

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

MINUTES of an **ORGANIZATION** Meeting of the Board of
Education Held on Tuesday, May 5, 2009

An **ANNUAL ORGANIZATION** Meeting of the Board of Education of the City of Plainfield was held this day in the 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. The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Mr. Gary L. Ottmann, Board Secretary, and the following action took place:

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

II. WELCOME

WELCOME to an Annual Organization 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 Star Ledger on Wednesday, April 29, 2009 for advertisement on Friday, May 1, 2009.

III. OATH OF OFFICE - FOUR NEWLY ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS

During this evening's meeting, the oath of office was administered by the Board Secretary to the following newly elected Board members:

- | | | |
|-------------------|----|-----------------------|
| Three-year terms: | 1. | Patricia I. Barksdale |
| | 2. | Brenda L. Gilbert |
| | 3. | Lisa C. Logan-Leach |
| Two-year term: | 1. | Katherine Peterson |

IV. ROLL CALL

PRESENT

Ms. Patricia I. Barksdale
Mrs. Wilma G. Campbell
Mr. Agurs Linward Cathcart, Jr.
Mr. Martin P. Cox
Mr. Christian Estevez
Mrs. Lisa C. Logan-Leach
Ms. Bridget B. Rivers

Mr. Rasheed Abdul-Haqq, absent
Mr. Joseph C. Ruffin, absent

ALSO PRESENT

Dr. Steve Gallon, III, Superintendent
Dr. Garnell Bailey, Assist. Superintendent
Ms. Angela Kemp, Assist. Superintendent
Mr. Gary L. Ottmann, Board Secretary
Mr. Ronald Hunt, Esq.
Mr. Raymond Hamlin, Esq.
Ms. Nia Baskerville, Student Liaison
Ms. Alisa France, Student Liaison
Ms. Donna Worrell, Student Liaison
Public

V. ORGANIZATION MEETING

A. Nominations will be received from board members. No second is required. When nominations are closed, a vote will be taken on the nominees in the order of nomination. The first candidate receiving a majority of the votes of those present will be declared President.

B. Nomination and Election of President.

Mr. Cathcart, Jr. nominated Ms. Bridget B. Rivers, for President.

Mr. Cathcart, Jr. moved the nominations be closed, seconded by Mr. Cox.

The nomination of Ms. Rivers passed, on a roll-call vote, with all members in favor

C. President Rivers assumes the Chair.

D. Nomination and election of Vice President.

Mr. Cox nominated Mr. Cathcart, Jr., for Vice President.

Ms. Rivers moved the nominations be closed, seconded by Mr. Cox.

The nomination of Mr. Cathcart passed, on a roll-call vote, with all members in favor

VI. REMARKS FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

NONE

VII. REMARKS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Gallon congratulated new and returning Board Members.

VIII. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Mr. John Campbell congratulated the new board members on their elections and encouraged them to work together.

E. Appointment of Board Members to Committee & Other Board Assignments

President Rivers requested Board Members to let her know what committees they wished to serve on.

F. Adoption of Policies

The following is in order for Board adoption, moved by Ms. Rivers and seconded by Ms. Barksdale.

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, all Board of Education policies presently in effect be, and are hereby, readopted.

The motion carried, on a roll-call vote, with eight members in favor and Mrs. Campbell was present, but not voting.

Ms. Rivers moved Items G – T as a Consent Agenda, seconded by Mr. Cox. The motion carried, on a roll-call vote with seven members in favor of all, Mrs. Gilbert in favor of all, but abstained on Items J & K and Mrs. Campbell was present, but not voting.

G. Designation of Board of Education Depositories

The following is in order for Board adoption:

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, that the PNC Bank, Bank of America, and City National Bank, be and are hereby designated the official depositories of the Board of Education's funds during the period beginning May 6, 2009 and ending at the Board's next organization meeting.

