

PLAINFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION

August 13, 2008

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, Doug Smith, Audrey Lemieux, Cheryl Hull, Angie Kwasny, Angela Spino, Sue Nichols, Terry Rahn-Evers, Sterling; Mary Conway, Superintendent; Peter Roche, Business Manager; Tammy St. Amour, Recorder

3. **CONSENT AGENDA:**

MOTION: Ms. Lemieux moved to accept the Consent Agenda.

SECOND: Mr. Smith

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

The Consent Agenda consisted of the following:

- A. Minutes of the Meeting on June 11, 2008

4. **PUBLIC FORUM:**

Frank, Kim, Mallory and Josh Swabby all spoke to the Board, requesting that the Board reconsider their motion of the June meeting to not allow Mallory to complete her senior year at PHS. They stated that it was not Mallory's choice to have to move, but unforeseen circumstances required it. She would be providing her own transportation, and has been a student in Plainfield since preschool.

Dr. Conway addressed the Board to introduce the new assistant principal, Mr. Brian Tedeschi. The Board congratulated Mr. Tedeschi and welcomed him to the district.

5. **OLD BUSINESS:**

- A. Request for Reconsideration of 6-11-08 Item 6B Student Request for Non-Resident Enrollment:

MOTION: Mr. LaBonte moved to reconsider the board's decision of Item 6B from the June meeting.

SECOND: Ms. Nichols

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

The Board heard from Mr. Arcarese who indicated that there is enough room at PHS for Mallory, and that she has been a model student while attending the past three years.

Mr. LaBonte stated that the Board has the option to make a decision on a case by case basis. Under the circumstances, he felt that Mallory should be allowed to stay for her senior year.

MOTION: Ms. Spino moved to approve the request to allow Mallory to attend PHS for the 2008-2009 school year without transportation.

SECOND: Mr. LaBonte

VOTE: Passed with opposition from Mr. Smith.

6. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Request for Approval of Booster Club Funding for Grade 9 Football and Basketball Programs: Dr. Conway indicated that these programs were cut during the budget process. The athletic director has reviewed the budget and eliminated all out of town games and extra expenses. The Booster Club has offered to pay for the programs for the 08/09 school year.

MOTION: Mr. Smith moved to allow the Booster Club to fund the Grade 9 football and basketball programs for the 08-09 school year.

SECOND: Ms. Nichols

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

- B. Teacher Request for Childrearing Leave of Absence: Mrs. Lauren Morris, school social worker at MES, is requesting a 1 year leave for childrearing purposes. Dr. Conway stated that the teachers' contract allows for tenured teachers to take the leave, however, Mrs. Morris is not tenured, and would need board approval. Dr. Conway informed the board that they were able to find a former employee to fill the vacancy for the year.

MOTION: Ms. Nichols moved to approve the request for a 1 year leave of absence.

SECOND: Ms. Spino

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

- C. Teacher Resignations: Dr. Conway informed the Board that the following teachers have resigned from their position this summer:

Michael Gowdy – Music, PHS

Thomas Nelson – Science, PHS

Jennifer Buonaccorsi – Psychologist, PCS

Bethany Wisniewski – English, PHS

MOTION: Ms. Kwansy moved to accept the resignations with regret.

SECOND: Ms. Lemieux

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

- D. 2007/2008 School Attendance: Dr. Conway informed the board that Plainfield is one of twenty-five district who make up the Connecticut Consortium on School Attendance. This consortium is working to improve the attendance of student in order to enhance the learning process. She said that our ADOPT Committee has met for the past two years and will continue to meet to work on keeping kids in school. She said that there goal is to have a 95% attendance rate. Dr. Conway provided the Board with information from the Consortium and will continue to update them on the progress.
- E. 2008/2009 School District Calendar Revision: During the budget process, two days were eliminated from the school year. Dr. Conway said that the administration has suggested that rather than increase the number of professional development days, they would like to make two of the half days already scheduled, into full days of professional development. It is suggested that the early dismissal days on October 1 and November 5 become full professional days.

MOTION: Ms. Lemieux moved to approve the revision of full professional development days on October 1 and November 5.

