

**PLAINFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
PLAINFIELD HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY**

March 9, 2016 7:00 P.M.

PRESENT: Audrey Lemieux, Doug Smith, Christi Haskell, Cheryl Hull, Mike Cartier, Cindy Arpin, Kathleen Barry, Kenneth Di Pietro, Superintendent; Ronald Lussier, Business Manager; Tammy St. Amour, Recorder; Haylie Bergeron, Student Representatives; Arrianna Landry & Haylie Bergeron; Sterling Representative

1. **CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Mr. Smith called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. **ROLL CALL (taken silently by Board secretary)**
3. **CONSENT AGENDA:**

MOTION: Ms. Haskell moved to approve the consent agenda.

SECOND: Ms. Lemieux

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

The consent agenda consisted of the following:

- A. Minutes of the Meeting of February 25, 2015.

4. **COMMUNICATIONS:**

- A. PHS Debate Team: Mr. Kevin Mariano stated that the debate team started in 2008 with two students that wanted to start a club. He said that eight years later they now have 20 members on the team and are members of the CT Debate Association. A few members of the team were present to show the trophies that they have won this year.
- B. Discovery Bus Showcase: Mr. DiPietro said that DATTCO will be hosting the Transportation Expo at Foxwoods on March 24th. The Discovery Bus will be on exhibit. He said that the Expo is open to the public and anyone is welcome to attend.
- C. Plainfield Police Union Fundraising Drive: Mr. Di Pietro said that two years ago the Police Union put together a calendar which we placed an ad in. He asked if the Board wished to once again place an ad in the calendar to show their support of the Police Union in the Town.

MOTION: Ms. Barry moved to place a ¼ page ad in the Police Union Calendar.

SECOND: Ms. Lemieux

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

- D. Board Member Appreciation: Mr. Smith said that a framed certificate of appreciation was presented to each member.
- E. Lighthouse Presentation – Representatives from the CT Assoc. of Boards of Education presented to the Board regarding the Lighthouse Project. This project provides training for Board members in areas such as Connections Across the System, Workplace Support, Community Connection, Distributed Leadership, Professional Development, and Knowing What it Takes to Change Achievement.

5. **PERSONNEL:**

- A. Resignations, Non-Renewals & Appointments: A letter of resignation for the purpose of retirement was received from Martha Bitgood. Ms. Bitgood has been a teacher in Plainfield for 40 years.

MOTION: Ms. Barry moved to accept the letter of resignation for the purpose of retirement from Martha Bitgood.

SECOND: Ms. Lemieux

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

Mr. Di Pietro said that Ms. Finnely will be taking the English position that was vacated by Ms. Maher. Mr. Anthony Pukalo will be taking the vacated by Ms. Finnely.

MOTION: Ms. Barry moved to approve the appointment of Anthony Pukalo as a English teacher at Plainfield High School for the remainder of this school year.

SECOND: Ms. Arpin

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

Mr. Di Pietro said that there are several non-tenured teachers that are being brought forward for non-renewal to allow the district to seek candidate that may be better suited to the position. Those being non-renewed are:

Anna Horr-Huguenin	-	Special Education - PMS
Marla McKee	-	Mathematics - PCS
Karen Castlevetro	-	Reading – SHE
Brandon Nichols	-	Communications – PHS
Elizabeth McLaughlin	-	Reading – MES
Sierra Suprin	-	Speech Pathologist

MOTION: Ms. Haskell moved to approve the non-renewals.

SECOND: Ms. Lemieux

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

6. **PUBLIC FORUM:**

A. Public Forum/Agenda Items: As no one came forward, the Chair moved to the next item on the agenda.

B. Student Liaisons:

Haylie Bergeron, PCS Student Representative said that eight students participated in the Eastern CT Music Festival, 45 students took part in Hoops for Heart and spring sports tryouts have begun. The World Wide Spring Fling is on the 18th.

Arrianna Landry spoke for the high school and informed the board that the production of the Addams Family will be on May 5, 6 & 7. The boys' basketball team won their game in last night's tournament. Quest for Respect was presented to the entire student body and College Planning Night was held this past Monday.

7. **OLD BUSINESS:**

A. Monthly Budget Report & Facilities Update: Mr. Lussier stated that the budget is currently on target for the end of the year. There were no odd expenditures although the unemployment account is slightly above normal. Mr. Lussier said that there have not been any facilities issues. The Central School is having additional wireless access points installed in the building.

