

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, April 3, 2012

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. Mr. Gary L. Ottmann, Board Secretary, called the meeting to order at 6:45 p.m. and the following action took place:

**I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**II. WELCOME**

WELCOME to a Work & Study Meeting of the Board of Education of the City of Plainfield. Members hope you will find the meeting interesting and informative. We thank you for taking the time to attend. Please be advised that 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 advance notice required therein has been provided to the Courier News and the Star Ledger on Friday, March 30, 2012 for advertisement on Saturday, March 31, 2012.

**III. ROLL CALL**

PRESENT

Mrs. Renata A. Hernandez, President  
Mrs. Wilma G. Campbell, Vice President, left @ 9:35 p.m.  
Mr. Alex O. Edache, arr. @ 7:05 p.m.  
Mrs. Keisha Edwards  
Mrs. Brenda Gilbert  
Mr. Dorien Hurtt, arr. @ 7:05 p.m.  
Mrs. Lisa Logan-Leach, arr. @ 7:05 p.m.  
Ms. Jameelah Surgeon

ALSO PRESENT

Mrs. Anna Belin-Pyles, Interim Superintendent  
Mr. Gary L. Ottmann  
Mr. Robert Pickett, Esq.  
Mr. Charles Craig, Esq.  
Ms. Lauren Craig, Esq.  
Mr. Nixon Kannah, Esq., arr. @ 7:10 p.m.  
Ms. Adia Perry, Esq.

Dr. Susan Phifer, excused

The following resolution was moved by Ms. Surgeon, seconded by Mrs. 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 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 6:46 p.m.**

The Plainfield Board of Education resumed the public session of the Work & Study Meeting at 8:05 p.m.

IV. REMARKS FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

NONE.

V. REMARKS FROM THE INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT

Mrs. Belin-Pyles reviewed recent OFAC report on the South Second Street Center early childhood contract.

Mrs. Motley indicated that the Board will be presented with the corrective action plan at the May Business Meeting.

Mrs. Belin-Pyles also opened up the discussion of the planned Hub Stine renovations.

Mr. Hurtt wanted to know whose recommendation was it to go with turf fields. Mrs. Belin-Pyles indicated that there were many internal conversations as well as past issues concerning readiness of grass fields.

Mrs. Campbell believes that the lower field house has been superseded by the turf fields.

Ms. Surgeon is concerned about the long term cost of turf.

Mrs. Gilbert believes restrooms are solely needed and should come before turf.

Mrs. Logan-Leach questioned how baseball fields got included the plan, when originally it was only for football and soccer. Mr. Ottmann explained that these are not part of the base bid but rather alternates. Mr. Craig also in response to a question from Mrs. Logan-Leach indicated that there doesn't appear to be any deed restrictions on the property.

Dan Cone responded to questions regarding field lights from the Board. He also indicated that on occasion we have used the Muhlenberg parking lot.

Mrs. Logan-Leach believes more data is necessary before the Board makes a decision. She still has a lot of concerns.

Mr. Edache is concerned about lights at night in a residential neighborhood.

Mrs. Belin-Pyles gave an explanation of why she feels this is an important project and should move forward. She also stated she received only one (1) complaint from the public on this project.

Mrs. Edwards requested Mrs. Belin-Pyles to explain why funds are being spent on turf when we have so many academic needs. Mrs. Belin-Pyles indicated that next year's budget includes 32 new teachers and that schools needs are being met.

Mrs. Hernandez supports the project but not as proposed. She would like to see the proposal, but with grass. She also would like to do a site visit to a District that does have lights to gather feedback.

Ravinell Williams, Donald Jones and Breauxsaus and soccer coach spoke in support of the project.

Curtis Young inquired what PTC's role, if any in the design of the project. Mrs. Belin-Pyles responded that she welcomes input, with caveats, from everyone.

Terri Slaughter Cabbell advised the Board to ask the community what it wants.

Dan Cone advised that all District coaches were involved in the planning of the new complex. There was a lot of homework that went on behind the scenes.

Mrs. Belin-Pyles asked for authorization from the Board to continue with the planning board meeting with the understanding that administration will come back to the Board for final approval.

Mrs. Hernandez asked Mr. Pickett if the Board has any authority to approve/deny appearing before the planning board. Mr. Pickett said it really depends on past practice and/or board wishes.

## VI. REMARKS FROM COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

The Board reviewed C & I, Finance and Policy agendas

Mrs. Logan-Leach had a number of questions relative to disaster recovery. Mr. Hurtt indicated the current plan is sufficient. Mr. Bloom explained that using the "cloud" is too expensive and not a good solution. Mrs. Logan-Leach still wanted to know the cost; what is too expensive?

Mr. Hurtt inquired of Mr. Pickett if the District can have language in the contract which requires use of local residents in fulfillment of the award. The Board requested counsel to investigate whether this is possible.

Mrs. Belin-Pyles also mentioned that we really need to have seminars or training for businesses on how to become qualified bidders.

Mrs. Logan-Leach wanted to ensure that we are on firm ground with respect to following regulations for Policy 4121.

Mr. Pickett is going to investigate whether there have been any legal updates to 4121.

**VII. REPORT OF THE HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

**G. Contractual Appointments**

**Strategic Plan Link:**

**Goal 2: Human Resources**

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

The Interim Superintendent of Schools recommends, and moved by Mrs. Logan-Leach and seconded by Ms. Surgeon the adoption of the following:

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, that the Plainfield Board of Education approves the appointment of Donna Mullaney as Supervisor, Content Area ELA, Elementary, effective April 18, 2012 and approves a prorated salary of \$102,160.00 + \$1,500.00 longevity on the PASA Salary Guide E.

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, that the Plainfield Board of Education approves the appointment of Joan Cansdale as Supervisor, Content Area ELA, Secondary, effective June 22, 2012 and approves a prorated salary of \$102,160.00 + \$1,500.00 Longevity + \$2,000.00 Education on the PASA Salary Guide E.

The motion failed with three members in favor and Mrs. Gilbert, Mr. Hurtt, Mrs. Logan-Leach and Ms. Surgeon abstained. None were opposed.

**T. Reactivate Job Description**

**Strategic Plan Link:**

**Goal 2: Human Resources**

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

**Goal 3 - Business Practices**

**To improve the overall efficiency and effectiveness of district and school operations**

The Interim Superintendent of Schools recommends, and moved by Mrs. Logan-Leach and seconded by Mrs. Edwards the adoption of the following:

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, that the Plainfield Board of Education approves the reactivation of the following job description:

Director of Human Resources

The motion passed on a roll-call vote with seven members in favor and none were opposed.

Ms. Surgeon moved, seconded by Mrs. Edwards and unanimously approved by the Board, to adjourn the meeting at 10:25 p.m.

Recorded by:

Gary L. Ottmann, Board Secretary  
GLO/bsc