

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

August 14, 2019 7:00 P.M.

PRESENT: Kathleen Barry, Steve Boettcher, Matthew Radant, Peggy Bourey, Mike Cartier, Cindy Arpin, Audrey Lemieux, Kenneth Di Pietro, Superintendent; Ronald Lussier, Business Manager

1. **CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Ms. Barry 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 June 11, 2019.

MOTION: Mr. Cartier moved to approve the minutes of the June 11th meeting.

SECOND: Ms. Lemieux

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

B. Minutes of the Special Meeting of July 31, 2019.

MOTION: Mr. Cartier moved to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of July 31st.

SECOND: Ms. Arpin

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

4. **COMMUNICATIONS:**

5. **PERSONNEL:**

A. Resignations & Retirements:

A letter of resignation was received from Carolyn Michener, Speech Pathologist.

MOTION: Mr. Cartier moved to accept the letter of resignation from Carolyn Michener.

SECOND: Ms. Arpin.

MOTION: Passed unanimously.

A letter of resignation was received from Nina Zimmitti, Grade 1 teacher at Shepard Hill Elementary.

MOTION: Mr. Cartier moved to accept the letter of resignation from Nina Zimmitti.

SECOND: Mr. Radant.

MOTION: Passed unanimously.

B. Appointments & Transfers: Mr. Di Pietro presented the following new staff that were hired over the summer:

- James Flynn PHS Music Teacher
- Luke Clavet PCS Physical Education

- John Lorange PCS Social Studies
- Karla Paquette School Social Worker
- Stephanie Curtis Mathematics – PCS
- Kelly Zils SHE Special Education

MOTION: Ms. Lemieux moved to approve the summer appointments for the certified staff members

SECOND: Ms. Arpin

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

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:

8. OLD BUSINESS:

A. FY19 Financial Close Out: Mr. Lussier said that the final budget expenditures came in at \$555,780 under plan. This is \$3,803 more than the school committed giveback amount of \$551,977. He said that the actual revenues are less than the original plan by \$270,442. This is due to the State reduction of \$109,459 and the BOE receiving \$160,983 less in tuition revenues.

B. FY20 Budget & Facilities Report: Mr. Lussier presented the Board with the newly reconciled FY20 budget. He also reviewed the following reports from each building regarding the summer work that has been completed.

Board of Education August 2019 Mtg Monthly Facilities Report	
Early Childhood Center	School will be ready for opening day.
Shepard Hill Elementary School	School will be ready for opening day.
Moosup Elementary School	School will be ready for opening day.
Plainfield Memorial School	School will be ready for opening day. Extraordinary summer events: The roof top heater and A/C unit over the Gymnasium has been ordered. It is expected to be installed and operational by mid August. The gymnasium floor is complete. JP Maquire has painted / sealed the stairwell and main entrance bricks / blocks. Two more bottle filling stations have been installed. The school now has four units.
Plainfield Central School	School will be ready for opening day. Installation a new heater and A/C unit for rooms 103 and 104 is underway.
Plainfield High School	School will be ready for opening day. The library roof leak has been repaired. Quotes for the replacement of missing Lightening Rods and Cables are being pursued. Quotes for repairs to Air Handler Unit #4 and repairs to the Data Closet A/C are being pursued.
Transportation	DATTCO developed the 2019-20 bus routes. As of this writing the K - 12 routes have been received and are under review. There are two less busses scheduled for the 19/20 school year.

C. Solar Energy Project Update: Mr. Di Pietro said that he received a phone call from the solar installation company saying that there were some glitches and the new timeline for installation at PCS, PMS and PHS is delayed by three weeks. As there were many concerns from the Board members with regard to the liability of the workers being there while school is in session and issues with the savings and

timeframe for the grant, Mr. Di Pietro will convene a meeting to get the answers to the questions and get back to the Board.

