

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE CITY OF PLAINFIELD  
IN UNION COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

MINUTES of a **SPECIAL BUSINESS** Meeting of the Board of  
Education Held on Tuesday, January 24, 2012

A **SPECIAL BUSINESS** 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 the District's website. The meeting was called to order at 7:15 p.m. by Mr. Gary L. Ottmann, Board Secretary and the following action took place:

**I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**II. WELCOME**

WELCOME to a Special Business 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, January 19, 2012 for advertisement on Saturday, January 21, 2012.

**III. ROLL CALL**

PRESENT

Mrs. Renata A. Hernandez, President  
Mrs. Wilma G. Campbell, Vice President  
Mr. Alex O. Edache  
Mrs. Keisha Edwards  
Mr. Dorien Hurtt  
Mrs. Lisa C. Logan-Leach  
Dr. Susan Phifer  
Ms. Jameelah Surgeon

ALSO PRESENT

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

Mrs. Brenda L. Gilbert, absent

The following resolution was moved by Mrs. Hernandez 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 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.

IV. REMARKS FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

Mrs. Hernandez reminded the Board members that our retreat is scheduled for this Saturday, January 28, 2012 and to please complete the “strengths–finder” as soon as possible.

Also, Council President Mapp has requested to meet with the Board in March to discuss shared services.

V. REMARKS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Mrs. Belin-Pyles indicated that tonight’s meeting is primarily to review the planned district grade reconfiguration. She reviewed her recommendations to return most elementary schools to a K-5 configuration.

Mrs. Belin-Pyles clarified that there are no planned changes for PAAAS. Although as part of their grade growth, approximately 60 additional students were expected.

She clarified that the plan would go into effect for September 2012.

Mrs. Belin-Pyles replied to a question from Wilma Campbell that we will be looking at all district facilities to possibly reclaim classroom spaces.

She also indicated that the long range plan probably will indicate the need for rezoning in the District.

Mrs. Hernandez questioned how rezoning would solve class size issues when parents have the choice under NCLB to go to the school of their choice.

Mrs. Belin-Pyles emphasized that the District would maintain class size limits, but there will be opportunities for parents under existing District policy.

VI. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Mrs. Logan-Leach moved, seconded by Mrs. Campbell to have privilege of the floor for thirty (30) minutes. The motion passed on a roll-call vote with eight members in favor and none were opposed.

Lindsay Council is concerned about PAAAS and the probable overcrowding that will occur next year. She requested the Board to postpone a decision.

Maria Pellum thanked the Board for listening to the concerns of the community. She pointed out that the recent census showed 15,000 children in Plainfield but only roughly 7,000 are in Plainfield schools.

Mrs. Logan-Leach inquired if there was any discussion concerning the change in the school election date change.

**IX. REPORT OF THE CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION COMMITTEE**

Mrs. Edwards moved C & I as a Consent Agenda, seconded by Mrs. Campbell. The motion carried, on a roll-call vote, with eight members in favor of all of the resolutions and none were opposed.

**A. 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers (CCLC) – Approval for Submission of Application**

**Strategic Plan Link:**

**Goal 1: Learning Outcomes**

To provide high-quality educational and enrichment programs that will enable students to improve academic achievement, and promote positive behavior and appropriate social interaction with peers and adults.

**Goal 2: Human Resources**

To improve the recruitment, retention, development of district staff.

**Goal 3: Business Practice**

To improve the overall efficiency and effectiveness of district school operations.

**Goal 4: Safe Learning Environment**

To provide a safe, secure, professional and clean environment for students, staff, and community members.

**Goal 5: Community & Family Engagement**

To implement activities that promote parental involvement and provide opportunities for literacy and related educational development to the families of participating students.

The Interim Superintendent of Schools recommends, and I so move, adoption of the following:

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, that the Plainfield of Board of Education authorizes the Interim Superintendent of Schools to submit the following application for state and federal funds to expand the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers special education program services at CH Stillman Elementary School, Washington Community School, Hubbard Middle School, and Maxson Middle School.

<b>Funding Source</b>	<b>Program Description</b>	<b>Administrator</b>	<b>Amount</b>
NJ Department of Education Office of Special Services & Individuals with Disabilities Education Act 2004, Part B	<p>The NJ Department of Education is offering Plainfield Public Schools 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers the opportunity to secure additional funding from the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act 2004, Part B, to expand or establish activities to existing or to increase the inclusion of special education students within the current grant project through August 31, 2012.</p> <p>Funding is solely for the purpose of supporting students with disabilities either through the implementation of new activities, expanding existing activities, providing professional development, or increasing outreach efforts to families who care for students with disabilities. The project activities may include but is not limited to school-based training and technical assistance, strategies and support for social skill development, instructional strategies and materials, and family involvement.</p>	Anna Belin-Pyles	\$39,840.00



**X. REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**Ms. Surgeon moved Finance as a Consent Agenda, seconded by Mrs. Campbell. The motion carried, on a roll-call vote, with eight members in favor of all of the resolutions and none were opposed.**

**A. Appointment of Insurance Broker**

The Interim Superintendent of Schools recommends, and I so move, adoption of the following:

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, that the Plainfield Board of Education approves the appointment of the firm of Reliance Insurance Group as the Broker of Record for Health and, Property and Casualty Insurance for the remainder of the 2011-2012 fiscal year.

**B. NCLB FY 2011 Amendment**

**Strategic Plan Link:**

**Goal 1: Learning Outcomes**

**To improve the learning and academic performance of all students in PPS**

**Goal 3: Business Practices**

**To improve the overall efficiency and effectiveness of district and school operations**

The Interim Superintendent of Schools recommends, and I so move, adoption of the following:

**RESOLUTION**

The Plainfield Board of Education is committed to ensuring that all students succeed academically and reach their full potential in life. In doing so, it is also committed to providing opportunities for and insuring that all students (inclusive of English Language Learners and Special Education Students) meet the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards and achieve academic and life-long success.

No Child Left Behind (NCLB) legislation requires that FY 2011 carryover funds be incorporated into the FY 2012 Amendment, per the New Jersey Department of Education. NCLB funds support student academic achievement, school improvement, professional development, technology in education and English language acquisition. Funds have been allocated for Plainfield Public Schools and specific Non-Public schools within the district (I AM's Temple, King's Temple, Koinonia Academy and New Covenant Christian).

**RESOLVED**, that the Plainfield Board of Education authorizes the Interim Superintendent of Schools to submit FY 2011 NCLB Amendment for Federal funds to support educational programs and increase grant revenue in the district.

**XI. REPORT OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE**

**A. ~~Adoption of Policy – Second Reading~~ PULLED**

The following is recommended for adoption:

**RESOLUTION**

The Board of Education finds it necessary that this policy be implemented for the management and operation of the Plainfield Public Schools; therefore the following is recommended for adoption:

The Board of Education has reviewed the policy listed below and finds it acceptable for the management and operation of the Plainfield Public Schools, and

The Board of Education now finds it necessary that this policy be implemented, now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Plainfield Board of Education approves, on **second reading**, the following policy:

<u>Policy Number</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Amended</u>
9326	Minutes	

Mrs. Campbell moved, seconded by Mrs. Edwards and unanimously approved by the Board, to go into executive session at 8:20 p.m. to discuss personnel and legal.

Mrs. Logan-Leach moved, seconded by Mrs. Edwards and unanimously approved by the Board to return to the public session of the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

Mrs. Logan-Leach moved, seconded by Ms. Surgeon and unanimously approved by the Board to adjourn the meeting at 8:41 p.m.

Recorded by:

Gary L. Ottmann, Board Secretary  
GLO/bsc