

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, September 7, 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 6:40 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 Wednesday, September 1, 2010 for advertisement on Saturday, September 4, 2010.

III. ROLL CALL

PRESENT

Mrs. Lisa C. Logan-Leach, President
Mr. Rasheed Abdul-Haqq, Vice President
Ms. Patricia Barksdale
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
Ms. Caryn Cooper
Mr. Gary L. Ottmann
Mr. Robert Pickett, Esq.
Ms. Lauren Craig, Esq.

REMARKS FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

Mrs. Logan-Leach indicated that the dedication at the Plainfield Police Department will be this weekend.

On September 11, 2010, the PMUA will host its 11th Annual Environmental Fair.

Eastern Star is also accepting donations of clothing.

There have been two (2) meetings concerning the Joe Black Field dedication set for September 25, 2010.

REMARKS FROM THE INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT

The first day of school went very well. Mrs. Belin-Pyles visited most schools today. There are some very large classes that need to be looked at.

POLICY MEETING

Jean Harkness from NJSBA was present to review policy updates and questions about numbering systems.

Mrs. Gilbert indicated that she had not been advised.

Mrs. Campbell requested Board members to receive copies of the policy manual.

Mrs. Hernandez requested that a policy manual always be available at the PHS conference room.

Ms. Barksdale asked if there was urgency to adopt proposed revised policies right now.

Mrs. Gilbert suggested that the discussion of revising policies be postponed until the Board has the manual in front of them to compare side-by-side.

There was a question for Jean Harkness about how minutes/emails are covered under policy 1120. The Board would like to revisit that next month.

There was a question for Mr. Pickett if the Board needs to do a "blanket" resolution abolishing old policies.

There are 189 policies in New Jersey that NJSBA believes school districts should adopt.

Ms. Harkness indicated that the Board can always add additional language. They just can't do less than the minimum, such as policies 1120, 5131.5, 5131.6.

There was a question about flexibility in modifying proposed language of policy 2255. The language is taken directly from the law so it can't be reduced; only added to.

There was a question about whether a policy exists on submitting insurance claims. There is no such policy, but one could be adopted. Mr. Pickett indicated there are contractual requirements typically with insurance policies that would not preclude the Board being advised, however.

Policy 3100, there should be a budget calendar as well as a citizen budget advisory committee.

Ms. Harkness will be doing a crosswalk from old policy manuals to the most recent adoption.

Mr. Pickett indicated that there is no requirement to maintain old policies.

Mrs. Gilbert moved, and seconded by Ms. Peterson and unanimously approved by the Board, to go into executive session at 9:10 p.m.

Mr. Cathcart moved, and seconded by Ms. Barksdale and unanimously approved by the Board, to return to the public session of the meeting at 10:00 p.m.

Ms. Peterson moved, and seconded by Mrs. Campbell and unanimously approved by the Board to adjourn the meeting at 10:01 p.m.

Recorded by:

Gary L. Ottmann, Board Secretary
GLO/bsc