

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

January 8, 2020 7:00 P.M.

PRESENT: Christi Haskell, Kathleen Barry, Peggy Bourey, Mike Cartier, Mike Broughton, Audrey Lemieux, Steve Boettcher, Kenneth Di Pietro, Superintendent; Ronald Lussier, Business Manager; Jake Irons, Student Representatives; Sterling 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.
2. **ROLL CALL (taken silently by Board secretary)**
3. **CONSENT AGENDA:**

A. Minutes of the meeting of December 11, 2019.

MOTION: Ms. Barry moved to approve the minutes of the December 11th meeting.

SECOND: Mr. Boettcher

VOTE: Passed with abstention from Ms. Lemieux.

4. **COMMUNICATIONS:** Mr. Di Pietro said that he is working with the Sterling superintendent to begin to review the Cooperative Agreement. He said that they will discuss the agreement that is presently in place and a committee of members from each board will convene on February 25th at the high school to review and make any necessary revision to the plan.

5. **PERSONNEL:**

- A. Resignations & Retirements: A letter of resignation for the purpose of retirement was received by Mrs. Jean Gladue, Art teacher. Mrs. Gladue will be leaving her part time position effective January 31, 2020.

MOTION: Ms. Lemieux moved to accept the letter of resignation for the purpose of retirement from Mrs. Jean Gladue, effective January 31, 2020.

SECOND: Mr. Boettcher

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

A letter of resignation for the purpose of retirement was also received from Mrs. Teresa DeLuca, Music teacher. Ms. DeLuca will be retiring as of June 30, 2020.

MOTION: Ms. Barry moved to approve the letter of resignation for the purpose of retirement from Mrs. DeLuca, effective June 30, 2020.

SECOND: Ms. Bourey

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

- B. Appointments & Transfers: Mr. Di Pietro said that Ms. Miranda Freeman will be starting in February as a special education teacher. Ms. Freeman will be teacher a program that will allow some students that would typically be in out of district placements to remain in district in a restricted environment that will support their needs.

MOTION: Mr. Cartier moved to approve the appointment of Miranda Freeman.

SECOND: Ms. Barry

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

6. PUBLIC FORUM:

- A. CAPSS Student Awards: Four students were presented to the board as this year's recipients of the CAPSS Awards for Plainfield. The students for Plainfield High School that were recognized are: Kaitlyn Neumann, Sara Ali, Daniel Flanagan, and Rhianna Bourque.
- B. Public Forum/Agenda Items: Matthew Radant addressed the Board with regard to the past conversation about reconfiguration of the elementary schools. He noted that the Board was going to revisit the conversation in January and asked where the process is at this point. He was informed that some members of the Board were meeting with PTO's, but that this reconfiguration would not be taking place within this next fiscal year.
- C. Student Representation: Jake said that with the Christmas break, there was not much going on at the high school. The Holiday concert was held on December 18th, they have begun the casting for the play and the students are preparing for mid-terms.

7. STANDING COMMITTEES & INDIVIDUAL REPORTS:

Ms. Haskell said that there will be a meeting with the First Selectman to discuss bonding of projects. There will be a new committee to discuss the Project 2025 Plan.

8. OLD BUSINESS:

- A. FY20 Budget & Facilities Report: Mr. Lussier said that there were no extraordinary expenditures for the month of December. He noted that the financial summary presented reflects a total budget of \$35,866,347 which now includes the \$64,000 reduction to the approved appropriation.

Facilities: Mr. Lussier said that there were several small projects that the schools were able to complete during the brief holiday break, but there are presently no major issues.

- B. FY21 Budget Process Update: Mr. Di Pietro suggested that the Board review their budget priorities that are currently in place as a start of their budget planning process.
 - It was suggested that bullet two be changed to reflect that the board will continue to maintain quality early childhood programs and services.
 - Ms. Haskell stated that there should be a priority to reflect that the district will maintain a level of rigor throughout the curriculum.
 - She also would like to see the mission statement included at the bottom of the page.
 - It was also suggested that they will meet or exceed state expectations for instructional reform rather than simply meeting the expectation.

MOTION: Mr. Boettcher moved to reaffirm the Budget Priorities as amended.

SECOND: Ms. Lemieux

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

Capital Improvement Plan: Mr. Di Pietro presented the Board with the updated 5-Year Capital Plan. He noted that some items, such as the new HVAC systems would be part of a bonding project through the town, but he still needed to include them in our plan for future needs.

