

PLAINFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION

April 8, 2009

7:00 p.m.

Plainfield High School Library

1. **CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. **ROLL CALL:** (taken silently by board secretary) **PRESENT:** Shirley Farrell, Chair; Gary LaBonte, Angela Spino, Audrey Lemieux, Doug Smith, Angie Kwasny, Cheryl Hull, John Lorange; Mary Conway, Superintendent; Peter Roche, Business Manager; Tammy St. Amour, Recorder

MOTION: Mr. Smith moved to add items 6I – Teacher Resignation and 6J- Policy 3006 Budget Transfers to the agenda and to also move item 6A before the Public Forum.

SECOND: Ms. Lemieux

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

3. **CONSENT AGENDA:**

MOTION: Mr. Lorange moved to remove Items 3B and 3C from the Consent Agenda.

SECOND: Ms. Lemieux

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

MOTION: Mr. Lorange moved to accept Item 3A.

SECOND: Ms. Spino

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

3B – Policy Committee Minutes – Ms. Spino was not able to attend the meeting, but did send in her concerns for her opposition to a dress code and wanted her printed communication in its entirety to be placed with the minutes.

3C – Policy 201 – Ms. Farrell asked that the policy be sent back to committee to make the policy more understandable and to have a rewrite of the last paragraph.

6A – Service Learning Presentation – Mrs. Chamie informed the Board that the students in Mrs. Monroe’s grade 3 class worked on a project this year. Mrs. Monroe had visited Cambodia recently and shared her experiences with her students. After hearing about the culture and life style, the students wanted to help by providing the students of Cambodia with school supplies. The students gave the board members a brief presentation of the information that they have gathered to help them in their quest to provide the students of Cambodia with a better education.

4. **PUBLIC FORUM:**

Mr. Mark Ives addressed the board to ask for their consideration with some type of transportation for those students that will now be attending a Catholic school out of district.

Mr. Peter Boyer presented the Board with an Early Retirement Plan for certified staff that may help with the budget for next school year.

Pauline Andstrom spoke to the board with regard to naming several of the school facilities. A few of her suggestions were to name the football field the Veterans' Field, and the library at PHS after Josephine Armstrong.

Nancy Wilcox – also stated that she agrees with naming the library after Ms. Armstrong. She also stated that she would like the board to reconsider the lay off of many of the paraprofessionals for next school year.

## 5. OLD BUSINESS:

A. Proposed Education Budget: Dr. Conway said that the Board of Finance does not want to have a change in the mil rate for next year. At this point, the entire budget has only been increase by .6%. In order to get it down to 0% the administration has made the following suggestions:

- Certified staff member at ECC - \$45,000
- Nurse at Plainfield Catholic - \$43,640
- Out-of-District Tuition - \$40,170
- Transportation for Plainfield Catholic - \$30,000
- Unemployment expenses - \$40,000

Dr. Conway suggests that the Board reduce the budget to keep the mil rate as it stands.

MOTION: Mr. Smith moved to approve the additional cuts.

SECOND: Ms. Hull

VOTE: Passed with one nay vote from Mr. Lorange.

B. Catholic School Transportation: Dr. Conway stated that if all of the student from Plainfield Catholic were to attend our schools, our classes would increase by about 14 students per grade level or 1 to 2 students per classroom. She stated that many have already chosen to attend another private school. Mrs. Farrell indicated that during this difficult budget time, she did not think that we should provide transportation for private schools.

MOTION: Mr. Lorange moved to not provide buses for free to transport Plainfield students to private schools out of town.

SECOND: Mr. Smith

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

C. Monthly Tuition and Paraprofessional Update: Dr. Conway said that the Special Education budget is presently in the red by about \$10,000. There were not any changes to the paraprofessional staff this past month.

D. Monthly Facilities Update & Budget Report: Mr. Roche said that there was an issue with the locks on the interior doors at the high school. They are in the process of correcting the problem. There is a lot of work to be done to get the fields ready for the spring sports season. Mr. Roche also stated that there is currently no major issue with the budget. They are keeping watch on the workers compensation and unemployment accounts and feel that there may be a surplus in those accounts at the end of the school year.

