

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

MINUTES of an **ORGANIZATION** Meeting of the Board of
Education Held on Tuesday, January 8, 2013

An **ANNUAL ORGANIZATION** Meeting of the Board of Education of the City of Plainfield was held this day in the Plainfield High School Media Center. 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. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mr. Gary L. Ottmann, Board Secretary, and the following action took place:

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

II. WELCOME

WELCOME to an Annual Organization 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 Star Ledger on Wednesday, January 2, 2013 for advertisement on Saturday, January 5, 2013.

III. OATH OF OFFICE - NEWLY ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS

During this evening's meeting, the oath of office was administered by the Board Secretary to the following newly elected board members:

One-year term:	1.	Delois Dameron	2013
Three-year terms:	1.	Jackie Coley	2015
	2.	Keisha Edwards	2015
	3.	Mahogany Hendricks	2015

IV. ROLL CALL

PRESENT

Mrs. Wilma Campbell
Mrs. Jackie Coley
Mrs. Delois Dameron
Mrs. Keisha Edwards
Mrs. Mahogany Hendricks
Mrs. Renata A. Hernandez
Mr. Dorien Hurtt, arr. @ 7:10 p.m.
Ms. Jameelah Surgeon

ALSO PRESENT

Mrs. Anna Belin-Pyles, Superintendent
Mr. Gary L. Ottmann
Mr. Robert Pickett, Esq.
Mr. Charles Craig, Esq.
Public

Mr. Alex O. Edache, absent

V. ORGANIZATION MEETING

A. Nominations for President were received from board members. No second was required. When nominations were closed, a vote was taken on the nominees in the order of nomination. The first candidate receiving a majority of the votes of those present was declared President.

B. Nomination and Election of President.

Ms. Surgeon nominated Mrs. Wilma Campbell for President. The nomination passed on a roll-call vote with eight in members favor and none were opposed.

Mrs. Edwards moved the nominations be closed.

C. President Campbell assumed the Chair.

D. Nomination and election of Vice President.

Mr. Hurtt nominated Mrs. Edwards for Vice President.

Mrs. Hernandez moved the nominations be closed.

The nomination of Mrs. Edwards passed, on a roll-call vote, with eight members in favor and none were opposed.

VII. REMARKS FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

Mrs. Campbell thanked her fellow board members for their support. She also thanked her husband, John for all his support as well as both her sons.

She also thanked all staff for helping to get Plainfield where it needs to be. She is happy to be elected as President and she shared a story about being high achievers.

Ms. Hendricks is looking forward to working with old members as well as learning the ropes.

Mrs. Dameron said “thanks” for allowing her to be on the Board. She is very grateful to her mother and her family.

Mrs. Edwards thanked her kids and her husband for supporting her endeavors. She welcomed the new board members and asked everyone to think positive thoughts.

Mrs. Coley thanked her husband and three kids for supporting her. She is very honored to be a board member.

Ms. Surgeon welcomed her new colleagues and encouraged them to take their time learning the board process.

Mrs. Hernandez thanked her colleagues for electing her as past president and she wished Mrs. Campbell and Mrs. Edwards much luck in their new roles.

VIII. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Barbara James spoke about the NAACP middle school's over achiever events scheduled for February 21, 2013 @ 6:30 p.m. Also, as a member of the planning board, she is concerned about the lack of markings in front of the District schools.

John Campbell thanked the Board for electing his mother as Board president.

John Campbell, Sr. is so proud of Wilma and it's wonderful to be married to a "president". He believes that Plainfield will be a District that everyone can be proud of.

Roslyn Gallmon congratulated the Board members and hopes that there is no hostility in the District. She asked the Board to take care of her daughter, Jarae Gallmon, who is a board student liaison.

Al Hendricks congratulated all board members for being chosen to lead. He is so proud of Mahogany.

Katherine Cardona believes that there are lots of positive things going on in Plainfield, but there is lots of work still to do. She congratulated the new board members and officers.