H. Designation of Official Publication

The following is in order for Board adoption:

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, that the Courier-News, Bridgewater, New Jersey is hereby designated the official publication of the Board of Education during the period beginning May 6, 2009 and ending at the Board's next organization meeting, and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Star Ledger be designated by the Board of Education to receive official notices of board of education meetings as required by law, during the period May 6, 2009 and ending at the Board's next organization meeting.

I. Bank Account Signatures

The following is in order for Board adoption:

RESOLUTION

Bridget B. Rivers has been elected President of the Board of Education, and

Gary L. Ottmann holds the position of Board Secretary of the Board of Education and

Sandra Cummings holds the position of Treasurer of School Monies, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the PNC Bank, Bank of America, and City National Bank be requested, authorized and directed to honor all checks, drafts and other orders for the payment of money drawn in the name of the Plainfield Board of Education when bearing the true and approved facsimile signatures, as follows:

<u>Account</u>	<u>Signature/Facsimile</u>	
General Account	Bridget B. Rivers	Board President
Improvement Fund	Gary L. Ottmann	Board Secretary
Food Service Account	Sandra Cummings	Treasurer of School Monies
Payroll Account		
<u>Account</u>	<u>Signature/Facsimile</u>	
Payroll Agency Account	Gary L. Ottmann	Board Secretary
	Sandra Cummings	Treasurer of School Monies
Unemployment Trust Fund	Gary L. Ottmann	Board Secretary
	Ronald Eddy	Payroll Supervisor
	Sandra Cummings	Treasurer of School Monies

Account

Workers Compensation

Signature/Facsimile

Ronald Eddy
Sandra Cummings

Payroll Supervisor
Treasurer of School
Monies

Account

PHS Interscholastic Athletic Fund

Signature/Facsimile

Gary L. Ottmann
Daniel Cone

Board Secretary
Director

J. Investment of Temporarily Idle Funds

The following is in order for Board adoption:

RESOLUTION

State law permits Board funds not needed to meet immediate board obligations may be invested in interest-bearing positions in official board depositories, the New Jersey State Investment Pool, and other specified investments, and since each official Board of Education depository has submitted proof of participation in the Governmental Unit Deposit Protection Act, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the City of Plainfield designates PNC Bank and Cash Management Fund, as official depositories for the Board of Education for investment purposes, and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, whenever the Board Secretary shall determine that funds in Board of Education bank accounts exceed amounts needed for immediate Board of Education obligations, he is authorized to transfer funds to investment instruments as prescribed by law to the aforementioned institutions and the New Jersey State Investment Pool, and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, this authorization shall remain in effect until the next organization meeting of the Board or until it shall be superseded by another resolution.

K. Courses of Study, Textbook List and Curricula Guides

The following is in order for Board adoption:

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, all Plainfield Board of Education courses of study, textbook list and curriculum guides previously approved and in effect be, and are hereby readopted for 2009-2010 fiscal year.

L. Annual Notice of Meetings for the 2009-2010 Fiscal Year

The following is in order for Board adoption:

RESOLUTION

Pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act (Ch.231 Laws of 1975), the Board of Education of the City of Plainfield is required to provide adequate notice of meetings to be made available to the public, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Plainfield Board of Education establishes the following schedule of meetings for the 2009-2010 fiscal year, and the notice be posted and maintained throughout the year in places reserved for this type of announcement, subject to revisions and modifications which will be provided in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act:

<u>Type of Meeting</u>	<u>* Date</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Time</u>
Policy Committee	1 st Tues.ea.mo.	Admin. Bldg.	6:30 p.m.
Personnel/Exec.Ses.	2 nd Tues.ea.mo.	Admin. Bldg.	6:30 p.m.
Curric. & Instr.	2 nd Tues.ea.mo.	Admin. Bldg.	8:00 p.m.
Finance Committee	2 nd Tues.ea.mo.	Admin. Bldg.	8:00 p.m.
Bldgs. & Grds. Cmte.	2 nd Tues.ea.mo.	Admin. Bldg .	8:00 p.m.
BUSINESS MEETING	3rd Tues.ea.mo.	Admin. Bldg.	7:00 p.m.

