

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

MINUTES of a **BOARD RETREAT**
Saturday, March 22, 2014

A **BOARD RETREAT** 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 and the district's website. The meeting was called to order at 9:41 a.m. and the following action took place:

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

II. WELCOME

III. ROLL CALL

PRESENT

Mrs. Wilma G. Campbell, President
Mrs. Keisha Edwards, Vice President, arr. @ 9:50 a.m.
Mrs. Deborah Clarke
Mrs. Jackie Coley
Mr. Alex Edache
Mrs. Mahogany Hall, arr. @ 9:50 a.m.
Mr. Frederick D. Moore, Sr.

ALSO PRESENT

Mrs. Anna Belin-Pyles, Superintendent
Ms. Yolanda Henry
Mr. Charles Craig, Esq.

Mr. Dorien Hurtt, absent
Ms. Jameelah Surgeon, absent

Mrs. Campbell welcomed the audience (Administrators, Principals, and Content Area Supervisors, etc.) to the Board Retreat. She was looking forward to an engaging and interesting retreat.

Mrs. Belin-Pyles welcomed all and introduced the Guest Speaker, Dr. Copeland. He comes with a wealth of educational experience(s) and knowledge (from being a teacher – superintendent, etc.).

Dr. Copeland opened with an exercise of Plainfield's Mission Statement, Needs, and Strengths. He divided the participants into groups and each group was given approximately five (5) minutes to comment on each topic. He highlighted last years' goals and inquired if last year's goals were still relevant.

Dr. Jean Gordon gave a presentation on the PARCC's initiative that the State is mandating. She explained in depth what it was all about and how it impacts the District.

Mrs. Yvonne Breauxsaus was able to wrap it up with showing the Board a demonstration of the PARCC's Test from the State's website. She walked the Board through the process and explained and navigated through several screens to show them what the kids will be exposed to during the testing periods. She mentioned that the District this week would be testing /accessing and exposing the program to the students. We want the kids to be ready for the PARCC's for next year.

It was suggested that we continue to explore grant opportunities to help fund PARCC's initiative which involve increasing and maintaining width band, accessing, inventory, purchasing of computers, keyboards, etc.

The next topic of discussion was Test Data. Mrs. Breauxsaus explained Test Data to the Board, which can be very confusing; however, she simplified the information and indicated that the District is moving forward and making gains and strides.

Mr. Eugene Campbell spoke on security. Mr. Campbell highlighted with a presentation to the Board the various incidents that have been occurring all over the United States in our schools. He then briefly laid out some action items, some in progress and some on the horizon as it relates to improving the security and safety in our schools. Some items were increased training for staff, more equipment, Detection Systems, Single point of entry, etc.

Dr. Copeland re-listed the following Goals:

- Student Achievement
- Professional Development
- Curriculum
- Communication
- Safety & Security

The discussion continued with the breakdown of the needs areas i.e. commenting and raising questions on Stem/Vocational Rigor, Consistency across District, Parent/Community Involvement, Professional Development (2 types of Training), Technology, Accountability, Better Communication, Content Areas, Branding/ Marketing (getting the Good news out), Revenue, Equity with Instructions just to name a few.

The Retreat adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

Recorded by,

Yolanda Henry, Interim Board Secretary
YH/bsc