

**PLAINFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION  
LIVE STREAMING VIDEO MEETING  
September 9, 2020 7:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Christi Haskell, Mike Cartier, Mike Broughton, Cindy Arpin, Kathleen Barry, Audrey Lemieux, Nick Easton, Peggy Bourey, 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 August 12, 2020:

MOTION: Mr. Cartier moved to approve the minutes of the August 12<sup>th</sup> meeting.

SECOND: Mr. Easton

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

4. **COMMUNICATIONS:**

A. Superintendent's Report on Start Up: Mr. DiPietro said that the year began with two half days for the student in their A and B cohorts. The rest of the week will be two full days for them and starting on Monday, everyone will be on distance learning with the exception of Preschool, Kindergarten and high needs special education students. He said that the plan was to open in a hybrid model, however, 418 students requested remote home instruction and several staff members requested leave which caused a hardship to provide instruction to all students in school as well as remote. He closed by saying that the Federal Government has extended the summer lunch program that provides a free lunch to any child under 18 years of age.

ECC – Ms. Fitch said that there are about 80 students coming to PreK and about 10 students on remote instruction.

SHE – Ms. Trahan said that the teachers enjoyed having the students back in person. She said that they had two different days set up for Chromebook pick up and they developed a new pick up and drop off drive through to eliminate the number of people coming into the office.

MES – Mr. Nagel said that they had a really good opening. The buses were on time and they changed the traffic pattern this year for a better flow in the parking lot.

PMS – Ms. Hutchinson said that it was great to welcome the students back. She said that they are COVID ready with many protocols in place.

PCS – Mr. Gagnon said that they had a great opening. The buses were on time and there were a high number of parent pickups. He said that the staff are taking this very serious and they were able to collaborate over the summer.

PHS – Dr. Bitgood said that there was a degree of anxiety with the students and staff. It went well with students wearing their masks and there were no disciplinary issues.

Jan Voland, Athletic Director – Ms. Voland said that soccer, cross country, volleyball and football are practicing with skill work and conditioning. She said that the games are scheduled to begin on October 1<sup>st</sup>, however, there will not be any fans. They have a service that will be able to record the games and for a \$10 fee per season, you can log in and watch the games.

Jake Irons – Jake said that it was a great opening. He has gone to practices and has really enjoyed seeing some familiar faces.

Olivia Bessette – Olivia said that she has been really impressed with how the students are following the rules. They are adjusting well and she hopes that there is some form of normalcy.

## 5. **PERSONNEL:**

A. Resignations & Retirements: None Presented.

B. Appointments & Leaves of Absence:

Mr. Di Pietro presented the new hires to the systems over the past month and asked for the Board's confirmation of their appointments.

Jennifer Vanacore – Art – Elementary

MOTION: Mr. Cartier moved to approve the appointment of Jennifer Vanacore.

SECOND: Ms. Arpin

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

Clifton Taylor – Tech. Ed. – PHS

MOTION: Ms. Barry moved to approve the appointment of Clifton Taylor.

SECOND: Ms. Lemieux

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

Scott Sturman – Special education – PHS

MOTION: Ms. Bourey moved to approve the appointment of Scott Sturman.

SECOND: Ms. Barry

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

Jillian Cirillo – Guidance – PCS – Part Time

MOTION: Ms. Barry moved to approve the appointment of Jillian Cirillo.

SECOND: Ms. Arpin

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

Nicole Baillargeon – Special Education – ECC

MOTION: Mr. Easton moved to approve the appointment of Nicole Baillargeon.

SECOND: Ms. Lemieux

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

A request for leave for the purpose of childrearing was presented by Tara Young. Ms. Young will be out for the remainder of the school year after her maternity leave.

MOTION: Ms. Barry moved to approve the leave of absence for Tara Young.

SECOND: Ms. Arpin

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

## 6. PUBLIC FORUM:

A. Questions: Ms. Haskell said that the email is still available to submit questions to the Board. She also noted that the public is permitted to attend the meetings in the auditorium.