D. BOE Retreat & Strategic Plan: Mr. Di Pietro said that the Board held their annual retreat to set goals for the coming school and review their Strategic Plan. The following list is the concerns that the BOE identified:

- A need to strengthen vocational programs and non-college bound student course options
 - Related to this is a perception that the schools are mostly college-focused
- A need to strengthen responses to special needs students; closing the gap; and gifted programs
 - Related to this concern was a perceived weakness in differentiated practices
- A focus to improve Mathematics performance K-12 (i.e. curriculum, instruction, assessment)
- An improved response to significant concerns in rising, poverty, truancy, expulsions, absence
 - Related to this is a specific concern for drugs as demonstrated in vaping
- The budget continues to distract efforts towards school/district/BOE goals
 - Related to this are budget cuts from State and Town
 - Related to this is a need to investigate most cost savings options
- Mental Health Issue continue to challenge the environment and success for learning
 - Possibly related to this is a concern for the rising poverty level and a need to be responsive
- A crisis seems to be present with more students served out-of-district (Sp. Ed/Tech/Magnets)
- Public perception and communication are not aligned
 - The district needs to improve accurate information about our schools

E. Portrait of a Graduate: Dr. Bitgood presented the Board with the high school's Vision of the Plainfield High School Graduate. He noted that through the work that they are doing associated with the NEASC evaluation, they have developed a new mission statement for the high school. They have outlined five attributes that each graduate should demonstrate:

- The Responsible Citizen
- The Informed Thinker
- The Creative Communicator
- The Problem Solver
- The Prepared Professional

9. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Used Asset Scrapping: Mr. Lussier said that the district has the opportunity to donate the old, unused football bleachers to the Rams Field or the Moosup Little League. They are willing to disassemble and remove the bleachers. Mr. Lussier said that they will require a Release of Liability from them to protect the school district during the tear down and transport of the bleachers.

MOTION: Mr. Boettcher moved to approve the donation of the old bleachers with a release of liability.

SECOND: Ms. Lemieux

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

Mr. Lussier also said that Moosup Elementary School has several old pieces of physical education equipment that they would like to discard. The following items have been deemed obsolete, worn-out or out of compliance with current safety standards:

- Child Sit & Scoot - 17 units
- Hockey Sticks - 68 units

- Tumbling Mats - 5 units
- Soccer/Hockey goals - 2 units

There was a question as to the condition of the tumbling mats and whether they could be donated rather than thrown out.

MOTION: Mr. Radant moved to scrap the items with the exception of the mats. They will be reviewed for possible donation.

SECOND: Ms. Lemieux

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

- B. Food Services – Price Increase: Mr. Lussier said that the USDA has issued a compliance requirement to increase the weighted average price of a paid meal. Since the district has not increased the cost of a lunch since the 2016/17 school year, Mr. Lussier is proposing an increase of \$.15 to each of the four tiers.

MOTION: Ms. Lemieux moved to increase the cost of all four tiers by \$.15

SECOND: Ms. Bourey

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

- C. New Financial System RFP: Mr. Lussier said that Plainfield has partnered with LEARN and 11 other districts in the submission of an RFP for a new Financial Reporting System. He said that our current Phoenix system will no longer be supported as of July 1, 2020. He noted that we have viewed three other systems and are hopeful that they will respond to the RFP. He would like the Board's approval to review and consider the responses for a replacement Financial and Human Resources system.

MOTION: Mr. Radant moved to approve the request to review the RFP for a new financial and human resources system.

SECOND: Mr. Cartier

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

- D. Aspen Concerns & Discussion: Mr. Di Pietro said that with the resignation of Mrs. Oberdorf, it has been difficult to find a candidate with the knowledge needed to help with the rollover of the system. He said that he has contacted Aspen and they will be in district this week to help with the rollover and any other concerns that have arisen.

- E. GAP Grant: Mrs. Cadro said that this is the Guidance Assistant Program grant. We have had this grant for many years and it provides a great resource to the children in the elementary schools. Mrs. Cadro would like the Board's support in submitting the application for the grant in the amount of \$20,000.

MOTION: Mr. Cartier moved to approve the submission of the Primary Project Grant application.

SECOND: Mr. Radant

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

- F. Community Recognition Dinner: Mr. Di Pietro said that the Community Recognition Dinner will be held on October 1, 2019. He said that the Bulgary Trust and Westminster Tool have been suggested to be recognized due to their efforts to help our schools in any way they can.

MOTION: Mr. Cartier motioned to recommend Bulgary Trust and Westminter Tool to be recognized at the annual dinner.

SECOND: Mr. Boettcher

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

G. Superintendent's End of Year Report: Mr. Di Pietro said that the Back to School Breakfast will be on Monday, August 26. He welcomed the members of the Board to attend and be present for the staff meeting that will take place directly after the breakfast. He said that the schools are ready and staff have been in to set up their classrooms.

10. ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: Mr. Cartier moved to adjourn at 9:15 p.m.

SECOND: Ms. Aprin

VOTE: Passed unanimously.