

PLAINFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION

February 11, 2015

7:00 p.m.

Plainfield High School Library

PRESENT: Douglas Smith, Chair; Kathleen Barry; Vice Chair; Cindy Arpin, Christi Haskell, Mike O'Neil, Mike Cartier, Peter Migneault, Kenneth Di Pietro, Superintendent; Ron Lussier, Business Manager; Alexandra Thomas, Student Rep; Tammy St. Amour, Recorder

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** 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 secretary.

3. **CONSENT AGENDA:**

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

SECOND: Ms. Arpin

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

The Consent Agenda consisted of:

- The Minutes of the Meeting of January 14, 2015.

4. **COMMUNICATIONS:**

Mr. Smith stated that he has a letter addressed to the Board of Selectmen to request money to make the final payment for the last bus lease in our possession. He said that the Selectmen responded saying that they approve of this request. They ask that the board vote to send the request to the Board of Finance for their approval.

MOTION: Ms. Barry moved to send request for money to pay final bus lease to the Board of Finance for approval.

SECOND: Ms. Arpin

VOTE: Pass unanimously.

5. **PERSONNEL:**

A. Resignations & Appointments: Ms. Linda Collins, Elementary Teacher, has submitted her letter of resignation for the purpose of retirement at the end of the 2014/2015 school year.

MOTION: Ms. Haskell moved to accept the letter of resignation from Ms. Linda Collins, with regret.

SECOND: Ms. Arpin

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

Ms. Mindy Fennelly was appointed to serve as English teacher at Plainfield High School. She will begin next Wednesday.

MOTION: Ms. Barry moved to approve the appointment of Mindy Fennelly to the High School English position.

SECOND: Mr. Migneault

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

6. **PUBLIC FORUM:**

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

B. Student Presentation: Ms. O'Meara, PMS Principal, presented students from the PMS Student Council. Each member came forward and gave a brief description of some of the things that the student council does at their school.

C. Technology Presentation: Mr. Klimkiewicz and Mr. Bitgood reported to the Board about the ways that technology is being used to aid instruction. Mr. Bitgood stated that the students are much more engaged in class when they are able to use the technology available to enhance their learning experience. He also noted that with the addition of the chromebooks, the discipline incidents at PHS have decreased as the students are becoming more interested in learning.

D. Student Liaison Report: Miss Thomas said that the winter sports are wrapping up for this year. The Chamber Choir recently participated at the Jazz Festival and the National Honor Society will be holding a spaghetti supper on March 5th at the high school.

7. **OLD BUSINESS:**

A. Monthly Budget & Facilities/Bond Report: Mr. Lussier stated that there are no extraordinary expenditures this month and the budget is on track. The transfers that were approved last month have been made. Mr. Lussier stated that he received notification from the State Department that our revenue from them is being cut by \$200,000.

Facilities: Mr. Lussier said that we lost a plow truck during the blizzard due to a fire. The insurance company will reimburse the district \$15,000 for the vehicle. He noted that we will submit the information to the Town in order to seek reimbursement from FEMA for the work to clear the snow.

B. Bond Report: Mr. Lussier stated that the Board needs to approve a number of items in order to move forward with the repairs to the roofs at Moosup Elementary, Memorial and Central. The Board was given information detailing the ED049, Architectural sketches, cost allocations listed by school and the education specifications. He asked for their approval to submit this information to the State Department.

MOTION: Ms. Haskell moved to approve submission of all documents required for roof replacements at MES, PMS & PCS.

SECOND: Mr. Migneault

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

C. Policy Revisions - Second Reading - Non Discrimination & Harassment: The policy was placed on the website for public review for the past month. There were no revisions that needed to be made to the policy.

MOTION: Mr. Cartier moved to approve the Non-Discrimination & Harassment Policy.

SECOND: Ms. Barry

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

D. Transportation Update: Mr. Di Pietro provided the board members with a listing of every new bus that DATTCO has purchased for their services in Plainfield. There was a meeting with DATTCO to discuss some of the issues that have arisen. It was noted that the cost for summer school was not included in their bid. They will provide us with an estimate of what the services would cost. He also stated that transportation for our work placement students cost about \$700 a day. DATTCO is working with us to streamline that cost. They are also working on consolidating our runs in an effort to provide more cost savings..

8. **NEW BUSINESS:**

A. Budget FY 2016 Review:: Some of the costs for health insurance were able to be reduced. The budget for next year is now at \$382,000 over the appropriation from this year.

B. Calendar Discussion: Mr. Di Pietro stated that there is a regional calendar developed by EastConn. He noted in a year from now, we will be required to follow that

regional calendar. He asked the board if they would like to follow that calendar for next school year, or schedule a meeting to review it and possibly make a changes that they feel necessary. The Board set a meeting for March 3rd at 6:00 at the ECC to review the calendar for the 2015/2016 school year.

C. Re-Bid Food Service: The state has informed us that there were issues with the requirements in the food service bid this year. Because of th is, it is necessary for us to rebid the services for our lunch program. Mr. Lussier stated that many district are not happy about this issue and CASBO is working to see if this can be resolved without rebidding.

D. Grants Update: Ms. Cadro said that the \$249,000 security grant was awarded. The Smartstart grant has not been awarded yet. The technology grant was mailed out yesterday, and the Assessment Reduction grant for \$7,200 was awarded to us.

E. Superintendent's Report: Mr. Di Pietro reviewed some of the trends of the high school. He noted that in the last two years we have provided universal access for student to take the PSAT and SAT tests. The English and mathematics classes at the high school have been realigned so that each student is taking three courses of each subject in their first two years. This has made a dramatic increase in our state scores for these subjects.

9. STANDING COMMITTEES AND INDIVIDUAL REPORTS:

There will be a Legislative Breakfast on February 20th at Plainfield High School. This was previously scheduled, but was postponed due to weather.

CABE Day on the Hill will be on March 25th.

10. ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: Mr. Migneault moved to adjourn at 8:49 p.m.

SECOND: Ms. Haskell

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy St. Amour
Recording Secretary