(EACH OF THESE MEETINGS MAY INCLUDE AN EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR DISCUSSION OF MATTERS THAT MAY BE APPROPRIATE FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION)

*Meeting Schedule Subject to Change

and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, meetings which fall on national or state holidays will be rescheduled with appropriate notice given, and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board Secretary is directed to develop a comprehensive schedule of meetings in accordance with the aforementioned schedule, to be mailed to the designated official newspaper, and to submit it to the appropriate state, county and municipal offices.

M. Appointment of Treasurer of School Monies

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

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, that the Plainfield Board of Education appoints Sandra Cummings as Treasurer of School Monies for the 2009-2010 fiscal year at a fee of \$8,100.

N. Appointment of Investment Officer for School Funds

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

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, that the Plainfield Board of Education appoints Gary L. Ottmann as Investment Officer for School Funds for the 2009-2010 fiscal year.

O. Negotiated Employee Agreements and Contracts

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

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, that the Plainfield Board of Education approves all Negotiated Employee Agreements and Contracts to remain in full force and effect.

P. State Contracts

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

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, that the Plainfield Board of Education continues participating with the State of New Jersey in state contracts.

Q. Integrated Pest Coordinator

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

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, that the Plainfield Board of Education approves Harold Gee as the Integrated Pest Coordinator for the 2009-2010 fiscal year.

R. District Purchasing Agent

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

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, that the Plainfield Board of Education approves the appointment of Gary L. Ottmann, School Business Administrator, as the District Purchasing Agent for the 2009-2010 fiscal year.

S. Open Public Records Act Officer

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

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, that the Plainfield Board of Education appoints Gary L. Ottmann, School Business Administrator, as the Open Public Records Act Officer for the 2009-2010 fiscal year.

T. Petty Cash Fund

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

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, that the Plainfield Board of Education authorizes the continued operation of a petty cash fund in the amount of \$500 for the 2009-2010 fiscal year, in accordance with Board Policy #3451.

Ms. Rivers moved Items U – Y as a Consent Agenda, seconded by Ms. Barksdale. The motion carried, on a roll-call vote with six members in favor of all, Mrs. Campbell was present, but not voting. Mrs. Gilbert abstained, and Mrs. Logan-Leach opposed.

U. Appointment of General Counsel/Labor Counsel/Negotiations Counsel and Workers Compensation Counsel

It is recommended, the adoption of the following:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Plainfield Board of Education is desirous of retaining legal counsel to represent the school district in various legal matters including all litigation matters, matters that arise in the area of school laws, Labor matters, negotiations and Workers Compensation matters; and

WHEREAS, the Plainfield Board of Education is desirous of retaining, the law firm of Hunt, Hamlin & Ridley to serve as its General Counsel/Labor Counsel/Negotiations Counsel/Workers Compensation Counsel to represent the school district in said matters; and

WHEREAS, the Plainfield Board of Education has decided to appoint the firm of Hunt, Hamlin & Ridley in the capacity of General Counsel/Labor Counsel/Negotiations Counsel/Workers Compensation at a monthly retainer of \$5,000.00 to cover attendance at all meetings, telephone conversations and general advice and for an hourly rate of \$150.00, for all matters related to research, litigation and all matters related to the duties and responsibilities as General Counsel/Labor Counsel/Negotiations Counsel and Workers Compensation Counsel in accordance with the terms and conditions of a contract to be executed by the firm and the Plainfield Board of Education; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Plainfield Board of Education approves the recommendation to appoint the firm of Hunt, Hamlin & Ridley as General Counsel/Labor Counsel/Negotiations Counsel/Workers Compensation at a monthly retainer of \$5,000.00 to cover attendance at all meetings, telephone calls and general advice and an hourly rate of \$150.00 for all matters related to the duties and responsibilities as General Counsel/Labor Counsel/Negotiations Counsel and Workers Compensation Counsel in accordance with the terms and conditions of a contract to be executed by the firm per hour, commencing July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-5 and N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-1, et seq.

