

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

September 11, 2019 7:00 P.M.

PRESENT: Christi Haskell, Kathleen Barry, Steve Boettcher, Matthew Radant, Peggy Bourey, Mike Cartier, Cindy Arpin, Audrey Lemieux, Kenneth Di Pietro, Superintendent; Ronald Lussier, Business Manager; Roziland Choquette, Sterling; 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 August 14, 2019.

MOTION: Ms. Barry moved to approve the amended minutes of the August 14th meeting.

SECOND: Mr. Radant

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

B. Minutes of the Special Meeting of August 28, 2019.

MOTION: Ms. Bourey moved to approve the minutes of the Special meeting of August 28th.

SECOND: Ms. Arpin

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

4. **COMMUNICATIONS:**

- Principal Reports on Opening of Schools:

MES – The Kindergarten orientation and bus ride went well. Grade 1 is sharing a Chromebook cart, Grade 2 is starting the year with 1:1 Chromebooks and Grade 3 volunteered to trial a Foundations program in comparison to a new spelling program and the program that has been used in the past. MES now has a sensory walk on the ground floor between the library and the recess door. The playground has been seal coated and games have been painted on.

SHE – The hallways are freshly painted with the purple and grey school colors. The building now has a dedicated early childhood wing. The kindergarten playground has been resurfaced and includes grassy areas for the children. Four new bottle filling water station will be installed and the security system will have an upgrade this month. The theme this year will be Superheroes.

PMS – Had great attendance at the Meet and Greet. The PMS Stem Lab will be open this year as a continuation to the Makerspace programs at the elementary schools. The arrival and dismissal on the first day went very smoothly. The message at PMS this year is kindness and mindfulness.

PCS – The middle school has had a routine start to the school year. Team meetings (with students) have been held to ensure the students-teachers-administration expectations are aligned. These expectations are part of the theme: “Raise the Bar” and includes focus areas for this year...Respect-Attendance-

Involvement-SBAC-Expectations. They had their first “concert” on the newly placed pavilion. Brayden Sunshine, who has performed on the voice, made a return appearance to the central school last Friday. Finally, a professional and mathematical connection with Brooklyn and Sterling has begun and is designed to address areas in the numeracy domain.

PHS – The opening at PHS has gone very smoothly thus far. Students are adjusting well to the new schedule. The NEASC evaluation is moving along and they are presently working on the school growth plan for the next five years. Two new career pathways will be offered this year. The Certified Nursing Program and the Advanced Manufacturing Program.

Ms. Arpin spoke about the new CNA course that will be starting at PHS on September 23rd. The program will have up to 20 students and is being run in partnership with Three Rivers Community College. They will begin with coursework through February and then receive onsite training for the remainder of the school year. Upon completing the course, the students will be able to take the test in June for certification as a Certified Nursing Aide.

Mr. Di Pietro said that the Back to School Orientation Theme was “A Million Dreams”. Throughout the program, presenters inspired staff to open their hearts and support students for the diversity they bring to school.

5. **PERSONNEL:**

- A. Resignations & Retirements: None Presented.
- B. Appointments & Transfers: Lorraine Tierney and Judy Ports will be joining the staff to fill the vacant speech pathologist position. They will each serve a .4 FTE (each will work 2 days per week).

MOTION: Ms. Lemieux moved to approve the appointments of Lorraine Tierney and Judy Ports to serve as .4 FTE speech pathologists.

SECOND: Ms. Barry

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

6. **PUBLIC FORUM:**

- A. Public Forum/Agenda Items: Ms. Jen Cooney asked if the Board could begin to post the decision that are made at the monthly meetings on the App and website for transparency. The Board will look into this option.

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

Policies: Mr. Sugarman presented the Board with three policies that need to have a first reading of revisions.

Policy 5050 – Child Abuse or Neglect: Mr. Sugarman said that the revisions clarify the language for mandated reporters and the new electronic reporting system.

MOTION: Ms. Barry moved to dispense with the public reading and place on the district website for review.

SECOND: Ms. Lemieux

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

Policy 5050.1 – Reporting of Abuse or Neglect of Disabled Adults: This revision specifies the reporting period and list of mandatory reporters.

MOTION: Ms. Barry moved to dispense with the public reading and place on the district website for review.

SECOND: Mr. Radant

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

Policy 6174 – Guidelines for Independent Educational Evaluations: The policy has been updated to align with the CT State Department of Education guidelines.

