

PLAINFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION

November 18, 2009

7:00 p.m.

Plainfield High School Library

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

B. Re-organization of the Board – Dr. Conway opened the floor for nomination for the position of Board Chair.

Mr. Migneault nominated Angela Klonoski

Mr. Lorange nominated Shirley Farrell

Doug Smith nominated Angie Kwasny

MOTION: Mr. Smith moved to close the nomination for chair.

SECOND: Mr. LaBonte

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

VOTE:

Audrey Lemieux – Angie Kwasny

Cheryl Hull – Shirley Farrell

Doug Smith – Angie Kwasny

Gary LaBonte – Angie Kwasny

Shirley Farrell – Shirley Farrell

Peter Migneault – Angela Klonoski

Angela Klonoski – Angela Klonoski

John Lorange – Shirley Farrell

Angie Kwasny – Angie Kwasny

No candidate received the required five votes to be elected.

MOTION: Mr. Smith moved to bring forth the two top candidates from the previous voted for the next round.

SECOND: Ms. Lemieux

VOTE: Defeated by two votes to seven with Mr. Smith and Ms. Lemieux in favor.

MOTION: Mr. Smith moved to caucus after a second vote.

SECOND: Ms. Farrell

VOTE: Passed.

Second Vote for Chair:

Audrey Lemieux – Angie Kwasny
Cheryl Hull – Shirley Farrell
Doug Smith – Angie Kwasny
Gary LaBonte – Angie Kwasny
Shirley Farrell – Shirley Farrell
Peter Migneault – Angela Klonoski
Angela Klonoski – Angela Klonoski
John Lorange – Shirley Farrell
Angie Kwasny – Angie Kwasny

The Board took a brief caucus.

Third Vote:

Audrey Lemieux – Angie Kwasny
Cheryl Hull – Angela Klonoski
Doug Smith – Angie Kwasny
Gary LaBonte – Angie Kwasny
Shirley Farrell – Shirley Farrell
Peter Migneault – Angela Klonoski
Angela Klonoski – Angela Klonoski
John Lorange – Shirley Farrell
Angie Kwasny – Angie Kwasny

With no winner after the third vote, Ms. Klonoski stated that she would remove her name from the nominations and give her support to Ms. Kwasny.

Fourth Vote:

Audrey Lemieux – Angie Kwasny
Cheryl Hull – Angie Kwasny
Doug Smith – Angie Kwasny
Gary LaBonte – Angie Kwasny
Shirley Farrell – Shirley Farrell
Peter Migneault – Angie Kwasny
Angela Klonoski – Angie Kwasny
John Lorange – Shirley Farrell

With seven votes to two votes, Ms. Kwasny is the new board chair.

Ms. Kwasny opened the floor for votes for Vice Chair.

Ms. Lemieux nominated Angela Klonoski for Vice Chair.

With no other nomination, Ms. Klonoski was elected as Vice Chair by acclamation.

Ms. Kwasny then asked for nomination for the position of Secretary.

Mr. Smith nominated Mr. LaBonte for the position of Secretary by acclamation.

MOTION: Mr. Smith moved to close nomination for the position of Secretary

SECOND: Mr. Lorange

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

Mr. LaBonte will be the Board Secretary.

3. **CONSENT AGENDA:**

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

SECOND: Mr. Klonoski

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

The Consent Agenda consisted of the following items:

- A. Minutes of the Meeting on October 14, 2009

4. **PUBLIC FORUM:**

Alternative High School Presentation – Mr. Worth stated that there are presently 28 students in the alternative program. Last Saturday, 14 of them competed in the Freedom Run in Hartford. He said that they all did very well and he showed a brief slide show of the race. As part of the students' physical education class, all students at the alternative high school had been training for the race.

5. **OLD BUSINESS:**

- A. Board of Education 2009/10 Educational Goals: There were a couple changes that were requested after the previous meeting. Mr. LaBonte asked that an additional objective be added to Goal #2 to include the use of technology by teachers as a teaching and modeling tool and Ms. Farrell asked that Goals #4 and 5 be switch in order. In addition to those changes, the graduation rate goal will be raised to 90%.

MOTION: Mr. Lorange moved to approve the Board Education Goals with the changes.

SECOND: Mr. Migneault

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

- B. Facilities Update: Dr. Conway said that they will be able to put in some type of visual security when the skate park is in place at PMS/PCS. There was also discussion about the heaters at Plainfield Memorial School. Dr. Conway stated that we are still in need of new heaters. They have been placed on the capital plan for the past five years, but they have not been replaced yet. She indicated that the company that supplied the parts for the heaters is now out of business.

