

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

MINUTES of a **WORK & STUDY** Meeting of the Board of
Education Held on Tuesday, March 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 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 6:35 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, 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

Mrs. Anna Belin-Pyles, Superintendent
Mr. Phil Stern, Esq.
Mrs. Yolanda Koon

The following resolution was moved by Ms. Pile, seconded by Mr. Hurtt, 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 adjourned 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 6:40 p.m.

The Plainfield Board of Education resumed the public session of the Work & Study Meeting at 8:00 p.m.

IV. REMARKS FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

Mrs. Morgan welcomed all to the meeting tonight.

V. REMARKS FROM THE ACTING SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Sheard provided a brief update on some of the upcoming events and she expressed her excitement with meeting with both PEA & PASA committees.

Mr. Ottmann presented the budget presentation and our challenges which are the large cost drivers which identified a \$8 million deficit and offered some reduction proposals to make-up this gap.

Mr. Phil Stern spoke to the public on our challenges with growing charter schools. The Board has asked me to send a letter to the Commissioner concerning the charter schools in Union county specifically in Plainfield and will ask for a waiver or some financial relief.

VI. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

NONE.

VII. REMARKS FROM THE PUBLIC

Charisse Parker, employee, mentioned that the agenda tonight, and with Mr. Ottmann's budget presentation, there should be a moratorium on travel as the agenda is full of travel. We need to freeze our monies.

Eric Jones, PEA president, this is very disheartening, have we formed any task force or committee to come up with these reduction proposals. We need to work with what we have and stop hiring when we don't have the funds to support it.

Teri Cabell, we have 5 charter schools in Plainfield. We need to look in the mirror. Our kids have issues how are you planning to let counselors\ social workers go. What impact will it have on our children?

Shirley Johnson-Tucker, employee, the District needs to have some respect. I've been RICED incorrectly as I am not part of PEA but of PASA. I've been in this district 29 years. I've informed both the Acting Superintendent and Business Administrator of my knee surgery, and my back and other health issues and I wouldn't be able to work at the 9th grade academy. I don't do steps.

Melinda Gonzalez, I have 2 questions; how are we going to stop charter schools from entering into Plainfield? and where does the money go?

Anthony Jenkins, he is pleased to say we have met with the Board and we understand there is a crisis and I know you have to make some difficult decisions, but we know we were in a deficit last year; what happened to the fiscal planning? How did we get to this point?

Teri Cleckley-Young, does anyone know if any letters were actually sent to the commissioner concerning the Charter Schools? We keep hearing that we believe and think letters were sent out on our behalf, but does anyone actually know?

VIII. REPORT OF THE HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Z4. Leave of Absence

The following is recommended for adoption, moved by Mr. Wyatt and seconded by Mr. Bellamy:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Superintendent of Schools, Mrs. Anna Belin-Pyles, has requested an extension of her leave of absence until March 21, 2017;

NOW, THEREFORE, it is

RESOLVED, that the Plainfield Board of Education approves an extension of the Superintendent of Schools' leave of absence until March 21, 2017.

Mr. Wyatt moved and seconded by Mr. Bellamy and unanimously approved by the Board to adjourn the public session at 9:35 p.m. and went back into executive to discuss a personnel matter and will not return to public.

Reported by,

Yolanda Koon, Interim Board Secretary
YK/bsc