

PLAINFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

April 8, 2015

7:00 p.m.

PHS Library Media Center

PRESENT: Chair Doug Smith, Mike O'Neil, Christi Haskell, Kathleen Barry, Mike Cartier, Cheryl Hull, Cindy Arpin, Audrey Lemieux, Kenneth Di Pietro, Superintendent; Ron Lussier, Business Manager; 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. Barry

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

The Consent Agenda Consisted of:

1. The Minutes of the Meeting of March 11, 2015.

4. **COMMUNICATIONS:** None Presented.

5. **PERSONNEL:**

- A. Resignations & Appointments: A resignation for the purpose of retirement was received from Mr. Duane Emmi, Wood Shop teacher at PHS. Mr. Emmi will retire at the completion of the 2014-15 school year.

MOTION: Ms. Barry moved to accept the letter of resignation for the purpose of retirement from Mr. Duane Emmi.

SECOND: Mr. Cartier

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

A letter of resignation was received from Katie Discordia, PMS teacher. She is resigning as of the end of the school year to raise her family.

MOTION: Mr. O'Neil moved to accept the letter of resignation for Katie Discordia.

SECOND: Ms. Barry

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

Ms. Cassandra Benoit has been working under one of our Speech Pathologist this school year. She has now received her CT certification and will placed on staff.

MOTION: Ms. Haskell moved to approve the appointment of Cassandra Benoit as a speech pathologist.

SECOND: Ms. Arpin

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. PCS Presentation: Mr. Gagnon and Ms. Kelleher gave a brief presentation on the goals for Plainfield Central School. Mr. Gagnon spoke about the changes taking place in the building, including a new gymnasium thanks to the contributions of Lowe's. Ms. Kelleher reviewed the new computer lab and the plans for the new entryway at Plainfield Central. In closing, Mr. Gagnon introduced the team that works in the Intensive Learning Program. They explained to the board the work that they are doing and the benefits the program has had for the students.

Ms. Lugauskas spoke about the programs at MES and the steps they are taking to meet the goals that have been set. She also reviewed the steps that they have taken to try and reduce the achievement gap in all grades at Moosup Elementary School.

- C. Student Liaison Report: No students were present for the meeting.

## 7. OLD BUSINESS:

- A. Monthly Budget & Facilities Report: Mr. Lussier stated that we are on target for the end of the school year. The legal services are being held to a minimum this year but will increase slightly as the district begins contract negotiations with the paraprofessional union.

Mr. Lussier said that work will begin on the vestibule at Moosup Elementary next week and their new phone system will be installed. He said that the test cuts on the roofs at PMS & PCS have been completed and the gymnasium renovation at PCS has begun.

B. Building Committee/Bond Report: Mr. Lussier stated that a meeting was held with the school facilities unit at the State to go over the plans before a bid is sent out. He said everything is in place. Ms. Barry thanked Ken and Ron for their assistance with completed the required forms.

C. ECHIP Report: Mr. Lussier said that the account for the insurance is doing well. At the conclusion of this year, we should have a fund balance of just over 1.4 million.

D. Strategic Dialogue: Mr. Di Pietro reviewed the responses that have been received by the parents and teachers for the strategic goals that they would like to see the board pursue. He stated that he will have a comparison report created so that the Board can compare these with the original goals that they have previous set for the district.

- E. Grants Update: Mrs. Cadro said that there are two grants that need approval:

School Readiness - \$156,000  
Enhancement Grant - \$7,800

MOTION: Ms. Barry moved to approve the two grants.

SECOND: Ms. Haskell

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

## **8. NEW BUSINESS:**

A. Healthy Foods Certification: Each year the Board must sign off on the fact that we will follow the state guideline to provide healthy foods in our cafeteria. Mr. Lussier stated that by signing this agreement, we will continue to receive reimbursement for our free and reduced lunches.

MOTION: Ms. Haskell moved to approve the Healthy Foods Certification.

SECOND: Ms. Lemieux

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

B. Budget Transfers: Mr. Lussier stated that there are \$263,000 in budget transfers that need to be made. He noted that the transfers are to balance out accounts that have been over expended with those that still have an excess.

MOTION: Ms. Arpin moved to approve the budget transfers.

SECOND: Mr. O'Neil.

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

C. Superintendent's Report: - Mr. Di Pietro provided the Board with a listing of activities that are taking place between now and the end of the school year. He also informed the Board that they will be having a Penmanship Contest in the elementary schools.

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

There will be a Policy Committee meeting on April 23 at 6:30 at the ECC.

## **10. EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

MOTION: Ms. Haskell moved to go into executive session to discuss the superintendent's evaluation.

SECOND: Ms. Barry

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

## **11. ADJOURNMENT:**

MOTION: Ms. Lemieux moved to adjourn at 8:39 p.m.

SECOND: Ms. Haskell

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy St. Amour  
Recording Secretary