

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

MINUTES of a **SPECIAL 2009-2010 BUDGET HEARING BUSINESS** Meeting of the Board of  
Education Held on Tuesday, March 31, 2009

A **SPECIAL 2009-2010 BUDGET HEARING 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 7:25 p.m. by Mr. Gary L. Ottmann, and the following action took place:

**I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**II. WELCOME**

WELCOME to a Special 2009-2010 Budget Hearing 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, March 19, 2009 for advertisement on Saturday, March 28, 2009.

**III. ROLL CALL**

PRESENT

Mr. Martin P. Cox, Vice President  
Mr. Rasheed Abdul-Haqq  
Ms. Patricia I. Barksdale  
Mr. Christian Estevez  
Mr. Agurs Linward Cathcart, Jr.  
Mrs. Logan-Leach  
Mr. Joseph M. Ruffin, Sr.

ALSO PRESENT

Dr. Steve Gallon III, Superintendent  
Mr. Gary L. Ottmann

Mrs. Wilma G. Campbell      absent  
Ms. Bridget Rivers            absent

**IV. REMARKS FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT**

(Board President was out of town.)

**V. REMARKS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT**

Dr. Gallon introduced Gary L. Ottmann who gave a detailed presentation on the proposed 2009-2010 Budget.

Dr. Gallon emphasized that the District is not implementing a "reduction in force."

The budget reconciliation, which was conducted over the past months, is the fulcrum of the proposed budget.

Dr. Gallon also indicated that we have not received any definitive numbers as part of the Federal stimulus package. He also cautioned that funds must supplement not supplant.

Dr. Gallon's comprehensive plan is to review what supplies, materials and textbooks are needed in the schools.

## **VI. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR**

Renata Hernandez had a suggestion for presenting the budget to the public.

Maria Pellum inquired if textbooks are going to be purchased centrally.

Katherine Cardona has a concern about health services and how it will affect her members. There is clearly a problem with the delivery of textbooks to students.

## **VII. REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**Mr. Cox moved Finance as a Consent Agenda, seconded by Ms. Barksdale. The motion carried, on a roll-call vote with five members in favor of all, none opposed, and Mr. Abdul-Haqq and Ms. Barksdale abstained on letter B.**

### **A. Adoption of the Budget for the 2009-2010 School Year**

The 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 21, 2009 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 17, 2009 Business Meeting to adopt a budget for the purpose of advertising, now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Plainfield Board of Education adopt the budget to be presented at the March 31, 2009 Business Meeting and certify the amount of \$19,862,563 as the general fund local tax levy.

### **B. Mandatory Board Member Training**

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

#### **RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, that the Plainfield Board of Education approve Rasheed Abdul-Haqq and Patricia Barksdale to attend the Mandatory Board Member Training, for Governance II: Finance to be completed by April 9, 2009 at a cost of \$37.00 each. This web-based mandated training will provide an opportunity for training under the School District Accountability Act. The account charged is 11-000-230000-580A-01-0000.

**C. Submission for Schematic and Final Educational Review of Modular Classroom Relocation**

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

**To Provide the overall efficiency and effectiveness of district and school operations.**

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

**RESOLUTION**

The Plainfield Board of Education previously adopted a revised long range facilities plan which called for a redistribution of grade 6 – 8 students to neighborhood schools.

Cedarbrook School is now a K – 8 elementary school and is in need of additional classroom space to accommodate its increased enrollment. Maxson School has excess classroom space as a result of students opting to stay in their neighborhood schools.

RESOLVED, the Plainfield Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to submit plans to the New Jersey Department of Education which call for the relocation of eight modular classrooms from the Maxson Middle School to the Cedarbrook Elementary School for schematic approval and final educational review and approval.

Ms. Barksdale moved, seconded by Mrs. Logan-Leach and unanimously approved by the Board, to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

Recorded by:

Gary L. Ottmann, Board Secretary

GLO/rpm