

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, September 10, 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 6:50 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, September 3, 2013 for advertisement on Saturday, September 7, 2013.

III. ROLL CALL

PRESENT

Mrs. Wilma G. Campbell, President
Mrs. Keisha Edwards, Vice President
Mrs. Jackie Coley
Mr. Alex O. Edache
Mrs. Renata A. Hernandez
Mr. Dorien Hurtt
Mr. Frederick D. Moore, Sr.

ALSO PRESENT

Mrs. Anna Belin-Pyles, Superintendent
Ms. Margaret Morales, arr. @ 8:25 p.m.
Mr. Gary L. Ottmann
Mr. Robert Pickett, Esq.
Mr. Charles Craig, Esq.
Mr. Galen Medley, Esq.

Ms. Mahogany Hendricks, absent
Ms. Jameelah Surgeon, absent

The following resolution was moved by Mrs. Campbell seconded by Mrs. Hernandez, 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 6:51 p.m.

The Plainfield Board of Education resumed the public session of its Work & Study meeting at 8:25 p.m.

IV. REMARKS FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

Mrs. Campbell welcomed everyone to the first Work & Study meeting of the 2013 2014 school year. It's been a very exciting start of school; first with the convocation on September 2, 2013. Mrs. Campbell said she "sang" to the audience; it was a moment of excitement, chanting "Yes We Will". We are changing children's lives. It was a very uplifting day.

However, some employees were concerned about the lack of a contract and some were also dressed in black.

School opening day was actually very seamless; schools were clean and ready for students. Enrollment is over 600 at Evergreen and over 7,000 district-wide. We need to acknowledge that we are doing things right.

V. REMARKS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Mrs. Belin-Pyles indicated that Wal-Mart of Piscataway donated over 20 gift cards for teachers. Our kindergarten enrollment is more than we anticipated. She visited the STEM Program at Maxson School today. All the schools she has visited seem very calm. Also, she was happy to report that the staff transfers have gone well.

Mr. Pate gave a presentation on energy conservation.

Mr. Hurtt pointed out that Mr. Pate's presentation should be given at a business meeting so that it receives more visibility. Mrs. Campbell indicated that he is presenting tonight due to an agenda deadline. But he will present at a business meeting in the future.

Mr. Pate's presentation indicated that the District's energy plan resulted in a savings of \$640,000 last fiscal year.

VI. REMARKS FROM COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Mrs. Campbell mentioned the upcoming "Walk for Life" fundraiser scheduled for October 5, 2013. Mrs. Hernandez gave an overview of what groups have received funds from previous walks. This year is dedicated to Milt Campbell.

Mrs. Campbell followed-up a last month's request for cheerleaders to go to Europe in 2014. The request is now for only two (2) students, but how much money is being requested is not known. Mr. Moore thinks it is about \$3,000 each for a student and chaperone.

Mr. Hurtt worried about setting a precedent if the Board funds this. Mrs. Belin-Pyles said it wouldn't be district funds, but perhaps we could find a donor. She will have Greg Smith follow-up.

Mrs. Hernandez asked "shouldn't this request have come thru the athletic dept.? That's where it should be filtered and why were those particular girls chosen?"

There was discussion of external tutors as they relate to Education 4 All. How are complaints handled? Mrs. Hernandez suggests a survey. Mrs. Edwards recommended having a contact person from the tutoring company. That should be the main contact. Mrs. Edwards personally thinks the program has been a great experience.

Mr. Moore was not comfortable with the change order for the tennis courts; he believes that the cracks should have been known.

Mr. Edache feels certain change orders are unavoidable. Mrs. Edwards thinks that administration is not managing.

Mrs. Belin-Pyles knows that change orders are a hot item with the Board and she has detailed insight into change orders.

VII. REMARKS FROM THE POLICY COMMITTEE

Mrs. Campbell indicated that Mr. Hurtt has resigned as policy committee chair.

Mrs. Hernandez would like to see a policy on "gifting", excess furniture to non-profit etc. Mr. Craig indicated that anything purchased with federal funds cannot be sold. However, things purchased with local funds can be sold.

Mrs. Coley and Mrs. Hernandez will co-chair the policy committee until January.

VIII. REPORT OF THE HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Ah. Termination of Staff Member

The Superintendent of Schools recommends and moved by Mrs. Campbell, seconded by Mr. Moore, adoption of the following:

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, that the Plainfield Board of Education approves the termination of a staff member whose name is on file with the Board Secretary effective date September 4, 2013.

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

Mr. Moore moved Items Ai, Aj and D1 as action items, seconded by Mrs. Hernandez. The motion carried on a roll-call vote with Mrs. Campbell, Mrs. Coley, Mr. Edache, Mrs. Edwards, Mrs. Hernandez and Mr. Moore in favor. Mr. Hurtt opposed Items Ai and Aj and abstained on Item D1.

Ai. District Assignment – Facilities and Grounds

Strategic Plan Link:

Goal 2: Human Resources

To improve the recruitment, retention, and development of district staff

Strategic Plan Link:

Goal 3: Business Operations

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 recognizes that a highly qualified, competent, skilled, and dedicated workforce is essential to the success of the District and the students,

RESOLVED, that the Plainfield Board of Education approves the compensation to Eugene Campbell, Director of School Safety and Security for additional administrative assignments and assistance provided to the district, effective September 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014 at a monthly prorated stipend rate of \$1,600.00 per month.

Aj. District Assignment – Human Resources

Strategic Plan Link:

Goal 2: Human Resources

To improve the recruitment, retention, and development of district staff

Strategic Plan Link:

Goal 3: Business Operations

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 recognizes that a highly qualified, competent, skilled, and dedicated workforce is essential to the success of the District and the students,

RESOLVED, that the Plainfield Board of Education approves the compensation to Carletta Jones, Coordinator, Human Resources for additional administrative assignments and assistance provided to the district, effective September 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014 at a monthly prorated stipend rate of \$800.00 per month.

D1. Administrative Appointments

Strategic Plan Link:

Goal 3: Business Operations

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 recognizes that a highly qualified, competent, skilled, and dedicated workforce is essential to the success of the District and the students,

RESOLVED, that the Plainfield Board of Education approves the appointment of Yvonne Sheard as Supervisor of Athletics effective September 10, 2013 at a prorated salary of \$120,580.00 Guide D Step 4.

Mrs. Campbell moved and seconded by Mrs. Hernandez and unanimously approved by the Board to return to Executive Session at 9:45 p.m.

Mrs. Edwards moved and seconded by Mr. Hurtt and unanimously approved by the Board to return to the public session at 11:15 p.m.

Mr. Hurtt moved and seconded by Mrs. Hernandez and unanimously approved by the Board to adjourn the meeting at 11:16 p.m.

Recorded by:

Gary L. Ottmann, Board Secretary
GLO/bsc