

PLAINFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION

January 13, 2010

7:00 p.m.

Plainfield High School Library

1. **CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** The Board Chair called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. **ROLL CALL:** (taken silently by board secretary) **PRESENT:** Angeline Kwasny, Chair; Gary LaBonte, Doug Smith, Cheryl Hull, John Lorange, Peter Migneault, Angela Klonoski, Amanda Crocker; Ron Lussier, Business Manager; Mary Conway, Superintendent; Jacqueline Lorange, Student Representative; Tammy St. Amour, Recorder
3. **CONSENT AGENDA:**

MOTION: Mr. Smith moved to accept the consent agenda.

SECOND: Mr. Lorange

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

The Consent Agenda consisted of the following items:

- A. Minutes of the Meeting on December 16, 2009
- B. Policy 225.1 – Board of Education Goals
- C. Minutes of the Special Meeting on January 5 ,2010

4. **PUBLIC FORUM:**

Mr. Ron Benoit spoke to the Board. He stated that he had attended the winter concert at PMS and there was not enough seating for everyone that attended. He asked why they could not have the concert in the auditorium at the high school. He also inquired why the Junior Prom is held at the Plainfield Town Hall and not the high school.

Ms. Gandolf, PMS Principal, responded by saying that they did ask to use the auditorium, but it was already being used. They chose to split the concert into two sections, but there were still a large number of people that attended each session.

Mr. Worth, PHS Principal, informed Mr. Benoit that the Junior Class chooses the spot for the prom and that they have had it at the Town Hall for several years now.

Dr. Conway said that she has received a residency request that the board should add to their agenda.

MOTION: Mr. LaBonte moved to add Item 6I – Residency Request to the agenda

SECOND: Ms. Klonoski

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

MOTION: Mr. LaBonte motioned to move Item 6A- CAPSS Awards next on the agenda.

SECOND: Mr. Lorange

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

6A. CAPSS Awards: Dr. Conway stated that each year the Superintendents' Association sponsors the CAPSS Awards. The awards are given based on academic success, leadership, and service to others. This year's awards went to:

PMS - Abigail Burdick & Nickolas Shabenas
PCS - Sydney Meyers & Nathan Corey
PHS - Alison Hammersley & David Smith

Dr. Conway asked the Board to take a brief recess to congratulate the students.

MOTION: Mr. LaBonte moved to take a ten minute recess.

SECOND: Ms. Lemieux

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

5. **OLD BUSINESS:**

A. Monthly Budget Report and Facilities Update: Mr. Lussier informed the Board that the budget is currently running approximately four million under budget. He noted that the next several months will have increased electric and heating costs and that will affect this figure.

He informed the Board that Mr. LeClair provided the members of the board with an update of the heating systems in each of the schools for their review.

B. Paraprofessional Update: Mr. Blair provided the Board with a report showing the movement of the paraprofessional staffing in the district since the beginning of the school year. He said that we presently have 92 part time paras and 63 full time paras. He informed the board that the tuition account is currently in the black. However, there are approximately five students that may need to be placed out of district.

C. Race to the Top Program – New Memorandum of Understanding: Dr. Conway stated that the Federal Government has provided the State Department with updates on the guidelines of the filing for this grant. There is now a list of the elective programs and training that a district can choose to participate in. Dr. Conway suggests the following:

- Standards & Assessment
 - Implementation of College-High School Partnerships
- Data Systems to Support Instruction
 - Use of the Grade 3-8 Benchmark Assessment System (CBAS) or an approved locally developed benchmark system to monitor student progress.
- Great Teachers and Leaders
 - Initiatives to foster Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion
 - The Connecticut Institute for the Teacher of English Language Learners
 - Advanced Placement Course Expansion
 - The Elementary and Middle School Math and Science Coaching Academy
 - Hartford Science Center STEM Curriculum and Assessment projects Grades 4-6

MOTION: Mr. Smith moved to enter into a new Memorandum of Understanding for the Race to the Top Program.

SECOND: Ms. Klonoski

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

- D. Evaluation of the Superintendent: Dr. Conway stated that she did have a concern with the draft evaluation and asked the board to enter into executive session so that she may discuss the evaluation.

