

**PLAINFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION  
PLAINFIELD HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY**

**December 12, 2018 7:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Christi Haskell, Audrey Lemieux, Matthew Radant, Peggy Bourey, Kathleen Barry, Steve Boettcher, Cheryl Hull, Kenneth Di Pietro, Superintendent; Ronald Lussier, Business Manager; Marissa Flores & Vincent Valenti, Student Representatives

1. **CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Ms. Haskell called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. **ROLL CALL (taken silently by Board secretary)**
3. **CONSENT AGENDA:**

A. Minutes of the meeting of November 14, 2018.

MOTION: Ms. Lemieux moved to approve the minutes of the November 14<sup>th</sup> meeting.

SECOND: Ms. Barry

VOTE: Passed with abstentions from Ms. Haskell and Mr. Boettcher.

B. Decision of the Expulsion Panel: The members of the Expulsion panel took action on the minutes from the previous hearing.

MOTION: Ms. Barry moved to approve the minutes from the Expulsion Hearing.

SECOND: Ms. Lemieux

VOTE: Passed unanimously by the members of the Expulsion Committee.

4. **COMMUNICATIONS:** State MBR Notice: Senator Summers has written to the Dept. of Ed. to inquiry why the town is in violation of the MBR due to the State reductions. The legislature is asking for this issue to be corrected for the 20 or so districts that it is affecting.

5. **PERSONNEL:**

A. Resignations & Retirements: None presented.

B. Appointments & Transfers: Mr. Di Pietro said that the central school has chosen Rachel Powell as their new guidance counselor. Mr. Di Pietro asked that the Board approve her appointment to the position.

MOTION: Ms. Barry moved to appoint Rachel Powell to the Guidance Counselor position at Plainfield Central School.

SECOND: Ms. Lemieux

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

Mr. Di Pietro said that after a lengthy search for a new Pupil Personnel Director, Mr. Scott Sugarman has been chosen for the position. Mr. Sugarman is serving in this role in another CT district and also holds his Superintendent certification. He will join the staff on January 10<sup>th</sup> as the Assistant Superintendent for Student Services.

MOTION: Ms. Barry moved to approve the appointment of Scott Sugarman as the Assistant Superintendent for Student Services, effective on January 10<sup>th</sup>.

SECOND: Ms. Lemieux

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

## 6. PUBLIC FORUM:

A. CAPSS Student Awards: Mr. Di Pietro said that the students were presented with their awards at a ceremony in Killingly earlier this month, but he has invited the recipients here tonight to be recognized by the Board for their achievement. This year's recipients are:

- Mason Mercier & Paige Sears – PMS
- Kendall Marshall & Noah Springer – PCS
- Sean Corey, Kelsi Devolve, Grace Fischer & Brett LoCicero - PHS

B. Public Forum/Agenda Items: As no one came forward, the chair moved to the next item on the agenda.

C. Student Representatives: Marissa said that the football team had a great season, and the basketball season will begin on December 19. The girls' basketball team had their first game last night and there was a breakfast with Santa on December 8<sup>th</sup>.

Vincent said that the winter concert will be held on December 19<sup>th</sup> and that the Chamber Choir was able to perform at the Governor's Mansion. Mr. PHS will be taking place in January and the blood drive collected 19 pints of blood.

## 7. STANDING COMMITTEES & INDIVIDUAL REPORTS:

The Board will hold their annual budget workshop on January 26<sup>th</sup> at the Early Childhood Center.

## 8. OLD BUSINESS:

A. FY19 Budget & Facilities Report: Mr. Lussier said that there were notable expenditures in the areas of tuitions, library books and periodicals as well as other equipment. The library books are due to the replacements needed for PMS. This will eventually be reimbursed by the insurance company. Mr. Lussier said that our account balance for the ECHIP insurance account is \$1,330,776. The goal is to have 3 times the monthly contribution as a balance. We are very close to that 1.5 million goal.

Facilities:

<u>Early Childhood Center</u>	No Issues to report.
<u>Shepard Hill</u>	Replacement lighting to begin after SHE lighting upgrade is complete. The "eyebrow" gutter system has been sealed by our building and grounds staff. We reached out to two professional cleaners and received only one quote. (\$12,023.50) SHE administration is reviewing budget coverage and will be making arrangements for cleanup. Sinks have been replaced in the Boys and Girls lavatories - 300 wing. Only remaining carpet is in the upper library and area of refuge. No quotes at this time for remove / replace with tile. Replacement lighting to begin the week of 12/17/18.
<u>Moosup Elementary</u>	Emergency lights in the cafeteria have been replaced. Estimates for more outlets to classrooms are pending. Asbestos tile removal estimated at \$20,925.00. No quote yet for replacement tiles.
<u>Plainfield Memorial</u>	Asbestos abatement is complete. Room construction is underway in the fire damaged area. 2nd floor rooms are cleaned and floors are waxed. Furniture moves under way. Most 1st floor classrooms cleaned and floors waxed. Guidance and main office to be completed early next week. Fire system is installed and ready to go live. PA wiring almost complete. Waiting on new clock system (early next week) Lighting upgrade will be completed by end of next week (12/14/18)
<u>Plainfield Central</u>	No issues to report
<u>Plainfield High School</u>	Lighting order sent to contractor on 12/4/18. Work schedule to be submitted by contractor upon receipt of light units. The was no report on the status of the Library roof repairs at the time of this writing.

- B. Status of Plainfield Memorial School: Mrs. Hutchinson gave a brief report on the progress of the Memorial School. She said that at this point the roof has been secured and the library floor is complete. All of the classrooms have been painted and ceiling tiles have been replaced. Mrs. Hutchinson showed several pictures of the renovation so that members of the board could see the facility before and after the renovations.
- C. DATTCO Contract Extension: Mr. Di Pietro said that the information had been tabled last month in order to review Town charter regulations to be certain that the Board was following the protocol when seeking a contract extension. Based on the information received, the Board is able to extend the contract if they see fit.

MOTION: Mr. Radant moved to approve a one-year extension to the DATTCO contract.

SECOND: Ms. Bourey

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

9. **NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. BOE Calendar Adoption Amendment: The Board calendar for the next calendar year needs to be submitted to the Town in January. As such, the calendar for next year needs to be modified to include January 2020 to allow time for the board to submit the following year's calendar next January. A revised copy of the dates was provided for the board to review.

MOTION: Ms. Barry moved to approve the Amended 2019 BOE Meeting Calendar.

SECOND: Ms. Lemieux

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

- B. PHS Block Schedule: Mr. Di Pietro asked the members of the Board for their support with his proposal to move the high school to a new A/B Block Schedule. He said that he presented this schedule two years ago, but the staff at PHS thought that a different model would be better. Mr. Di Pietro said that the present model has not proven to achieve results. At this point, Mr. Di Pietro is asking the Board for their approval to institute an A/B Block Schedule. This schedule will allow for students to take more than one level of a course per year and also allows for 84-minute classes for extended learning.

MOTION: Ms. Bourey moved to approve the switch to an A/B Block Schedule at PHS for next school year.

SECOND: Ms. Barry

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

- C. Curriculum Approval: Mrs. Cadro presented curriculum for three new courses at Plainfield High School. She said that the committee reviewed the content for Introduction to Business; Web Design; and Honors Science Fiction. Ms. Lemieux said that she was present at the committee meeting and was very impressed with the courses. She said that they offer good rigor and interest for the students. She recommends that the Board approve the new courses.

MOTION: Ms. Lemieux moved to approve the new courses as presented.

SECOND: Ms. Barry

VOTE: Passed Unanimously.

- D. FY 2020 Budget Process: The members of the Board were presented with a calendar of scheduled meetings to discuss and construct the operating budget for next school year. It was noted that the Board/Administration Workshop will be held on January 26<sup>th</sup>. This is a Saturday morning meeting to allow the administration to present their budgets to the members of the board.
- E. Superintendent's Report: Mr. Di Pietro said that the staff and students will have an opportunity on December 18, 19, and 21 to see the building and begin to move back in. The teachers will also have the opportunity to be in the building on December 27<sup>th</sup> during

the break if they would like to set up their classroom to be ready for instruction upon return from the Christmas break.

**10. EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

MOTION: Ms. Lemieux moved to enter into Executive session at 8:32 p.m. for the purpose of conducting a grievance hearing. Mr. Di Pietro, Superintendent; Anne Littlefield, BOE Attorney; Tammy St. Amour, Recorder; Margaret Martin, Union President; Anthony Bento, Union Representative; and Lori Chartier, grievant were invited to attend the executive session.

SECOND: Mr. Boettcher

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

MOTION: Mr. Radant moved to open the grievance hearing at 8:42 p.m.

SECOND: Ms. Lemieux

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

MOTION: Ms. Lemieux moved to come out of executive session at 9:23 p.m.

SECOND: Ms. Barry

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

No Action was needed as the grievant withdrew the grievance.

**11. ADJOURNMENT:**

MOTION: Ms. Lemieux moved to adjourn at 9:24 p.m.

SECOND: Ms. Barry

VOTE: Passed unanimously.