

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

March 11, 2020 7:00 P.M.

PRESENT: Christi Haskell, Kathleen Barry, Peggy Bourey, Mike Cartier, Mike Broughton, Audrey Lemieux, Steve Boettcher, Cheryl Hull, Cindy Arpin, Kenneth Di Pietro, Superintendent; Ronald Lussier, Business Manager; Jake Irons & Olivia Bessette, 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 February 12, 2020.

MOTION: Ms. Barry moved to approve the minutes of the February 12th meeting.

SECOND: Mr. Boettcher

VOTE: Passed with abstention from Ms. Arpin.

4. **COMMUNICATIONS:** Ms. Haskell said that a request was received from the Plainfield Police Union inviting the Board to purchase an ad to be placed in their community safety guide. She suggested that we purchase a \$250 ad as we did two years prior.

MOTION: Ms. Barry moved to purchase a \$250 ad for the Community Safety Guide.

SECOND: Ms. Arpin

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

5. **PERSONNEL:**

A. Resignations & Retirements: A letter of resignation was received from Nicole Deary, SLP, BCBA, effective as of March 13, 2020.

MOTION: Mr. Boettcher moved to accept the letter of resignation from Nicole Deary, effective March 13, 2020.

SECOND: Mr. Cartier

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

A letter of resignation was received from Miranda Freeman, Special Education teacher, effective March 13, 2020.

MOTION: Mr. Cartier moved to accept the letter of resignation from Miranda Freeman, effective March 13, 2020.

SECOND: Ms. Bourey
VOTE: Passed unanimously.

A letter of resignation was received from Megan Longo, science teacher at PHS, effective March 20, 2020.

MOTION: Ms. Bourey moved to accept the letter of resignation from Megan Longo, effective March 20, 2020.
SECOND: Mr. Broughton
VOTE: Passed unanimously.

A letter of resignation was received from Julie Hemeon, world language teacher at PCS, effective at the end of this school year.

MOTION: Mr. Cartier moved to accept the letter of resignation from Julie Hemeon, effective at the end of the school year.
SECOND: Ms. Barry
VOTE: Passed unanimously.

A letter of resignation for the purpose of retirement was received from Mrs. Dianne McBroome, elementary teacher at MES, effective at the end of the school year.

MOTION: Ms. Barry moved to approve the letter of resignation for the purpose of retirement from Mrs. McBroome, effective June 30, 2020, with regret.
SECOND: Ms. Lemieux
VOTE: Passed unanimously.

A letter of resignation for the purpose of retirement was received from Ms. Jane Arruda, elementary teacher at PCS, effective at the end of the school year.

MOTION: Ms. Barry moved to approve the letter of resignation for the purpose of retirement from Ms. Jane Arruda, effective June 30, 2020, with regret.
SECOND: Ms. Bourey
VOTE: Passed unanimously.

B. Appointments & Transfers:

Ms. Jennifer Di Phillipa has been hired to fill the Special Education vacancy at Plainfield Central School.

MOTION: Mr. Cartier moved to approve the appointment of Jennifer Di Phillipa to the position of special education teacher at Plainfield Central School.
SECOND: Mr. Boettcher
VOTE: Passed unanimously.

Ms. Tiffany Anderson has been hired to fill the Special Education vacancy at Moosup Elementary School.

MOTION: Ms. Bourey moved to approve the appointment of Tiffany Anderson to the position of special education teacher at Moosup Elementary School.

SECOND: Ms. Barry

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.
- B. PCS Student Presentation: Carol McKeag and Cathleen Coddling, along with some students from PCS spoke to the board regarding a program called Ben's Bells. The program was created to promote kindness by giving a small kindness stone to those that have shown you kindness and compassion in some way.
- C. Student Representatives: Jake Irons stated that the cafeteria and girls' lavatory in that area were recently painted. The tickets for this year's production "Anything Goes" will be on sale on April 1st. SAT review is in progress and SAT day is on March 25th. The concert is scheduled for March 25th and the Soup & Bread Bowl fundraiser is being held on April 1st.

7. STANDING COMMITTEES & INDIVIDUAL REPORTS:

- A. Superintendent's Report: Mr. Di Pietro said that the CEA once again made use of the Discovery Bus during Read Across America Week.

Mr. Di Pietro also reviewed the current Strategic Plan that the Board has established and listed several items that have been accomplished or are in progress:

- NEASC Accreditation
- CNA Program at PHS
- Differentiated Diplomas
- Curriculum Guidebooks
- Westminster Tool Partnership
- Marketing at PHS
- Extended day for student help
- Solar
- AB Block schedule

- B. Project 2025 Team Update: Mr. Di Pietro said that committee met on March 5th. Three of the schools in the district presented to the committee about the projects and aspirations for their building over the next 5 years. The remaining schools will present to the group at the April meeting.

