

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, December 14, 2010

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 Wednesday, December 1, 2010 for advertisement on Friday, December 3, 2010.

III. ROLL CALL

PRESENT

Mrs. Lisa C. Logan-Leach., President.
Mr. Rasheed Abdul-Haqq, Vice President
Ms. Patricia I. Barksdale, arr. @ 7:05 p.m.
Mrs. Wilma G. Campbell
Mr. Agurs Linward Cathcart, Jr.
Mrs. Keisha Edwards, arr. 7:30 p.m.
Mr. Brenda Gilbert
Mrs. Renata A. Hernandez, arr. 6:50 p.m.

ALSO PRESENT

Mrs. Anna Belin-Pyles, Interim Superintendent
Mr. Gary L. Ottmann
Ms. Caryn Cooper, public only
Mr. Robert Pickett, Esq.
Mr. Charles Craig, Esq., arr. 9:30 p.m.
Ms. Lauren Craig, Esq.

Ms. Katherine Peterson, absent

The following resolution was moved by Mrs. Logan-Leach, seconded by Mrs. Gilbert, 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 8:15 p.m.

IV. REMARKS FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

Mrs. Logan-Leach reminded everyone that this month's business meeting will be held at Emerson School. Mr. Cathcart will be giving a presentation on the recent conference he attended.

V. REMARKS FROM THE INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT

Mrs. Belin-Pyles asked Mr. Ottmann to introduce Gary Higgins from Lerch, Vinci- & Higgins.

VI. AUDIT PRESENTATION

Mr. Higgins indicated that this year's audit has an unqualified opinion which is an excellent turn for the District.

VII. OPTIMUM LIGHTPATH PRESENTATION

Gary Bloom gave an overview of the District's current voice, data, and internet services provided by Verizon and the recommendation to switch to Optimum Lightpath. Representatives from Optimum gave an overview of savings and products. Mrs. Campbell expressed concern of a five (5) year contract having no history or experience with Optimum.

VIII. REMARKS OF COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

The Board reviewed the C & I agenda.

Mrs. Campbell inquired if any evaluations have ever been done on Rosetta Stone's effectiveness.

The Board reviewed the Finance agenda.

There was an extensive discussion concerning the proposed shared services agreement with the City of Plainfield. There were a number of questions about language in the agreement.

Mr. Abdul-Haqq moved, seconded by Mrs. Campbell and unanimously approved by the Board, to adjourn the meeting at 9:17 p.m.

Recorded by:

Gary L. Ottmann, Board Secretary
GLO/bsc