

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

May 8, 2019 7:00 P.M.

PRESENT: Christi Haskell, Kathleen Barry, Steve Boettcher, Matthew Radant, Peggy Bourey, Mike Cartier, Cheryl Hull, Kenneth Di Pietro, Superintendent; Ronald Lussier, Business Manager; Vincent Valenti, Student 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 April 10, 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 April 24, 2019.

MOTION: Mr. Radant moved to table the expulsion hearings until the June meeting.

SECOND: Ms. Bourey

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

4. **COMMUNICATIONS:** In recognition of Teacher Appreciation Week, the members of the Board read inspirational quotes with regard to the teaching profession. They expressed their thanks to the teachers and support staff for all they do for the district.

5. **PERSONNEL:**

A. Resignations & Retirements:

A letter of resignation was received from Kasey Howard, PHS Band Director. Ms. Howard will be leaving at the end of the school year.

MOTION: Ms. Barry moved to accept the letter of resignation with great regret.

SECOND: Mr. Cartier

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

B. Appointments & Transfers: None presented.

6. **PUBLIC FORUM:**

- A. PMS Student Presentation: Several students from Plainfield Memorial School spoke to the Board about the Student Council at their school. Each student present spoke about a specific aspect of the council and what they do for the school.
- B. Public Forum/Agenda Items: As no one came forward, the chair moved to the next item on the agenda.
- C. Student Representatives: Vincent said that that the production of Newsies went really well. The cast was sad that it is over. There is a track meet going on at the high school this evening along with PIMA rehearsal. Yesterday was Tap In Day for the National Honor Society and the induction will take place next Thursday. The spring concert will be on May 14th, the choir will be collaborating with Tolland on May 18th, and there is trip to Pennsylvania coming up soon.

7. STANDING COMMITTEES & INDIVIDUAL REPORTS:

Mrs. Haskell said that the Commemoration for Plainfield Memorial School took place on May 2nd. She said that it was a great opportunity to recognize all those involved in the tragedy. A plaque recognizing the staff and Town organizations was placed in the building.

Ms. Haskell said that since the high school graduation will fall on the same night as the Board's June meeting, she would like to move the meeting to Tuesday evening.

MOTION: Mr. Radant moved to change the June 12 meeting to June 11, 2019.

SECOND: Ms. Bourey

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

8. OLD BUSINESS:

- A. FY19 Budget & Facilities Report: Mr. Lussier said that due to the increased out of district placements, transportation costs have increased. He said that the additional cost to bussing is \$333,425 and additional fuel costs are \$50,000. Mr. Lussier said that he is able to take care of these increases with transfers from under expended line items. He is asking the board for approval to transfer the funds as indicated in the attached documentation.

MOTION: Mr. Cartier moved to approve the transfers as requested on Page A of the Cost Summary Report.

SECOND: Mr. Radant

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

The Board also took action to give the Business Manager the authority to make the transfers with the excess cost money upon approval.

MOTION: Ms. Bourey moved to authorize the Business Manager to allocate the \$551,977 to make up the MBR requirement and make the transfers as presented.

Mr. Radant moved to amend the motion to include "contingent upon approval".

SECOND: Mr. Cartier

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

- B. LED Lighting Conversion Report: Mr. Di Pietro said that PMS, SHE and ECC have all been completed. He said that the electric bills are being evaluated and it appears that the savings will cover the amount to

pay the loan. The paperwork for Moosup Elementary School has been authorized and signed so that the project can continue there.

- C. Solar Energy Project Update: Representatives from Earthlight and Fore Front Power addressed the Board to discuss the Solar Energy project. The Board was informed that the project would be completed while school was not in session. They hope to have everything completed before the start of the new school year. If any remaining work needs to be completed after the start of school, it was indicated that the work should only involve connection to the panels. All construction and placing the panels on the roofs should be complete.
- D. PHS Attendance Report: Dr. Bitgood presented to the Board with regard to the work that the staff has been doing to improve student attendance in district. He said that the ADOPT Committee has met monthly this year to review data. He said that we were trending very well in the beginning, until flu season hit. He noted that they are using the Attendance Works model and parent education is a large piece of the work.
- E. FY20 Budget – Status Report: The budget has been presented to and accepted by the Board of Finance. It will not be sent to a Referendum on May 20th.

9. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Pathways Contract Extension: Mr. Di Pietro said that the Pathways Program is going well. They would like to extend the contract out another year without any increase in costs. Included in that extension would be the addition of grades 7 and 8 to be able to take part in the program.

MOTION: Mr. Radant moved to approve a one year contract extension for the Pathways Program.

SECOND: Ms. Barry

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

- B. FY2020 Contingency Plan: Mr. Di Pietro said that questions have been asked where the Board may cut if the ECS money does not get awarded as expected. Mr. Di Pietro suggested the following areas to make reductions:

1. Reprieve of \$100,000 pension contribution	\$100,000
2. Qualify the DATTCo \$100,000 savings (if transport adjusted 18/19)	\$100,000
3. The district can project renewed efforts to reduce tuition costs.	\$100,000
4. Cost Consolidations Across Schools	\$120,000
5. Consider the elimination of PCS Spanish if necessary.	\$ 80,000
6. Request Fund Balance Support.	\$100,000
TOTAL	\$600,000

- C. NEASC Accreditation Status: Mr. Worth said that the initial visit for the evaluation process took place last week. He noted that during this visit the committee interviewed staff, students, and members of the Central Office. He said that they reviewed the self-study that the high school put together and provided some recommendations and commendations. The staff at the high school will put together their Strategic Plan and the NEASC Committee will return to determine how well the high school has followed through.
- D. Superintendent's Report: Mr. Di Pietro stated that he sent home a letter to elementary parents with regard to the study team for the reconfiguration. He has already received some responses from those interested in being on the committee. He will continue to keep the Board informed of the progress. He also said that he has begun a class with high school students to assist them with becoming certified to be a para-educator.

10. ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: Mr. Boettcher moved to adjourn at 9:27 p.m.

SECOND: Ms. Bourey

VOTE: Passed unanimously.