

PLAINFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING  
March 11, 2015  
7:00 p.m.  
PHS Library Media Center

PRESENT: Chair Doug Smith, Mike O'Neil, Christi Haskell, Kathleen Barry, Mike Cartier, Cheryl Hull, Peter Migneault, Cindy Arpin, Kenneth Di Pietro, Superintendent; Ron Lussier, Business Manager; Alexandra Thomas & Kendra Curran, Student Representatives, 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: Mr. Migneault moved to approve the Consent Agenda.

SECOND: Ms. Haskell

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

The Consent Agenda Consisted of:

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

4. **COMMUNICATIONS:** None Presented.

**5. PERSONNEL:**

- A. Resignations & Appointments: None presented.

**6. PUBLIC FORUM:**

- A. Public Forum/Agenda Items: As no one came forward, the Chair moved to the next item on the agenda.
- B. Security Officers Introduction: Mr. Di Pietro introduced Daniel Czikowsky and Michael Rouillard. He said that both officers have a background in criminal justice and they will provide additional sets of eyes to scan the perimeter of the school for safety. Both officers stated that they are feeling welcome at the school. The staff and students have thanked them for providing additional safety to the schools. Both officers have begun to create a trust with the students and staff and they look forward to continuing to grow that relationship.

- C. PHS Presentation: Mr. Worth spoke to the Board regarding the NEASC evaluation process. He said that as of March 1st, the follow-up team had to complete and send along their 5-year report. He said that this is part of the process of showing that we have taken their recommendation and suggestions and put them in place throughout the high school. The NEASC evaluation is completed every 10 years. The high school will soon begin to put together a team to perform a self study based on the seven standards that will be evaluated in 2020.
- D. Student Liaison Report: Ms. Curran stated that the Pottery Club is increasing their sessions to complete the bowls for the Soup & Bowl fundraiser; AP classes are beginning to review for the test; the basketball team has qualified for states; the Natural Helpers are conducting a food drive and the Sophomores have completed CAPT testing. Ms. Thomas said that the Juniors attended the college fair in Hartford; the National Honor Society is having a spaghetti supper tomorrow night and the scheduling for next year's classes has begun.

## 7. OLD BUSINESS:

- A. Monthly Budget & Facilities Report: Mr. Lussier stated that the Town has approved the money for the remaining bus leases. Those buses will now be able to be transferred over to DATTCO. Mr. Lussier stated that due to the increase in the price of natural gas this year, there is a issue with that line item in the budget. He informed the Board that there were no issues with the facilities this month.

Mr. Lussier said that the Building Committee has submitted their request to the State for a Prep and PCT meeting. This is a required meeting to review all of the information that we have submitted.

- B. Building Committee/Bond Report: Mr. Lussier stated that a request has been submitted to the state for a prep and PCT meeting. This is a required meeting to review all of the information that we are submitting for the project. The PCT meeting allows us to submit the plans from the architects and allow us to go out to bid. The security vestibule at MES was reviewed today by three different contractors so that they may prepare to bid on the job.
- C. Policy Revisions: The Board reviewed the packet of policies that have minor changes or simply need to be reaffirmed. Mr. Di Pietro asked if the Health Assessments and Immunizations should have further review based on the new regulations by the state. Mr. Klimkiewicz said that he would re-evaluate the policy. The policies that need to be approved are:
- 5002 Permanent REsidency of Students - Revision
  - 5010 Student Dress Code - Reaffirm
  - 5017 Alcohol & Drug Use Policy - Reaffirm
  - 5030 Police Investigations in School - Reaffirm

- 5032 Students Involved with Police Courts - Reaffirm
- 5042 Educating Students with Chronic Infectious Diseases - Revision

MOTION: Ms. Barry moved to pull Policy 5040 Health Assessments & Immunizations for further review.

SECOND: Ms. Haskell

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

MOTION: Mr. Migneault moved to approve all other policy revisions and reaffirmations.

