

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

December 13, 2017 7:00 P.M.

PRESENT: Mike Cartier, Kathleen Barry, Christi Haskell, Audrey Lemieux, Stephen Boettcher, Cheryl Hull, Cindy Arpin, Matthew Radant, Peggy Bourey, Kenneth Di Pietro, Superintendent; Ronald Lussier, Business Manager; Sterling Representative, Student Representatives – Jason Walton & Brooke Masso

1. **CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Ms. Haskell 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. **WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS & ELECTION OF OFFICERS:**

Ms. Haskell welcomed Matthew Radant and Peggy Bourey as the newest members to the Board of Education. She then turned the meeting over to the Superintendent for the election of Chair.

Mr. Di Pietro opened the floor for nomination for the position of Chair for the Board.

Mr. Cartier moved to nominate Christi Haskell for the position of Chair.
Ms. Lemieux seconded the nomination.

Ms. Barry moved to close nominations
Seconded by Ms. Hull.

The board members submitted their votes by paper ballot.

Votes: 9 – 0 in favor of Ms. Haskell.

The Chair then asked for nomination for the Vice Chair position.

Ms. Arpin moved to nominate Kathleen Barry for the Vice Chair position.
Seconded by Mr. Cartier

Ms. Lemieux moved to close nominations.
Seconded by Ms. Arpin

Votes: 9 – 0 in favor of Ms. Barry

The Chair asked for nomination for the position of Secretary.

Ms. Hull nominated Audrey Lemieux for the Secretary position.
Seconded by Mr. Cartier

Ms. Barry moved to close nomination
Seconded by Mr. Cartier

Votes: 9 -0 in favor of Ms. Lemieux

Ms. Haskell informed the members of the Board that she has given everyone a listing of the Board Committees. She asked that each member choose the committees that they would be interested in and return to her so that she may set up the committees.

4. CONSENT AGENDA:

A. Minutes of the Meeting of November 15, 2017.

MOTION: Ms. Lemieux moved to approve the minutes of the meeting of November 15, 2017.

SECOND: Mr. Cartier

VOTE: Passed with abstentions from Mr. Radant and Ms. Bourey.

B. Minutes of the Special Meeting of November 30, 2017.

MOTION: Ms. Barry moved to approve the minutes of November 30, 2017.

SECOND: Ms. Lemieux

VOTE: Passed with abstentions from Mr. Radant and Ms. Bourey.

5. COMMUNICATIONS: Ms. Haskell said that she received several letters from the paraprofessionals, secretaries, nurses, and administrators unions asking that the Board limit the cuts to programs and services due to the Board of Finance directive to cut an additional \$1 million.

6. PERSONNEL:

A. Resignations & Appointments: Mr. Di Pietro said that a letter of resignation has been received from Alice Sumner, PHS Art Teacher. Ms. Sumner will be retiring from her position as of January 30, 2018.

MOTION: Ms. Barry moved to approve the resignation for the purpose of retirement from Ms. Sumner.

SECOND: Ms. Lemieux

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

A letter was also received from Mr. Keith McLaren, Special Education Teacher at PCS. Mr. McLaren will be resigning from his position as of December 22, 2017.

MOTION: Ms. Barry moved to accept the letter of resignation from Mr. McLaren effective 12/22/17.

SECOND: Ms. Lemieux

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

7. PUBLIC FORUM:

- A. CAPSS Awards Recipients: Eight students from Plainfield received the CAPSS awards this month. A ceremony was held at Killingly High School where they were presented with their award. The Board read a brief biography on each student at their meeting to acknowledge their accomplishment and congratulated each one in person. This year's recipients were:

Aiden Nadeau & Elsie Peterson from PMS
Gabrielle Cote & Justin Dumont from PCS
Alexander DeAngelis, Sarah Larned, Hannah St. Onge and Kyle Vallee from PHS

- B. Public Forum/Agenda Items: Mr. Scott Charlwood asked the Board a few questions regarding the budget reductions. Ms. Haskell said that they will address his questions during that agenda item.

