

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, November 12, 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. Ms. Yolanda Henry, Interim Board Secretary called the meeting to order at 7:02 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 Tuesday, November 5, 2013 for advertisement on Saturday, November 9, 2013.

III. ROLL CALL

PRESENT

Mrs. Wilma G. Campbell, President
Mr. Alex O. Edache
Ms. Mahogany Hendricks
Mr. Dorien Hurtt
Mr. Frederick D. Moore, Sr.

Mrs. Jackie Coley, absent
Mrs. Keisha Edwards, absent
Mrs. Renata Hernandez, absent
Ms. Jameelah Surgeon, absent

ALSO PRESENT

Mrs. Anna Belin-Pyles, Superintendent
Ms. Yolanda Henry
Mr. Robert Picket, Esq. arr. @ 7:09 p.m.

The following resolution was moved by Mrs. Campbell seconded by Mr. Hurtt, 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 7:03 p.m.

The Plainfield Board of Education resumed the public session of its Work & Study meeting at 8:08 p.m.

IV. REMARKS FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

NONE.

V. REMARKS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Mrs. Belin-Pyles provided the Board with the documentation concerning the QSAC review that the District will be entertaining. She explained what and how this procedure will be conducted and provided them a framework documentation for which we will be monitored and assessed on the various indicators (both from the county & how we rate ourselves) and how important this is. She asked that the Board vote on the two (2) documents (DPR & State of Assurance) that is due this Friday, Nov 15th.

Mrs. Belin-Pyles had one walk on agenda item of importance and that was to introduce the Gifted & Talented program. She gave the Board an overview of the program and of the partnership with Middlesex County and how this program would be rolled out starting with 10 serious students at approx. \$800/per student and to expand eventually if program is successful.

Sonja Williams spoke to the Board pertaining to her termination. The Union reps present were Mr. Truitt & Mrs. Cardona. Ms. Williams explained her position/case and feels that she is being unjustly terminated. She states she does not understand why she was being terminated and that she did not get any professional training. She felt she was doing what was asked of her. Could this be some retaliation or something? The Board listened and tried to close the issue; however, Mrs. Cardona pointed out to the Board that this was supposed to be a discussion by both parties in public before a decision is rendered. Mr. Pickett informed the Board that they have the right if they wanted to ask questions.

Mrs. Campbell moved and seconded by Mr. Hurtt and unanimously approved by the Board to return to executive session at 9:14 p.m.

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

The Board asked various questions and Sonja responded accordingly. The Board will review and action may be taken at the next board meeting.

VI. PRESENTATION

Dr. Jean Gordon, Science Supervisor, gave a synopsis presentation on the science curriculum with how correlates with the Common Core Standards and how we wanted "all the islands (schools) to be in sync with one another." She informed the Board that within a year or two, that the children will be taking state tests via the computer and that is why it is important for technology to be embedded into the curriculum.

VI. REMARKS FROM COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

NONE.

VII. REMARKS FROM THE POLICY COMMITTEE

The policy agenda was moved to the business agenda.

X. REPORT OF THE CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION COMMITTEE

B. Professional Development

(13) K-12 District Curricula – Science, Social Studies and Technology

Strategic Plan Link

Goal 1: Learning Outcomes:

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

Goal 2: Human Resources:

To improve the recruitment, retention and development of District staff

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

RESOLUTION

The Plainfield Board of Education recommends the adoption of the K-12 Curriculum for Science and Technology (Scope and Sequence Pacing Guides). These curriculums were revised by the District Curriculum Writing Teams along with consultants.

The curriculum documents feature standards organized in units with key concepts and skills identified, and a suggested pacing guide for the unit. The standards for Science and Technology Practice are an integral component of the NJ Standards (NJCCSS) and are highlighted accordingly in the units. The Standards were identified as priority or supporting based on the critical areas of focus described in the NJ Standards. In some instances, a standard identified as priority actually functions as a supporting standard in a particular unit.

Additionally, the curriculum includes guidance on the levels of thinking required to provide for a greater depth and breadth of learning which can assist teachers in utilizing the cognitive processes and defining the level of thinking involved in rigorous learning opportunities.

RESOLVED, that the Plainfield Board of Education approves adoption of the K-12 Science and Technology Curriculums (Scope and Sequence, Pacing Guides) to support our goal of student achievement and to increase students' proficiency levels.

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

XI. REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

L. DPR and Statement of Assurance – New Jersey Quality Single Accountability Continuum

Strategic Plan Link:

Goal 3: Business Operations

To improve the overall efficiency and effectiveness of business operations.

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

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Plainfield Board of Education in the County of Union is undergoing evaluation under NJ QSAC for the 2013-2014 school year, and

WHEREAS, N.J.A.C 6A:30-3.2 (f) requires participating school districts to hold a public meeting to approve the submission of the district's DPR responses and the Statement of Assurance with respect to this process, and

WHEREAS, the Plainfield Board of Education in the County of Union has reviewed the district's DPR responses and Statement of Assurance and hereby approves these documents, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Plainfield Board of Education does hereby authorize the Superintendent of Schools to submit the attached DPR and Statement of Assurance to the Commissioner of Education in compliance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:30-3.2 (f).

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

Mr. Moore moved and seconded by Mr. Hurtt and unanimously approved by the Board of return to executive session at 9:28 p.m.

Mr. Moore moved and seconded by Mrs. Campbell and unanimously approved by the Board to return to the public session at 10:15 p.m.

Mr. Moore moved and seconded by Mrs. Campbell and unanimously approved by the Board to adjourn the meeting at 10:16 p.m.

Recorded by:

Yolanda Henry, Interim Board Secretary
YH/bsc