MOTION: Mr. Boettcher moved to approve the revised 5-Year Capital Plan as presented.

SECOND: Ms. Bourey

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

C. Project 2025: Facilities Study Team: Mr. Di Pietro said that the present facility study report expires this year. He said that a new committee will meet at SHE on the first Thursday of each month to review and discuss items for the new plan to take the district through to 2025. He said that based on the schedule of meetings that are planned, he would like to have the Plan submitted to the Board at its August or September meeting.

D. Teacher Substitute Pay Policy: Mr. Di Pietro said that the Board approved the new rates at their monthly meeting in December. Tonight they have been presented with the revised policy for approval.

MOTION: Mr. Cartier moved to the revision of Policy 4121 Substitute Teachers as presented with the new rates.

SECOND: Ms. Barry

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

E. Curriculum Approval: Mrs. Cadro presented several items for approval.

- Mapping the Future: Using Composition to Explore Identity and Purpose in a Changing World: In this course, students will produce 30+ pages of college caliber academic writing. Students will also be given the opportunity for college credit with this course.

MOTION: Ms. Bourey moved to approve the curriculum for Mapping the Future.

SECOND: Ms. Lemieux

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

The following three courses were reviewed by the Curriculum Committee and presented to the Board for approval:

- Oceanography (ECE)
- Environmental Science
- Contemporary Science

MOTION: Ms. Barry moved to approve the curriculum for the three science courses as presented.

SECOND: Ms. Lemieux

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

The final course is Mastery-based Assessment: This course will be required for students in order to put together their portfolio to meet the new state requirements for graduation. The board would like to see further information on what this course will involve and what the students will be producing.

MOTION: Ms. Lemieux moved to approve the concept for the Mastery-based Assessment course.

SECOND: Mr. Boettcher

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

- F. Policy Revisions Second Reading: 5113 – Student Attendance and Truancy: Mr. Sugarman said that the updates to the policy allows schools to reduce student grades for unauthorized absences. He informed the members of the Board that this policy states that a reduction to the grade for absenteeism cannot result in a failure of the course. He said that the policy has been posted on the webpage for review. He asked that the Board approve the changes that were brought forward at the last meeting.

MOTION: Ms. Bourey moved to waive the second reading of Policy 5113 Student Attendance and approve the changes.

SECOND: Ms. Lemieux

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

5114 – Student Discipline: Mr. Sugarman said that Policy 5114 Student Discipline has also been posted on the webpage for review. He said that with the approval of this policy, for a student to be expelled from school they must have violated school board policy and be a serious disruption to the educational process.

MOTION: Mr. Boettcher moved to dispense with the second reading of Policy 5114 Student Discipline and approve the changes.

SECOND: Mr. Cartier

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

9. **NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. Policy Revisions Second Reading: 5113 – Student Attendance and Truancy: Mr. Sugarman said that the updates to the policy allows schools to reduce student grades for unauthorized absences. He informed the members of the Board that this policy states that a reduction to the grade for absenteeism cannot result in a failure of the course. He said that the policy has been posted on the webpage for review. He asked that the Board approve the changes that were brought forward at the last meeting.

MOTION: Ms. Bourey moved to waive the second reading of Policy 5113 Student Attendance and approve the changes.

SECOND: Ms. Lemieux

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

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MOTION: Mr. Boettcher moved to dispense with the second reading of Policy 5114 Student Discipline and approve the changes.

SECOND: Mr. Cartier

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

- B. BOE 2020 Meeting Dates: Each year the dates for the Board of Education regular meetings must be posted with the Town Hall. The calendar for this year includes meetings from February through January 2021 with the exception of July, when the board does not schedule a meeting.

MOTION: Mr. Boettcher moved to approve the 2020 meeting dates for the Board of Education.

SECOND: Mr. Cartier

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

- C. Superintendent's Report: Mr. Di Pietro said that the high school has begun using the new attendance and discipline policy. He said that as on the first quarter at PHS, forty-seven (47) students did receive a consequence of one or more points on their average in classes with unauthorized absence. Of the 47 students with 1-5 unauthorized absences, 36 of the students completed work to improve their grade point average. We believe that this provision provides not only a safeguard for student grades but it also provides some evidence that students are taking seriously the impact of unauthorized absence.

10. ADJOURNMENT:

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

SECOND: Ms. Bourey

VOTE: Passed unanimously.