Mr. Joe Bessette asked if the Board agendas and minutes could be on the Town webpage. Mr. Di Pietro said that he has spoken with the town with regard to this and it should be all set.

- C. Student Representative Reports:
Brooke and Jason said that things are going well at PHS. The attendance at the high school has been very good this year. Miss Masso said that the school now has a spot on WINY radio on Wednesdays at 7:05 a.m. so that the students can discuss the activities at PHS.

8. OLD BUSINESS:

- A. Budget & Facilities Report: Mr. Lussier stated that with the regressive hard freeze, the first half of November saw a savings of \$83,084. He said that on November 13th notification was received from the State indicating that the loss of ECS funding would be \$2 million. The Town approved to cover \$1 million from the fund balance and the remaining \$1 million would need to come from the Board of Education.

Facilities: There is no new information to add to the facilities report at this time.

- B. Audit & Closeout FY 2017 Budget:

- C. Policy Review and Adoption: Mr. Nagel said that with the approval of the Code of Ethics for Purchasing last month, the other purchasing policies were updated to reference the Code of Ethics. The policies that were updated are: 3313 Purchasing; 3313.1 Local Purchasing, and 3320 Purchasing Procedures.

MOTION: Ms. Barry moved to approve the revisions to policies 3313, 3313.1 & 3320.

SECOND: Ms. Lemieux

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

9. **NEW BUSINESS:**

A. BOE – Budget Reduction Authorization: Mr. Di Pietro presented the following cuts totaling \$614,571 for the BOE to consider:

<u>BOE Cost Cutting Authorization</u>	<u>Budget Cut</u>
Five (5) Part-time Custodian Reduction	\$36,142
Speech Language Pathologist Reduction	\$60,552
Part-time Nurse Reduction	\$17,961
Reduce school year from 182 to 180 days	\$34,369
Sustained Regressive Hard Freeze	\$129,711
Elim. Buildings & Grounds PT person	\$19,680
Non-replacement of Retiring Secretaries	\$28,373
Eliminate Behavior Management Spec.	\$49,844
Reading Para-educator reductions	\$27,078
Increased Unemployment Costs	(\$45,942)
Late Bus Elimination at all schools	\$12,180
Special Education Staff Cost Reductions	\$39,015
Line item reductions - projected	\$205,608
	<u>\$614,571</u>

MOTION: Mr. Boettcher moved to cut up to \$614,571.

SECOND: Mr. Cartier

VOTE: Passed with abstention from Mr. Radant.

Additional cost reductions to meet the \$1 million reduction are noted below but were NOT ACTED UPON. The Board of Education has delayed any vote on the reductions below until after the Board of Finance meeting on December 20th. Mr. Boettcher asked that they also look at the savings if kindergarten were put back to half day.

<u>Possible Cost Cutting Consideration</u>	<u>Budget Cut</u>
Offer furlough option to staff	\$80,000
Offer Non-Certified Retiree Incentive	\$25,000
Reduce budget projection for substitutes	\$25,000
Eliminate PHS Career Coordination	\$10,000
Reduce PHS Para Support	\$8,000
Limit all Field trips to Family/PTO Paid	\$5,000
Eliminate extra-curricular Spring Activities	\$75,000
Discontinue Math Interventionist services	\$60,000
Eliminate PHS/PCS Security Officers	\$35,000
Reduce ECHIP cost for staff reductions	\$75,000
	<u>\$498,000</u>

B. Superintendent's Report: They Superintendent's Report was not presented.

10. STANDING COMMITTEES AND INDIVIDUAL REPORTS:

Ms. Haskell asked that each member return the survey to her so that she may set up the committee assignments.

11. ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: Ms. Lemieux moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:51 p.m.

SECOND: Mr. Cartier

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

DRAFT