

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 9, 2011

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, Assist. Business Administrator, called the meeting to order at 6:50 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 3, 2011 for advertisement on Saturday, August 6, 2011.

III. ROLL CALL

PRESENT

Mrs. Renata A. Hernandez, President, arr. @ 7:00 p.m.
Mrs. Wilma G. Campbell, Vice President
Mr. Rasheed Abdul-Haqq, arr. @ 7:10 p.m.
Mr. Alex O. Edache
Mrs. Keisha Edwards
Mr. Dorien Hurtt
Mrs. Lisa C. Logan-Leach
Ms. Jameelah Surgeon, arr. @ 7:00 p.m.

ALSO PRESENT

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

Mrs. Brenda Gilbert, absent

The following resolution was moved by Mrs. Edwards, 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 6:51 p.m.

The Plainfield Board of Education resumed the public session of the Work & Study Meeting at 8:06 p.m.

IV. REMARKS FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

Mrs. Hernandez suggested that the Policy and Work & Study be combined into one (1) meeting. Mr. Pickett indicated that it is the desire of the Board on whether or not to combine or change meetings.

Mr. Edache agreed to the reduction of meetings as compared to other districts.

Mrs. Logan Leach indicated that “we have always had separate meetings in the past”.

Mrs. Hernandez stated that 1st & 3rd Tuesdays (Policy and Work & Study be combined) and requested to vote on it tonight. The motion carried on a roll-call vote, with seven members in favor and Mrs. Logan-Leach opposed.

V. REMARKS FROM THE INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT

Mrs. Anna Belin-Pyles received a notification about the Golf Tournament held at the Plainfield County Club and that there will be helicopter rides to this event.

Mr. Craig stated that we would need to check if insurance would be needed, which he recommend and that it would be safe if a resolution was included to cover the District. Mrs. Belin-Plyes would follow up with her contacts (from the notification letter) regarding the details and logistics of what is to occur.

Mrs. Anna Belin-Pyles spoke about a Grant entitled Promising Neighborhood Grant that we could benefit from. There are 2 parts to this process a) Planning Phase and b) the Grant. The Planning Phase will be evaluated and determined if we could apply for the Grant itself which could result in millions to the district and community (\$500k for employees and 2 or 3 million dollars for community) Note that United Way will be applying for this grant and deadline for this is September 6, 2011. The District will assist United Way in completing this Grant.

Mrs. Campbell commented on the Health Insurance resolution regarding the Robert Johnson Health Center; she wanted to make sure that it wasn't already covered in our employee's coverage.

VI. REMARKS OF COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Ms. Surgeon recommended pulling the resolution on the purchase of the Chevrolet Box Truck/Van. Mr. Hurtt concurred with Ms. Surgeon on seeing if we could get it cheaper, so the item was pulled until further notice.

Mrs. Campbell noted that on some of the Curriculum & Instruction resolutions they should state the facts and have supporting documents.

Mrs. Edward also agreed that on the resolutions, the purpose needs to be stated clearer i.e. purpose for attending a function.

Shared Service was next for discussion.

Mr. Chris Payne, City of Plainfield, was present and gave an update on why to extend our contract with the City and what has been accomplished and what future projects they would like to conduct. It was stated that Gary Bloom, along with Chris Payne, are monitoring the project to ensure the Shared Service Agreement is adhered to.

Mrs. Campbell wants to see some information that the \$10K/month is really benefiting the District.

Mr. Craig read a letter from the City of Plainfield of their intent to continue the relationship between the Board and the City.

Mrs. Campbell was not in favor if this would hinder and take away from our children. She wants to ensure that our schools will be up and running when school opens in about 3 weeks.

Mrs. Campbell also stressed the point to Chris Payne that the District request more "airtime" on our cable channel.

The Board then proceeded to discuss the various policies at hand. All policies were reviewed and changes were made. All policies with the exception of the "meeting procedures" policy was approved to be moved to the Business Agenda and they all agreed to suspend 1st reading on those policies due to time restrictions.

The Meeting Procedures will continue to be discussed at a later time.

Mrs. Edwards moved, seconded by Mrs. Campbell and unanimously approved by the Board, return to executive session of the meeting at 10:10 p.m.

Ms. Surgeon moved, and seconded by Mr. Hurtt and unanimously approved by the Board to return to the public session of the meeting at 10:29 p.m.

VII. REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

I. Resolution Authorizing The Reimbursement To Plainfield Board Members For Costs And Expenses Associated With Mandatory Compliance With The Requirements Of The Criminal History Background Check As Set Forth In N.J.S.A. 18a:12-1.2

Strategic Plan Link:

Goal 3: Business Operation

To improve the overall efficiency and effectiveness of business operations.

Mrs. Edwards moved, seconded by Mrs. Campbell, adoption of the following:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, on or about May 26, a new criminal history background check bill was signed into law by Governor Chris Christie which amends *N.J.S.A. 18A:12-1.2*; and

WHEREAS, under the new law, all current and future school board members or members of a board of trustees of a charter school must undergo mandatory a criminal history background / record check to continue to sit as a member of the Board of Education; and

WHEREAS, on or about July 14, 2011, The New Jersey Department of Education issued a memorandum to boards of education and charter schools in New Jersey detailing procedures that must now be followed and urged school board members to schedule an appointment to begin the criminal background check by submitting their fingerprints to the Department as soon as possible; and

WHEREAS, the new law permits school districts to reimburse Board Members for the costs and expense associated with complying with the new law; and

WHEREAS, the Plainfield Board of Education desires to reimburse its Board Members for the reasonable costs and expense to comply with the mandatory criminal background checks as required by the *N.J.S.A. 18A:12-1.2*; and

NOW, THEREFORE, the Plainfield Board of Education hereby resolves to reimburse Board Members in accordance with the above for the reasons set forth thereon.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Policy Committee of the Plainfield Board of Education shall, in consultation with counsel for the Board, develop a policy on this subject as soon as possible and present that policy to the Board for approval.

The resolution carried, on a roll-call vote, with eight members in favor and none opposed.

R. Site Access Agreement

The Interim Superintendent of Schools recommends moved by Ms. Surgeon, seconded by Mrs. Edwards adoption of the following:

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, that the Plainfield Board of Education authorizes Unilever and its environmental consultants (one or more independent contractors hired by Unilever, together with their subcontractors) to enter the property located at 1750 West Front Street and 1700 West Front Street to perform environmental investigations as directed by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

The resolution carried, on a roll-call vote, with seven members in favor and none opposed.

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

Recorded by:

Yolanda Henry, Assist. Business Administrator
YH/bsc