

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

MINUTES of a **WORK & STUDY** Meeting of the Board of
Education Held on Tuesday, March 4, 2014

A **WORK & STUDY** 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 on the Plainfield Public Schools' website. Ms. Yolanda Henry, Interim Board Secretary called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m. and the following action took place:

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

II. WELCOME

WELCOME to a Work & Study 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 Wednesday, February 26, 2014 for advertisement on Saturday, March 1, 2014.

III. ROLL CALL

PRESENT

Mrs. Wilma G. Campbell, President
Mrs. Keisha Edwards, Vice President
Mrs. Deborah Clarke
Mrs. Jackie Coley
Mr. Alex O. Edache
Mrs. Mahogany Hall, arr. @ 7:02 p.m.
Mr. Dorien Hurtt
Mr. Frederick D. Moore, Sr.
Ms. Jameelah Surgeon, arr. @ 6:50 p.m.

ALSO PRESENT

Mrs. Anna Belin-Pyles, Superintendent
Ms. Yolanda Henry
Mr. Robert Pickett, Esq.

The following resolution was moved by Mrs. Campbell seconded by Mr. Moore, 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 6:42 p.m.

The Plainfield Board of Education resumed the public session of its Work & Study meeting at 8:14 p.m.

IV. REMARKS FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

Mrs. Campbell announced that the Board retreat is scheduled for March 22nd, based on the consensus of the Board.

V. REMARKS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. Gary Ottmann in conjunction with the Mrs. Belin-Pyles presented the proposed 2014-2015 school budget. The presentation highlighted various key areas of growth, concerns, facts and initiatives that the District plans to implement. Mr. Ottmann highlighted and confirmed that the SDA will be covering both the Cook & Woodland projects opposed to what was written in the newspaper a couple of weeks earlier.

Also, Mrs. Belin-Pyles informed the Board that in order for the District to start on the Hub Stine Project, that the Board would need to approve the withdrawing of funds from the reserve account, if not, then the Board would have to wait another year before they could do anything with the Hub Stine Project.

VI. REMARKS FROM COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

The Curriculum & Instruction was moved to the business agenda.

Mr. Moore and Mr. Ottmann gave a brief overview of the proposed generator(s) study that would be installed at PHS, Emerson, Washington and the Board Office. The Board wanted to know if the City of Plainfield would share in the cost. In addition, they stressed that we need to diligently look for other resources to subsidize this project/initiatives i.e. grants, FEMA, etc. The Finance agenda was moved to the business agenda

VII. REMARKS FROM THE POLICY COMMITTEE

NONE.

VIII. REPORT OF THE HUMAN RESOURCES

C.C3 Administrative Appointments

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 Mrs. Campbell adoption of the following:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Plainfield Board of Education recognizes that a highly qualified, competent, skilled, and dedicated workforce is essential to the success of the District and the students.

RESOLVED, that the Plainfield Board of Education approves the appointment of Craig Smith as Board Secretary part/time effective March 19, 2014 at a prorated salary of \$40,000.00.

The motion failed on a roll-call vote with Mrs. Campbell, Mrs. Coley, Mr. Edache and Mrs. Edwards in favor. Mrs. Clarke, Mrs. Hall, Mr. Hurtt, Mr. Moore and Ms. Surgeon were opposed.

IX. REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

K. Submission of DOE Specification

Strategic Plan Link:
Goal 3: Business Practices

To improve the overall efficiency and effectiveness of business operations.

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

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Plainfield Board of Education has previously authorized certain capital projects, and

WHEREAS, the District, pursuant to the Education Facilities Construction and Financing Act, P.L. 2000 and the New Jersey Department of Education implementing regulations N.J.A.C. 6A:26-1 et seq is requesting that the following projects be reviewed as an "other capital project" and

WHEREAS, if the facility is to house students it is therefore subject to the educational adequacy requirements set forth in N.J.A.C. 6A:26-5, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, the Plainfield Board of Education authorizes the submission to the NJDOE the following projects:

1. Cook school roof partial replacement

The motion carried on a roll-call vote with Mrs. Campbell, Mrs. Clarke, Mrs. Coley, Mr. Edache, Mrs. Edwards, Mrs. Hall, Mr. Hurtt, Mr. Moore and Ms. Surgeon in favor and none were opposed.

L. Appointment of Board Attorney – General Counsel

The following is recommended for adoption moved by Mrs. Campbell and seconded by Mrs. Edwards:

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, that the Plainfield Board of Education approves the professional services agreement with DiFrancesco as general counsel for the 2013- 2014 fiscal year.

The motion failed on a roll-call vote with Mrs. Campbell, Mrs. Coley and Mrs. Edwards, in favor and Mrs. Clarke, Mr. Edache and Mrs. Hall abstained. Mr. Hurtt, Mr. Moore and Ms. Surgeon opposed.

Ms. Surgeon moved and seconded by Mr. Hurtt and unanimously approved by the Board to adjourn the meeting at 9:16 p.m.

Ms. Surgeon moved and seconded by Mr. Hurtt and unanimously approved by the Board to return to executive session at 9:20 p.m.

Ms. Surgeon moved and seconded by Mr. Moore and unanimously approved by the Board to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 p.m.

Recorded by:

Yolanda Henry, Interim Board Secretary
YH/bsc