

PLAINFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION

August 12, 2015

Plainfield High School Media Center

7:00 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

2. **ROLL CALL:** Douglas Smith, Chair; Christi Haskell, Mike Cartier, Mike O'Neil, Peter Migneault, Cheryl Hull, Cynthia Arpin, Kenneth DiPietro, Superintendent; Ron Lussier, Business Manager; Tammy St. Amour, Recorder

3. CONSENT AGENDA:

The Consent Agenda consisted of:

- The minutes of the meeting of June 10, 2015.

MOTION: Ms. Haskell moved to approve the Consent Agenda.

SECOND: Mr. Cartier

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

4. COMMUNICATIONS:

- A. NEASC - PHS Commendation: Mr. Di Pietro stated that the New England Association of Schools & Colleges commends the high school for the many things they have done to continue to improve the delivery of instruction. Mr. Di Pietro reviewed some of the commendations that were communicated by NEASC.

5. PERSONNEL:

- A. Resignations & Appointments: Mr. Di Pietro stated that Mrs. O'Meara, PMS Principal, has submitted her resignation to pursue a principalship position in Colchester. He said that she has been a great leader at Plainfield Memorial School and will be missed.

MOTION: Ms. Haskell moved to accept the letter of resignation from Judy O'Meara with regret.

SECOND: Mr. Cartier

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

- B. Report on New Hires: Mr. Di Pietro stated that Mrs. Natasha Hutchinson has been appointed to the Principal position at Plainfield Memorial School. He said that there were three candidate from the district that were considered for the position. The committee agreed that Mrs. Hutchinson was the most suited for the position.

MOTION: Ms. Haskell moved to approve the appointment of Natasha Hutchinson to the Principal position at Plainfield Memorial School.

SECOND: Mr. Cartier

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

Mr. Di Pietro also informed the Board of the new staff that were hired over the summer. He said that there are still a few positions left to fill.

Anthony Gervase - Reading Specialist at SHE
Sierra Suprin - Speech Pathologist
Ashley Sleboda - Grade 2 at SHE
Jennifer LaRose - Grade 2 at SHE
Olivia Tyskiewicz - PreK at SHE

MOTION: Ms. Haskell moved to approve the appointments of the new staff.

SECOND: Ms. Hull

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

Mr. Di Pietro also stated that he received notification from Mrs. Susan Dion that she plans to retire as of September 1, 2015.

MOTION: Ms. Haskell moved to accept the resignation of Ms. Dion with regret.

SECOND: Mr. Cartier

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

6. PUBLIC FORUM:

Ms. Deana Burtrand stated that she has a child in the 3rd grade at MES. She spoke for several other parents that are concerned with the class size this year. She said that last year there were 18 students in the class and this year there will be 23 students. Mr. Di Pietro said that they are aware of the class sizes, and indicated that any new 3rd grade students that come to enroll at Moosup Elementary School will be informed that they will be placed at Shepard Hill.

Budget Facilities - 14/15 year end. 63,000 under plan for the year. This will be given back to the town to offset the loss of revenue in the past.

7. OLD BUSINESS:

- A. Budget & Facilities Update: Mr. Lussier stated that the 2014/15 school year ended \$63,000 under the planned budget. He said that this under run will be given back to the Town to offset the loss of revenue in the past. He noted that there are no excessive cost in the current year's budget at this point. He said that the changes that took place in the staffing this summer will be made and a new report will be presented to the Board for their next meeting.

Facilities: Mr. Lussier stated that the custodial staff will have the buildings ready for the first day of school. They have asked for some extra time in the next week to finish all of the cleaning. The Security vestibule at Moosup Elementary is complete along with the new security wall at Plainfield Central. He said that the district was able to purchase

additional walkie-talkies. This will allow all of the schools to be on the same frequency and have direct contact with the police. He also said that the new gymnasium at Plainfield Central is 99% complete.

- B. Building Committee Status Report: Mr. Lussier stated that the roofs at Moosup, Memorial and Central are being completed. He said that he has been assured that they will be completed before the start of school.
- C. Bus Routes Adjustments Status Report: Due to the revision of the bus routes this year, we have been working with DATTCO to rectify any parental concerns and make changes where necessary. Mr. Lussier said that many of the concerns were due to pickups at Daycare providers. He said that there are a couple of concerns with some cul-de-sacs because there is no place for a bus to turn around.
- D. Community Recognition Dinner: Mr. Di Pietro said that the Board determined that they would recognize the Paraprofessionals and Teachers of the Year, the Lions' Club, the Building Committee and the Jewett City Savings Bank at their dinner this year on September 28th at Plainfield High School.
- E. Second Reading of Policies - 3500, 5114, 5125, 5141.6: Mr. Smith stated that the policies have been available on the website for review.

MOTION: Mr. Cartier moved to approved the revisions to the policies.

SECOND: Ms. Haskell

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

8. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Student Athlete Workshop: Mr. Worth informed the Board that every athlete will now be required to taken the workshop before being able to participate in any sporting event. He said that the workshop will focus on awareness of academic status, bullying and health and safety issues that all athletes need to be aware of.
- B. Field Trip Approval Request - Softball: Mr. Di Pietro said that the softball team at the high school would like to attend a camp in Florida. He said that he had concerns with the trip due to his experiences with them in the past. He noted that Mr. Langlois provided some further research on the trip and Mr. Di Pietro believes it to be trustworthy. He did note that because about 50% of the trip will involve sightseeing for the students, he would like the students to only be able to fundraise for 50% of the trip and the remainder must be paid for by the family.

MOTION: Ms. Haskell moved to approve the field trip to Florida.

SECOND: Mr. Cartier

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

- C. Summer Program Report: Mrs. Cadro stated that the summer program went very well this year. She said that there were two reading and two math specialist to assist the children. There were 109 students that attended this year. Mr. Klimkiewicz stated that there were 14 special education preschool student, 32 special education students, 7 ILP students, 11 project based learning students, and 27 children attending Camp Q.

Mr. Di Pietro said that the Discovery Bus has been a big hit this summer. There were 1420 visitors to the bus with approximately 900 books being borrowed. There were guest readers telling stories to the children along the route as well as at Pride in Plainfield Day. The bus also participated in the VJ Day Parade. He said that they now have the opportunity to use the bus as an on site field trip at the schools throughout the year.

- D. Superintendent's Report: Mr. Di Pietro said that the opening meeting for staff this year will be on August 24th. All members of the Board of Education are welcome to attend. He said that he is proud to have an address to the staff by the Commissioner of Education at the meeting this year.

Enrollment: Mr. Di Pietro said that they are watching the enrollment numbers at Moosup Elementary School and the class sizes will not go up any higher in the 3rd grade. They will also look into additional support for those classes if it is needed.

9. STANDING COMMITTEES AND INDIVIDUAL REPORTS:

The CABE/CAPSS Convention will be held on November 20 and 21 this year. Please let the office know if you plan to attend.

The Policy Committee will meet on September 2 at 6:30 at the ECC. A date will need to set to begin to discuss negotiations for the administrator contract.

Mr. Di Pietro said that the Finance meeting prior to the regular meeting next month will begin at 6:10. This will allow for time to have a family information session with the superintendent.

Ms. Haskell said that she would like to take on the role of community liaison for the Board. She asked the Board to have a discussion on the matter at the next meeting.

10. ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: Ms. Haskell moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:12 p.m.

SECOND: Mr. Cartier

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Tammy St. Amour, Recorder

