <u>General Fund</u> | <u>Special Revenues</u> | <u>Debt Service</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| 2017 – 18 Total Appropriations | \$161,587,361 | \$25,663,070 | \$2,401,832 | \$189,652,263 |
| Less: Anticipated Revenues | \$136,805,961 | \$25,663,070 | \$1,172,426 | \$163,641,457 |
| Taxes to be raised | \$ 24,781,400 | -0- | \$1,229,406 | \$ 26,010,806 |

And to advertise said tentative budget in the Courier News in accordance with the form suggested by the State Department of Education and according to law; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that a public hearing be held at the Plainfield High School on May 8, 2017 at 8:00 p.m. for the purpose of conducting a public hearing on the budget for the 2017 – 2018 school year.

The motion carried on a roll-call vote with seven members in favor. Mr. Wyatt opposed.

B. ~~Travel and Related Expense Reimbursement 2017 – 2018~~

PULLED

The following is in order for board adoption:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Plainfield Board of Education recognizes school staff and Board Members will incur travel expenses related to and within the scope of their current responsibilities and for travel that promotes the delivery of instruction or furthers the efficient operation of the school district; and

WHEREAS, N.J.A.C. 6A:23B-1.1 et seq. requires Board Members to receive approval of these expenses by a majority of the full voting membership of the Board and staff members to receive prior approval of these expenses by the Superintendent of Schools and a majority of the full voting membership of the Board; and

WHEREAS, a Board of Education may establish, for regular district business travel only, an annual school year threshold of \$1,500.00 per staff member where prior Board approval shall not be required unless this annual threshold for a staff member is exceeded in a given school year (July 1st through June 30th); and

WHEREAS, travel and related expenses not in compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23B-1.1 et seq., but deemed by the Board of Education to be necessary and unavoidable as noted on the approved Board of Education Out-of-District Travel and Reimbursement Forms; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Plainfield Board of Education approves all travel not in compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23B-1.1 et seq. as being necessary and unavoidable as noted on the approved Board of Education Out-of-District Travel and Reimbursement Forms; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board of Education approves travel and related expense reimbursement in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23B-1.2(b), to a maximum expenditure of \$132,904.00 for all staff and board members.

Mr. Bellamy moved and seconded by Ms. Anderson and unanimously approved by the Board of adjourn the meeting at 9:45 p.m.

Reported by,

Yolanda Koon, Interim Board Secretary
YK/bsc