

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

June 11, 2019 7:00 P.M.

PRESENT: Christi Haskell, Kathleen Barry, Steve Boettcher (7:04), Matthew Radant, Peggy Bourey, Mike Cartier, Cheryl Hull, Cindy Arpin, Audrey Lemieux, Kenneth Di Pietro, Superintendent; Ronald Lussier, Business Manager; 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 May 8, 2019.

Mr. Radant asked that the sentence in Section 8E be corrected to reflect that the budget will “now” be sent to a referendum instead of “not”.

MOTION: Ms. Barry moved to approve the amended minutes of the May 8th meeting.

SECOND: Mr. Radant

VOTE: Passed with abstentions from Ms. Arpin and Ms. Lemieux.

B. Minutes of the Expulsion Hearings of April 24, 2019.

MOTION: Ms. Lemieux moved to approve the minutes of the Expulsion Hearings of April 24th.

SECOND: Ms. Arpin

VOTE: Passed with abstentions from Ms. Bourey, Mr. Radant, Mr. Cartier, Ms. Hull, Ms. Barry.

Minutes of the Expulsion Hearing of June 10, 2019.

MOTION: Ms. Barry moved to approve the minutes of the Expulsion Hearings of June 10th.

SECOND: Ms. Lemieux

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

4. **COMMUNICATIONS:**

5. **PERSONNEL:**

A. Resignations & Retirements:

A letter of resignation was received from Jillian Wietknect, Social Worker at MES. Ms. Wietknect will be leaving at the end of the school year.

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

SECOND: Ms. Lemieux.

MOTION: Passed unanimously.

A letter of resignation was received from Jerusha Morrissette, PCS Social Studies. Ms. Morrissette will be leaving at the end of the school year.

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

SECOND: Ms. Lemieux.

MOTION: Passed unanimously.

A letter of resignation for the purpose of retirement was received from Jeanmarie Petrocelli, Grade 3 at SHE. Ms. Petrocelli will be retiring at the end of the school year.

MOTION: Ms. Barry moved to accept the letter of resignation for the purpose of retirement with regret.

SECOND: Ms. Lemieux.

MOTION: Passed unanimously.

A letter of resignation for the purpose of retirement was received from Dr. John Wu, Science at PHS. Mr. Wu will be retiring at the end of the school year.

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

SECOND: Ms. Lemieux.

MOTION: Passed unanimously.

A letter of resignation for the purpose of retirement was received from Dr. John Wu, Science at PHS. Mr. Wu will be retiring at the end of the school year.

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

SECOND: Ms. Lemieux.

MOTION: Passed unanimously.

A letter of resignation for the purpose of retirement was received from Jean Riley, Assistant Principal at PHS. Mrs. Riley will be retiring effective August 31st.

MOTION: Ms. Barry moved to accept the letter of resignation for the purpose of retirement, with regret.

SECOND: Ms. Lemieux.

MOTION: Passed unanimously.

A letter of resignation for the purpose of retirement was received from Mr. James Worth, PHS Principal. Mr. Worth will be retiring effective August 31st.

MOTION: Mr. Cartier moved to accept the letter of resignation for the purpose of retirement, with regret.

SECOND: Ms. Hull.

MOTION: Passed unanimously.

B. Appointments & Transfers: None presented.

6. PUBLIC FORUM:

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

7. STANDING COMMITTEES & INDIVIDUAL REPORTS:

Ms. Haskell said that Celebrate Plainfield Day will be in August. She noted that the Discovery Bus will be at the event and asked if any members would be present. Ms. Lemieux, Mr. Cartier and Ms. Bourey indicated that they would be present.

8. OLD BUSINESS:

A. FY19 Budget & Facilities Report: Mr. Lussier said that the financial summary reflects a revised BOE appropriation of \$35,980,347. This is the result of the town's approval to increase the original appropriation of \$35,428,370 by \$551,977. This brought the school into compliance with the Minimum Budget Requirement as set forth by the State of Connecticut and allows the town to avoid a \$1.1 million penalty. He said that at this point, the district should end the year approximately \$5,000 under plan.

Mr. Lussier said that he had a review of the PMS insurance claim with the adjuster and he was satisfied with our report.

B. FY20 Budget Reconciliation: Mr. Lussier said that they have reduced the budget by \$50,000 per the request of the Town. The new budget total is \$35,930,347. Mr. Lussier asked for BOE approval to reconcile the budget to meet this allocation.

MOTION: Ms. Barry moved to approve the reconciliation of the FY20 budget to \$35,930,347.

SECOND: Mr. Cartier

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

C. LED Lighting Conversion Report: Mr. Di Pietro said that we still have not been able to receive an analysis of the PHS and PCS. As such, there will be no need for Board approval at this time.

D. Solar Energy Project Update: Mr. Di Pietro said that the solar projects are scheduled to begin once school is out of session for the summer. There is some concern with the roof over the high school library and it needs to be addressed before any panels are placed on the roof.

