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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 30, 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 7:00 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

Mr. Martin P. Cox, Vice President  
Ms. Patricia I. Barksdale  
Ms. Sandra L. Chambers  
Mrs. Wilma G. Campbell, arr. 7:15pm  
Mr. Christian Estevez  
Mrs. Brenda L. Gilbert  
Ms. Katherine Peterson  
Mrs. Lisa C. Logan-Leach

Mr. Agurs Linward Cathcart, Jr., absent

ALSO PRESENT

Dr. Steve Gallon III, Superintendent  
Mr. Gary L. Ottmann  
Mr. Raymond Hamlin, Esq.

The following resolution was moved by Ms. Peterson, seconded by Ms. Barksdale, 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 7:05 p.m.**

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Business Meeting

March 30, 2010

The Plainfield Board of Education resumed the public session of its Business Meeting at 7:20 p.m.

#### IV. REMARKS FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

Mr. Cox indicated that Mr. Cathcart is not here and wished everyone a safe recess.

#### V. REMARKS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Gallon thanked everyone for attending tonight. He reviewed the status of the district budget. He also indicated that our budget was approved by the Executive County Superintendent last Friday.

Mr. Ottmann gave an overview of the FY11 budget.

Mr. Cox indicated that the Board is required to adopt a budget no later than 4/1/10. As in the past, the Board may make changes to the budget in the future.

#### VI. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Sheryl Gleim, Barlow Teacher, spoke about her impending termination from the District.

Mrs. Logan-Leach moved, seconded by Mrs. Campbell and unanimously approved by the Board to extend the Privilege of the Floor for Sheryl Gleim.

Annette Forna, Barlow student, spoke in support of Ms. Gleim.

Roz Valherburg, had a question if our presentation reflected additional state aid as a result of a wage freeze.

Andrew Benjamin spoke in support of Ms. Gleim's employment.

Doug Meyer, Barlow teacher, requested the Board to reconsider Ms. Gleim's recommended termination.

A large number of Barlow students spoke about the great qualities of Ms. Gleim.

Rasheed Abdul Haqq inquired who will take Ms. Gleim's class. He wanted to know what the budget cuts will impact.

Maria Pellum had several questions related to the budget presentation.

Carmencita Pyle questioned if any evaluations have been done to see which staff should be retained.

Katherine Cardona is very touched and proud of the Barlow students who came before the Board to speak on Ms. Gleim's behalf. She is hopeful that the Board will look closely at the budget and hopefully find resources that would permit Ms. Gleim's rehiring.

Renata Hernandez questioned the per pupil cost that was reported. She also questioned if Ms. Kemp is still employed in the District.

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Keisha Edwards thought Barlow students did a great job tonight verbalizing their support for Ms. Gleim. She also questioned Ms. Kemp's employment status.

Mr. Breauxsaus indicated he is proud of the Barlow students who spoke tonight. He questioned the rationale on changing the grade configuration at Obama.

Linda Reed spoke in support of retaining Ms. Gleim.

Mr. Estevez moved, seconded by Ms. Barksdale and unanimously approved by the Board, to go into executive session to discuss personnel at 9:35p.m.

Mr. Estevez moved, seconded by Ms. Barksdale and unanimously approved by the Board, to return to the public session at 9:50p.m.

Dr. Gallon indicated to the audience that he was withdrawing the recommendation to terminate Ms. Gleim.

Dr. Gallon clarified for the record to the public why the District is hiring a teacher on tonight's agenda.

VII. REMARKS FROM COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

NONE.

VIII. REPORT OF DELEGATES/LEGISLATIVE REPORT

NONE.

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Business Meeting

March 30, 2010

**IX. REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE**

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

The Superintendent of Schools recommends, and moved by Ms. Barksdale and seconded by Mr. Cox 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 20, 2010 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 23, 2010 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 30, 2010 Business Meeting and certify the amount of \$21,848,819 as the general fund Local Tax Levy.

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

**B. BOAACD Grade Configuration Change**

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

**RESOLUTION**

The Plainfield Public Schools has developed and implemented an educational program for at-risk students in grades 9-12. The Barrack Obama Academy for Academic & Civic Development is currently serving students in a small, student-centered learning environment. In order to better meet the districtwide needs of students, a need has been determined to provide for such an environment for students in grades 7-8. As a result, an application was made and submitted to the New Jersey Department of Education to modify the grade configuration of the Barrack Obama Academy for Academic & Civic Development to serve grades 7-12.

**RESOLVED**, that the Plainfield Board of Education approves the grade configuration change of the Barack Obama Academy for Academic & Civic Development to serve students in grades 7-12, as reflected in the application submitted to the New Jersey Department of Education.

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

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**X. REPORT OF THE HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

**A. Contractual Appointment**

**Strategic Plan Link:**

**Goal 2: Human Resources**

**To improve the recruitment, retention, and development of district staff.**

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

**RESOLUTION**

The Plainfield Board of Education recognizes that a highly qualified, competent, skilled and dedicated workforce is essential in the success of the District and students. Therefore, it has provided the Superintendent of Schools the authority to employ non-administrative and administrative staff members between the Business meeting of the Board of Education and next succeeding meeting of the Human Resource Committee.

The individuals listed have been verified by the Superintendent of Schools as qualified pursuant to the NJ Administrative Code, Statute 6A:9-1.1, which "sets forth the rules governing preparation, licensure, and professional development of those educators required by their positions to be certified". The Superintendent, in this item has used his authority.

**RESOLVED**, that the Plainfield Board of Education approves the employment of the following individual subject to the requirements contained in Ch. 116,P.L. 1986 and upon verification of experience.

<u>Name/ Certification</u>	<u>Effective</u>	<u>Salary Pro-rated</u>	<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Replacing</u>	<u>Position Codes</u>
Aaron Richard Elementary Teacher	04/12/10 – 06/30/10	\$45,812	Jefferson	K. Ramsey	PEAT-227

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

**~~B. Termination of Staff Member~~ PULLED**

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

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, that the Plainfield Board of Education approves in compliance with NJ Statute Title 18A the termination of a non-tenured/certificated employee, whose name and reason is on file with the Board Secretary.

**(A roll-call and an affirmative vote of 5 board members are required for passage.)**

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## XI. REPORT OF THE CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION

### A. PAAAS Lincoln Center

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

#### RESOLUTION

##### Strategic Plan Link:

##### Goal 1: Learning Outcomes

##### **To improve the academic performance of all students in PPS.**

The Plainfield Board of Education is committed to ensuring that all students succeed academically and reach their full potential in life. In doing so, it is committed to providing opportunities for and ensuring that all students (inclusive of English Language Learners and Special Education Students) meet the New Jersey core curriculum Content Standard and achieve academic and life-long success.

Thirty (30) students in grades 7 – 12 enrolled in Instrumental Music programs at the Plainfield Academy for the Arts and Advanced Studies (PAAAS) and Plainfield High School (PHS) and three (3) chaperones will attend the Jazz at Lincoln Center, New York, NY on April 20, 2010.

Departure is scheduled for 8:00 a.m. on April 20, 2010 with an approximate return time of 1:00 p.m.

**RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education approves thirty (30) students grade 7 – 12 and three (3) chaperones to attend Jazz at Lincoln Center in New York City. There is no cost to the district for admission. Transportation will be provided by the district on April 20, 2010.

The resolution passed on a roll-call vote, with all members in favor and none opposed.

Mr. Cathcart moved, seconded by Mr. Cox and unanimously approved by the Board, to adjourn the meeting at 10:15 p.m.

Recorded by;

Gary L. Ottmann, Board Secretary  
GLO/bsc