

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

November 20, 2019 7:00 P.M.

PRESENT: Christi Haskell, Kathleen Barry, Peggy Bourey, Mike Cartier, Cindy Arpin, Mike Broughton, Audrey Lemieux, Steve Boettcher, Kenneth Di Pietro, Superintendent; Ronald Lussier, Business Manager; Olivia Bessette, 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 lead the Pledge of Allegiance. She welcomed new member Mike Broughton and those members recently re-elected to the Board.
2. **ROLL CALL (taken silently by Board secretary)**
3. **CONSENT AGENDA:**
 - A. Minutes of the meeting of October 9, 2019.

MOTION: Ms. Barry moved to approve the minutes of the October 9th meeting.

SECOND: Ms. Arpin

VOTE: Passed with abstentions from Mr. Boettcher, Mr. Broughton and Ms. Lemieux.

4. **ELECTIONS OF OFFICERS:** Ms. Haskell turned the meeting over to Mr. Di Pietro to begin the election of new officers.

Mr. Di Pietro began by asking for nominations for the position of Chair to the Board of Education.

Ms. Barry nominated Christi Haskell for the position of Board Chair.

Ms. Lemieux seconded the nominations.

Mr. Di Pietro asked two additional times if there were any other nominations. No other nominations were presented.

Ms. Barry moved to close the nominations.

Ms. Lemieux seconded the motion.

A vote was taken by show of hands. All present voted in the affirmative for Ms. Haskell as Board Chair.

Ms. Haskell then asked for nominations for the position of Vice Chair.

Mr. Cartier nominated Ms. Barry for the position of Vice Chair.

Ms. Lemieux seconded the nomination.

Ms. Haskell asked two additional times if there were any other nominations. No other nominations were presented.

Mr. Cartier moved to close the nominations

Ms. Arpin seconded the motion.

All members voted in the affirmative.

Ms. Haskell took a vote by show of hands. All present voted in the affirmative for Ms. Barry as Vice Chair.

Ms. Haskell opened the floor for nominations for Board Secretary.

Ms. Bourey nominated Ms. Lemieux for secretary.

Ms. Barry seconded the nomination.

Ms. Haskell asked two additional time if there were any other nominations. No other nominations were presented.

Ms. Barry moved to close the nominations.

Mr. Cartier seconded the motion.

All present voted in the affirmative

Ms. Haskell took a vote by show of hands. All present voted in the affirmative for Ms. Lemieux as Board Secretary.

5. COMMUNICATIONS:

6. PERSONNEL:

- A. Resignations & Retirements: Mr. Di Pietro stated that he received a letter of resignation from Judy Ports. Ms. Ports has been with the district this year as a part time speech pathologist.

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

SECOND: Ms. Lemieux

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

- B. Appointments & Transfers: Mr. Di Pietro said the district has hired Ms. Amanda Di Pete to fill the vacant Special Education position in the ILP classroom at Shepard Hill. She will begin on December 1st.

MOTION: Ms. Barry moved to approve the appointment of Ms. Amanda DiPete to the special education position.

SECOND: Ms. Lemieux

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

Mr. Di Pietro also presented Alicia Cournoyer to fill the 4th grade position that is currently open at Plainfield Memorial.

MOTION: Ms. Bourey moved to approve the appointment of Alicia Cournoyer to the fourth grade position.

SECOND: Mr. Cartier

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

7. PUBLIC FORUM:

- A. Public Forum/Agenda Items: Sandy Collins approached the board to request to be placed on next month's agenda to discuss a program that was used in the past at Plainfield Schools and she would like to give the board more information regarding the program.

Matt Radant spoke to the board about the staffing level of substitute teachers. He noted that the pay rate for subs in Plainfield is approximately 20% lower than surrounding towns. He said that this issue should be reviewed as the district does not have enough substitutes to cover the need.

- B. Student Representation: Ms. Olivia Bessette was present as the student representative from the high school. She said that Homecoming was on October 26th. The winners from the Voice of Democracy essays were announced and the winner will continue on to the state level. The fall sports are coming to an end with the girls' soccer team moving to compete in the state championship game.
- C. PHS Presentation to PCS Students: Mr. Bitgood said that the administration and a few students from Plainfield High School went to Plainfield Central School to give a presentation on the courses and activities that are available to students that choose to attend PHS. He showed a brief section of the video that they played for the students. He noted that many of them seemed very impressed and did not realize the number of options that are available to them for career paths at PHS.

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

CAPSS Awards: Mr. Di Pietro said that the CAPSS awards will still be held on December 3rd, however, due to scheduling conflicts, the location has been changed to Brooklyn Middle School.

Ms. Haskell said that she will make updates to the board committees and notify members of their new assignments.

CABE Conference: Ms. Bourey and Ms. Arpin reported about the conference. They indicated that it was very well attended and the breakout sessions were great.

9. **OLD BUSINESS:**

- A. FY20 Budget & Facilities Report: Mr. Lussier said that the budget is doing well. At present there are only a couple of line items that he is watching. He noted that he is currently working to update all of the recent staffing changes.

Facilities:

ECC: The parking lot is now painted so the lines are visible again.

SHE: Improvements have been made to the security of the building with the installation of new doors. The solar is now up and running.

MES: The Dept. of Health made an unscheduled visit to the cafeteria. It received a 100% rating. The solar is up and running.

PCS: There was a small fire in the custodial area on October 25th. It was put out within minutes. There is also a long jump pitch being installed by volunteers.

- B. Update of Bus Run Times: Mr. Lussier said that Dattco is continuing to monitor their bus times. They have improved. At this point there are only three runs that are running over an hour, but only by a couple minutes. Most of the issues seem to be coming from delays at the train tracks.

- C. Facility Walkthrough Summary: Mr. Lussier said that the walkthroughs of all the buildings were conducted in October. He said that the majority of the concerns are due to the aging HVAC systems at the schools. He asked that if there were any questions from the detailed report to give him a call.

10. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Ratification of PASA Contract: Ms. Haskell said that the Board was presented with the contract for the Administrative union. She asked if any members had questions with regard to the new contract. No questions were brought forward.

MOTION: Ms. Barry moved to approve the contract for the Plainfield Association of School Administrators as presented.

SECOND: Ms. Arpin

VOTE: Passed with abstention from Ms. Lemieux.

- B. 2020-2021 Calendar Review: Mr. Di Pietro reviewed a proposed calendar for next school year. He noted that there were a few things that may need to be changed. He is suggesting that the year begin for students on September 2nd. Although some district are suggesting a full two weeks for Christmas break, he is suggesting that they begin on December 23. He would like to have April break begin on the 19th. The week prior is during the state testing for SATs. The school year would end on June 18th, pending any snow days. He said that these are just suggestions and the calendar committee will still need to meet to make their recommendations.

- C. Financial System Proposal: Mr. Lussier said that our current financial and HR system will no longer be supported after June 30th. He said that several members of the administrative offices attended two sessions reviewing replacement systems. Of those that were presented, two systems seemed to be most user friendly and fulfill the needs of the district. One is more costly than the other, however, the company is willing to forgo any upfront costs and stretch out the installation costs over three year.

MOTION: Mr. Cartier moved to authorize the Superintendent to review both systems and make a decision, if necessary, prior to the next Board meeting.

SECOND: Ms. Arpin

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

- D. Sterling Cooperative Review: Ms. Haskell said that the cooperative committee will need to meet to review the existing agreement and make any updates that are needed.

- E. Superintendent's Report: Mr. Di Pietro said that the LED lighting has been completed in three of our schools. To date, DEF has not been able to finish the work at the other schools. Another company, Earthlite, has approached and would like to take over the process. Mr. Di Pietro stated that he would like to meet with those involved at the Town Hall to discuss the process that this project should take.

11. ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: Ms. Lemieux moved to adjourn at 8:40 p.m.

SECOND: Ms. Barry

VOTE: Passed unanimously.