

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 Monday, May 23, 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 6:20 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 Wednesday, May 18, 2011 for advertisement on Friday, May 20, 2011.

**III. ROLL CALL**

PRESENT

Mrs. Renata A. Hernandez, President  
Mrs. Wilma G. Campbell, Vice President  
Mr. Rasheed Abdul-Haqq  
Mr. Alex O. Edache, left @ 10:20 p.m.  
Mr. Dorien Hurtt  
Mrs. Brenda Gilbert  
Mrs. Lisa C. Logan-Leach, arr. @ 6:50 p.m., left @ 8:40 p.m.  
Ms. Jameelah Surgeon

ALSO PRESENT

Mrs. Anna Belin-Pyles, Interim Superintendent  
Ms. Caryn Cooper, arr. @ 8:00 p.m.  
Mr. Gary L. Ottmann  
Mr. Robert Pickett, Esq.  
Mr. Charles Craig, Esq., arr. @ 7:45 p.m.  
Mr. Gaylan Medley, Esq.

Ms. Patricia I. Barksdale, absent

The following resolution was moved by Mrs. Gilbert seconded by Mr. Abdul-Haqq, 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 6:25 p.m.**

The Plainfield Board of Education resumed the public session of its Business Meeting at 8:05 p.m.

The Board reviewed agenda items.

Mrs. Belin-Pyles gave an overview of the changes to the proposed restructuring plans for the middle schools.

Mrs. Campbell had hoped for significant changes that would show how the new plan will be different from what has been done before. Mrs. Belin-Pyles said there will be new and additional monitoring from the Central Office.

Ms. Surgeon was concerned that this is the second time that information that was supposed to be provided in the Friday packet and was not.

Mrs. Logan-Leach wondered about her previous suggestions to collapse Maxson and Hubbard Schools. She is still perplexed because the restructuring will not resolve the District's problems at the elementary schools.

Ms. Cooper explained that smaller learning communities will have rigid monitoring and oversight at the restructured schools.

Mrs. Gilbert moved, seconded by Mrs. Campbell and unanimously approved by the Board, to return the executive session at 8:40 p.m.

Mrs. Gilbert moved, and seconded by Mr. Abdul-Haqq and unanimously approved by the Board to return to the public session of the meeting at 11:39 p.m.

**VI. REPORT OF THE CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION COMMITTEE**

**Mr. Edache moved C&I as a Consent Agenda, seconded by Mrs. Campbell. The motion carried, on a roll-call vote, with five members in favor and Mr. Hurtt, Mrs. Logan-Leach and Ms. Surgeon opposed.**

**A. FY 2012 Hubbard Middle School Restructuring Plan**

**Strategic Plan Link:**

**Goal 1: Learning Outcomes**

**To improve the learning and academic performance of all students in PPS**

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

**RESOLUTION**

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 also committed to providing opportunities for an insuring that all students (inclusive of English Language Learners and Special education Students) meet the New Jersey Core Curriculum content Standards and achieve academic and life-long success.

Hubbard Middle School, a Title I school in Year 8 of school improvement, will implement a new restructuring plan in the 2011-2012 school year, per New Jersey Department of Education requirements.

The District Restructuring Committee for Hubbard Middle School has selected Option 1 (Implementation of any major restructuring of the school's governance), with input from all stakeholder groups. New governance strategies will support best instructional practices, professional development, smaller learning communities, targeted assistance for students and extended learning opportunities for all students, and redistribution of administrative responsibilities that affect school operations, including administrative support for the principal.

**RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education authorizes the Interim Superintendent of Schools to submit the FY 2012 Hubbard Middle School Restructuring Plan to increase student achievement and help Hubbard make AYP.

**B. FY 2012 Maxson Middle School Restructuring Plan**

**Strategic Plan Link:**

**Goal 1: Learning Outcomes**

**To improve the learning and academic performance of all students in PPS**

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

**RESOLUTION**

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 also committed to providing opportunities for an insuring that all students (inclusive of English Language Learners and Special education Students) meet the New Jersey Core Curriculum content Standards and achieve academic and life-long success.

