

Plainfield Board of Education
November 12, 2014
Plainfield High School Library
7:00 p.m.

Present: Kathleen Barry, Christi Haskell, Cynthia Arpin, Audrey Lemieux, Peter Migneault, Mike Cartier, Kenneth Di Pietro, Superintendent; Ron Lussier, Business Manager; Alexandra Thomas, Student Rep.; Tammy St. Amour, Recorder

1. **Call to Order:** The Vice 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: Mr. Migneault moved to approve the Consent Agenda

SECOND: Ms. Arpin

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

The Consent Agenda consisted of the following items.

- A. The Minutes of the October 8, 2014 meeting.

4. **Personnel:**

- A. Appointments, Resignations & Leaves of Absence: Mr. Di Pietro stated that have been able to hire a teacher for the Visual Communications class at the high school. Mr. Brandon Nichols will begin on December 1, 2014 and work with Mr. Melchior until the end of the first semester.

MOTION: Ms. Haskell moved to approve the appointment of Mr. Brandon Nichols as Visual Communications teacher at PHS.

SECOND: Mr. Migneault

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

Ms. Shaena Malone is requesting 16 weeks of leave for maternity and childrearing with the option of an extended leave if necessary.

MOTION: Ms. Haskell moved to approve the leave for Shaena Malone.

SECOND: Ms. Lemieux

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

- B. Custodian Contract Ratification: The Custodian union ratified their contract this past Saturday. Mr. Di Pietro stated that the Board had received a copy of the proposed contract in their packet to review prior to this evening.

MOTION: Mr. Migneault moved to approve the Custodial contract.

SECOND: Ms. Lemieux

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

5. Public Forum:

- A. Public Forum/Agenda Items: As no one came forward, the chair moved to the next item on the agenda.
- B. Student Liaison Report: Miss Thomas informed the board that the band won their competitions at both the State and New England levels. She said that the production of Alice in Wonderland was very good. They also had two tea parties in between the shows. This week is Spirit Week and Homecoming will be on Friday night.

6. OLD BUSINESS:

- A. Monthly Budget Report & Facilities Update: Mr. Lussier stated that there are no changes from the previous month's expenditures. He also stated that the legal fees for this year are substantially lower than in the past.

Facilities - No issues in any of the schools this past month. The walkthroughs have been completed. Security and ADA compliance seem to be the biggest issues at the schools along with heating & cooling and parking control.

Gymnasium renovation at PCS: The sound system has been installed and they are working with the University of Hartford to evaluate the sound levels. This is being done at no cost to the district. We should be able to finish the project on budget with the money that was received from Lowes.

- B. Capital Improvement Bond Update: The firm of Silver/Petrocelli has been hired as the architects for the project. A roofing consultant and a clerk of the works has also been chosen.
- C. Strategic Planning Update: There will be a meeting at SHE at 6:30 on November 25th to meet with their PTO. This is the first step in involving public engagement in the planning process.
- D. Special Education Report: Mr. Klimkiewicz spoke to the board regarding some of the programs that are in place this year. He said that we have an Intensive Independent Living Skills Program: 10 students in that program that are working successfully out in the community. They are gaining employment and social skills. They also maintaining and monitoring the vending machines throughout the schools.

PASS Program: Collaborating with students in the tradition education classes. Also working with the technology class to make cars.

SLP: Students are developing job skills; working in the cafeteria and office; and also working on group instruction and cooking activities.

Technology - Working with students with notebooks on a one-to-one basis. Using an on-line learning program in PASS and PYD.

IEP at a glance - He said that they are currently working with Aspen to improve teacher access to IEP information.

Tuition students - Mr. Klimkiewicz said that we have had four additional students that were not planned for in the budget added to our outside placements. We do currently still have money remaining in the account for the remainder of the year. The board asked if they could receive the information on out of placed students on a bimonthly basis.

