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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 6, 2010

A **WORK & STUDY** Meeting of the Board of Education of the City of Plainfield was held this day in the Plainfield Board of Education Administration Building, auditorium. 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. Ms. Bonnie Cummings, Confidential Secretary, called the meeting to order at 6:51 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 Wednesday, March 31, 2010 for advertisement on Friday, April 2, 2010.

III. ROLL CALL

PRESENT

Mr. Agurs Linward Cathcart, Jr., President
Mr. Martin Cox, Vice President
Ms. Patricia I. Barksdale
Mrs. Wilma G. Campbell
Mr. Christian Estevez
Mrs. Lisa C. Logan-Leach
Ms. Katherine Peterson

Ms. Sandra Chambers, absent
Mrs. Brenda Gilbert, absent

ALSO PRESENT

Dr. Steve Gallon III, Superintendent
Mr. Kenyatta Stewart, Esq.
Ms. Kyana Woolridge, Esq.
Ms. Bonnie S. Cummings

The following resolution was moved by Mr. Cathcart, seconded by Ms. Barksdale, 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 6:53 p.m.

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The Plainfield Board of Education resumed the public session of the Work & Study Meeting at 7:40 p.m.

IV. REMARKS FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

Mr. Cathcart stated this is an agenda fixing session and no action would be taken. Board members will have an opportunity to ask questions after Dr. Gallon's presentation.

The Board moved the Curriculum & Instruction, Finance and Policy Committee agendas.

David Graves inquired about the qualification of Ms. Angela Bento attending a conference.

Dr. Gallon stated that Ms. Bento is the point person and is actively involved and wrote the grant pertaining to that conference.

Gelita Reynolds inquired about the cost of a field trip to a restaurant.

V. REMARKS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Gallon gave a summary of the OFAC Report which was posted on the district website.

Mrs. Logan-Leach read page 12 of the OFAC Report and inquired if Dr. Gallon received approval from County Executive Superintendent.

Dr. Gallon answered CES did not give approval.

Mrs. Logan-Leach inquired about the District stand on this. Dr. Gallon stated the position of Coord. Prof. Dev. was approved in May 08 and Coord Strategic Plan. was adopted in May '08.

Mrs. Logan Leach stated that the minutes for May '08 were flawed. Dr. Gallon stated the minutes in question have been approved.

Mrs. Campbell inquired why information was missing, i.e. CES approval and processed not followed.

Dr. Gallon answered with CES doesn't have authority to approve based on 18A for hiring of district staff. CES has authority to approve unrecognized titles.

Mrs. Campbell also inquired if documentation was given about approval of positions. Dr. Gallon responded that no documents exist.

Mr. Cox inquired about the time line of the Corrective Action Plan for the OFAC report. Dr. Gallon gave three (3) options. 1). Have document on the website within 30 days. 2). To discuss the report at a public meeting 3). Produce Correction Action Plan to address issues.

Ms. Peterson expressed concern that this information took so long to come forward.

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Mr. Estevez inquired about the time line to complete the Corrective Action Plan and if there will be a special meeting for it.

Mr. Cathcart stated the board will determine the date for the special meeting.

Ms. Barksdale inquired about page 9 of the OFAC Report as to what policy or procedure is in place regarding an individual prior to date of hire.

Mr. Cathcart expressed that the students have suffered for the past six months due to this situation and we should never get to this place again. He further stated all individuals that are hired should have the correct credentials/certification.

VI. REMARKS FROM COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Mr. Cathcart stated if there were any questions from the audience regarding the OFAC Report, they could do so now.

Renata Hernandez expressed concern with Dr. Gallon not aware of CES approval.

Maria Pellum stated the Board should make sure they are informed of any job descriptions that are approved.

Ms. Hightell inquired if there are checks and balance in place to make sure this doesn't happen again.

John Campbell inquired about the responsibilities of the Human Resources Chairman.

Rasheed Abdul-Haqq inquired about interview with Lesly Borge and Lalelei Kelly.

Lindsay Counsel inquired if Lesly Borge and Lalelei Kelly are part of the reduction in staff due to the budget cuts.

Ms. Dabney stated she applied for both positions, but didn't receive a follow-up interview.

Katherine Cardona inquired if Ms. Kelly and Ms. Borge are certified and qualified for their positions.

Bridget Rivers stated when she was on the Board; all board members had the opportunity to review documentation from Human Resources.

David Graves stated according to the OFAC Report Ms. Kelly, Ms. Borge and Ms. Kemp didn't use the sign in sheet.

Danielle Fletcher inquired about the process of CES approval for unrecognized job titles.

Mahoney Hendricks inquired how a person pursuing a master's degree can beat out people who already possess the degree.

Mr. Cathcart moved, seconded by Mr. Cox and unanimously approved by the Board, to adjourn the meeting at 10:30 p.m.

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Recorded by:

Bonnie S. Cummings, Confidential Secretary
bsc