Maxson Middle School, a Title I school in Year 5 of school improvement, will implement a new restructuring plan in the 2011-2012 school year, per New Jersey Department of Education requirements.

The District Restructuring Committee for Maxson Middle School has selected Option 1 (Implementation of any major restructuring of the school's governance), with input from all stakeholder groups. Changes in governance strategies will support best instructional practices, professional development, targeted assistance for students with extended learning opportunities for all students, and redistribution of administrative responsibilities that affect school operations, including administrative support for the principal.

**RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education authorizes the Interim Superintendent of Schools to submit the FY 2012 Maxson Middle School Restructuring Plan to increase student achievement and help Maxson make AYP.

**C. Race to Nowhere**

**Goal 1: Learning Outcomes:**

To improve the learning and academic performance of all students in all Plainfield Public Schools

**Goal 5: Community & Family Engagement:**

To actively engage families and communities in a meaningful, structured, and productive manner that promotes learning and cooperation.

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

**RESOLUTION**

Plainfield Public Schools will host a community screening of the documentary “Race to Nowhere – The Dark Side of America’s Achievement Culture”. This documentary focuses on the stories of young people across the country that have been pushed to the brink, educators who are burned out and worried that students are not developing the skills they need, and parents who are trying to do what is best for their children. “Race to Nowhere” points to the silent epidemic in our schools: students have become disengaged, stress-related illness, depression and burnout are rampant, young people arrive at college and the workplace unprepared and uninspired.

“Race to Nowhere” is a call to mobilize families, educators, and policy makers to challenge current assumptions on how to best prepare the youth of American to become healthy, bright contributing and leading citizens. Reel Link Films, LLC will grant a single license for the limited, non-broadcast, public exhibition of the film “Race to Nowhere” on June 15, 2011 in the auditorium at Plainfield High School at 7:00 pm.

A deposit of \$500.00 is due to Reel Link Films, LLC which will be returned to the district in exchange for 100 fully-sponsored tickets to the screening. Tickets to the screening will be sold online in advance by Reel Link Films, LLC at a price of \$10.00 per ticket for general admission or \$5.00 per ticket for students and faculty admission. If tickets remain unsold on the date of the screening, the district will sell the remaining tickets at the door at a cost of \$15.00 per ticket.

RESOLVED, that the Plainfield Board of Education approves the deposit payment of \$500.00 to be made to Reel Link Film, LLC Lafayette, CA for the right to screen “Race to Nowhere – The Dark Side of America’s Achievement Culture” on June 15, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. location TBD. Availability of funds for this item has been verified and will be charged to 11-000-221000-600A-26-0000 – Supplies and Materials.

**VII. REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**Ms. Surgeon moved Finance as a Consent Agenda, seconded by Mrs. Campbell. The motion carried, on a roll-call vote, with eight members in favor and none were opposed.**

**A. FY 2010 Title I ARRA Consolidated Amendment 2**

**Strategic Plan Link:**

**Goal 1: Learning Outcomes**

**To improve the learning and academic performance of all students in PPS**

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

**RESOLUTION**

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 also committed to providing opportunities for and insuring that all students (inclusive of English Language Learners and Special Education Students) meet the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards and achieve academic and life-long success.

ARRA Title I and SIA funds support student instruction, academic achievement, school improvement, professional development and extended year programs for Title I schools. ARRA Title I and ARRA SIA funds have been allocated for the 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 school years in the amount of \$1,757,769.

**RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education authorizes the Interim Superintendent of Schools to submit the FY 2010 Title I ARRA Consolidated Amendment 2.

**Mr. Abdul-Haqq moved, seconded by Mrs. Gilbert and unanimously approved by the Board, to adjourn the meeting at 11:40 p.m.**

Recorded by:

Gary L. Ottmann, Board Secretary  
GLO/bsc