V. Appointment of Auditors

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

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, that the Plainfield Board of Education approves the continuation of the firm of Lerch, Vinci & Higgins as auditors for the 2009-2010 fiscal year at the following rates:

Partners	\$140 - \$170 per hour
Managers	\$100 - \$125 per hour
Senior Accountants/Supervisors	\$ 80 - \$100 per hour
Staff Accountants	\$ 70 - \$ 80 per hour
Other Personnel	\$ 45 per hour

W. Appointment of Architectural Firm/Design Consultant

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

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, that the Plainfield Board of Education approves the continuation of the firm of Johnson Jones as the Architectural/Design Consultant of Record for the 2009-2010 fiscal year.

X. Appointment of Insurance Broker

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

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, that the Plainfield Board of Education approves the continuation of the firm of Nathan Lane as the Broker of Record for Property and Casualty, Errors and Omissions, Liability and Automobile Insurance for the 2009-2010 fiscal year.

Y. Appointment of Employee Benefits' Broker

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

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, that the Plainfield Board of Education approves the continuation of the firm of HRH as the Broker of Record for the employee benefits' programs for the 2009-2010 fiscal year.

Ms. Rivers moved Items Z – Bb as a Consent Agenda, seconded by Mr. Cox. The motion carried, on a roll-call vote with five members in favor of all, Mr. Cathcart, Jr. in favor of all, but abstained on Item Aa, Mr. Estevez in favor of all, but abstained on Item Aa, Mrs. Campbell was present, but not voting. Mrs. Gilbert abstained on Item Bb, and Mrs. Logan-Leach in favor of all but abstained on Item Z.

Z. Out-of-State Travel

Strategic Plan Link:

Goal 3: Business Practices

To improve the overall efficiency and effectiveness of business operations.

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

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Plainfield Board of Education has determined that the 2009 CUBE Annual Conference entitled “Urban Reforms Shaping Federal Education Policy” in Chicago, Illinois from June 25 – 28, 2009 is vital and necessary to the goals of the District and the success of the Board; and

WHEREAS, the specific focus of the seminar is the role of urban school boards in parent and family involvement in the education of their children; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby authorizes the following board member to attend the seminar: Lisa Logan-Leach which is not to exceed \$1,665.00 and charged to 11-000-230000-580A-01-0000, and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the above board member shares the information received from the seminar with the Board.

Aa. 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 approves the following board members to attend the Mandatory Board Member Training, Agurs L. Cathcart, Jr., Advance Training: Legal Update, Wednesday, May 20, 2009 in Atlantic City, NJ and Christian Estevez Governance I: NJQSAC, Saturday, June 6, 2009 in Plainsboro, NJ at a cost of \$37.00 each. This mandated training will provide an opportunity for training under the School District Accountability Act. The account charged is 11-000-230000-580A-01-0000.

Bb. Appoint Special Negotiations Counsel

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

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Plainfield Board of Education is desirous of retaining legal counsel to assist the school district in its Labor Negotiations; and

WHEREAS, the Plainfield Board of Education is desirous of retaining, the law firm of Joy R. Spriggs, to serve as Special Negotiations Counsel; and

WHEREAS, the Plainfield Board of Education has decided to appoint the firm of Joy R. Spriggs, in the capacity of Special Negotiations Counsel at an hourly rate of \$150.00, in accordance with the terms and conditions of a contract to be executed by the firm and the Plainfield Board of Education; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Plainfield Board of Education approves the recommendation to appoint the firm of Joy R. Spriggs, as Special Negotiations Counsel to assist the school district in its Labor Negotiations at a rate of \$150.00 per hour, commencing July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-5 and N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-1, et seq.

Mr. Cox moved, seconded by Mr. Estevez and unanimously approved by the Board, to adjourn the meeting at 7:45p.m.

Recorded by:

Gary L. Ottmann, Board Secretary
GLO/bsc