8. OLD BUSINESS:

- A. FY20 Budget & Facilities Report: Mr. Lussier said that budget remains as planned. He noted that it has been reported over the past few months that special education and transportation costs relating to

special education are running greater than planned. He said that the reconciliation of the cost accounts receiving special education excess aide funds will be completed following the release of those funds from the Town. Mr. Lussier stated that he has been involved in the training for the new financial systems that the district will be transitioning to and it is going very well.

- B. FY21 Budget Recommendation to the Town: Mr. Di Pietro said that he recently met with the Town leadership to discuss concerns with the 20-21 budget. He said that Mr. Cunningham would like to see the Adult Education grant reported in the school budget as an expense and a revenue for public clarity. It was also suggested that we include the entire amount of special education excess aid money into the budget. Mr. Di Pietro said that he has increase the amount from \$400,000 to \$675,000. This will allow the Town to reserve \$100,000 for unanticipated costs.

MOTION: Mr. Boettcher moved to submit the Board of Education FY21 budget to the Town in the amount of \$36,464,810.

SECOND: Ms. Arpin

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

- C. Transportation Contract Extension: Mr. Di Pietro stated that at last month's meeting, the board agreed to extend the Dattco contract for an additional year. He noted that the contract was included in their information this month for their review.

- D. Policies: Mr. Sugarman said that the policies from last month's meeting were placed on the website for review. He is now asking that the Board approve the revisions.

5131.3 Bullying – Mr. Sugarman said that there was new language added to show the new training requirements for administrators.

MOTION: Ms. Barry moved to approve the revision of Policy 5131.3 Bullying.

SECOND: Ms. Arpin

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

5145.31 & 4118.112 Sexual Harassment: Mr. Sugarman said the language for alienage and citizenship were added for discrimination purposes.

MOTION: Mr. Cartier moved to approve the revisions to policies 5145.31 & 4118.112 Sexual Harassment.

SECOND: Ms. Barry

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

5145 – 504 Guidelines: Mr. Sugarman said that changes were made to the policy to align with state guidelines.

MOTION: Mr. Boettcher moved to approve the revision of Policy 5145 – 504 Guidelines.

SECOND: Mr. Cartier

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

9. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Policies – 1st Readings:

1331 – Alcohol, Tobacco & Drug Free Workplace: Mr. Sugarman state that this policy was revised to conform to the changes to the 1000 series smoking policy, and now also prohibits smoking on property owned, leased, contracted for, or utilized by the Board.

MOTION: Ms. Barry moved to dispense with the reading of Policy 1331 and post to the website for review.

SECOND: Ms. Bourey

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

5146 – Physical Activity, Undirected Play & Student Discipline: Mr. Sugarman explained that this policy was revised based on Public Act 19-173 to include provisions related to the devotion of time to undirected play for elementary students in addition to the twenty minutes of required time for physical exercise. The policy also addresses the prevention of students from participating in the entire time devoted to physical exercise and undirected play as a form of discipline.

MOTION: Ms. Barry moved to dispense with the reading of Policy 5416 and post to the website for review.

SECOND: Mr. Broughton

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

- B. Coronavirus Discussion: Mr. Di Pietro said that in the wake of the Coronavirus outbreak, the district has been reinforcing safe practices of handwashing and covering coughs and sneezes. However, in the event of a reported case in the schools, they may have to close for a couple days to sanitize the buildings. If cases continue to appear, they may need to close for up to two weeks. He said a letter will be going home tomorrow to alert parents of the steps that the school is taking to keep students safe. He said that they will continue to seek and receive guidance from the State and the CDC. Mr. Di Pietro presented the Board with a copy of the letter that he wishes to send home for BOE approval.

MOTION: Ms. Bourey moved to approve the letter to be sent home to parents.

SECOND: Mr. Cartier

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

- C. Healthy Foods Certification: Mr. Lussier said that annually the board needs to recertify that they will continue to serve food according to the Healthy Foods Certification for the National School Lunch Program. These certification allow the district to receive reimbursement for the lunches that are sold.

MOTION: Mr. Cartier moved that the Board of Education will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2020, through June 30, 2021. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to, school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or by non-school organizations and groups.

SECOND: Ms. Barry

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

MOTION: Mr. Cartier moved the Board of Education will allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards provided that it is outside of the regular school day.

SECOND: Ms. Barry

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

MOTION: Mr. Cartier moved that the Board of Education will allow the sale to students of beverages not listed in Section 10-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes provided that it is outside of the regular school day.

SECOND: Ms. Barry

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

- D. TEAM Approval: Ms. Cadro stated that Ms. Beverly Mullen would like to be approved to take part in the training to become a TEAM mentor.

MOTION: Ms. Lemieux moved to approve Ms. Beverly Mullen to train as a TEAM mentor.

SECOND: Ms. Arpin

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

- E. Special Education Report: Mr. Sugarman said that they are currently working on developing a pupil service action plan with parents, special education staff and students, in order to identify a mission/vision for the department, as well as goals, strategies and performance metrics for the work.

10. **ADJOURNMENT:**

MOTION: Ms. Lemieux moved to adjourn at 8:57 p.m.

SECOND: Ms. Bourey

VOTE: Passed unanimously.