

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

April 10, 2019 7:00 P.M.

PRESENT: Christi Haskell, Audrey Lemieux, Kathleen Barry, Steve Boettcher, Matthew Radant, Peggy Bourey, Cindy Arpin, Mike Cartier, Cheryl Hull, Kenneth Di Pietro, Superintendent; Ronald Lussier, Business Manager; Marissa Flores, Student Representative; Sterling Representative; Tammy St. Amour, Recorder

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 March 13, 2019.

MOTION: Ms. Barry moved to approve the minutes of the March 13th meeting.

SECOND: Ms. Lemieux

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

B. Minutes of the Expulsion Hearings of March 26, 2019.

MOTION: Ms. Lemieux moved to approve the minutes of the March 26th Expulsion Hearings.

SECOND: Ms. Barry

VOTE: Passed with abstentions from Mr. Boettcher, Ms. Arpin, Ms. Hull, Mr. Cartier, Mr. Radant & Ms. Bourey.

4. **COMMUNICATIONS:** Ms. Haskell stated that there will be a presentation from CAS (Connecticut Association of Schools) later in the evening for the Distinguished Friend of Education Award.
5. **PERSONNEL:**

A. Resignations & Retirements:

A letter of resignation for the purpose of retirement was received by Mr. Peter Aubin, Special Education Teacher at PHS. Mr. Aubin will be retiring at the end of this school year.

MOTION: Ms. Barry moved to accept the letter of resignation for the purpose of retirement from Mr. Aubin.

SECOND: Ms. Lemieux

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

A letter of resignation for the purpose of retirement was also received from Patricia Stephen. Ms. Stephen has been a speech pathologist in the system for almost 20 years. She will be retiring at the completion of this school year.

MOTION: Ms. Barry moved to accept the letter of resignation for the purpose of retirement from Ms. Stephen.

SECOND: Mr. Radant

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

B. Appointments & Transfers:

Mr. Di Pietro asked that the Board appoint Ms. Melissa Maher to the position of elementary teacher. He said that Ms. Maher has been filling in for a teacher that retired in January. She is now an official member of the PEA bargaining unit and Mr. Di Pietro asked the Board to officially appoint her to the 4th grade position at PMS effective January 16th.

MOTION: Mr. Radant moved to appoint Ms. Melissa Maher as a 4th grade teacher effective January 16, 2019.

SECOND: Ms. Lemieux

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

Mr. Di Pietro informed the Board that a replacement has been hired for the English position at PHS due to a resignation last month. Mr. Joshua Carpentier will fill the position for the remainder of the school year.

MOTION: Mr. Radant moved to appoint Mr. Joshua Carpentier to the English position at PHS for the remainder of the school year.

SECOND: Ms. Bourey

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

Mr. Di Pietro said that the Board was informed of the PLI National Research program that the Memorial School will be taking part in beginning next year. He said that Ms. Shaena Malone has been hired to be the coach for this program. This will be a .4 FTE position.

MOTION: Mr. Boettcher moved to appoint Ms. Shaena Malone to the .4 FTE teacher coach position at Plainfield Memorial School beginning next school year.

SECOND: Mr. Radant

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

6. PUBLIC FORUM:

A. PHS Play Presentation: Newsies: Several students that are performing in the Newsies play this year spoke to the Board with regard to the show. It will be on May 3, 4 & 5.

B. CAS Distinguished Friend of Education Award: Mr. Mike Rafferty from CAS spoke to the Board about the Distinguished Friend Award. He said that there are many nominations for the Award. He said that he is here to present the award to Kim & Ray Coombs of Westminster Tool for their work with the schools to further the students' knowledge in engineering and manufacturing. They were selected for their generous funding of the MES Makerspace Classroom and advocacy efforts on behalf of technical education, and inspiring innovation and ensuring meaningful classroom experiences for the students of Plainfield. Mr. & Mrs. Coombs thanked everyone for the recognition and said that they will continue to help the community and support education for students in the town.

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

D. Student Representatives: Marissa said several students attended a Human Rights conference at Woodstock Academy. Track season began yesterday along with boys' baseball and girls' softball. Last

weekend was the Breakfast with the Easter Bunny. It went very well. The students are in the process of getting things ready for Prom.

7. **STANDING COMMITTEES & INDIVIDUAL REPORTS:**

Mrs. Haskell said that the Discovery bus will be running again this summer. They are still looking for volunteers to read. She also noted that they will be at the town hall this summer for a STEM night.

8. **OLD BUSINESS:**

- A. FY19 Budget & Facilities Report: Mr. Lussier said that the Board of Finance approve the use of \$350,000 of Special Education Excess Aid to offset anticipated and qualifying special education costs.
- PMS Recovery Update: The latest cost projection of school paid purchases related to the Plainfield Memorial School claim is \$719,575.84.

Facilities: The only issue to report is the continuing issue with the eyebrow section of roof at SHE. They are in the process of getting estimates to repair the gutter.

- B. LED Lighting Conversion Report: Mr. Lussier said that PMS and SHE lights are complete. They will move on to the ECC building next.
- C. Solar Energy Project Update: Mr. Di Pietro said that there is a meeting being held at the Town Hall on April 17th to discuss this project. He said that contracts were signed last month and SHE and MES are planned for this summer. He noted that PHS, PMS & PCS will follow at a later time.
- D. FY 20 Budget Status Report: Mr. Di Pietro stated that the budget has been presented to the Board of Finance. He also had a meeting with the Unified PTO to share the information with them.
- E. Special Education Report: Mr. Sugarman said that he has spent the past couple months learning from the community, staff and parents. He has observed many classrooms and PPT meetings. He said that he is trying to increase the student voice in the PPT process and has sent out a staff survey. He said that the district will be switching to a difference medicaid partner. He noted that for a district of our size, we should be receiving more reimbursement from medicaid.

9. **NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. School Performance Report 2015-2018:

MOTION: Ms. Barry moved to table the School Performance Report.

SECOND: Ms. Lemieux

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

- B. Grade Level Reconfiguration: SHE & MES: Mr. Di Pietro said that he is not seeking a vote from the Board to reconfigure the grades, but he would like to have the support of the Board of Education to initiate a study with staff and families. He said that there are a number of perceived benefits when the students are allowed to attend all together. He said that it would allow for all teachers of the same grade level to work together to provide common experiences for all children. It would also allow for more equitable division of students so that class size is not larger in one school than the other.

MOTION: Mr. Boettcher moved to support the Superintendent in initiating a study to reconfigure the elementary grades.

SECOND: Mr. Radant

VOTE: Passed with abstention from Mr. Cartier.

- C. Policy Revisions: Mr. Sugarman stated that the policies 5144.1 and 5144.11 Physical Restrain and Seclusion of a Student and the Administrative Regulations were brought before the Board last month. They have been placed on the district webpage for public reading and comments. He is asking the Board to approve the changes to the policies.

MOTION: Mr. Radant moved to dispense with the second reading of the policies and approve the revisions.

SECOND: Ms. Barry

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

- D. BOE Consideration of Entry Level Foreign Language: Ms. Cadro said that the state has mandated that all incoming freshmen will need to have one credit in World Language as part of their graduation requirements. She presented the Board with the curriculum for entry level Spanish and French for their approval.

MOTION: Mr. Cartier moved to approve the presented curriculum for French 1 and Spanish 1.

SECOND: Ms. Hull

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

- E. Superintendent's Report: Mr. Di Pietro stated that he does not have a report at this time.

10. **ADJOURNMENT:**

MOTION: Ms. Lemieux moved to adjourn at 9:05 p.m.

SECOND: Ms. Aprin

VOTE: Passed unanimously.