

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, February 7, 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. 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, January 31, 2012 for advertisement on Saturday, February 4, 2012.

**III. ROLL CALL**

PRESENT

Mrs. Renata A. Hernandez, President  
Mrs. Wilma G. Campbell, Vice President  
Mr. Alex O. Edache, arr. @ 6:55 p.m.  
Mrs. Keisha Edwards  
Mrs. Brenda Gilbert, arr. @7:50 p.m.  
Mr. Dorien Hurtt  
Mrs. Lisa Logan-Leach, arr. @ 7:20 p.m.  
and stepped out until 7:50 p.m.  
Dr. Susan Phifer, arr. @ 6:50 p.m.  
Ms. Jameelah Surgeon

ALSO PRESENT

Mrs. Anna Belin-Pyles, Interim Superintendent  
Mr. Gary L. Ottmann  
Mr. Robert Pickett, Esq.  
Mr. Charles Craig, Esq.  
Ms. Lauren Craig, Esq.  
Mr. Nixon Kannah, Esq.  
Ms. Adia Perry, Esq.

The following resolution was moved by Mrs. Edwards, seconded by Ms. Surgeon, 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 8:00 p.m.

#### IV. REMARKS FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

Mrs. Hernandez reviewed the results of the strength-finder survey that board members completed. There are 34 different themes that represented strengths.

She also asked the board members to proof the board brief and please let her know if anything needs to be added.

#### V. REMARKS FROM THE INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT

Mrs. Belin-Pyles presented two (2) grant opportunities; one for \$50,000.00 for turf fields from USA Football for one (1) field at Hub Stine. The Board had a number of questions about board policy with regard to advertising on board property. Mr. Ottmann will reach out to NJSBA about naming rights of board property.

Also, there is a "Race to the Top" grant opportunity for Plainfield which is currently \$171,674.00. The Board must decide no later than February 15, 2012 if Plainfield wishes to participate.

#### VI. VOTE ON BUDGET

Mrs. Hernandez reported that the City Council voted last evening to adopt a resolution moving the school election to November 2012. She thought that the Council should have included the Board in the conversation.

#### VII. REMARKS FROM COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

The Board reviewed C & I, Finance and Policy committee agendas.

Mrs. Logan-Leach asked for confirmation that all field trips are aligned with CCCS.

Mrs. Belin-Pyles indicated that they are and emphasized that the senior class trip to Disney world is not paid from district funds. She also will verify that we're not paying for transportation to the airport.

Mrs. Logan-Leach inquired if a letter of thanks will be sent to Eugene Monroe for his \$25,000.00 donation. Mrs. Belin-Pyles indicated absolutely.

Mr. Hurtt inquired if we should be proceeding with grade reconfigurations prior to the results of the enrollment projection being completed. Mrs. Belin-Pyles indicated that we need to have the study done now.

Mr. Craig reviewed policy 9326 and the recent call from Maria Pellum's attorney's questioning legality in our policy.

Mr. Pickett indicated that school boards will not put anything in writing relative to their reviews of our policy, but Mr. Pickett is confident the policy will withstand any challenge.

Mrs. Belin-Pyles indicated that the District is going to have to revisit policy on home-schooling.

Mrs. Edwards moved, seconded by Ms. Surgeon and unanimously approved by the Board, to return to executive session at 10:00 p.m.

Mrs. Logan-Leach moved, seconded by Mrs. Edwards and unanimously approved by the Board, to return to the public session at 10:15 p.m.

Mrs. Logan-Leach moved, seconded by Mrs. Campbell and unanimously approved by the Board, to adjourn the meeting at 10:16 p.m.

Recorded by:

Gary L. Ottmann, Board Secretary  
GLO/bsc