



# Public Schools of Plainfield New Jersey

## Office of Community Engagement

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**LT. GOVERNOR AND SECRETARY OF STATE  
KIM GUADAGNO  
ATTENDS RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY TO LAUNCH  
INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY CENTER FOR  
PLAINFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**Trenton, NJ – (February 10, 2016)** –Lt. Governor and Secretary of State Kim Guadagno joined Superintendent of Plainfield Public Schools Anna Belin-Pyles, Plainfield Board of Education Members and Board President Wilma G. Campbell, Assemblyman Jerry Green (D) and other distinguished guests at the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony today to launch Plainfield Public School’s center for innovation and technology.

The recently acquired property located at 1800 W. Front Street will be utilized by the district for the expansion of current programs and for the creation of a center that will focus on math, science and technology. The location was recently acquired from the Schools Development Authority, formerly known as The N.J. Schools Construction Corporation the Schools Building Authority.

“The acquisition of this wonderful facility is extremely important to our district. We are grateful for the opportunity to bring our students additional resources,” said Superintendent Belin-Pyles. “We have plans to expand our PAAAS and Jefferson Programs and we looking towards the future in developing an academy where we will be able to train our district’s students in 21<sup>st</sup> Century careers.”

“We want to prepare our students so they will be able to go into fields that require a strong academic background, problem solving, and a broader set of learning skills that will enable them to prepare for the future.”

Lt. Governor and Secretary of State Kim Guadagno said Plainfield’s investment is on par with the state’s initiatives to increase educational opportunities for students throughout the state.

“We are investing in communities throughout the State, with a dozen projects currently under construction as of this past June,” said Lt. Governor Kim Guadagno. “These projects represent a State investment of \$705 million for first rate, state-of-the-art education facilities. We are keeping our promise to the State of New Jersey’s parents and students by continuing to create environments for our children to receive the best possible education.”

In addition, the new location, which has not been named yet, will become the center for students from Plainfield High School and Barack Obama Academy for Academic and Civic Development can attend. The new center will become the innovation and technology hub for the District.

“I am very pleased with the support we have received from Lt. Governor and Secretary of State Guadagno,” said Plainfield Board of Education Wilma G. Campbell. “I am particularly excited about today’s visit from our state’s highest office because it validates what we have in Plainfield, great opportunities and resources for our students.”

During the event five students from PAAAS were presented General Assembly Citations for their academic achievements by Assemblyman Jerry Green. They were: Ms. Jordann Powers 8th grade, Mr. Anthony Martinez 12th grade, Ms. Maryam Muhammad 12th grade, Ms. Tammia Rosero 12th grade and Ms. Kayla Reaves 12th grade.

### ***Background of the property located at 1800 W. Front Street***

The Plainfield Public School District acquired the property at 1800 W. Front Street, which will house the science, math and technology center from a the Schools Development Authority, (SDA), during a transferred ownership agreement in the fall of 2015.

The location has previously been used as a “swing school” for several Plainfield Public Schools to operate during renovations and new construction for their sites. Currently the building houses Jefferson Elementary School which serves approximately 450 grade k -5 students and the Plainfield Academy for the Arts and Advanced Studies (PAAAS) which serves approximately 400 students in grades 7 -12.

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