

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, October 4, 2011

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 6:40 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 Friday, September 30, 2011 for advertisement on Saturday, October 1, 2011.

**III. ROLL CALL**

PRESENT

Mrs. Renata A. Hernandez, President  
Mrs. Wilma G. Campbell, Vice President  
Mr. Rasheed Abdul-Haqq  
Mr. Alex O. Edache, arr. @ 7:05p.m.  
Mrs. Brenda Gilbert  
Mr. Dorien Hurtt  
Ms. Jameelah Surgeon

ALSO PRESENT

Mrs. Anna Belin-Pyles, Interim Superintendent  
Mr. Gary L. Ottmann  
Mr. Robert Pickett, Esq.  
Ms. Lauren Craig, Esq.

Mrs. Keisha Edwards, absent  
Mrs. Lisa C. Logan-Leach, absent

The following resolution was moved by Mrs. Campbell, seconded by Mrs. Edwards, 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 adjourned to closed session to discuss:

- personnel and 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 6:41 p.m.**

The Plainfield Board of Education resumed the public session of the Work & Study Meeting at 8:10 p.m.

IV. REMARKS FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

NONE.

V. REMARKS FROM THE INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT

NONE

VI. PRESENTATIONS

Juan Moreno from Colonial Life gave an overview of insurance products available to employees as well as the dependent audit for the District to verify eligibility.

Mr. Pickett inquired if a contract would be required and Mr. Moreno indicated “yes”.

Ms. Cooper gave a presentation on both QSAC results, corrective actions, as well as student performance.

There was also discussion of the problem with parents taking advantage of free tutoring. Mr. Pickett suggested the names of the parents be provided to tutoring companies; he feels that is totally legal.

Mrs. Hernandez suggested a waiver for parents to “opt out”.

Mrs. Pellum thought that if teachers recommended tutoring to parents it would be more successful.

VII. REMARKS OF COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Mrs. Edwards reported that she hadn't received any questions on C & I agenda items.

There were a number of questions, however, related to field trips. The language needs to be clarified.

Ms. Surgeon moderated the finance agenda. Mrs. Campbell inquired what efforts are being made to use local vendors. Mrs. Belin-Pyles indicated administration will hold a seminar for vendors.

The Board reviewed draft policy 9010.1 – Board Member Attendance.

Mrs. Hernandez feels language in both (9114) policies should be consistent. She believes it's important for the Board to have an attendance policy.

Mrs. Campbell pointed out that the recent ARRA audit called for the Board to have a policy on requesting reimbursement from the EWEG system. She also asked for an update on the district's homework policy.

Mrs. Belin-Pyles indicated that a parent meeting was held last night to discuss this issue.

Ms. Surgeon feels technology should be tied into homework.

Mrs. Campbell wanted to make sure that Plainfield is entered in the National Spelling Bee.

Mrs. Campbell moved, seconded by Mrs. Gilbert and unanimously approved by the Board, to adjourn the meeting at 11:05 p.m.

Recorded by:

Gary L. Ottmann, Board Secretary  
GLO/bsc