MOTION: Mr. Smith moved to go into executive session at 7:50 for the purpose of discussing the evaluation of the superintendent.

SECOND: Ms. Klonoski

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

MOTION: Mr. Lorange moved to come out of executive session at 8:12.

SECOND: Mr. Smith

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

MOTION: Mr. Smith moved to approve the evaluation with the changes discussed in executive session.

SECOND: Ms. Hull

VOTE: Passed with nays from Mr. Migneault and Ms. Klonoski and one abstention from Ms. Crocker.

6. NEW BUSINESS:

- B. Rotary Club Donation: Dr. Conway stated that the Rotary Club has raised money to provide equipment and supplies for our autism program. Mr. Blair stated that he has worked with the Rotary Club and they have determined that a Macintosh Computer would be a great benefit to the children with autism. Ms. Liz Dillis, President of the Rotary Club stated that they would like to purchase the computer with the suggested software for the program.

MOTION: Mr. LaBonte moved to accept the donation of a Macintosh computer from the Rotary Club.

SECOND: Ms. Klonoski

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

- C. 2010/2011 Budget Preparation Calendar: Dr. Conway said that the Board of Finance agreed to move the presentation by the Board of Education to April 7th. She also suggested to the Board that they use one of their scheduled workshop dates to take a tour of the schools to see the items that are presently on the capital improvement list.

MOTION: Mr. LaBonte moved to approve the Budget Calendar

SECOND: Ms. Klonoski

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

- D. 2010/2011 Budget Assumptions & Priorities: Dr. Conway asked the members of the board to review their assumptions and priorities that are currently in place. She asked

that the second bullet under Program be modified to include all grades and not just early literacy. She also asked that the bullet for professional development be eliminated.

MOTION: Mr. Smith moved to approve the Assumptions and Priorities as presented.

SECOND: Ms. Hull

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

- E. 2010/2011 Proposed Capital Items: Dr. Conway said that the list of proposed capital items needs to be sent to the Town Hall prior to February 11th. She suggested that the board tour the schools on February 3rd to see first hand the items that are on the list and the repairs that need to be made.

MOTION: Ms. Lemieux moved to table Item 6E – 2010/11 Capital Items until the next regular meeting.

SECOND: Ms. Klonoski

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

- F. Board Committee Appointments: Ms. Kwasny stated that she assigned the members of the board to their respective committees. She indicated that she did not assign anyone to a committee that they did not request. She asked all present to let her know if there needs to be any changes.

A budget committee meeting was set for January 20th at 6:00 in the ECC Conference Room.

- G. Acceptance of Teacher Resignation: Mr. David Ramsey, a special education teacher at Plainfield Central School, has submitted his resignation. He has chosen to take a position in another district.

MOTION: Mr. Migneault moved to accept the letter of resignation from Mr. Ramsey.

SECOND: Ms. Lemieux

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

- H. Administrator Contract Approval: No Action Taken.

- I. Residency Request: Dr. Conway received a request from a parent with two children in the district. One student is a senior at PHS and the other is in the 7th grade at PCS. She stated that the family had to move to Danielson for approximately six months, but will be returning to Plainfield. She asked that the children be allowed to remain for the rest of the school year. If they do not return prior to the start of the 2010/2011 school year, she will enroll her child in Killingly.

MOTION: Mr. Smith moved to approve the residency request.

SECOND: Ms. Klonoski

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

7. COMMITTEE AND INDIVIDUAL REPORTS

Ms. Kwasny introduced Ms. Amanda Crocker as the newest member to the Board of Education. She welcomed Ms. Crocker to the board and thanked her for filling the vacant seat.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS, QUESTIONS, COMMENTS:

Dr. Conway stated that there is a grievance from the paraprofessional union that needs to be heard prior to February 4th. She suggested that they board hear the grievance on January 20th at 6:00 and move their budget meeting to 6:30.

She also said that she will contact Mr. Caruso from CABE to set up a couple workshops for the members of the board on running effective meetings and to discuss their board goals.

9. ADJOURN:

MOTION: Ms. Lemieux moved to adjourn at 8:50 p.m.

SECOND: Mr. Smith

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy St. Amour
Recording Secretary