

**PLAINFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
LIVE STREAMING VIDEO MEETING**

May 13, 2020 7:00 P.M.

PRESENT: Christi Haskell, Peggy Bourey, Mike Cartier, Mike Broughton, Audrey Lemieux, Steve Boettcher, Cindy Arpin, Kenneth Di Pietro, Superintendent; Ronald Lussier, Business Manager; 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 April 8, 2020.

MOTION: Ms. Bourey moved to approve the minutes of the April 8th meeting.

SECOND: Mr. Cartier

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

4. **COMMUNICATIONS:**

- A. Appointment of Board Member: Ms. Haskell said that they received a letter from Dr. Nicholas Easton stating his interest in filling the vacant seat on the Board. She said that he has been endorsed by the Democratic Town Committee.

Dr. Easton spoke to the members of the Board and stated that he presently has six grandchildren in the system. He has been impressed with Plainfield but is not happy with our scores and thinks that we could do more to promote college. He said that he was involved in politics in Providence for many years and enjoys being involved with the public.

MOTION: Ms. Arpin moved to appoint Dr. Nicholas Easton to the vacant position on the Board.

SECOND: Mr. Cartier

VOTE: Passed with opposition from Mr. Boettcher and Mr. Broughton.

- B. Recognition of Teachers, Secretaries, para-Educators & Nurses: Ms. Haskell stated the Board's appreciation to all the employees, particularly during this difficult time. She read into record the following proclamation of appreciation:

Whereas, the Board of Education aspires to provide the highest quality of education for the students and the citizens of Plainfield, Connecticut; and,

Whereas, student achievement is directly related to the quality of teachers and leaders supported by an educational community of paraprofessionals, secretaries, nurses, specialists, support staff and lunch workers; and,

Whereas the 2019/2020 school year experienced an unprecedented pandemic which demanded unique services in unique settings to sustain student learning;

Now therefore, the Plainfield Board of Education wishes to acknowledge with appreciation and respect, the professionalism and the commitment exhibited by the educators of the district who were required to transform the instructional system to virtual-learning in order to provide support for home-instruction;

- Teachers reviewed skills and competencies to determine how best to deliver on-line instruction;
- Teachers operated on-line instruction as well as material-based instruction for families without internet;
- Teachers utilized video conferencing to communicate and interact with students and families;
- Teachers created videos and activities that replicated daily activities such as morning announcements;
- Teachers modified lessons to encourage student interest and engagement at home; and;
- Teachers responded to the challenges of students and families struggling with a change to daily routines.

In addition, the Plainfield Board of Education acknowledges that the pandemic presented a challenge to the health and safety of the public. The crisis reinforced the importance and value of the medical profession and service providers. The Plainfield Board of Education wishes to acknowledge the roles, services and contributions of varied members of the educational community who contribute daily, and in particular during this time of crisis.

The Plainfield Board of Education wishes to extend its appreciation and recognition to the nurses who not only daily provide for the health and welfare of the students and staff, but who also took a lead role in reviewing all supplies of personal protective equipment to send available supplies to hospitals and care facilities; and,

The Plainfield Board of Education wishes to extend its appreciation and recognition to lunch workers who provided over 900 lunches and breakfasts daily during the school shut down projecting over 100,000 meals provided to families throughout the town; and,

The Plainfield Board of Education wishes to extend its appreciation and recognition to all of the essential workers of secretaries and custodians and administrators and technicians and others who left their homes daily and challenged their comfort and fears of possible health challenge for themselves and their families in order to maintain the operation and the service of our school system.

As evidence of its support for quality education, the Board of Education commits a record of this proclamation as part of the Board of Education meeting minutes on this day, May 13, 2020.

Ms. Arpin also stated her appreciation for the nurses. She stated that she had previously been a school nurse and understands the challenges they face and has great respect for them.

5. **PERSONNEL:**

- A. Resignations & Retirements: A letter of resignation was received from Carol McKeag, Special Education Teacher at PCS. Mrs. McKeag will be retiring at the end of the school year.

