

PLAINFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION

September 10, 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:** Angie Kwasny, Acting Chair; Gary LaBonte, Doug Smith, Audrey Lemieux, Cheryl Hull, Angela Spino, Sue Nichols, Jon Turban, Sterling; Mary Conway, Superintendent; Peter Roche, Business Manager; Tammy St. Amour, Recorder

Mr. Arcarese addressed the board to introduce the two new student representatives to participate in the meetings this year. They are Jen Rendon and Haley Connor. The Board welcomed the two new members and asked them to join the group at the table.

3. **CONSENT AGENDA:**

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

SECOND: Ms. Lemieux

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

The Consent Agenda consisted of the following:

- A. Minutes of the Meeting on August 13, 2008
- B. Minutes of the Special Meeting of August 25, 2008

4. **PUBLIC FORUM:**

As no one came forward, the chair moved to the next item on the agenda.

5. **OLD BUSINESS:**

- A. 2008/2009 Budget Update: Mr. Roche informed the board that there are no current problems with the budget. He indicated that they are hoping that the price of gas will no increase dramatically and due to the recent lay offs, they are keeping an eye on the unemployment account.

6. **NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. Welcome New Teachers: Dr. Conway provided the members of the board with information about each new teacher in their monthly packet. She asked each principal to introduce the new teachers for their building that were present for the meeting.

MOTION: Mr. Smith moved to take a brief recess to meet and welcome the new teachers.

SECOND: Ms. Lemieux

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

B. Telemental Health Project:

MOTION: Mr. LaBonte moved to table Item 6B until the October 8 meeting.

SECOND: Ms. Lemieux

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

C. High School Improvement Plan Update: Mr. Arcarese showed a PowerPoint presentation to the board with the improvements that have taken place at the high school over the past year. He pointed out that 9th grade retention is down 6%, the graduation rate is up 1.5%, attendance has improved and the number of discipline issues has decreased. He stated that the CAPT scores have increased, but there is still improvement needed. He stated that a Literary Coach for next year would be of great benefit to the staff to guide the teachers on how to teach reading.

D. Teacher Resignation: Dr. Conway stated that Mrs. Melissa Wrigley has submitted her resignation from her teaching position at the high school. Mrs. Wrigley has been here twenty years, and will be moving on to a position of education consultant for the state.

MOTION: Ms. Nichols moved to accept the resignation of Melissa Wrigley with deep regret.

SECOND: Mr. LaBonte

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

E. Grant Approvals: Ms. Cadro requested the Board's approval for the submission of the Consolidated Federal Grants in the amount of \$331,410 and the Reading First Grant in the amount of \$250,000.

MOTION: Mr. Smith moved to approve the application for the two grants.

SECOND: Ms. Nichols

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

F. Proposed Meeting Time Change: Dr. Conway stated that the debate for the second congressional seat was originally going to take place on October 8th in the auditorium. The date has recently been changed so there is no longer a need to change the time for next month's meeting.

G. BEST Mentor Training: Two staff members have volunteered to be trained as BEST Mentors: Michelle Beauregard and Natasha Hutchinson.

MOTION: Ms. Lemieux moved to approve the applications of Ms. Beauregard and Ms. Hutchinson to be trained as BEST Mentors.

SECOND: Mr. Smith

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

H. Facility Consultant Report: Dr. Conway stated that due to the fact that this issue is in pending litigation, the board may wish to discuss this item in executive session.

MOTION: Mr. Smith moved to take up Item H in executive session at the end of the New Business.

SECOND: Ms. Lemieux

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

I. Superintendent Evaluation Form: The Board reviewed the responses from the six members that completed the form. Discussion revolved around whether to remove the items that were less informative to the board or to request that more information be given so that a better judgment could be made. Mr. Smith stated that he felt the items should be removed if more than three members indicated that they did not have enough knowledge to make an informative decision. These items would be:

Supervision - #3, 4, 5, 8, 9 & 10

Fiscal Management - #2 & 3

Budget - #11

Infrastructure - #3

Climate - #1, 2, 3, 5, 6 & 8

Teacher Relations - #2

MOTION: Mr. Smith moved to remove the listed items from the Superintendent's evaluation form.

SECOND: Ms. Hull

VOTE: Tie vote with opposition from Ms. Spino, Ms. Lemieux & Mr. LaBonte

Ms. Kwasny moved in favor of the motion to break the tie. Motion carries.

J. Non-Union Employee Salary for 2008/2009: Dr. Conway stated that the person that is presently in the network position does not wish to continue now that it will be in a full time capacity. Therefore, the position has been revised to reflect more responsibilities and the person must possess at least an Associates degree.

MOTION: Mr. LaBonte moved to approve the new position with a salary of \$25/per hour.

SECOND: Ms. Hull

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

K. Board Self Evaluation: Dr. Conway stated that the Board may choose to discuss this item in executive session.

MOTION: Mr. LaBonte moved to discuss Item K Board Self Evaluation in executive session.

SECOND: Mr. Smith

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

7. COMMITTEE AND INDIVIDUAL REPORTS

No Reports

8. RECOMMENDATIONS, QUESTIONS, COMMENTS:

No comments

9. EXECUTIVE SESSION: MOTION: Mr. LaBonte moved to go into executive session at 8:45 p.m. to discuss Items 6H and 6K.

SECOND: Ms. Lemieux

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

MOTION: Mr. Smith moved come out of executive session at 9:35 p.m.

SECOND: Ms. Lemieux

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

10. ADJOURN:

MOTION: Ms. Lemieux moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:37 p.m.

SECOND: Mr. Smith

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy St. Amour
Recording Secretary