IX. REMARKS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Mrs. Belin-Pyles congratulated the new board members and she feels that "we work well collectively". She is proud to serve with the Board. She also mentioned that January is board appreciation month.

X. OTHER REMARKS

Mrs. Campbell wants to form a bank committee to review district banking operations and results of the RFP that is being issued.

E. Appointment of Board Members to Committee & Other Board Assignments

Committees

Finance

Ms. Surgeon

Human Resources

Mrs. Campbell

Curriculum & Instruction

Mrs. Edwards

Policy

Mr. Hurtt

Buildings & Grounds

Mr. Edache

Long Range Planning

Mrs. Dameron

School/Community Relations

Mrs. Dameron & Mrs. Hernandez

Board/Council Liaison

Mrs. Coley

Negotiations

Ms. Hendricks

Other Board Assignments – (Delegate/Alternate)

NJSBA Delegates Assembly

Mrs. Dameron

NJSBA Urban Boards

Mrs. Coley

Legislative

Mr. Hurtt

Union County Educational Services Commission

Mrs. Hernandez

Union County School Boards Association

Mr. Edache

F. Adoption of Policies

The following is moved Mrs. Campbell and seconded by Mrs. Edwards in order for board adoption:

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, all Board of Education policies presently in effect be, and are hereby, readopted.

The motion passed on a roll-call vote with eight members in favor and none were opposed.

G. Designation of Board of Education Depositories

The following is moved Mrs. Campbell and seconded by Mrs. Edwards in order for board adoption:

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, that the PNC Bank and City National Bank, be and are hereby designated the official depositories of the Board of Education's funds during the period beginning January 9, 2013 and continuing monthly until such time as RFP's results are settled.

The motion passed on a roll-call vote with eight members in favor and none were opposed.

H. Designation of Official Publications

The following is moved Mrs. Campbell and seconded by Mrs. Edwards in order for board adoption:

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, that the Courier-News, Bridgewater, New Jersey is hereby designated the official publication of the Board of Education during the period beginning January 9, 2013 and ending at the Board's next organization meeting, and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Star Ledger be designated by the Board of Education to receive official notices of board of education meetings as required by law, during the period January 9, 2013 and ending at the Board's next organization meeting.

The motion passed on a roll-call vote with eight members in favor and none were opposed.

I. Bank Account Signatures

The following is moved Mrs. Campbell and seconded by Mrs. Edwards in order for board adoption:

RESOLUTION

Wilma Campbell been elected President of the Board of Education, and Gary L. Ottmann holds the position of Board Secretary of the Board of Education, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the PNC Bank and City National Bank be requested, authorized and directed to honor all checks, drafts and other orders for the payment of money drawn in the name of the Plainfield Board of Education when bearing the true and approved facsimile signatures, as follows:

<u>Account</u>	<u>Signature/Facsimile</u>	
General Account	} Anna Belin-Pyles Gary L. Ottmann	Board President
Improvement Fund		Superintendent
Food Service Account		Board Secretary
Payroll Account		
<u>Account</u>	<u>Signature/Facsimile</u>	
Payroll Agency Account	Gary L. Ottmann	Board Secretary
	Ronald Eddy	Payroll Coordinator
Unemployment Trust Fund	Gary L. Ottmann	Board Secretary
	Ronald Eddy	Payroll Coordinator
<u>Account</u>	<u>Signature/Facsimile</u>	
Workers Compensation	Gary L. Ottmann	Board Secretary
	Ronald Eddy	Payroll Coordinator
<u>Account</u>	<u>Signature/Facsimile</u>	
PHS Interscholastic Athletic Fund	Gary L. Ottmann	Board Secretary
	Daniel Cone	Vice Principal

The motion passed on a roll-call vote with eight members in favor and none were opposed.

