

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

MINUTES of a **SPECIAL MEETING** of the Board of  
Education Held on Monday, October 30, 2017.

A **SPECIAL MEETING** of the Plainfield Board of Education of the City of Plainfield was held this day in the Plainfield High School cafetorium. 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, Acting 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 SPECIAL 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, October 24, 2017 to be advertised on Thursday, October 26, 2017.

III. ROLL CALL

PRESENT

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

ALSO PRESENT

Dr. Caryn D. Cooper, Acting Superintendent  
Mr. Philip Stern, Esq.  
Mrs. Yolanda Koon

Mr. Terrence S. Bellamy, absent  
Mr. Dorien Hurtt, absent

The following resolution was moved by Ms. Pile seconded by Mr. Campbell 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 adjourns to closed session to discuss:

- Personnel & 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 its Special/Budget meeting at 7:13 p.m.

IV. REMARKS FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

Mrs. Morgan welcomed all to tonight's special \budget meeting.

V. REMARKS FROM THE ACTING SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Cooper mentioned the budget process for the meeting and that key areas would be discussed.

Mr. Ottmann started out with the preliminary budget calendar for FY19. Mr. Ottmann explained the budget calendar and highlighted the various opportunities to received input from all stakeholders before the deadline. That was a concern from last year's process.

VI. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

NONE.

VII. REMARKS FROM THE PUBLIC

Mr. David Graves, stated the corrective action plan was good; however, it means nothing if there is no accountability or timelines in place or anyone monitoring and following up.

Sam Cooper, thanked the Board for inviting the students from the other high schools to be student liaisons for the school year. The communication should be shared across the District website i.e. Homecoming.

Dr. Durham, was happy to see that the community will be a part of the budget process.

Mr. Priano, stated the website needs to be updated as it constantly have outdated information. In addition, the early childhood provider should not only promote private and charter schools, but Plainfield should be included.

Mr. Ottmann continued to explain the budget overall process and explained the allocation per school and departments. He also stated the challenges i.e. charter school growth, bi-lingual space, PEA\PASA salaries, capital request, etc.

Dr. Cooper proceeded to have all board members and community engage in an exercise of SWOT analysis (Strengths, Weakness, Opportunity, and Threat). She wanted to know our strengths, weakness, opportunity and threats within the District. Below are the ideas and comments concerning our district.

STRENGTH	THREAT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some Bldg in good Shape</li> <li>• Committed Teachers \ Staff</li> <li>• Excellent Early Child Program</li> <li>• Strong Community Advocate</li> <li>• PAAAS - Top Bronze Award</li> <li>• Diversity</li> <li>• Dedication of some Teachers \ Admin</li> <li>• Well informed Acting Super...</li> <li>• Good Board Counsel</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Charter Schools</li> <li>• Fighting in schools (Behavior)</li> <li>• Lack of Positive images</li> <li>• Negative Media Coverage(s)</li> <li>• Safety &amp; Security</li> <li>• Low Academic grades \test scores</li> <li>• Budget</li> <li>• Growth of Special Education Svc</li> <li>• Financial cost for Bi-lingual Svc</li> </ul>
OPPORTUNITY	WEAKNESS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Re-Branding</li> <li>• Collaboration w/ City of Plfd</li> <li>• Improve Learning Outcomes</li> <li>• Increase Grant Funds</li> <li>• Change the Paradigm</li> <li>• Invite New Partnership to Table</li> <li>• Change the Culture</li> <li>• Continue the Forums (Open Dialogs)</li> <li>• Re- Direct Professional Development (use of own resources to turn-key)</li> <li>• Engage with neighbors to volunteer\ mentoring</li> <li>• Increase use of "Tap into Plainfield" news media</li> <li>• Access to other Programs (PSAT \ACT)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upgrades on Older Bldgs</li> <li>• Use of our Facilities</li> <li>• Accountability in all Areas</li> <li>• C&amp;I (more rigor)</li> <li>• Upgrade on IT (we are behind)</li> <li>• Lack of Parental Support</li> <li>• Lack of Positive media District-wide</li> <li>• Communication with all Stakeholders</li> <li>• IT Deterioration</li> </ul>

Dr. Cooper informed everyone that the roll-out of the new website is coming soon. She also mentioned that students should have an input, but tasking the student liaisons to report-out on the concerns for their school.

Mr. Wyatt moved and seconded by Ms. Pile and unanimously approved by the Board to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

Reported by,

Yolanda Koon, Acting Board Secretary  
YK/bsc