MOTION: Ms. Arpin moved to accept the letter of resignation for the purpose of retirement from Carol McKeag, effective June 30, 2020.

SECOND: Mr. Boettcher

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

A letter of resignation was received from Adrienne Lorange, chemistry teacher at PHS. Ms. Lorange will leave her position at the end of the school year.

MOTION: Ms. Bourey moved to accept the letter of resignation from Adrienne Lorange, effective at the end of the school year.

SECOND: Mr. Cartier

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

Mr. Di Pietro said that Ms. Courtney Plantier has been hired to fill the vacated elementary music position due to the retirement of Ms. Deluca.

MOTION: Mr. Broughton moved to approve the appointment of Courtney Plantier to the open music position for next school year.

SECOND: Ms. Arpin

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

6. PUBLIC FORUM:

- A. Public Forum/Agenda Items: Ms. Haskell asked anyone that would like to communicate with the Board to send questions to BOEquestions@plainfieldschools.org and someone will get back to them.

7. STANDING COMMITTEES & INDIVIDUAL REPORTS:

- A. Superintendent's Report: Mr. Di Pietro reviewed the results of the survey that went to parents with regard to their experiences with distance learning. He said that nearly 1,000 responses were received. The results show that we are currently doing okay with distance learning. Mr. Broughton asked if there would be another survey as only half of the population responded. He said that it really does not show an accurate representation of the district. Mr. Di Pietro said that they will send out another survey which will also help them to prepare for the start of next school year.

8. OLD BUSINESS:

- A. FY20 Budget & Facilities Report: Mr. Lussier stated that we are anticipating that the budget for this school year will close with approximately \$480,000 under plan. He said that they savings are due to transportation costs, special education excess costs and savings in utilities. He said that these monies will be carried over into the 2% set-aside to help offset next year's budget.
- B. FY21 Budget Update: Mr. Di Pietro said that the Town approved an appropriate for the Board for the 20/21 budget in the amount of \$35,946,723. As this amount is different from the previously approved amount, a new vote needs to be taken by the Board. The Board of Finance approved the new budget with a zero mill increase to the Town.

MOTION: Ms. Bourey moved to approve the reconciled 20/21 budget in the amount of \$35,946,723.

SECOND: Mr. Boettcher

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

- C. End of Year Update COVID: Mr. Di Pietro said that the schools will be closed for the remainder of this school year and on line learning will continue through that time. He asked the Board to have graduation on June 12th.

MOTION: Mr. Boettcher moved to hold graduation on June 12, 2020

SECOND: Ms. Arpin

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

- D. Solar/LED Project Update: Mr. Di Pietro said that they have been working with Earthlite to determine when the LED lighting project can continue. He said that they would like to work in the buildings after 1:00 in the afternoon when the staff have left. This will allow them to get the project completed by the end of June.

They are still planning to meet with Forefront to determine the schedule for the remaining solar projects that need to be completed.

9. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Discussion on Summer & Start Up: Mr. Di Pietro said that two graduation ceremonies are planned. One will be for the awards ceremonies and a second for graduation. He said that they will be live-streamed and parents can watch from home. With regard to graduation, he said that they would like to have the seniors there on the football field. The social distancing regulation will be followed. Each student will be given a panther face mask to wear. There will not be anyone else allowed in or around the football field. Parents will watch via the live feed on the website. He said that they are still awaiting word from the state and health departments to make sure that this is following their guidelines.

MOTION: Mr. Cartier moved to approve the plan for graduation with the approval of the state and health departments, and with one rain date at the discretion of Dr. Bitgood.

SECOND: Ms. Bourey

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

10. ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: Mr. Boettcher moved to adjourn at 8:25 p.m.

SECOND: Ms. Arpin

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

ACTIONS TAKEN:

- Approval of April 8th minutes
- Appointment of Dr. Nicholas Easton to BOE
- Retirement of Carol McKeag
- Resignation of Adrienne Lorange
- Appointment of Courtney Plantier, music teacher
- Approval of reconciled 20/21 budget
- Approval of June 12th graduation date
- Approval for live graduation on football field