

**PLAINFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**December 10, 2014**  
**Plainfield High School Library**  
**7:00 p.m.**

PRESENT: Chair Doug Smith, Mike O'Neil, Christi Haskell, Audrey Lemieux, Kathleen Barry, Mike Cartier, Cheryl Hull, Kenneth Di Pietro, Superintendent; Ron Lussier, Business Manager; Alexandra Thomas, Student Representative, Tammy St. Amour, Recorder

1. **CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. **ROLL CALL:** Taken silently by the 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:

1. The Minutes of the Meeting of November 12, 2014.
2. Reaffirmation of Policies, 5022, 5035, 5035.7, 5035.8, 5035.9

4. **COMMUNICATIONS:**

- A. CSDE Recognition - Teacher of the Year: Mr. Di Pietro stated that he had attended the state Teacher of the Year Recognition with Mr. William Rood. Mr. Rood was selected as the Teacher of the Year in Plainfield and continued on to the state level.
- B. CAPSS Student Awards Recognition: Mr. Smith allowed the principals to introduce each of their students that received the CAPSS Award on November 17th. The students were:
  - Lacey Tatro & Llogan Caron - PMS
  - Emily Moran & Rafael Fauxbel - PCS
  - Adrienne Lorange & Thomas Linevitch - PHS

5. **PERSONNEL:**

- A. Resignations & Appointments: Mr. Di Pietro asked the Board to accept, with regret, a letter of resignation for purposes of retirement for Sherry Hinchey as of November 30,

2014. He said that Ms. Hinchey has 34.3 years of services to Plainfield. Many of those years as President of the PEA.

MOTION: Ms. Barry moved to accept the letter of resignation for the purposes of retirement from Sherry Hinchey, with regret.

SECOND: Ms. Haskell

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

- B. Request for Leave of Absence: Ms. Samantha Stadnicki expects to begin her maternity leave on or about March 25, 2015. Upon the completion of her maternity leave, Ms. Stadnicki would like to take the remainder of the school year off and return for the start of the 2015-2016 school year.

MOTION: Ms. Haskell moved to approve the leave of absence for Samantha Stadnicki.

SECOND: Ms. Barry

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

- C. Contract Approval: Mr. Di Pietro informed the Board that the Stated Department has recently increase funding for the Readiness program in an effort to recruit and maintain quality staff. He said that the NAEYC Program is a year-round program and the teachers are not members of the teachers union. Mr. Di Pietro is requesting a 5% increase for the two teachers in the program.

MOTION: Ms. Haskell moved to approve the request for a 5% increase for the Readiness teachers.

SECOND: Mr. Cartier

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

Mr. Di Pietro presented the Board with a recommendation for the continuation of the contracts for two of the non-union Central Office personnel. He is proposing that the Business Manager and the Superintendent's Secretary both receive a 3% increase for each of the 2015-16 and 2016-17 school years. This is comparable to the other union contracts that have been settled. No other changes will take place to the contract.

MOTION: Ms. Barry moved to approve the 3% each year for 2015-16 and 2016-17 for the Business Manager and the Superintendent's Secretary.

SECOND: Ms. Haskell

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. SHE Presentation: Mr. William Nagel, SHE Principal, spoke to the Board regarding the progress and goals that they have accomplished at Shepard Hill Elementary School. Mr. Nagel shared some video clips and shared some student successes with the Board.
- C. Student Liaison Report: Miss Thomas said that the new members of the Natural Helpers have received training so that they can support the students next year. The winter concert will take place tomorrow evening at 6:30. She said that the National Honor Society is in the process of holding a toy drive and the Student Council will run a blood drive on December 17th.

## 7. OLD BUSINESS:

- A. Monthly Budget & Facilities Report/Bond Report: Mr. Lussier said that the budget still remains on target as planned. He noted that there will be some transfers that will need to take place to balance out some accounts. He said that there has been some work taking place on the ball fields and the playground at Shepard Hill and a new phone system and PA system will be installed at Moosup Elementary.

Mr. Lussier said that the Building Committee has hired an architect and a consultant for the upcoming projects. He said that they will be contacting him in order to gain access to the buildings to begin their projections for the costs that will be involved.

- B. School Safety Officer Report: Mr. Di Pietro stated that the interviews have taken place and the top two candidates will be brought forward to him for an additional interview.

MOTION: Ms. Barry moved to authorize the Superintendent to hire one or two security officers, depending on budget availability.

SECOND: Ms. Haskell

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

- C. Smart Start Grant Report: Mrs. Cadro stated that through the Smart Start grant, they will be submitting for one Pre-K classroom renovation and 2 years of salary for a PK teacher. It is the hope that the students that begin in the PK classroom, will loop up to Kindergarten with their teacher.

MOTION: Ms. Barry moved to approve the submission of the Smart Start Grant.

SECOND: Ms. Haskell

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

- D. Sterling Cooperative Meeting Schedule: Mr. Di Pietro stated that the Board had decided that the Executive Board would meeting with Sterling on December 17th at 7:00 at the Sterling Community School.

## 8. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Budget Calendar: Mr. Di Pietro stated that the Town Finance Director is in the process of formalizing their budget calendar. Mr. Di Pietro asked the Board to set a date now so that they may meet to begin the budget process in January. The Board determined that January 24th at 8:00 a.m. at the ECC would be the first meeting to begin the budget process.
- B. New Policy 3542.43 - Food Charging Policy: Mr. Klimkiewicz read the new policy into record. He stated that the purpose of the policy is so that students have a means of receiving a lunch if they have forgotten their own or do not have their money or swipe card that day. He said that the policy is required by the State Department. This meeting will consist of the first reading and will come back for approval at the January meeting.
- C. Curriculum Adoption - Tech Ed.: Tim Jordan - Tech Ed. Teacher at PHS said that they would like to add a new course entitled Applied Technology. He said that they would like to incorporate it into next year's schedule. It will be a semester long course that will allow the students to further their skill set to get ready for the outside world. Each year there will be a different competition for the students to prepare for. Next year they will assemble and build electric cars to compete against other schools and college level students.

MOTION: Mr. Cartier moved to approve the Applied Technology course.

SECOND: Ms. Barry

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

- D. Capital Improvement Plan: Mr. Smith asked that this item be tabled for this evening.

MOTION: Ms. Haskell moved to table the Capital Improvement Plan.

SECOND: Mr. Cartier

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

- E. Projected Savings: Mr. Di Pietro stated that according to CIRMA, they estimate a savings of \$13,000 for the insurance that we would normally pay on the buses. Along with that savings, an estimated \$100,000 that will not need to be paid to cover the Workers' Compensation on our transportation system.

ECHIP - There will be approximately 1.5 to 1.8 million in reserves by the end of the year. At this time, there may be a possible 4.5 increase for next year. Mr. Di Pietro is hopeful that it may be a zero percent increase.

- F. Superintendent's Report: - Mr. Di Pietro said that the meeting with the SHE PTO was well attended and went very well. He informed the board that they should receive a calendar next month of all the arts programs that are going to take place in the schools for the remainder of the year.

**9. STANDING COMMITTEES AND INDIVIDUAL REPORTS:**

Mr. Smith stated that there will be a Policy Committee meeting on January 8th - 6:00.

**10. ADJOURNMENT:**

MOTION: Ms. Haskell moved to adjourn at 8:25 p.m.

SECOND: Ms. Barry

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy St. Amour  
Recording Secretary