

PLAINFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING  
APRIL 9, 2014  
7:00 P.M.  
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PRESENT: D. Smith, Chair, A. Lemieux, K. Barry, P. Migneault, C. Arpin, R. Benoit, M. O'Neil, C. Hull, K. Di Pietro, Superintendent; R. Lussier, Business Manager, A. Thomas, Student Representative; D. Cappobianco, Sterling Representative, T. St. Amour, Recording Secretary

1. CALL TO ORDER: The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. ROLL CALL: Taken silently by the Board Secretary.

3. CONSENT AGENDA:

MOTION: Ms. Barry moved to approve the Consent Agenda.

SECOND: Ms. Lemieux

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

The Consent Agenda consisted of the following:

- The Minutes of the Meeting of March 12, 2014

4. COMMUNICATIONS: None presented.

5. PERSONNEL:

A. Appointments & Resignations: Mr. Di Pietro stated that he has received some letters of resignation for the purpose of retirement from the following teachers.

Joanne Balch - MES

MOTION: Mr. Benoit moved to accept with regret the letter of retirement from Joanne Balch.

SECOND: Mr. Migneault

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

Margaret Barkhouse - SHE

MOTION: Mr. Benoit moved to accept with regret the letter of retirement from Margaret Barkhouse.

SECOND: Ms. Arpin

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

Leila Stone - MES - She will retire on October 1, 2014. Mr. Di Pietro stated that Ms. Stone has requested to retire in October in order to receive her full retirement benefit. He said that this will allow us to plan ahead and find a replacement prior to the start of the school year.

MOTION: Ms. Barry moved to accept with regret the letter of retirement from Leila Stone.

SECOND: Mr. Benoit

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

B. Superintendent Evaluation Design: Mr. Di Pietro reviewed the current form that is being used. He presented the Board with another option as well. This model is used by the State. He asked them to decide which model they would like to use for this school year. He indicated that CABE and CAPSS are working on a new model that will be available next year.

The members of the Board decided that they would continue with the present model until the new one is available.

#### 6. PUBLIC FORUM:

A. PCS Student Technology Demonstration: Mr. Salsich, 8th grade English teacher, presented an overview of the Edmodo program that they use in his classroom. Several of his students presented the board with a brief description of what Edmodo can do for the classroom and the students that use it. Many of them like the fact that it is paperless, they can get their assignments and grades online whenever they need them, and they have the ability to send questions to Mr. Salsich if they need to.

Mr. Benoit asked why only one 8th grade class had the opportunity to use the Chromebooks this year. Mr. Di Pietro stated that it was a pilot program that Mr. Salsich agreed to undertake to see how it could work in the classroom.

B. Recognition of Secretaries & Paraprofessionals: Ms. Lemieux read the proclamation of appreciation in recognition of the secretaries and paraprofessionals.

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

D. Student Liaison Report: Alexandra Thomas said that there will be a job fair in Hartford on Friday and the school will be hosting a Career Day/Career Fair tomorrow. The spring sports have begun and the PHS production of Guys and Dolls will be held on May 1, 2 & 3.

## 7. OLD BUSINESS:

A. Monthly Budget Report & Facilities Update: Mr. Lussier stated that we are still on target to meet the end of the year expenditures. Our legal expenses are still running higher than usual due to arbitration. There are some roof leaks at SHE and the roof should be replaced this summer as part of the capital bonding project. We have removed items from the old high school annex. He noted that some of the items were purchased and some unused mechanical equipment needs to be sold off as well. He said that we may be able to sell the old items in exchange for newer mower. He informed the board that we recently received a check for \$907 for e-waste, and AT&T is in the process of installing fiber lines at MES and SHE.

Mr. Lussier stated that he would like to have the approval of the Board to trade or sell the old large equipment that is no longer being used in order to purchase newer equipment.

MOTION: Ms. Barry moved to allow the trade or sale of the equipment.

SECOND: Ms. Arpin

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

B. Update on Capital Projects: Mr. Di Pietro said that the district needs to focus on getting the repair completed on roof at SHE this summer. He said that in order to proceed the ED049 form needs to be completed and sent to the state department. It is a tight schedule to get everything completed so that the project can go out to bid and the roof can be completed during the summer.

C. Educator Evaluation Update: The state wanted to know if we are changing our evaluation cycle this year. Mr. Di Pietro said that we are not changing our cycle. There will be changes made next year. We have adopted the new domains and will adopt the new model for next year.

## 8. NEW BUSINESS:

A. CCJEF Update: Mr. Di Pietro stated that because our poverty level has increased significantly, but our level of funding from the state has not increased we have been included in the Connecticut Coalition for Justice of Educational Funding. He noted that the Coalition is now at the process that they are now going to court to fight for this funding. He has been asked to testify on Plainfield's behalf and asked the Board for their endorsement in doing so.

MOTION: Mr. Migneault moved to endorse the testimony of the Superintendent for the CCJEF court case.

SECOND: Ms. Lemieux

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

B. Budget Transfers: Mr. Smith asked the Board for a motion regarding the budget transfers for this month.

MOTION: Ms. Lemieux moved to approve the transfers.

SECOND: Mr. Migneault

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

C. Grant Approvals: Mrs. Cadro said that she needs approval for the Readiness grant. This grant supports our Readiness Program and provides services for three and four year olds. The grant is in the amount of \$132,000.

MOTION: Ms. Barry moved to approve the application for the Readiness grant.

SECOND: Ms. Lemieux

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

D. School Lunch Price Increase: Mr. Lussier stated that the federal government calculates what our pricing level should be. He said that it is required that our minimum average price per meal be at \$2.65. In order to meet that figure, Mr. Lussier is suggesting that the second tier of pricing at the high school be raised from \$2.75 to \$3.00. He said that this tier is for optional purchases only and does not include the standard lunch.

MOTION: Mr. Benoit moved to approve the increase to \$3.00 for tier two at PHS.

SECOND: Ms. Barry

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

E. Set PHS Graduation Date: Mr. Di Pietro stated that the 180th day of school at PHS would be on June 17th. He suggested that the Board set that date for the PHS graduation. Once the date is set, there will be no need to change it should there be another missed school day.

MOTION: Ms. Barry moved to set the PHS graduation date for June 17th.

SECOND: Ms. Lemieux

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

F. Superintendent's Report: Mr. Di Pietro gave the Board a calendar of the events for the remainder of the year. He also said the the school district will be participating in the job fair at the town hall tomorrow.

## 9. STANDING COMMITTEES AND INDIVIDUAL REPORTS:

The Policy Committee will meet on May 7th at 6:00.

Mr. Smith said that a voluntary workshop is being held on May 17th for any member of the Board that would like to learn more about the Chromebook.

10. ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: Mr. Migneault moved to adjourn at 8:15 p.m.

SECOND: Ms. Lemieux

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy St. Amour  
Recording Secretary