

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, July 19, 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 6:50 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, July 7, 2011 for advertisement on Saturday, July 9, 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. @ 6:55 p.m.
Mrs. Keisha Edwards
Mrs. Brenda Gilbert
Mr. Dorien Hurtt, arr. @ 7:10 p.m.
Ms. Jameelah Surgeon

ALSO PRESENT

Ms. Caryn Cooper
Mr. Gary L. Ottmann
Mr. Robert Pickett, Esq.
Mr. Charles Craig, Esq.

Mrs. Lisa C. Logan-Leach, absent

The following resolution was moved by Mrs. Edwards, 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 6:51 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 a resolution related to tenure reform; she would like the Board to consider its adoption.

The Board would like to revisit Senate Bill 1940 and tenure reform at a future meeting.

VI. REMARKS FROM THE INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT

Ms. Cooper indicated that we have to identify how the District plans to allot the \$22 million in additional state aid. There are a number of facility upgrades planned as well as staff increases. PHS should be a "flagship school".

It appeared that approximately 60% of FY11/12 extra monies would go toward facility/technology upgrades and 40% for staff.

Mrs. Campbell expressed concern that there will be no funds available to support salaries after the two (2) year funding window expires.

Mrs. Hernandez is concerned that the Robotics Team has what they need in order to effectively be able to compete as well as renovations to PHS auditorium.

Mrs. Campbell was in favor of a nursing program, culinary arts and vocational training.

Mrs. Gilbert supports trailers at Cook School.

Mrs. Hernandez thinks it's important to survey students for their wants and needs.

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

Mrs. Edwards expressed concern about technology for administrators vs. technology for students.

Mrs. Campbell asked the Board to revisit the filling of the Treasurer of School Monies position. She feels that it is important to have an extra "set of eyes" to review board transactions.

VII. REMARKS OF COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Mrs. Campbell has been advocating for a marked improvement in food service and she has seen Sodexo make those improvements.

Ms. Cooper indicated that we will have a showing of "Waiting for Superman" next month. She has a concern about the negative twist on public schools.

Mrs. Campbell moved, seconded by Mr. Hurtt and unanimously approved by the Board, to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 p.m.

Recorded by:

Gary L. Ottmann, Board Secretary
GLO/bsc