

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

MINUTES of a **POLICY COMMITTEE** Meeting of the Board of
Education Held on Tuesday, October 5, 2010

A **POLICY COMMITTEE** 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. Mr. Gary L. Ottmann, Board Secretary called the meeting to order at 6:45 p.m. and the following action took place:

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

II. WELCOME

WELCOME to a Policy Committee 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 Thursday, September 30, 2010 for advertisement on Saturday, October 2, 2010.

III. ROLL CALL

PRESENT

Mrs. Lisa C. Logan-Leach, President
Mr. Rasheed Abdul-Haqq, Vice President
Mrs. Wilma G. Campbell
Mr. Agurs Linward Cathcart, Jr.
Mrs. Keisha Edwards
Mrs. Brenda L. Gilbert
Mrs. Renata Hernandez
Ms. Katherine Peterson

ALSO PRESENT

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

Ms. Patricia Barksdale, excused absence

Mrs. Gilbert indicated that the first item of business tonight is to review Jean Harkness' September 8th email.

The Board discussed policy 5127 and Jean Harkness addressed the language.

The Board reviewed policy 3220 and clarified any questions.

The Board discussed the issue of old policies and why they were never repealed or why no one was aware of the previous policy manuals.

Mrs. Campbell indicated at the recent CUBE conference, there was a lot of discussion about the need of a policy addressing social networking.

There was discussion about the need to possibly review and adopt new policies at the same time we are reviewing revised existing policies.

The Board reviewed nine (9) polices that had been deferred from the September agenda.

There was discussion on the role of police in patrolling schools after dismissal. Also, there was discussion of school resource officers and the fact that the Board of Education is not contributing any funds to their employment.

Mrs. Belin-Pyles will request that the Board receive a presentation from the Police Dept. on DARE and SRO's.

There was also discussion about protecting gay students. Mrs. Belin-Pyles indicated that the "bullying" policy would address this concern.

Also, when Board members find themselves in legal issues the law says that the member has to be fully indemnified. Mr. Pickett advised that there should be a policy on this matter.

Mrs. Campbell believes that there should be consequences for board members who disclose executive session items to people outside the Board. There should be a policy.

Mrs. Gilbert suggested that Mr. Pickett review Jean Harkness' email and determine what policies should be in fact be repealed.

Mrs. Campbell indicated that she believes NJSBA has grant money available for policy review and updates.

Mrs. Belin-Pyles in going to look at policies and procedures prior to the Board taking action.

Mr. Abdul-Haqq gave an update on the tour he recently took to view a Hydroponic Greenhouse and to explore opportunities in Plainfield.

Mrs. Hernandez indicated that board members should submit their top four (4) personal goals identified at the Board Retreat to Mrs. Gilbert, Ms. Barksdale and herself.

Mr. Pickett advised that the District was served with the Bailey lawsuit and it has been referred to the District's insurance carrier. Mr. Pickett advised the Board that the carrier will probably provide coverage for former Board member Christian Estevez.

Because of concerns with food quality, Mrs. Campbell will chair a Food Service Ad Hoc Committee. Mrs. Edwards, Mr. Cathcart and Mrs. Hernandez will also serve on the committee.

Ms. Peterson moved, and seconded by Mr. Cathcart and unanimously approved by the Board, to go into executive session to discuss personnel and legal at 8:00 p.m.

Mrs. Campbell moved, and seconded by Mrs. Hernandez and unanimously approved by the Board, to return to the public session of the meeting at 8:42 p.m.

Mrs. Hernandez moved, and seconded by Mrs. Edwards and unanimously approved by the Board to adjourn the meeting at 8:43 p.m.

Recorded by:

