

**Plainfield Board of Education**  
**February 12, 2014**  
**7:00 PM**  
**PHS Library**

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 Board Secretary) PRESENT: Douglas Smith, Chair; Christi Haskell, Audrey Lemieux, Peter Migneault, Mike O'Neil, Kathleen Barry, Cindy Arpin, Ron Lussier, Renee Keech, Sterling; Alexandra Thomas, Student Representative; Tammy St. Amour, Recorder

3. CONSENT AGENDA:

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

SECOND: Ms. Haskell

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

The Consent Agenda consisted of:

A. Minutes of the Meeting of January 8, 2014.

5. PERSONNEL:

A. Appointments & Resignations: Mr. Di Pietro stated that there were no new appointments or resignations, however, Ms. Augusta Gilberti began as the new Supervisor of Special Education this past Monday.

6. 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: Alexandra stated that the indoor track team competed at the state level. The boys placed 13th and the girls were 12th. The Chamber Choir performed at the Berkley Music Festival. She stated that the Student Council will be hosting a Coffee House this month at the high school.

C. Volunteer Appreciation Recognition: Mr. Di Pietro stated that it is very important to have volunteers in the community and the school department is very appreciative of their service. Mr. Smith read the Volunteer Proclamation into the record stating that February 2014 is officially Volunteer Awareness Month in Plainfield. Mr. Di Pietro wished to recognize one of our special

volunteers. Mrs. Aurore Piasecki (Grandma P) from Moosup Elementary School. The Board presented her with the Positively Plainfield Award.

D. Recognition of Athletic Achievements: Mr. Gagnon stated that the girls' soccer team has done very well. The team has won the QVJC championship for the past two years. Mr. Worth recognized the following high school students:

#### Cross Country

Girls Team- Champs in ECC Med Division

Kerri Ruffo- ECC Champ, 4<sup>th</sup> in Class SS, All State

Liz Larned, Kathryn Sanborn, Kathleen Silveira- All Conference ECC All Stars

Ryan Saros- All ECC

#### Football

Andre Bergeron, Stephen Jankowski, Cody Alday- ECC First Team All Stars

Killian Easton- ECC Sportsmanship Award

#### Volleyball

Chivon Burns- ECC First Team

Enxhi Ferraj- ECC Sportsmanship Award

#### Boys Soccer

Jarod Beauregard- ECC Sportsmanship Award

#### Girls Soccer

Mary Ellen Sweeney, Alicia Cournoyer- ECC First Team All Stars

Lindsey Charwood- ECC Sportsmanship Award

#### Boys Basketball

Ryan Pambuku- 1000 points scored

### 7. OLD BUSINESS:

A. Monthly Budget Report & Facilities Update: Mr. Lussier stated that everything is running smoothly. The expenditures remain as planned for the year. He said that there are a few overruns, however, they can be compensated by savings in other areas. Facilities - Mr. Lussier said that there was a leak at PCS over kitchen. Repairs have been made. Plainfield High School had some issues with the boiler and they have also been rectified. He noted that the new digital cameras have been installed on the buses. All buses should now have some sort of recording device in place. He stated that the district has signed a contract with AT & T for fiber throughout all of the schools. It should take approximately 90 days to complete the installation.

B. Grant Purchase - Bid Approval: Mr. Lussier stated that 7 bids were received for the purchase of up to 200 computers and 100 laptops. He said that after reviewing the bids, they would like to purchase the computers from Ergonomic Group and the laptops from CDW.

MOTION: Ms. Haskell moved to approved the purchase of the computers and laptops.

SECOND: Ms. Lemieux

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

C. Capital Improvements Update: Mr. Di Pietro stated that he has been informed by the state department that each of the projects can be bid separately. He said that he would like to put out twelve (12) separate bids. He noted that this project will encompass a lot of work and a building committee will also need to be formed to oversee the project.

D. Discussion Regarding Performance of a Public Official: Mr. Smith stated that Mr. Benoit was not able to attend the meeting this evening and has asked that this discussion be moved to the March meeting. He said that he spoke with the Board's attorney and she recommends that the discussion be postponed.

MOTION: Mr. Migneault moved to postpone the performance of a public official until the March meeting.

SECOND: Mr. O'Neil

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

Based on this vote, Mr. Smith prepared a letter to send to Mr. Benoit stating that it will be moved to the March meeting, but the discussion will take place regardless of his attendance at that time. He asked the Board for their approval to send the letter.

MOTION: Ms. Haskell moved to send the letter to Mr. Benoit.

SECOND: Ms. Arpin

VOTE: Passed with opposition from Mr. O'Neil and an abstention from Mr. Migneault.

## 8. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Curriculum Adoption: World History Curriculum - Ms. Cadro indicated that the Curriculum Advisory Council and the subcommittee of the Board has already reviewed and approved the curriculum. It was brought before the Board at its previous meeting, however there were some questions regarding the curriculum. She said that at this time, all inquiries have been answered and corrections that needed to be made have been completed.

MOTION: Ms. Lemieux moved to approve the World History curriculum.

SECOND: Ms. Barry

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

B. Budget Transfers: Mr. Lussier stated that due to some shortfalls in some of the special education accounts, he would like to make a transfer of \$91,360 within the special education line items to balance the account for that department. There is no overall impact to the budget. It is simply moving the money from one account to the other to make up for the shortfalls.

MOTION: Mr. Migneault moved to approve the transfers.

SECOND: Ms. Haskell

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

C. 2015 Budget Review: The 2015 budget has an increase of \$833,604 over the present year's budget. The high school has requested the replacement of a printer that is now outdated. It was originally quoted at \$31,000 but the district has received a new quote of \$18,586. Also included in this budget is the conversion from carpet to tile in the schools that still have it remaining. There are some savings to be realized in the budget for this year in the amount of about \$45,000. Mr. Di Pietro would like to try and use some the savings to purchase the printer for the high school at the end of this school year.

Mr. Di Pietro suggested that the carpet to tile conversion go through state reimbursement aid. This will be less of a charge to the taxpayer due to the reimbursement rate with the project.

D. Superintendent's Report: Governance Council - Mr. Worth stated that even though significant gains were made at the high school last year, due to past performance at PHS, the school has been identified under CT-DOE review. The high school is required to form a Governance Council comprised of members of the faculty, students, parents and community members. The Council will take a look at school initiatives and determine the course that they would improve student learning.

Juvenile Justice : Mr. Worth stated that he would like to investigate the use of Juvenile Justice for student behavior issues. He said that it was created to look at some of the lesser infractions that students commit so that an expulsion from school does not always need to be the outcome. The juvenile review board would hear the case of a student and make a determination of the discipline that should be served. He asked if the Board would like to endorse a pilot of this program for the rest of the school year to see if this is a better option for the students.

MOTION: Ms. Haskell moved to endorse the pilot program.

SECOND: Ms. Barry

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

## 9. STANDING COMMITTEES & INDIVIDUAL REPORTS:

Ms. Barry asked how the conversion to Aspen has been going. Mr. Di Pietro stated that there

are some concerns that need to be worked out. The faculty is able to put in the information that they need. There is an issue with the 504 data not being linked into the system, but it is being worked on.

The Policy Committee will meet on March 5th.

The Curriculum Committee will meet on March 10th at 5:30.

For any members that are interested, CABE Day on the Hill will be on March 5th.

Mr. Smith said that there was a Legislative Breakfast last Thursday. He noted that the weather kept some people from attending, but overall it went well.

## 10. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Mr. Migneault moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:21 p.m.

SECOND: Ms. Lemieux

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy St. Amour  
Recording Secretary