

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 6, 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. Mr. Gary L. Ottmann, Board Secretary, called the meeting to order at 6:40 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 Thursday, October 27, 2011 for advertisement on Saturday, October 29, 2011.

III. ROLL CALL

PRESENT

Mrs. Renata A. Hernandez, President
Mrs. Wilma G. Campbell, Vice President
Mr. Rasheed Abdul-Haqq
Mr. Alex O. Edache, arr. @ 6:55p.m.
Mrs. Keisha Edwards
Mrs. Brenda Gilbert
Mr. Dorien Hurtt
Mrs. Lisa C. Logan-Leach
Ms. Jameelah Surgeon

ALSO PRESENT

Mrs. Anna Belin-Pyles, Interim Superintendent
Mr. Gary L. Ottmann
Mr. Robert Pickett, Esq., arr. @ 7:00p.m.
Mr. Charles Craig, Esq.
Ms. Lauren Craig, Esq.
Ms. Adia Perry, Esq.

The following resolution was moved by Mrs. Campbell, seconded by Mrs. Edwards, 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 6:41 p.m.

The Plainfield Board of Education resumed the public session of the Work & Study Meeting at 8:10 p.m.

IV. REMARKS FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

NONE.

V. REMARKS FROM THE INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT

There are numerous presentations slated for tonight's meeting.

VI. REMARKS FROM COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Mrs. Logan-Leach reviewed whether Sylvia's Restaurant was open or closed and whether Mrs. Cabbell was notified. Mrs. Edwards indicated that Mr. Ottmann had advised Mrs. Cabell.

Mrs. Campbell questioned the planned boiler replacements at PHS and why we had a change order with the Woodland School boilers.

Mrs. Hernandez inquired if we can go after PSE&G and try to recoup funds from the Woodland School change order.

VII. PRESENTATIONS

Jean Harkness from NJSBA was present to discuss policies. Typically, in regard to Policy 3327 which stated to limit and designate the persons with the authority to request services or advice from contracted legal counsel.

Mr. Hurtt asked Ms. Harkness if board members could be trained in the development of more effective policies. Ms. Harkness said "absolutely and it's especially effective when the Board is developing a new policy." A mock policy development could be useful as well. It would probably be a great item for the Board retreat.

Danice Stone and Gina Ogburn-Thompson gave a presentation on "Intervention and Referral Services".

Alex Baresse from Lerch, Vinci & Higgins gave an overview of the District's annual audit.

Mrs. Logan-Leach suggested that we post the comprehensive annual financial report and the auditor's management report on the District's website to tell our story.

George Jones from Johnson Jones Architect's gave an overview of planned construction projects at Barlow and Woodland Schools.

The Board members had questions about the completion time for the construction projects. Mr. Jones indicated construction should last from 12 – 18 months.

Mrs. Gilbert inquired what the policy is on trash removal from construction sites. Mr. Jones thought that it was a legal question for the attorneys.

Mr. Ottmann gave a presentation on district facility projects.

There were questions about PHS science labs.

Mrs. Campbell suggested that Gwen Thornton obtain anonymous input for the superintendent search.

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

Recorded by:

Gary L. Ottmann, Board Secretary
GLO/bsc