SECOND: Ms. Kwasny

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

- F. Field Trip Requests: Plainfield High School is requesting two overnight field trips. The first trip will be to Washington, DC with some American Literature students. The trip will be from November 9 through November 11. Since the 11th is Veterans' Day, the students will only be missing one day of school

The second trip is one that is requested each year. Ms. Terri Rodgers will be touring Italy this year. The trip will be on April 9 – April 18. This will be during the April break, so the students will only miss a partial day on April 9th. This trip is open to any student and fund raising will be available to help offset the cost.

MOTION: Ms. Kwasny moved to approve both overnight field trips.

SECOND: Ms. Lemieux

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

- G. Annual Board of Education – Administrator Reflection: Dr. Conway said that the data is being prepared for the annual meeting. She also stated that the goals and indicators will be placed in our results book this year. The Board chose a date of September 17th from 5:00 – 9:00 at the Early Childhood Center.
- H. Non-Union Wage Increase for 2008/2009: Dr. Conway informed the Board that if the so wished, this item could be addressed in executive session. She also informed them that Item 6I – Superintendent Contract Renewal could also be in executive session.
- I. Superintendent Contract Renewal:

MOTION: Mr. LaBonte moved to discuss Items 6H & 6I in executive session.

SECOND: Ms. Hull

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

- J. Transportation Request: Dr. Conway stated that Ms. Amy Frechette has a daughter that attends St. Bernard High School. She is requesting that her daughter be allowed to ride the bus with Plainfield students that attend Norwich Technical School. These students transfer to a bus in Griswold and are dropped off at Norwich Tech. From there, St. Bernard's will provide her with transportation. Dr. Conway indicated that it would not cost the district any more for her to ride the bus, however, the issue of liability when she is waiting for the bus at Norwich Tech should be looked into.

MOTION: Mr. Smith moved to approve the transportation on a case by case basis pending an investigation by the superintendent on the issue of liability. If Plainfield is not liable, we will provide the transportation to Norwich Tech.

SECOND: Ms. Nichols

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

Proposed 6K – Superintendent Evaluation Process: Dr. Conway presented the Board members with suggestions for changing the evaluation process. She stated that at their workshop with CABE, they were presented with information on a better timeline for the process. She asked the members of the board to review the present evaluation form for the superintendent and make any changes they felt were necessary. She also asked that each member complete the self assessment form that included. The information will be collated and discussed at the September meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

MOTION: Mr. Smith moved to go into executive session at 8:10 p.m. for the purpose of discussing non-union salary increases and the contract renewal of the superintendent. Dr. Conway and Mr. Roche were requested to remain for the discussion of non-union wage increases.

SECOND: Ms. Lemieux

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

MOTION: Ms. Nichols moved to come out of executive session at 8:45 p.m.

SECOND: Ms. Lemieux

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

Non-Union Wage increase:

MOTION: Mr. Smith moved to give non-union employees excluding grant funded positions a 3.5% increase.

NO SECOND

MOTION: Ms. Kwasny moved to give non-union employees on the spreadsheet provided to the Board a 3% raise excluding the 4 grant position and the temporary elimination of the Technology Assistant position until a new job description is provided.

SECOND: Ms. Lemieux

VOTE: Passed with opposition from Mr. Smith.

Superintendent Contract Renewal:

MOTION: Ms. Kwasny moved to approve the 2009-2010 contract of the superintendent with a 3% raise and an increase to the insurance co-pay to 18%.

SECOND: Ms. Spino

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

7. COMMITTEE AND INDIVIDUAL REPORTS

Dr. Conway informed everyone that the staff breakfast will be held on August 26th from 7:30 – 8:30 at the high school. She also distributed a map of the proposed late buses for this year. There will be four buses for grades 4-8. Each bus will travel to a different section of town and specific stops will be made.

The Policy Committee will meet on August 19th at 6:30 at the Early Childhood Center.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS, QUESTIONS, COMMENTS:

A member of the Board of Education asked if we could investigate whether or not it may be a savings to the district if we were to use solar or geothermal energy.

9. ADJOURN:

MOTION: Ms. Kwasny moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 p.m.

SECOND: Ms. Nichols

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy St. Amour
Recording Secretary

