

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, March 29, 2011

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 6:41 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 February 24, 2011 for advertisement on Saturday, February 26, 2011.

**III. ROLL CALL**

PRESENT

Mrs. Lisa C. Logan-Leach, President  
Mr. Rasheed Abdul-Haqq, Vice President  
Mrs. Wilma G. Campbell  
Mr. Agurs Linward Cathcart, Jr.  
Mrs. Keisha Edwards  
Mrs. Brenda L. Gilbert  
Mrs. Renata Hernandez, arr. @ 6:55 p.m.  
Ms. Katherine Peterson

ALSO PRESENT

Mrs. Anna Belin-Pyles, Interim Superintendent  
Mr. Gary L. Ottmann  
Mr. Robert Pickett, Esq., arr. @ 6:50 p.m.  
Mr. Charles Craig, Esq.

Ms. Patricia Barksdale, absent

The following resolution was moved by Mrs. Campbell 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.

**The Board of Education adjourned into its Executive Session at 6:40 p.m.**

The Plainfield Board of Education resumed the public session of its Business Meeting at 7:55 p.m.

#### IV. REMARKS FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

Mrs. Logan-Leach advised that last year we dedicated the Joe Black Field at Hub Stine. Originally, there was going to be a more formal dedication for April 2, 2011. However, that date is going to now be delayed.

Tomorrow at PHS is the Nutrition Fair being sponsored by Sodexo at 5:00 p.m.

The First Annual Multicultural Festival is scheduled for April 15, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. at 1200 Myrtle Avenue.

Yesterday, George Lattimore gave Mrs. Logan-Leach a flyer stating Rev. Ball is celebrating 40 years as a pastor and there is a special dinner planned for April 8, 2011.

The Board held a moment of silence for former board member Gil Gladden as well as Police Officer Ronald Lattimore.

#### V. REMARKS FROM THE INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT/BUDGET DISCUSSION

The Third Annual Teacher/Support Staff Recognition is scheduled for April 8, 2011.

Mrs. Gilbert wants the Board to look at insurance as another way to possibly save money.

Mr. Ottmann emphasized that the budget can be defeated but that the tax levy cannot be reduced.

Mrs. Hernandez suggested looking at the possibility of shared services with the City in terms of purchasing.

Mrs. Belin-Pyles indicated that she has had a conversation with both bargaining units in an attempt to retain existing staff.

#### VI. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Mustafa Muhammad is very pleased to see Mrs. Belin-Pyles as Interim Superintendent. He gave an update about the recent presentation he gave at PHS.

Sister Muhammad indicated that they have recently relocated back to Plainfield and are considering putting their daughter back in Plainfield schools.

Maria Pellum has concerns if religious events are being held at PHS.

Brian Bilal clarified that the 10<sup>th</sup> grade class had a class meeting (decision making assembly). There were also Christians as well as Muslims present. Any student can "opt out" of assemblies.

VII. REMARKS FROM THE COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Mrs. Hernandez asked counsel if any law was broken by separating girls and boys. Mr. Pickett indicated that it depends on the reason for the separation.

Mr. Pickett indicated that there was no violation at this assembly.

Mr. Abdul-Haqq thought it was a wonderful assembly and he has been attending events for 20 years at PHS.

Ms. Gilbert said that Plainfield is not unique; we are in the same shape as most other districts; No money. You know we have to make difficult decisions but they have to be made. We are being responsible and the community must be responsible as well.

Mrs. Hernandez reported that a Youth Summit is scheduled for April 29 – 30, 2011 and it should be a wonderful opportunity for youth to come together.

VIII. RECOGNITION

The following is in order for Board adoption is moved by Mr. Cathcart and seconded by Mrs. Campbell:

**RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS**, Gil Gladden was first elected to the Board of Education in 1988 and served a three year term, and

**WHEREAS**, Gil Gladden also served in the capacity of Vice President from 1989 to 1990, and

**WHEREAS**, Gil Gladden provided additional services to the Board of Education as Chairperson of the Policy Committee as well as serving on the Finance/Budget, Curriculum and Instruction Committees, and,

**WHEREAS**, during his tenure on the Board, Mr. Gladden represented the Board with distinction serving as the Board's alternate to the Union County School Boards Association, now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Plainfield Board of Education takes this opportunity to publicly acknowledge the many contributions of Gil Gladden to the City of Plainfield as a past Vice President and member of the Board of Education and is saddened by his recent passing and is offering condolences to his family, and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, a copy of this resolution be spread upon the minutes of this board meeting as further recognition of his dedication, commitment and service.

The resolution passed with eight members in favor and none opposed.

**IX. REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**Mrs. Edwards 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 and none were opposed.**

**A. Adoption of the Budget for the 2011-2012 School Year**

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

**RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS**, the Plainfield Board of Education is required to certify a local tax levy for the support of the public schools, and

**WHEREAS**, a local tax levy will be the subject of the April 27, 2011 Annual School Board Election where citizens will be asked to vote on the tax levy for general funds, and

**WHEREAS**, the Plainfield Board of Education took action at its March 1, 2011 Business Meeting to adopt a budget for the purpose of advertising, now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Plainfield Board of Education adopts the budget to be presented at the March 29, 2011 Business Meeting and certify the amount of \$22,285,795.00 as the general fund Local Tax Levy.

**B. Approval of Lease**

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

**RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS**, the Plainfield Board of Education wishes to maximize revenues for the upcoming fiscal year, and

**WHEREAS**, the former Lincoln School at 209 Berckman Street is currently vacant and available for lease, and

**WHEREAS**, the Obama Green Charter School is desirous of moving to a larger facility, now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, the Plainfield Board of Education approves a lease with the Obama Green Charter School for the period of May 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012 for a total rent of \$122,000.00.

**C. Approval of Architect Engineer**

**Strategic Plan Link:  
Goal 3: Business Practices**

**To improve the overall efficiency and effectiveness of business operations.**

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

**RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS**, Plainfield High School currently has its original domestic hot water system which is over 40 years old and is in need of replacement. In order to complete this \$350,000.00 project during the summer of 2011, the following architectural engineering services are necessary:

- NJDOE Schematic Approval Phase
- Construction Document Phase
- Bidding and Negotiation Phase
- Construction Administration Phase

**WHEREAS**, Johnson Jones Architects of Princeton, NJ has the experience and expertise to provide such services, now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Plainfield Board of Education approves the appointment of Johnson Jones Architects to manage the Plainfield High School domestic hot water replacement project for a fee of 10% of the actual construction cost. The availability of funds for this item has been verified and will be charged to 11-000-262000-300A-31-0000.

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

Recorded by:

Gary L. Ottmann, Board Secretary  
GLO/bsc