

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, May 7, 2013

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. Mr. Gary L. Ottmann, Board Secretary called the meeting to order at 6:35 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, May 1, 2013 for advertisement on Saturday, May 4, 2013.

III. ROLL CALL

PRESENT

Mrs. Wilma G. Campbell, President  
Mrs. Keisha Edwards, Vice President  
Mr. Alex O. Edache  
Mrs. Jackie Coley  
Mrs. Renata A. Hernandez  
Mr. Dorien Hurtt, arr. @ 6:55 p.m.  
Mr. Frederick D. Moore, Sr.  
Ms. Jameelah Surgeon

ALSO PRESENT

Mrs. Anna Belin-Pyles, Superintendent  
Mr. Gary L. Ottmann  
Mr. Pickett, Esq.  
Mr. Craig, Esq., arr. @ 7:00 p.m.

Ms. Mahogany Hendricks, absent

The following resolution was moved by Mrs. Hernandez seconded by Mrs. Campbell, 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 6:35 p.m.

The Plainfield Board of Education resumed the public session of its Work & Study meeting at 7:55 p.m.

IV. REMARKS FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

Mrs. Campbell welcomed everyone to our May 7, 2013 Work & Study meeting. All our great spring and end-of-year events are around the corner.

There is now proposed federal legislation in congress that would continue local control of school boards.

V. REMARKS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Mrs. Belin-Pyles indicated that we held a community faith based forum today at 1200 Myrtle Avenue. It was very successful; we had a number of student presentations and there were approximately 15 clergy representatives present.

The purpose was to provide information on district operations. She received a lot of positive feedback after the meeting.

The Board reviewed C&I, Finance and Policy agendas and moved to the business agenda.

VI. REMARKS FROM COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

NONE.

VII. REMARKS FROM THE POLICY COMMITTEE

Mr. Hurtt recommended postponing policy 4119.26 to the June agenda.

VIII. REMARKS FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Board was concerned about the change order for Barlow roof. Mrs. Belin-Pyles will schedule a meeting with the finance chair and review contracts with legal.

The Board was concerned about change orders in general.

Mrs. Campbell was concerned the about lack of expertise in district construction. She wants the Hub Stine project to finish on a high note.

The Board was concerned about the \$1 million increase in the bid amount for turf fields from the original estimate.

The Board discussed the possibility of clerk of the work (CoW).

Ms. Surgeon moved and seconded by Mrs. Edwards and unanimously approved by the Board to go into executive session at 8:50 p.m.

Mr. Hurtt moved and seconded by Ms. Surgeon and unanimously approved by the Board to return to the public session at 9:00 p.m.

## IX. REPORT OF THE CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION

### (1) **NCTM – Interactive Institute Grades K-5: Connecting Number and Operations in the Classroom – New Orleans, LA**

#### **Strategic Plan Link**

#### **Goal 1: Learning Outcomes:**

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

#### **Goal 2: Human Resources:**

To improve the recruitment, retention and development of District staff

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

### **RESOLUTION**

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. Therefore, it has provided the Superintendent of Schools the authority to employ non-administrative and administrative staff members to participate in out of district Professional Development opportunities.

The National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) is conducting an Interactive Institute to assist K-5 educators in deepening their knowledge of the mathematics the supports numbers and operations as well as their understanding of pedagogical practices. Participants will:

- Understand the importance of a numbers as a critical foundation for college and career readiness.
- Learn about instructional strategies to assist students in developing number sense.
- Determine the role of the Standards for Mathematical Practice as they relate to number-related content domains and topics.
- Understand the impact and importance of the Common Core State Standards for Math content domains the emphasize number: Counting and Cardinality, Operations and Algebraic Thinking, Number and Operations in Base 10, Number and Operations-Fractions, Measurement and Data
- Recognize the role of formative assessment in developing an understanding and proficiency with numbers
- Recognize the importance of developing learning communities with emphasis on teachers as learners and reflective practitioners.

