

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

MINUTES of a **WORK & STUDY** Meeting of the Board of
Education on Tuesday, May 2, 2017

A **WORK & STUDY** 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 6:36 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, April 25, 2017 to be advertised on Saturday, April 29, 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
Mrs. Carmencita T. Pile
Mr. David M. Rutherford, arr. @ 7:55 p.m.
Mr. Richard Wyatt

ALSO PRESENT

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

The following resolution was moved by Mr. Wyatt 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 6:40 p.m.

The Plainfield Board of Education resumed the public session of its Business Meeting at 8:03 p.m.

VII. REMARKS FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

Mrs. Morgan welcomed all and proceeded to go into the agenda set for the night.

Mr. Stern mentioned to the community the letter to the Commissioner of Education regarding our concerns and request to reiterate that this district is grossly underfunded by approximately \$53 million.

VIII. REMARKS FROM THE ACTING SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Sheard mentioned that we have offered various professional development to help our teachers; we spend over \$200,000.00 in professional development. She also wanted to congratulate two (2) of our Supervisors (J. Cansdale & D. Mullaney) for been recognized thru Rutgers Literacy and they have received awards.

Dr. Sheard stated a task force has been established to work on options for having a before and after care services (like the charter schools are offering). Zelda Spence will be working on this.

Dr. Sheard invited all to come out to the Kindergarten's orientation being held at Emerson. There is a lot planned for the families including registering on the spot, food, and a representative from our elementary schools...

The next listening forum is May 13th at Cedarbrook.

IX. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Mrs. Morgan mentioned the ad' hoc committee met with key stakeholders to discuss the challenge(s) with the Student Carnival. The District has agreed to issue a check for \$5,000.00; the students were happy with this decision. This will be the District's donation to help offset their senior dues and going forward; there must be better accountability with funds.

Some board members were a bit uneasy about how the committee was selected.

Mr. Stern mentioned that it is very important that going forward we need to make sure things happen correctly when selecting committee members.

Community member mentioned that the District should add more volunteers to the school system to help with trips and etc. This would be a huge benefit.

C&I moved to business agenda.

Mr. Ottmann introduced Mr. Andrew Conte, Gabel Associates to present an option regarding solar panels for the District. The District is already working with Gabel Associates on the gas \electric to provide savings with fixed rates when feasible. Mr. Conte informed the Board which buildings would be covered under this program, which is primarily funded by a grant; of which we qualify for.

Board consensus is to move forward with this solar project.

Mr. Ottmann mentioned that the Board needs to start thinking about “naming” the new elementary school.

Finance was moved to the business agenda.

Policy was moved to the business agenda.

Dr. Sheard discussed the topic of PAAAS and their request to have a separate graduation. The Board expressed their opinion(s) and views on the subject. The public had an opportunity add to the discussion.

Mr. Stern clarified that this is the function / role of the Acting Superintendent; she has informed all that this year PAAAS will be able to have its own graduation.

The remainder of the Human Resources agenda was moved to business agenda.

X. REMARKS FROM THE PUBLIC

Mr. Stern is investigating the process of establishing an Educational Foundation.

Teri Cabell wanted to know what happened to the Educational Foundation that already exist. She believes the person that was handling the fund in this account resides in Florida. She will reach-out to her and see if they can re-establish it.

Mr. Hurtt moved and seconded by Ms. Anderson and unanimously approved by the District to return to executive session at 11:18 p.m.

Mr. Bellamy moved and seconded by Mrs. Jeffers and unanimously approved by the Board to adjourn the meeting at 11:45 p.m.

Reported by,

Yolanda Koon, Interim Board Secretary
YK/bsc