B. Student Representatives: Jake said that the staff has done an amazing job getting ready to open the schools. He said that the staff and students all feel safe in the environment.

Olivia said that she is happy to be back and wanted to express that the teachers seem to be very helpful and are willing to help students on-line as much as possible, even if it is after hours.

## 7. STANDING COMMITTEES & INDIVIDUAL REPORTS:

A. Standing Committee Memberships: Ms. Haskell said that she had made some changes to the committee appointments. A copy of the new listing was provided in the packet. She said that she is still looking for a representative to be on the EASTCONN board. If anyone is interested, please let her know.

B. Standing Committee Planning: Ms. Arpin said that the Policy Committee is meeting monthly to continue with the updates to all of the BOE policies.

## 8. OLD BUSINESS:

A. FY21 Budget & Facilities Report: Mr. Lussier said that the 20/21 budget appropriate is still as it was approved. He has made necessary changes to account for the new staff members. He said that there is an increase in the cost, but that should be offset by the savings that should be realized from special education.

- COVID Budget - Mr. Lussier said that federal money in the amount of \$347,996 was received through the CARES Act. The State has indicated that we will be receiving \$490,682 through the Corona Relief Funds. He said that we have also received computers and hotspots from the State of CT.

- Federal & State Grants – Mr. Lussier said that there are currently three approved grants for the FY20/21 school year totaling \$666,875. Other grants are still in various stages of the application process. These are Title I & IV, School Readiness and Adult Education.
- ECHIP Status – Mr. Lussier said that our current balance is 1.4M but this excludes a CD investment of \$681,000. This gives us a reserve balance of 2.1M. He said that the balance has increased significantly over the past several months due to less usage during the quarantine. He said that he does expect that the usage will begin to increase the coming months.

- B. Solar/LED Project Update: Mr. Lussier said that the LED project has been completed. He is now working in conjunction with the Town on the remaining solar projects.
- C. Policy Update: Policy Alignment to State Law and Executive Orders: Mr. Sugarman said that since the last Board meeting, there have been 11 Addendums released from the State Department. He said that they will continue to follow these orders and we will continue to suspend the attendance policy during this time to ensure that if a student feels ill, they can remain home without academic consequences.

He asked the Board to approve the course of action to respond and implement the addenda as they are received from the state.

MOTION: Ms. Barry moved to allow the district to respond and implement the addenda as they are received from the State.

SECOND: Mr. Broughton

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

- D. School Walkthrough Schedule: Mr. Lussier said that he has scheduled the yearly school walkthroughs for October 7<sup>th</sup> and October 8<sup>th</sup>. Please RSVP if you would like to attend.

## 9. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Negotiations: Mr. Di Pietro said that he has been working with the Nurses' Association. They have agreed to a 2% increase with no other changes to the contract.

MOTION: Ms. Barry moved to approve the contract for the Nurses' Association with a 2% increase.

SECOND: Ms. Arpin

VOTE: Passed with abstention from Ms. Lemieux

Mr. Di Pietro said that the Paraprofessional Union has settle with a \$.15 per hour raise and a set rate of \$15 per hour for summer work.

MOTION: Mr. Cartier moved to approve the Paraprofessional contract as presented.

SECOND: Ms. Barry

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

- B. Special Education Report: Mr. Sugarman presented the Board with an overview of the PPS Strategic Office plan for their review. He said that he will be asking for approval of the plan at a later meeting. He informed the Board that even though we are in distance learning, FAPE must still be provided to all students and we are required to provide as much IEP services as possible.

## **10. ADJOURNMENT:**

Ms. Haskell stated that the Board will be planning a special meeting on September 30<sup>th</sup>.

MOTION: Ms. Lemieux moved to adjourn at 8:36 p.m.

SECOND: Mr. Easton

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

## **ACTIONS TAKEN:**

- Approval of August 12th
- Appointments of Jennifer Vanacore, Clifton Taylor, Scott Sturman, Jillian Cirillo, Nicole Baillargeon
- Leave of Absence for Tara Young
- Approval to respond & Implement Addenda changes
- Approval of Nurses contract
- Approval of Paraprofessional contract