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

MINUTES of a **BUSINESS** Meeting of the Board of
Education Held on Tuesday, March 23, 2010

A **BUSINESS** Meeting of the Board of Education of the City of Plainfield was held this day in the Plainfield Board of Education Administration Building, auditorium. 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 7:10 p.m. by Mr. Gary L. Ottmann, Board Secretary, and the following action took place:

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

II. WELCOME

WELCOME to a 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, February 25, 2010 for advertisement on Saturday, February 27, 2010.

III. ROLL CALL

PRESENT

Ms. Patricia I. Barksdale
Mrs. Wilma G. Campbell
Mr. Christian Estevez
Mrs. Brenda L. Gilbert
Mrs. Lisa C. Logan-Leach
Ms. Katherine Peterson

ALSO PRESENT

Dr. Steve Gallon III, Superintendent
Mr. Gary L. Ottmann
Mr. Terry Ridley, Esq.

Mr. Agurs Linward Cathcart, Jr., absent
Ms. Sandra L. Chambers, absent
Mr. Martin Cox, absent

IV. REMARKS FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

Ms. Barksdale indicated that Mr. Cathcart is absent from tonight's meeting.

V. REMARKS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Gallon indicated that Mr. Ottmann is making a budget presentation tonight. He also reviewed the letter from Governor Christie and Commissioner Schundler.

VI. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

NONE.

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VII. REMARKS FROM COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

NONE.

VIII. REPORT OF DELEGATES/LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Ms. Barksdale recently attended a legislative session sponsored by NJSBA and stated that it is not only Plainfield that is suffering from budget cuts.

Mrs. Logan-Leach moved, seconded by Ms. Peterson to offer a second privilege of the floor after budget presentation with five members in favor and Mrs. Gilbert opposed.

Rasheed Abdul-Haqq inquired if funds came back to the district from the charter school that closed.

Danielle Fletcher inquired if raises in the presentation were for both PEA & PASA.

Leola Bellazin questioned if funds left over from the closing of the Pressman School can be used to balance the budget next year.

Katherine Cardona indicated that PEA has great concerns and we're working with a skeleton crew already.

Maria Pellum questioned enrollment numbers for FY11.

Renata Hernandez wanted to know who the Chief School Administrator has reached out to in the community to discuss budget cuts.

Ms. Barksdale stated that the budget issues should not be anyone's political agenda. The issues are statewide and everyone should come together as a community.

Mrs. Campbell had a number of questions about the budget, especially about "breakage" and what the savings might be.

Mrs. Logan-Leach inquired if we knew the number of PEA & PASA staff that will be reduced. She stated she was not happy with the budget process that has been used this year.

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IX. REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

A. Adoption of Preliminary Budget for the 2010-2011 School Year

The Superintendent of Schools recommends, moved by Ms. Barksdale and seconded by Ms. Peterson for the adoption of the following:

RESOLUTION

The Superintendent of Schools has developed a tentative financial plan for implementing the policies and programs of the Plainfield Public Schools for the 2010-2011 school year, in which, policies, programs and financial plans have all been developed in compliance with Board of Education priorities, goals and objectives, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Plainfield Board of Education adopts the attached preliminary budget submission as follows:

| | <u>Budget</u> | <u>Local Tax Levy</u> |
|----------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| Total General Fund | \$129,007,892 | \$21,848,818 |
| Total Special Revenue Fund | 22,860,071 | N/A |
| Total Debt Service Fund | <u>2,369,412</u> | <u>1,285,300</u> |
| Totals | \$154,237,375 | \$23,134,118 |

The resolution passed, on a roll-call vote, with Ms. Barksdale, Mr. Estevez, Mrs. Gilbert and Ms. Peterson in favor and Mrs. Campbell and Mrs. Logan-Leach opposed.

Ms. Barksdale moved, seconded by Mr. Estevez and unanimously approved by the Board, to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

Recorded by:

Gary L. Ottmann, Board Secretary
GLO/bsc