MOTION: Mr. Lorange moved to approve the facilities report.

SECOND: Ms. Lemieux

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

- C. 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.

6. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Credit Retrieval Program: Mr. Bitgood stated that a grant was received in order for us to provide the program. He said that the program is similar to a year-long summer school program. Tutors are available to students to help them make up course that they were not successful in completing. Thirty-six students were identified for the program and presently sixteen are enrolled. He noted that all of the core classes are available for the students to take and they must have failed the course previously to be eligible for the program.
- B. PHS Wrestling Team of Two: Dr. Conway said that there are two PHS students that have requested permission to practice and compete with the wrestling team at Griswold. They would be representing Plainfield and the parents of the two students would provide their transportation and pay any fees associated with the wrestling program.

MOTION: Mr. Lorange moved to approve the wrestling team of two.

SECOND: Mr. Lemieux

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

- C. Strategic School Profile: Dr. Conway reviewed the report with the members of the Board and pointed out some areas of interest. Mr. LaBonte noted that the student attendance has improved every year, however, the staff attendance has gone down. He asked that we work on improving that area. Ms. Kwasny would like to see the number of hours that are spent in the schools with regard to reading, and Ms. Klonoski requested information on the success rate of the special education students that spend time with their non-disabled peers.
- D. Inappropriate Use of Personal Communication Devices at PHS: Mr. Worth said that there have been several issues at PHS with students “sexting”. He said that there is no tolerance for this behavior. Mr. Fran Carino from the Chief State’s Attorneys’ Office came to the school to talk to the students about the seriousness of the issue. He said that if a student is under the age of 16, it then becomes an issue of child pornography. Mr. Worth said that notices went home to parents to let them know about the issues. This issue will be discussed at the next Policy Committee meeting.
- E. 2008/09 Connecticut Special Education Parent Survey: Dr. Conway said that the state department asked thirty districts to complete the survey. She reviewed the responses for the Board and noted that the two areas that seems to be an issue for us are translation at PPT meetings and offerings of parent training sessions.
- F. Approval of Administrators’ Collective Bargaining Agreement:

MOTION: Ms. Farrell made a motion to move this item to the end of the agenda.

SECOND: Ms. Klonoski

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

- G. Authorized Signature Change: Dr. Conway said that since we now have a new Business Manager, a change form needs to be sent to the state department with the new authorized signatures for the Child Nutrition Program showing that Ron Lussier will now be in the position.

MOTION: Ms. Farrell moved to approve Mr. Lussier to sign for the Child Nutrition Program.

SECOND: Mr. Lorange

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

- H. Teacher Retirement: Dr. Conway informed the Board that Ms. Gay Rich, Speech Pathologist, has submitted her resignation effective October 30, 2009.

MOTION: Ms. Farrell moved to accept the letter of retirement from Gay Rich with regret.

SECOND: Ms. Klonoski

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

- I. Acceptance of Donation:

MOTION: Mr. Migneaut moved to add the acceptance of donation to the agenda.

SECOND: Ms. Lemieux

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

Ms. Lyn Gandolf informed the board that a group of local business people by the name of BNI would like to help in our efforts towards becoming a healthier generation and wants to help us provide pedometers for the staff and students at PCS and PMS. In order to receive the donation, the board must approve it first.

MOTION: Ms. Klonoski moved to approve the donation from BNI.

SECOND: Ms. Lemieux

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

7. COMMITTEE AND INDIVIDUAL REPORTS

Ms. Farrell said that she and Dr. Conway were both judges at the cooking contest at the high school last month. She said that everything was great and the students did a wonderful job.

Dr. Conway stated that there is a custodian grievance that needs to be heard by the board as well as a transportation hearing. She suggested that they be scheduled for November 24th at 6:00.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS, QUESTIONS, COMMENTS:

Mr. LaBonte publically congratulated Mr. Arremony and the coaching staff for a great volleyball season. The team did well.

Executive Session:

MOTION: Mr. LaBonte moved to go into executive session at 9:18 to discuss the Administrators' contract.

SECOND: Mr. Lorange

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

MOTION: Ms. Lemieux moved to come out of executive session at 9:30.

SECOND: Mr. LaBonte

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

MOTION: Mr. Lorange moved to approve the administrators' contract as presented.

SECOND: Ms. Klonoski

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

9. ADJOURN:

MOTION: Ms. Farrell moved adjourn the meeting at 9:30.

SECOND: Ms. Lemieux

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy St. Amour
Recording Secretary