

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, August 14, 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. Ms. Yolanda Henry, Assistant School Business Administrator, called the meeting to order at 6:55 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, August 8, 2012 for advertisement on Saturday, August 11, 2012.

III. ROLL CALL

PRESENT

Mrs. Wilma G. Campbell, Vice President  
Mr. Alex O. Edache, arr. @ 7:10 p.m.  
Mrs. Keisha Edwards  
Mrs. Brenda L. Gilbert  
Mrs. Lisa Logan-Leach  
Dr. Susan Phifer

ALSO PRESENT

Mrs. Anna Belin-Pyles, Superintendent  
Ms. Yolanda Henry  
Mr. Robert Pickett, Esq.  
Mr. Charles Craig, Esq.  
Ms. Lauren Craig, Esq.  
Ms. Adia Perry, Esq.

Mrs. Renata Hernandez, excused  
Mr. Dorien Hurtt, excused  
Ms. Jameelah Surgeon, excused

The following resolution was moved by Mrs. Gilbert 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 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 6:56p.m.

The Plainfield Board of Education resumed the public session of the Work & Study Meeting at 8:07 p.m.

IV. REMARKS FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

NONE.

V. REMARKS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

It was stated that the District needs to communicate or create Campaign that highlights the positive and new initiatives that the District plans to deploy. We need to lay out strategies and steps to show how we plan to move academically forward. It was mentioned that part of the problem was that the State change the test and benchmarks which they (the state) did admit it was wrong and not fair.

Board wanted to know do we have the resources (i.e. consultants, teachers, coaches) to help achieve our goals. Superintendent ensure that we have indeed added content coaches, reduce class sizes, increased our classroom observations, provided a safe environment, introduce new initiatives. Board mentioned again that we needed a marketing person to help with the delivery of our message(s). A recommendation was to have a newsletter but have the parent sign off and then we would be able to have a proof that the community is aware.

Superintendent echoed that there are some pockets of best practices and that we need to spread those practice(s) district wide.

Motion to move HR and C & I to Business Meeting... motion passed

The Board had a number of questions on the Finance agenda.

Finance was motioned to move to Business Meeting.

**Bldg & Grd**

Dr. Phifer and Mrs. Belin-Pyles offered the idea of redistricting evaluation and the importance and impact it would have; which is needed.

Representative from The Consulting Services Associates (CSA) gave handouts to the Board to review and it was requested to get another vendor so that they can compare and discuss further.

Yolanda Henry, proxy for Mr. Ottmann, gave a brief update on Facilities & Grds at each location. Mrs. Belin-Pyles also will provide at the next meeting an update on the Science Labs and when to begin. She indicated that Mr. Gee should also come and give a detail update on projects.

Mrs. Campbell moved, and seconded by Mr. Edache and unanimously approved by the Board to adjourn the meeting at 9:11 p.m.

Mrs. Edwards moved, and seconded by Mrs. Logan-Leach and unanimously approved by the board to return to the public session of the meeting at 9:15 p.m. to consider the policy agenda.

**Policy**

Mr. Pickett will clarify the verbiage on substitute teachers if employed more than 60 days; should be pro-rata. Policy was moved to the Business Meeting.

Internet Safety- there were no questions and was moved to the Business Meeting

Dr. Phifer moved and seconded by Mrs. Gilbert and unanimously approved by the board to adjourn the meeting at 9:18 p.m.

Recorded by:

Yolanda Henry, Assistant School Business Administrator  
YH/bsc