MOTION: Ms. Lemieux moved to dispense with the public reading and place on the district website for review.

SECOND: Ms. Arpin

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

8. **OLD BUSINESS:**

- A. CHR Partnership: Representatives from CHR (Community Health Resources) spoke to the Board about their partnership program that they would like to establish with Plainfield. They could provide individual and family therapy, substance abuse as well as testing at no cost to the district. Family insurance, Medicaid, etc. would be billed for the services. They would be based at the school for convenience of the students. They would like to begin the services at Plainfield Central School. This will allow them the opportunity to determine if increased services are needed in the upper or lower levels of the district.
- B. FY20 Budget & Facilities Report: Mr. Lussier said that at this point in the school year, he has not received many bills to allow him to do a projection of the status of the budget. He noted that there may be some significant overruns in the special education account due to some outside placements that were not anticipated. He said that with the addition of the LED lighting, we are running under in the utilities account and this should help to compensate for the overage.
- C. Solar Energy/LED Project Update: Mr. Lussier said that we are beginning to see savings from the installation of the LED lighting. The contract for the remaining solar projects has been received from Eversource. It will need signatures from the Town upon the conclusion of their next Selectmen's meeting to approve the new timeline for the project.
- D. Status of New Bus Routes: Mr. Lussier said that at this point, the longest runs are just under an hour. These are the runs that are hand to hand drop-offs. This requires students being released from seatbelts and handed off to their parent so the runs take slightly more time. They will continue to try and decrease those times, if possible. All other runs seem to be going smoothly.
- E. K-3 Reconfiguration Postponement: Mr. Di Pietro said that with many issue that have required attention, the K-3 reconfiguration committee has not yet been assembled. Mr. Di Pietro would like to continue to pull together a committee, but the study committee will not begin to meet until January

2020. Should the committee decide that the reconfiguration would be in the best interest, it will not be able to occur until the fall of 2021.

MOTION: Mr. Radant moved to authorize the Superintendent to assemble a committee by January 2020 to investigate the possible reconfiguration of grade K-3.

SECOND: Mr. Boettcher

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

- F. School Walkthrough Schedule: Mr. Lussier said that he will be holding his annual walkthroughs of the district facilities during the week of October 23rd. He will send out a definitive schedule after he receives confirmation from all of the buildings.

9. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Special Education Report: Mr. Sugarman reviewed the out of district placements. He noted that we received 4 new outplaced students over the summer. He said that they are working on transitioning some of the students back into district. There are currently eight students from Plainfield High School enrolled in the Pathways Program at the ECC building. He said the district is approaching over 400 students that will be receiving services this year.
- B. TEVAL Results: Mr. Di Pietro reviewed the evaluation information of the certified staff for last school year. He said that there are presently no staff members rated as Basic, which is the lowest performance standard. There is only one teacher currently in the Developing category and all others are either Effective or Exemplary.
- C. Issues of Expulsion & Attendance: Mr. Di Pietro said that there were fourteen expulsion last school year. Eleven of them were related to vaping with evidence of the drug THC. These increased infractions correlate to reported increase concerns with mental health and the vaping crisis in the State and nation. He said that we need to find alternative that provide more corrective and less punitive measures to address some specific infractions. He noted that the district will also be partnering with the town police for the Student Truancy and Absence Recovery (STAR) program. The police will be able to provide the home visit to discuss the issues the district has with truancy.

MOTION: Mr. Radant moved to authorize the superintendent to investigate alternatives to expulsion and present the findings and suggestions to the Policy sub-committee for review.

SECOND: Ms. Bourey

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

- D. Superintendent's Report: Mr. Di Pietro briefly review our SBAC data that was recently received. He said that we presently rank about third in the region which puts us at average or slightly above.

10. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

MOTION: Mr. Radant moved to go into executive session at 9:15 p.m. for the purpose of Personnel and Negotiations.

SECOND: Ms. Arpin

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

MOTION: Ms. Barry moved to come out of executive session at 9:40 p.m.

SECOND: Ms. Arpin

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

MOTION: Ms. Barry moved to approve the increase of salaries as follows: \$55,000 from school and \$10,000 from BOE for Tammy St. Amour, \$105,000 salary for Ron Lussier, and Ken DiPietro will receive \$175,000. All will receive a 2% increase in the second year of the contract.

SECOND: Ms. Arpin

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

11. ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: Ms. Barry moved to adjourn at 9:45 p.m.

SECOND: Ms. Arpin

VOTE: Passed unanimously.