J. Investment of Temporarily Idle Funds

The following is moved Mrs. Campbell and seconded by Mrs. Edwards in order for board adoption:

RESOLUTION

State law permits Board funds not needed to meet immediate board obligations may be invested in interest-bearing positions in official board depositories, the New Jersey State Investment Pool, and other specified investments, and since each official Board of Education depository has submitted proof of participation in the Governmental Unit Deposit Protection Act, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the City of Plainfield designates PNC Bank and the State of New Jersey Cash Management Fund as official depositories for the Board of Education for investment purposes, and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, whenever the Board Secretary shall determine that funds in Board of Education bank accounts exceed amounts needed for immediate Board of Education obligations, he is authorized to transfer funds to investment instruments as prescribed by law to the aforementioned institutions and the New Jersey State Investment Pool, and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, this authorization shall remain in effect until the next organization meeting of the Board or until it shall be superceded by another resolution.

The motion passed on a roll-call vote with eight members in favor and none were opposed.

K. Negotiated Employee Agreements and Contracts

The Superintendent of Schools recommends, and moved by Mrs. Campbell and seconded by Mrs. Edwards, adoption of the following:

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, that the Plainfield Board of Education approves all Negotiated Employee Agreements and Contracts to remain in full force and effect.

The motion passed on a roll-call vote with eight members in favor and none were opposed.

L. 2012 – 2013 Budget

The following is moved Mrs. Campbell and seconded by Mrs. Edwards in order for board adoption:

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, that the Plainfield Board of Education authorize Anna Belin-Pyles, Superintendent and Gary L. Ottmann, School Business Administrator to implement the 2012 – 2013 budget pursuant to local and state policies.

The motion passed on a roll-call vote with eight members in favor and none were opposed.

M. 2012 – 2013 Municipal Tax Payments

The Superintendent of Schools recommends, and moved by Mrs. Campbell and seconded by Mrs. Edwards, adoption of the following:

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, that the Plainfield Board of Education adopt the payment schedule to receive the current expense tax levy and the debt service tax levy for the 2012 – 2013 school year.

July 17, 2012	1,960,000.00
August 21, 2012	1,960,000.00
September 18, 2012	1,960,000.00
October 16, 2012	1,960,000.00
November 20, 2012	1,960,000.00
December 18, 2012	1,960,000.00
January 15, 2013	1,960,000.00
February 19, 2013	1,960,000.00
March 19, 2013	1,960,000.00
April 16, 2013	1,960,000.00
May 21, 2013	1,960,000.00
June 18, 2013	<u>1,939,064.00</u>
	23,499,064.00

The motion passed on a roll-call vote with eight members in favor and none were opposed.

N. Designation of Official Publication

The Superintendent of Schools recommends, and moved by Mrs. Campbell and seconded by Mrs. Edwards, adoption of the following:

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, that the Plainfield Board of Education authorizes the Courier-News, Bridgewater, New Jersey and the Star Ledger, Newark, New Jersey be adopted as the official newspapers to be used for the advertisement of meetings and legal ads and all other necessary public notifications for the 2012 – 2013 school year.

The motion passed on a roll-call vote with eight members in favor and none were opposed.

O. Courses of Study, Textbook List and Curricula Guides

The following is moved Mrs. Campbell and seconded by Mrs. Edwards in order for board adoption:

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, all Plainfield Board of Education courses of study, textbook list and curriculum guides previously approved and in effect be, and are hereby readopted for 2012 – 2013 fiscal year.

The motion passed on a roll-call vote with eight members in favor and none were opposed.

Mrs. Campbell moved Items P – R as a Consent Agenda, seconded by Mrs. Edwards. The motion carried, on a roll-call vote; with eight members in favor and none were opposed.