E. Special Education Services – End of Year Summary: Mr. Sugarman provided the Board with an overview of the pupil services for the school year. He said that they now have a parent advisory committee that will assist the district in gaining the parent perspective of the programs and services that their children receive. He said that they are developing collaborative partnership with surrounding districts in areas such as OT services and transportation to out of district placement. He noted that they will begin working with a new Medicaid partner this summer and will be updating the 5000 section of the Board policies.

F. PHS Attendance Report: Dr. Bitgood reviewed the data that the ADOPT committee has gathered this year. He said that some of the efforts have produced moderate gains to reduce absence, more comprehensive steps need to be taken. One of the more important aspects of the effort to reduce absences is the cooperation of the Board, the District, the School and staff members to portray a common message and sanctions where necessary. He said that the Comprehensive Response would consist of:

- A planning and review committee
- Evidence of alignment from BOE to District to School to Staff
- Designed and implemented interventions
- Home visits where necessary

- Attendance reinforcement and sanctions
- Engagement of parents/families at defined stages of absence
- Inclusion of reduction to absence, truancy and tardiness in school goals
- Regular reports to the Board of Education

He said that they are looking to have the following sanctions authorized for unexcused absences:

- 5 unauthorized absences will result in up to a 5 point grade reduction per quarter.
- For each unauthorized absence per quarter, students will receive a 1-point loss per class missed up to 5 points.
- Absences will not be the only reason for course failure
- Students will be allowed the opportunity to make up work due to absences for full credit within an allotted time.
- A student and their parent/guardians may appeal before an attendance committee whether an unauthorized absence may be excused.

MOTION: Mr. Boettcher moved to authorize a comprehensive response to attendance and truancy at Plainfield High School

SECOND: Ms. Bourey

VOTE: Passed with nay votes from Mr. Radant and Ms. Haskell

- G. Food Services Management Amendment: Mr. Lussier explained that the food services contract is for five years, with annual Amendment approvals. He asked the Board to approve Amendment #3 to cover the 2019-2020 school year.

MOTION: Mr. Radant moved to approve Amendment #3 of the Chartwell's contract.

SECOND: Ms. Lemieux

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

9. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Para-Educator Contract Ratification: Mr. Di Pietro said that the paraprofessional union has ratified an extension to the existing contract for an additional year. The only change to the contract is an increase to the wages of 2%.

MOTION: Ms. Barry moved to approve the one year extension to the Para-Educator contract with a wage increase of 2%.

SECOND: Mr. Radant

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

- B. School Start Times: In the effort from Dattco to reduce the costs to the district by \$100,000, they are combining some of the runs to school. In order to do this, they will need to adjust the times that the busses will arrive at the school. The high will begin 5 minutes earlier for next school year and the elementary schools will begin 15 minutes later for next year. The Central and Memorial schools will remain at the same time as they currently have. They are also researching the ability to consolidate some of the out-of-district runs and possibly combining some of the surrounding district as well.

MOTION: Mr. Boettcher moved to approve the adjustments to the school start times as listed.

SECOND: Ms. Bourey

VOTE: Passed with opposition from Mr. Cartier, Ms. Hull & Ms. Lemieux. One abstention from Mr. Radant.

- C. TEAM Approvals: Ms. Cadro said that she has two teacher that are willing to take the training to become TEAM mentors. Ms. Jennifer LaRose and Ms. Carrie Gervasio. She is asking for approval for the two teacher to take part in the TEAM mentor program.

MOTION: Ms. Barry moved to approve Ms. LaRose and Ms. Gervasio for TEAM mentors.

SECOND: Ms. Bourey

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

- D. Curriculum Discussion: Mrs. Cadro said that the new Curriculum Guides have been completed. She presented the Board with several copies of each subject so that they may review the information. She said that they will be provided for parents at the open houses in the Fall.

- E. FRC Grant Approval: Ms. Cadro said that this is a grant that the district has been receiving for many years. It provides \$100,000 to support the Family Resource Center programs. She asked the Board for approval to send a submission for the grant.

MOTION: Ms. Lemieux moved to approve the submission of the FRC Grant application.

SECOND: Ms. Barry

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

- F. Superintendent's Evaluation Process: Ms. Haskell said that each member has received the evaluation form for the superintendent in the packet of information this evening. She asked that they complete the information and return it as soon as possible.

- G. Superintendent's End of Year Report: Mr. Di Pietro reviewed the Strategic Plan that the Board had set for this year. He highlighted areas that the Board was able to address such as: Establishing the Pathways Program; reducing absences by providing a van pick-up service; implementing a re-design of the district website and adding a new "App" for public access; Family Support Services has been put into place; the establishment of a mindfulness room at PHS; Adoption of an A/B schedule at PHS; LED Conversion and solar installation. He noted that not all of the items were able to be accomplished, but the will continue to work on the priorities of the district.

10. ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: Ms. Lemieux moved to adjourn at 9:07 p.m.

SECOND: Ms. Bourey

VOTE: Passed unanimously.