

**PLAINFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
LIVE STREAMING VIDEO MEETING
June 10, 2020 7:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Peggy Bourey, Mike Cartier, Mike Broughton, Cindy Arpin, Kathleen Barry, Audrey Lemieux, Kenneth Di Pietro, Superintendent; Ronald Lussier, Business Manager; Tammy St. Amour, Recorder

1. **CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Ms. Barry 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 May 13, 2020: Ms. Lemieux stated that due to streaming difficulties, she was not able to remain on the Zoom meeting and asked that her name be removed from the attendance list.

MOTION: Ms. Bourey moved to approve the minutes of the May 13th meeting, as amended.

SECOND: Ms. Arpin

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

- B. Minutes of the Special Meeting of May 27, 2020: Ms. Arpin asked that the Sterling representative be added to the list of attendees at the meeting.

MOTION: Ms. Lemieux moved to approve the minutes of the May 27th meeting, as amended.

SECOND: Mr. Cartier

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

4. **COMMUNICATIONS:**

Mr. Di Pietro said that the school administration put together a brief video to thank everyone for their efforts during this difficult time and it was played for them to see.

5. **PERSONNEL:**

- A. Resignations & Retirements: A letter of resignation was received from Jane Arruda, reading specialist at PCS. Ms. Arruda will be retiring at the end of this school year.

MOTION: Ms. Lemieux moved to accept, with regret, the letter of resignation for the purpose of retirement from Jane Arruda, effective June 30, 2020.

SECOND: Ms. Arpin

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

A letter of resignation was received from Olivia Tyszkiewicz. Ms. Tyszkiewicz will leave her position as a PreK teacher at the end of the school year.

MOTION: Mr. Cartier moved to accept the letter of resignation from Olivia Tyszkiewicz, effective at the end of the school year.

SECOND: Ms. Lemieux

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

A letter of resignation was received from Kristen Brindamour. Ms. Brindamour will leave her position as a second grade teacher at the end of the school year.

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

SECOND: Ms. Lemieux

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

A letter of resignation for the purpose of retirement was received from Joann Bray, PHS Foreign Language teacher, effective at the end of the school year.

MOTION: Mr. Cartier moved to accept the letter of resignation from Joann Bray, effective at the end of the school year.

SECOND: Ms. Lemieux

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

B. Appointments:

Mr. Di Pietro said that Ms. Amanda Arden has been hired to fill the vacated Special Education position due to the retirement of Ms. McKeag at PCS.

MOTION: Ms. Lemieux moved to approve the appointment of Amanda Arden to the open Special Education position for next school year.

SECOND: Ms. Arpin

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

Ms. Iris Marte has been hired to fill the open World Language position at PCS.

MOTION: Ms. Lemieux moved to approve the appointment of Iris Marte to the World Language position at PCS.

SECOND: Ms. Bourey

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

Ms. Julie Caduto has been hired to fill the open Speech/Language Pathologist position that will service the students at PMS and PCS.

MOTION: Ms. Arpin moved to approve the appointment of Julie Caduto to the Speech Pathologist position.

SECOND: Mr. Cartier

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

- C. Authorization for Superintendent to Make Summer Appointments: Mr. Di Pietro said that this will allow him to hire applicants for vacated positions so that we are able to have a complete staff in place prior to the start of the school year. The Board will still be notified of the applicants and an opportunity to confirm the appointments at their August meeting.

MOTION: Mr. Cartier moved to authorize the Superintendent to make summer appointments and accept resignations.

SECOND: Ms. Lemieux

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

6. PUBLIC FORUM:

- A. Discovery Bus – Summer Event: In order to sustain the Discovery Bus Summer literacy support, the district surveyed staff to seek volunteers to video storytelling in support of Discovery. Many staff have agreed to video themselves either at a neutral site or using Discovery as a backdrop. Each video is requested to last 30 minutes. Mr. Di Pietro said that Discovery will have an impressive virtual presence in the community this summer. One planned live Discovery service will be the presence of Discovery at the meal distribution sites. He said they planned to pick one or two sites per week and have the Discovery Bus present for the meal distribution time from 11 AM to 1:00 PM. Students would NOT be allowed to go onto the bus, but a selected set of books available for donation would be bagged and available on tables for students to select a book to take home free. This will help us weed our collection to replace with more modern stories.

7. STANDING COMMITTEES & INDIVIDUAL REPORTS:

- A. Superintendent's Report: Mr. Di Pietro said that the schools are beginning the end of the year duties. Lockers have been cleared out and personal items have been individually bagged for pick up by students and parents. The family questionnaire with regard to distance learning was sent out again to families and many more were received. Mr. Di Pietro also played a brief portion of the video that was put together for the annual sports awards.