P. Open Public Meetings Act

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

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, that the Plainfield Board of Education, pursuant to chapter 231, PAL (Open Public Meetings Act) does hereby proclaim the public meetings of the board of education will be held in the Plainfield High School Auditorium, 950 Park Avenue, at 8:00 p.m. as set forth below unless indicated otherwise, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the purpose of the Regular Meetings shall be the normal conduct of business of the board of education and any other items brought to the Board's attention by the Board Members, Board Attorney, Superintendent and Business Administrator/Board Secretary, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Plainfield Board of Education does hereby designate the Courier-News and Star Ledger as official newspapers to receive notices of meetings; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that notices of meetings of the Board of Education will be posted in the Plainfield Board of Education Administration Office and posted on the District website, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Plainfield Board of Education reserves the right to adjourn or recess a meeting at any time to discuss such matters that may be considered in closed session. However, the Board will first adopt a resolution stating the general nature of the subject to be discussed, and, as precisely as possible, the time and circumstances under which disclosure to the public will be made; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that in order to conduct its meetings properly and efficiently, the Board shall require the following procedures pertaining to public participation at Board Meetings:

- Any individual desiring to speak shall give his or her name, address, and the group, if any, that is represented.
- The presentation shall be as brief as possible but no more than five (5) minutes per individual.
- The Board vests in its president, or other presiding officer, authority to terminate the remarks of any individual if he/she deems it in the best interest of those present to do so.

be it,

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Plainfield Board of Education will meet on the following dates:

<u>Type of Meeting</u>	<u>* Date</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Time</u>
Policy Committee	1 st Tues.ea.mo.	PHS Conf.	6:30 p.m.
Personnel/Exec.Ses.	1 st Tues.ea.mo.	PHS Conf.	6:30 p.m.
Curric. & Instr.	1 st Tues.ea.mo.	PHS Conf.	8:00 p.m.
Finance Committee	1 st Tues.ea.mo.	PHS Conf.	8:00 p.m.
Bldgs. & Grds. Cmte	1 st Tues.ea.mo.	PHS Conf.	8:00 p.m.
BUSINESS MEETING	3rd Tues.ea.mo.	PHS Auditorium	8:00 p.m.

(EACH OF THESE MEETINGS MAY INCLUDE AN EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR DISCUSSION OF MATTERS THAT MAY BE APPROPRIATE FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION)

Q. Parliamentary Procedures

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

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, that the Plainfield Board of Education adopts the Roberts Rules of Order as the official procedure manual to be used to conduct meetings and appoint the board secretary and board attorney to act as the parliamentarians for the 2012 – 2013 school year.

R. Uniform Minimum Chart of Accounts

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

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, that the Plainfield Board of Education adopts the Uniform Minimum Chart of Accounts for New Jersey Public Schools for the 2012 – 2013 school year.

Mrs. Campbell moved Items S – Y as a Consent Agenda, seconded by Mrs. Edwards. The motion carried, on a roll-call vote; with eight members in favor and none were opposed.

S. Tax Shelter Annuity Companies

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

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, that the Plainfield Board of Education approves the following companies to provide Tax Shelter Annuity salary reduction agreements for the 2012 – 2013 school year.

AXA Equitable (AE)
Great American (AG)
Lincoln Investment (AL)
MetLife Resources (AU)

T. Combined Statement of Results 2012 – 2013

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

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, that the Plainfield Board of Education approves to have the Combined Statement of Results of the November School Election made part of the annual organization meeting minutes. (See attachment)

U. Petty Cash Fund

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

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, that the Plainfield Board of Education authorizes Gary L. Ottmann, School Business Administrator, to establish the following imprest petty cash fund accounts for the period from July 1st through June 30th during the next fiscal year in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:4-15 and 19 – 13 and Title 6 of the N.J.A.C. 6:20 – 2.10 in the amount of \$500 in accordance with Board Policy #3451.

V. Claims Auditor Pre-Payment Authority

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

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, that the Plainfield Board of Education designates the Gary L. Ottmann, School Business Administrator, as the Claims Auditor with authority, as provided by 18A:19-2 amended, to direct pre-payment of claims for Debt Service, Payroll, Fixed Charges and any other claim or demand which would be in the best interest of the Board to pay promptly.

W. Designation of Superintendent Transfer Authority

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

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, that the Plainfield Board of Education as provided by N.J.S.A. 18A:22-8.1 amended, Anna Belin-Pyles, Superintendent of Schools, be designated as Chief School Administrator to approve such line item budget transfers as are necessary between Board of Education meetings, and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that such transfers shall be reported to the Board of Education ratified and duly recorded in the minutes of such meeting not less than monthly.

