

**PLAINFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION  
LIVE STREAMING VIDEO MEETING  
August 12, 2020 7:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Christi Haskell, Mike Cartier, Mike Broughton, Cindy Arpin, Kathleen Barry, Audrey Lemieux, Nick Easton, 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 June 10, 2020:

MOTION: Ms. Barry moved to approve the minutes of the June 10<sup>th</sup> meeting.

SECOND: Mr. Broughton

VOTE: Passed with abstention from Ms. Lemieux.

B. Minutes of the Special Meeting of July 8, 2020:

MOTION: Ms. Barry moved to approve the minutes of the special meeting of July 8<sup>th</sup> meeting.

SECOND: Ms. Lemieux

VOTE: Passed with abstention from Mr. Cartier.

C. Minutes of the Special Meeting of July 22, 2020:

MOTION: Ms. Barry moved to approve the minutes of the special meeting of July 22<sup>nd</sup>.

SECOND: Ms. Lemieux

VOTE: Passed Unanimously.

4. **COMMUNICATIONS:**

Ms. Haskell said that she has received correspondence from the PEA requesting to begin negotiations. She said that they will begin to set up dates to start the process.

5. **PERSONNEL:**

A. Resignations & Retirements: A letter of resignation for the purpose of retirement was received by Linda Ravenelle, elementary teacher at SHE effective June 30, 2020.

MOTION: Mr. Easton moved to accept the letter of resignation for the purpose of retirement from Linda Ravenelle, effective June 30, 2020.

SECOND: Ms. Arpin

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

A letter of resignation from her position as elementary teacher at SHE was received from Abigail Allard. Ms. Allard will not be returning for the 20/21 school year.

MOTION: Mr. Easton moved accept the letter of resignation from Abigail Allard, effective June 30, 2020.

SECOND: Ms. Barry

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

Mr. Di Pietro said that Iris Marte, the applicant for the world language position at PCS has called and withdrew her acceptance of the position. He asked that the Board accept her resignation.

MOTION: Mr. Easton moved to accept the resignation from Iris Marte.

SECOND: Ms. Lemieux

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

#### B. Appointments:

Ms. Haskell said that several appointments were made by the superintendent in order to secure staff for the start of the new school year. She asked the Board to re-affirm the following appointments:

Lauren Parker – Gr. 1 at SHE

Kaitlyn Marcoux – Guidance Counselor at PMS

Jacqueline Marotta – Kindergarten at SHE

Danie Shelton – Gr. 1 at SHE

Heidi Davis – Gr. 1 at SHE

Shawn Batchelder – Social Studies at PCS

William Trask – Social Studies at PCS

Diane Abrams – World Language at PCS

Courtney Majcher – Sp. Ed. At PMS

MOTION: Ms. Barry moved to approve the appointments of the listed staff as recommended by the Superintendent.

SECOND: Mr. Cartier

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

### 6. **PUBLIC FORUM:**

A. Questions: There were a couple of questions that came through on the website.

Will the PreK attend everyday? Due to the small class sizes, the prek students will attend Monday-Thursday, but will be out on Friday with all the other students.

Will remote student be allowed to participate in sports? Yes

## 7. **STANDING COMMITTEES & INDIVIDUAL REPORTS:**

- A. Policy Committee: The Policy Committee is meeting more frequently and will continue to do so on a monthly basis. Mr. Sugarman said that the State is continuously releasing modifications to the reopen plan, and these override the BOE policies. He said that they are reviewing the attendance policy and it will be suspended for this year as parents need to be able to keep their children home if they feel they are sick.

## 8. **OLD BUSINESS:**

- A. FY20 Budget & Facilities Report: Mr. Lussier said that the budget expenditures of \$35,946,723 remain as approved by the Town for this school year. He said that he has reconciled the budget to account for all of the staff movements during the summer months.

He said that there was an issue with a water leak at the ECC building. A pipe burst while the sprinkler system was being serviced. The pipe has been fixed and the clean up of the affected areas is underway.

- COVID Budget - Mr. Lussier said that due to COVID-19 the district has incurred costs that were not expected for items such as desk shields, masks, computers, hotspots and other safety items. He noted that we have also received a federal grant in the amount of \$347,996. To date, our current fiscal year expenses for PPE and computer equipment total \$419,572.50
- Audit Recommendations & New Financial System – Mr. Lussier said that the auditors submitted the following recommendations based on their review of the 18/19 financials:
  - The BOE should maintain a separate trial balance for each of the funds maintained by the school district within its financial system.
  - Monthly and year to date reports should be provided to the town.
  - Bank reconciliation detail should be approved by the Business Manager.

- B. Solar/LED Project Update: Mr. Lussier said that the Solar Project at PMS/PCS and PHS is currently on hold due to a roof issue at PHS. The LED project at PCS is almost complete. The high school project began on August 3 and is expected to be completed in 2-3 weeks.

- C. Re-Opening of School: Mr. Di Pietro said that the Board had originally approved a full, hybrid and remote model. He said that they are now looking to begin with the hybrid model with a possible full opening at a later date. He said that there will also be an adjustment to the school calendar for the year. The new calendar will have the staff returning on August 31 for a week of professional development with the students beginning on September 8<sup>th</sup>. The students will follow the A-Day, B-Day, A-Day, B -Day, Remote model. He said that a new calendar has been produced to reflect this change and asked the BOE to approve the new calendar.

MOTION: Mr. Easton moved to approve the changes to the 20/21 school calendar to delay the start of school to Sept. 8<sup>th</sup>.

SECOND: Ms. Arpin

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

Mr. Di Pietro said that with the change to a hybrid opening he asked for the Board's approval to begin this school year in a hybrid model, with the option to move to another model if necessary.

MOTION: Mr. Easton moved to approve the opening of school in a hybrid model with changes as necessary.

SECOND: Ms. Barry

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

#### **9. NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. Summer Program Report: Mr. Sugarman said that Extended School Year program was provided this year for those students with IEPs. Due to the challenges of staffing, the program was run virtually. Many of the families chose to just get the packets of information to do with their children throughout the summer. Approximately 50 families chose to take part in the virtual program.

#### **10. ADJOURNMENT & EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

MOTION: Ms. Barry moved to adjourn at 8:59 p.m. to enter into executive session for the purpose of negotiations and personnel.

SECOND: Ms. Lemieux

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

#### **ACTIONS TAKEN:**

- Approval of June 10<sup>th</sup>, July 8<sup>th</sup> and July 22<sup>nd</sup> minutes
- Retirement of Linda Ravenelle
- Resignation of Abigail Allard and Iris Marte
- Appointments of Lauren Parker, Kaitlyn Marcoux, Jacqueline Marotta, Danie Shelton, Heidi Davis, Shawn Batchelder, William Trask, Diane Abrams, and Courtney Majcher
- Approval of changes to the school calendar
- Approval to open in Hybrid model