8. OLD BUSINESS:

- A. FY20 Budget & Facilities Report: Mr. Lussier said that he is requesting a transfer from the Board in the amount of \$315,566 from several underrun accounts in order to offset those that were over expended. This will allow him to balance the budget. He also said that he anticipates that the district will end the year with approximately \$417,000. He noted that this money will be able to be placed in the 2% set aside fund to be carried over for future expenses, if needed.

MOTION: Ms. Lemieux moved to approve a transfer of \$315,566 to balance the over expended accounts.

SECOND: Ms. Bourey

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

- B. End of Year Update COVID: Mr. Di Pietro said that they have seen some deficits in learning due to the distance learning and there will be some challenges when the students return to the classroom. He

informed the Board that they are putting together a transition team to discuss strategies for opening in the fall.

- C. Solar/LED Project Update: Mr. Di Pietro said that the town attorney has reviewed the contract amendments for the solar projects that were delayed. He said that price has not increased and the project could move forward with the amendments to the contract.

MOTION: Ms. Bourey moved to approve the amendments to the contract for the continuation of the solar project.

SECOND: Mr. Cartier

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

- D. Special Education Summary Report: Mr. Sugarman said that the Para-educators have been very busy during the distance learning. They have all been using the time for professional development and have logged many hours with on-line training. He noted that the IDEA grant was approved today and they are in the process of wrapping up the interviews for the Supervisor position. He said that the start of next school year will have a focus on recovery of skills for the students.

9. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. BOE Approval of School Lunch Extension: Mr. Lussier said that each year the Board needs to renew the 1 year extension to the school lunch contract. He said that this is the final year of the five year contract with Chartwells.

MOTION: Ms. Bourey moved to approve Amendment 4 for year 5 of the Chartwells contract.

SECOND: Ms. Arpin

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

- B. Preschool Move to ECC Building: Mr. Di Pietro said that due to the possible challenges to the opening of the School Year in August and any requirements for the operation of schools to include health safety and social distancing, he finds it necessary to move the preschool program from Shepard Hill Elementary to the Early Childhood Center (651 Norwich Road). He said that Preschool is a 2.5 hour program requiring a mid-day release of students for an afternoon session. This would require as many as four busses picking up students mid-day and/or parents picking up students or dropping off students for a PM session mid-day. With over 400 students attending Shepard Hill daily, the exchange of 120 students including the AM Pre-K students and the PM Pre-K students would result in the movement of 120 students and the requirements to meet social distancing. By moving the Pre-school program to the ECC, on the 2nd level, there are many benefits and controls that would benefit COVID restrictions.

MOTION: Ms. Lemieux moved to approve the request to move the PreK program to the ECC Building.

SECOND: Ms. Arpin

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

- C. Grant Approval: Ms. Cadro said that she will need approval to apply for the Readiness and Family Resource Program grants. The Readiness Program receives \$215,915 and the Family Resource Grant is in the amount of \$100,000.

MOTION: Mr. Cartier moved to approve the applications for the Readiness and Family Resource Center program grants.

SECOND: Mr. Broughton

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

- D. School/Family Communications – Technology: Mr. Di Pietro said that Mr. Boettcher had asked for this topic to be on the agenda. As he is not present this evening, he asked that this item be tabled.

MOTION: Ms. Lemieux moved to table the School/Family Communications to a future meeting.

SECOND: Mr. Cartier

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

- E. Retreat and Special BOE Meeting: Mr. Di Pietro said that there is normally no meeting for the Board in July, however, with the planning for COVID, the Board will need to discuss how the school year will begin next year. He would like to combine that meeting with the annual BOE retreat. He is proposing a date of July 8 with the retreat beginning at 3:00 followed by the BOE meeting at 7:00.

MOTION: Ms. Arpin moved to approve the Board retreat and special meeting on July 8th.

SECOND: Ms. Lemieux

VOTE: Passed with abstention from Mr. Cartier as he will not be able to be present.

10. **ADJOURNMENT:**

MOTION: Ms. Arpin moved to adjourn at 8:50 p.m.

SECOND: Ms. Bourey

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

ACTIONS TAKEN:

- Approval of May 13th and May 27th minutes
- Retirement of Jane Arruda
- Retirement of JoAnn Bray
- Resignation of Olivia Tyszkiewicz
- Resignation of Kristen Brindamour
- Appointment of Amanda Arden, Special Education teacher
- Appointment of Iris Marte, World Language teacher
- Appointment of Jillian Caduto, Speech Pathologist
- Authorization for Superintendent to make summer appointments
- Approval of transfers for the 20/21 budget
- Approval of Solar project contract amendment
- Approval of extension of school lunch contract
- Approval to move PreK to ECC Building
- FRC/Readiness Grant Approval
- Set July 8th date for BOE Retreat