SECOND: Ms. Haskell

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

- D. Transportation Update: There was a meeting with DATTCO last week to work with them to correct some issues such as lateness to school. DATTCO has agreed to conduct a GPS review to see why the buses are arriving so late to school. It was also noted that there is an issue with no one answering the phones in their office when calls come in. DATTCO has agreed to give the work cell phone to the principals so that they can call directly. The Board asked for a follow-up next month with regard to these issues.
- E. Special Education Report: Mr. Klimkiewicz informed the Board that the State has selected Plainfield for a special education audit. He said that this will include them coming out to review files to make sure that all of the required information is in there. Mr. Klimkiewicz said that Mr. Nagel has taken a lead role in looking at our sound fields in the classrooms. This is the microphone systems that are used to assist students with hearing disabilities. These units may be required through an IEP for some of our students. He concluded by informing the Board that there has been some movement in our outplaced students. A couple of high school students were outplaced along with one student that was placed in a safe home in Milford by DCF.
- F. Adoption of FY2016 Budget Request: Mr. Di Pietro stated that the 2016 budget has an increase of approximately \$250,000. He said that the current enrollment numbers at PHS will allow for a reduction to a math teacher. This will save approximately \$60,000. A .71% increase will be the requested.

MOTION: Ms. Arpin moved to approve the \$34,597,111 appropriation for the 2015-2016 budget.

SECOND: Ms. Barry

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

- G. Grant Updates: Ms. Cadro stated that the district has received the Smartstart grant. All of the renovation to convert the classrooms for all day PK will be completed before the start of next school year. She stated that she is still working on the security grant and still waiting to hear about the technology grant. She informed the Board that the district also received the Assessment grant.

## 8. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Calendar Discussion: Mr. Di Pietro discussed the changes that were made to this year's calendar due to inclement weather days. He said that the final day will now be on June 19th. The Professional Development day that was scheduled for March 16th will now be a half day for students and a half day of professional development. The all day PD will be moved to the end of the year for staff. The graduation for Plainfield High School will be scheduled for Friday, June 19th and the PCS Promotion will take place on Thursday, June 18th. Mr. Di Pietro also presented the Board with the school calendar for 2015-2016. He said that the calendar is in alignment with the Regional Calendar. The first day of school will be on August 24th for staff and August 26th for students. The tentative last day is scheduled for June 10th.

MOTION: Ms. Haskell moved to approve the changes to the 2014-2015 calendar.

SECOND: Ms. Barry

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

MOTION: Mr. Migneault moved to approve the 2015-2016 Calendar.

SECOND: Ms. Barry

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

- B. PHS Freshman Course Modification: Mr. Di Pietro said that with the State assessment now being taken in Junior year, there is no longer a need to have a double math in the Freshman year. He also stated that with the elimination of the 4x4 block in a couple of years, they will be able to reinstate the Freshman House model, which was more beneficial to our students.

MOTION: Ms. Haskell moved to approve the elimination of two math courses for each student in their Freshman year.

SECOND: Ms. Barry

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

- C. Superintendent's Report: - Mr. Di Pietro said that the district and DATTCO has begun the process of converting a school bus into a library. He is working with them on the design concept so that they can begin the fabrication process. He also informed the Board that the Big Nozo Puppet Show will be in the district on May 29th.

## 9. STANDING COMMITTEES AND INDIVIDUAL REPORTS:

There will be a Policy Committee meeting on Wednesday at 6:30 at the ECC. Mr. Smith stated that the Legislative Breakfast was held and he was disappointed that only two legislators were present.

Mr. O'Neil stated that he is pleased that the students are feeling comfortable with the new security officers and are able to incidents to them.

Ms. Haskell attended the PACT meeting and was very impressed with the BCABA that we have here in district.

**10. ADJOURNMENT:**

MOTION: Mr. Migneault moved to adjourn at 8:41 p.m.

SECOND: Ms. Haskell

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy St. Amour  
Recording Secretary