## 6. NEW BUSINESS:

- B. Residency Request: Dr. Conway said that the parent of two students in our district, one at SHE and one at PCS, has asked permission to allow them to stay in Plainfield for the remainder of the year. They were living with their mom who recently passed away and have moved in with him in Rhode Island. He would like them to continue to have that stability and he will provide transportation.

MOTION: Mr. Lorange moved to approve the request to allow the two children to remain in Plainfield for the remainder of the school year.

SECOND: Ms. Lemieux

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

- C. Childrearing Leave Request: Mrs. Noreen Carterud, PHS Guidance Counselor, is expecting her baby in June and would like to take the following school year off for childrearing. She will return to her position for the 2010-2011 school year.

MOTION: Mr. Smith moved to approve the 1 year childrearing leave.

SECOND: Mr. Lorange

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

- D. Set High School Graduation Date: Dr. Conway asked the board, per Connecticut General Statute, that they set the high school graduation date for June 22, 2009. This would be the 180<sup>th</sup> day of school.

MOTION: Ms. Kwasny moved to set the graduation date for June 22, 2009.

SECOND: Ms. Lemieux

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

- E. Teacher Retirement: Dr. Conway informed the Board that due to declining health, Mrs. Bonnie Mooney has decided to retire as of March 29, 2009.

MOTION: Mr. Lorange moved to accept the retirement with regret and thanks for her many years of service.

SECOND: Mr. LaBonte

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

- F. Administrator Retirement: Dr. Conway announced that Susan Chamie will be retiring as the principal of Moosup Elementary School on August 31, 2009. Mrs. Chamie worked for us previously as the Supervisor of Special Education and return to Plainfield to become the principal. She has had a total of ten years in district.

MOTION: Mr. Smith moved to accept the retirement of Mrs. Chamie with gratitude and best wishes for a happy retirement.

SECOND: Ms. Lemieux

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

- G. Naming of School Facilities: Dr. Conway said that the policy committee is looking for direction from the board on a policy for the naming of school facilities. She suggested that if the Board decides to pursue this issue, that it should be based on a very diverse committee to decide on the naming of a facility. It was the consensus of the Board to create a policy for the naming of school facilities.

- H. Advertising, Promotion, and Commercial Activities: Dr. Conway said that there has been discussion of this issue in the past. The policy committee has requested that the Board determine whether or not they wish to create a policy should a request to advertise be brought to the school. It was the consensus of the board to create a policy for advertising.
- I. Teacher Resignation: Mrs. Alexandra Leight, a special education teacher at MES, has been on a one year childrearing leave. At this time, she is submitting her resignation.

MOTION: Mr. Smith moved to accept the letter of resignation from Mrs. Leight.

SECOND: Ms. Spino

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

- J. Policy 3006 Budget Transfers: Mr. LaBonte stated that the Board had previously made transfers in the budget as line items would be over expended. In the past several years, the board changed that practice to allow the over expended lines to remain in the red. Mr. LaBonte would like to be able to see where the money is coming from to cover the under-funded accounts. He would like the board to be able to review, periodically, the transfers that should take place. It is suggested that the policy committee review this issue and revise the current policy. Mr. Roche suggested that instead of making the transfers to the budget, he could provide a report showing where the money is available to cover the deficits. He will provide this report at the next meeting to see if it will provide the board with the information that they are looking to review.

## **7. COMMITTEE AND INDIVIDUAL REPORTS**

- Ms. Spino distributed examples of the biographies that other boards of education place on their website. She asked the members to review it and let her know if they are interested in pursuing this.
- Ms. Spino also stated that there have been revisions to regulations concerning restraint and seclusion in public schools.
- Ms. Kwasny said that she attended the Empty Bowl Project at the high school. She said that it was well attended and served a very worthy cause.

## **8. RECOMMENDATIONS, QUESTIONS, COMMENTS:**

Dr. Conway informed the members of the board that the Historical Society presented each member with gift and it is at their spot on the table.

## **9. ADJOURN:**

MOTION: Mr. Smith moved adjourn the meeting at 8:40.

SECOND: Ms. Kwasny

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy St. Amour  
Recording Secretary