- E. Grant Awards: We have received \$182,000 from the State Department to update our security in the schools. We have also received \$500 for each of our schools from Big Y in Plainfield in honor of their grand opening of their newly remodeled store.
- F. School Security Officer Research: Mr. Di Pietro stated that the Chief of Police is looking at an alternative scheduling of his staff to see if they could free up an officer to be assigned to our schools. He said he also met with superintendents in the area to discuss what they are using for security. Security officers in this area are paid a rate of 16 - 21/hour. Presently, we have received about 20 - 25 applicants that have expressed an interest in the position. Mr. Di Pietro asked the board if he would like them to continue with the process of securing someone for this position.

MOTION: Ms. Haskell moved to use available money and with involvement with the police department in the hiring process, the district should go forward with interviewing for the security officer position.

SECOND: Ms. Lemieux

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

7. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Curriculum Adoptions: English Curriculum: Mr. Josh Farrish spoke to the board about the revisions to the English Curriculum. He said that they wanted to provide the seniors with some additional options for their English courses. They would like to provide an Honors British Literature class, a Non Fiction class, and a Contemporary fiction course.

MOTION: Ms. Lemieux moved to approved the revision to the English curriculum.

SECOND: Mr. Cartier

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

- B. Policy Reaffirmation - Community Use of School Facilities: Mr. Klimkiewicz stated that the only changes made to the policy was to add designee next to the word superintendent. This will allow another administrator to sign off on the use form.

MOTION: Mr. Migneault moved to approve the revision to the Community Use of School Facilities policy.

SECOND: Mr. Cartier

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

- C. Discretionary Grant Funding Authorization: The Smart Start grant is available to expand PreK education. Ms. Cadro stated that we could write for funding to provide one all day PreK program. In

the following year, there will need to be an all day Kindergarten program for these children to continue in.. We would need to convert a classroom to house the PK and K students because each room will need its own bathroom. The program could be put back in the ECC, but that would eliminate the revenue from EASTCONN that we receive for the rental of that space. We would also need to have summer programming for these students as well.

MOTION: Ms. Haskell moved to pursue the grant and use the funding to begin to expand the program and move forward toward all day PK and K in the district.

SECOND: Ms. Lemieux

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

- D. Board of Education Calendar: The board was presented with the 2015 calendar of their meetings. They will remain on the second Wednesday of each month excluding July and a later meeting in November to provide time for new members to be sworn in prior to the meeting.

MOTION: Ms. Haskell moved to adopt the 2015 Calendar.

SECOND: Mr. Cartier

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

- E. Superintendent's Report: CAPSS Awards - they will be held on November 17th at Killingly High School. The recipients will also be recognized at the December Board meeting.

Year of the Arts - The Art teachers in the district would like to see the program take place. They would like to bring in artists exhibits, showcase student artwork in a Plainfield school calendar, Video documentary, and also have a community wide celebration.

8. STANDING COMMITTEES AND INDIVIDUAL REPORTS:

- A. CABE/CAPSS Conference: Mr. Di Pietro reminded the Board that the conference will take place this Friday and Saturday in Mystic. Mr. Di Pietro stated that he will be presenting at the conference and several members of the board will be attending.
- B. School Liaison/Community Engagement Report: Ms. Haskell will be setting up dates with the principals in order to begin talking with parents about the strategic plan.

Executive session for Personnel matter:

MOTION: Mr. Migneault moved to go into executive session at 8:31 p.m. for the purpose of a personnel matter.

SECOND: Ms. Arpin

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

MOTION: Ms. Haskell moved to come out of executive session at 8:45 p.m.

SECOND: Mr. Migneault

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

MOTION: Mr. Migneault moved to allow teacher to retire on December 1, 2014

SECOND: Ms. Haskell

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

9. ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: Mr. Migneault moved to adjourn at 8:46 p.m.

SECOND: Mr. Cartier

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy St. Amour
Recording Secretary