X. Out-of-District Travel and Related Expense Reimbursement 2012 – 2013

The following is recommended:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Plainfield Board of Education recognizes school staff and Board Members will incur travel expenses related to and within the scope of their current responsibilities and for travel that promotes the delivery of instruction or furthers the efficient operation of the school district; and

WHEREAS, N.J.A.C. 6A:23B-1.1 et seq. requires Board Members to receive approval of these expenses by a majority of the full voting membership of the Board and staff members to receive prior approval of these expenses by the Superintendent of Schools and a majority of the full voting membership of the Board; and

WHEREAS, a Board of Education may establish, for regular district business travel only, an annual school year threshold of \$1,000.00 per staff member where prior Board approval shall not be required unless this annual threshold for a staff member is exceeded in a given school year (July 1st through June 30th); and

WHEREAS, travel and related expenses not in compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23B-1.1 et seq., but deemed by the Board of Education to be necessary and unavoidable as noted on the approved Board of Education Out-of-District Travel and Reimbursement Forms; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Plainfield Board of Education approves all travel not in compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23B-1.1 et seq. as being necessary and unavoidable as noted on the approved Board of Education Out-of-District Travel and Reimbursement Forms; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board of Education approves travel and related expense reimbursement in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23B-1.2(b), to a maximum expenditure of \$99,421.00 for all staff and board members.

Y. Appointment of Representatives Requesting Federal and State Funds

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

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, that Anna Belin-Pyles, Superintendent of Schools and Gary L. Ottmann, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary for the Plainfield Board of Education or their designees, be designated as the Board's agents to request state and federal funds under the existing State and Federal Laws for the period from the date of this Organization Meeting to the Board Organization Meeting in the next calendar year.

Z. Code of Ethics

The following is moved Mrs. Campbell and seconded by Mrs. Edwards in order for board adoption:

RESOLUTION

The Plainfield Board of Education members had the required Board of Ethics Training session as required under N.J.A.C. 6:3-1.3 and N.J.A.C. 6A:30

RESOLVED, that the New Jersey School Boards Association "Code of Ethics" shall be considered the official Code of Ethics of the Plainfield Board of Education:

A. I will uphold and enforce all laws, state board rules and regulations, and court orders pertaining to schools. Desired changes should be brought about only through legal and ethical procedures.

B. I will make decisions in terms of the educational welfare of children and will seek to develop and maintain public schools which meet the individual needs of all children regardless of their ability, race, creed, sex or social standing.

C. I will confine my board action to policymaking, planning and appraisal and I will help to frame policies and plans only after the board has consulted those who will be affected by them.

D. I will behave toward my fellow board members with the respect due their office--demonstrating courtesy, decorum and fair play at all public meetings and in all public statements.

E. I will refrain from inappropriate conduct in public meetings and in making public statements, refraining from any disparagement of my fellow board members or others on a personal, social, racial or religious basis.

F. I will carry out my responsibility, not to administer the schools, but, together with my fellow board members, to see that they are well run.

G. I will recognize that authority rests with the Board of Education and will make no personal promises nor take any private action which may compromise the board.

H. I will refuse to surrender my independent judgment to special interest or partisan political groups or to use the schools for personal gain or for the gain of friends.

I. I will hold confidential all matters pertaining to the schools which, if disclosed, would needlessly injure individuals or the schools. But in all other matters, I will provide accurate information and, in concert with my fellow board members, interpret to the staff the aspirations of the community for its schools.

J. I will vote to appoint the best qualified personnel available after consideration of the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator.

K. I will support and protect school personnel in proper performance of their duties.

L. I will refer all complaints to the Chief School Administrator and will act on such complaints at public meetings only after failure of an administrative solution.

Recorded by:

Gary L. Ottmann, Board Secretary
GLO/bsc