B. Bond/Building Committee: The Building Committee met on March 3rd to discuss Phase II of the MES abatement project. They are scheduled to meet with the State department on March 16th so that they may begin the bidding of the project. Mr. Lussier said that on February 19th the district received the first check for reimbursement on the roof repairs that have been completed.

C. FY 17 Budget Request Adoption: Mr. Di Pietro said that the proposed 2017 budget has been presented to the Board. He is requesting a vote to present the budget to the Board of Finance in the amount of \$35,296,882.

MOTION: Ms. Haskell moved to submit the budget in the amount of \$35,296,882.

SECOND: Ms. Lemieux

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

D. BOE Approval of MES Roofing Project Phase II: Mr. Lussier said that the Building Committee met on March 3rd to discuss the MES roof Phase II construction documents and estimates.

MOTION: Ms. Haskell moved to approve Roof Replacement Project Phase II for Moosup Elementary School as approved and signed by BOE Chairman.

SECOND: Ms. Barry

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

- E. Policy Revisions: Mr. Klimkiewicz reviewed the policies that were in this month's packet. He said that Policy 4060 – Professional Staff Development was revised to include all staff. Policy 5055 – Community Service Learning is simply a reaffirmation. He said that the next three policies are being eliminated:

4070 - Suspension, Dismissal of Professional Staff
4077 – Suspension, Dismissal of Non-Certified Staff
5045 – Core Team

MOTION: Ms. Haskell moved to eliminate policies 4070, 4077, & 5045.

SECOND: Ms. Lemieux

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

The remaining three policies will be placed on the webpage for first reading review:

5131.3 – Bullying
5144.221 – Pediculosis
5038 – Health and Wellness

MOTION: Ms. Barry moved to bypass the reading of the policies and post to the website for review.

SECOND: Ms. Lemieux

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

8. **NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Grant Approvals: Ms. Cadro said that she would like to apply for a \$40,000 attendance grant. It will allow the district to hire an outreach worker to monitor kindergarten student attendance data, consult and collaborate with the attendance team, and intervene with families of kindergarten students as needed.

MOTION: Ms. Barry moved to approve the application of the attendance grant.

SECOND: Ms. Arpin

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

- B. School Lunch Price Change: Mr. Lussier stated that the Government sets the price for what a meal should cost. Our prices are currently too low. Mr. Lussier is suggesting a flat increase of \$.25 for each level.

MOTION: Ms. Haskell moved to approve the price increase of \$.25.

SECOND: Mr. Cartier

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

- C. Substitute Teacher Pay Increase: Mr. Di Pietro stated that it has become increasingly more difficult to get quality substitutes. He suggested that we create a rate for retirees

from the district that choose to come back and be substitutes. He is proposing a rate of \$125 per day. This is competitive, but still lower than some other districts. Ms. Haskell asked if this could be a discussion held at a future meeting to discuss other option that may be available and might offer other substitutes that are dedicated to Plainfield an opportunity for an increase.

MOTION: Ms. Haskell moved to table this discussion for a future meeting.

SECOND: Ms. Lemieux

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

- D. Comparison State v. ECHIP Health: Mr. Di Pietro quickly reviewed the information from the State insurance plan with the members of the Board. He said that it is currently a cheaper option than our present plan through CIGNA and is under the threshold to be considered Cadillac plan. He said that there are some higher deductibles and some things are cheaper, however, if our retirees were to participate in the plan, it would be 50% higher for them.
- E. Superintendent's Report: Mr. Di Pietro provided the Board with information from the State Department regarding the 2015 four-year adjusted cohort graduation rate. Plainfield is currently at 81.9%. He also provided them with the Smarter Balanced participation rate. Plainfield is at 94.6%. The entire state did not make the 95% that is required. If this continues, they will not be eligible to receive federal funding.

9. COMMITTEE AND INDIVIDUAL REPORTS

There will be a Policy Committee meeting on March 23rd at 6:00 p.m. at the ECC.

Mr. Di Pietro stated that there will be a negotiations committee meeting on March 23rd at 6:00 p.m. to discuss negotiations with the paraprofessionals and to set ground rules.

10. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Ms. Lemieux moved to adjourn at 8:44 p.m.

SECOND: Ms. Haskell

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy St. Amour
Recorder