As such, Stephenie Tidwell, Delecia Lewis, Carri Fischer, Mona Rae Stokes, Tiffany Khan, and Margie Barrett will attend the Connecting Number and Operations in the Classroom - NCTM Interactive Institute in New Orleans, Louisiana July 11-13, 2013.

**NCTM – Interactive Institute Grades K-5... (cont'd)**

The associated cost per person for registration, all transportation, lodging and food is: *District Supervisor* - \$1,853.41; *Teacher* - \$2,082.41 (breakdown listed below). The total cost for six (6) attendees is \$12,265.46.

<b>District Supervisor - Expense Breakdown</b>	
Airfare including baggage fees	\$265.00
Ground transportation ( round trip)	\$38.00
Food (\$71 x 3 days)	\$213.00
Conference Hotel [3 nights x (\$219 per night +14% tax)]	\$751.41
Conference and PD Strand Registration (\$440+\$75)	\$515.00
<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>\$1,853.41</b>
<b>Teacher - Expense Breakdown</b>	
Airfare including baggage fees	\$265.00
Ground transportation ( round trip)	\$38.00
Food (\$71 x 3 days)	\$213.00
Conference Hotel [3 nights x (\$219 per night +14% tax)]	\$751.41
Conference and PD Strand Registration (\$440+\$75)	\$515.00
Stipend (100 x 3 days)	\$300.00
<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>\$2,082.41</b>

**RESOLVED**, that the Plainfield Board of Education approves Stephenie Tidwell, Delecia Lewis, Carri Fischer, Mona Rae Stokes, Tiffany Khan and Margie Barrett will attend the Connecting Number and Operations in the Classroom - NCTM Interactive Institute in New Orleans, LA, July 11-13, 2013. Total cost for six (6) attendees not to exceed \$12,265.46. The availability for this item has been verified and will be charged to the Fiscal Year 2014 – NCLB 200-500 Title1 account.

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

**X. REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**Ms. Surgeon moved, seconded by Mr. Hurtt Items D & J. The motion carried, on a roll-call vote with eight members in favor and none were opposed.**

**D. Amend NJSBAIG Bylaws**

**Strategic Plan Link:**

**Goal 3: Business Practices:**

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

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

**RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS**, the New Jersey School Boards Association Insurance Group (NJSBAIG) Board of Trustees approved proposed amendments to its Bylaws at a public meeting on March 20, 2013 in accordance with Article IX(C) of the current NJSBAIG Bylaws; and

**WHEREAS**, the current NJSBAIG Bylaws require for the proposed amendments to be approved by member school districts; and

**WHEREAS**, seventy-five percent (3/4) of the member school districts must approve the proposed amendments within one hundred eighty (180) days of the hearings on the amendments, now therefore be it,

**RESOLVED**, that the Plainfield Board of Education does hereby approve the proposed amendments to the NJSBAIG Bylaws.

**J. Approval of Harassment/Intimidation/Bullying (HIB) Investigation Decisions**

**Strategic Plan Link:**

**Goal 4: Safe Learning Environment**

**To provide a safe, secure, professional, and clean environment for students, staff, and members of the community.**

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

**RESOLUTION**

The Superintendent is required to report all alleged Harassment/ Intimidation/Bullying (HIB) incidents to the Board of Education pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:37-15c,

The Superintendent has provided the Board of Education with the results of the investigations of all alleged HIB incidents reported to the Superintendent as of May 2, 2013

The Board of Education has had an opportunity to review and ask questions relative to the HIB incident reports submitted; therefore,

**RESOLVED**, that the Plainfield Board of Education hereby accepts and affirms the determinations made by the Superintendent, Building Principals, District's Bullying Coordinator, and School Anti-Bullying Specialists on the incident report submitted regarding the HIB investigations #74 through #77.

Mr. Hurtt moved and seconded by Ms. Surgeon and unanimously approved by the Board to return to the public session at 9:00 p.m.

Ms. Surgeon and seconded by Mr. Moore and unanimously approved by the Board of return adjourn the meeting at 9:25 p.m.

Recorded by:

Gary L. Ottmann, Board Secretary  
GLO/bsc