

**PLAINFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
LIVE STREAMING VIDEO MEETING
October 14, 2020 7:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Christi Haskell, Mike Cartier, Mike Broughton, Kathleen Barry, 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 October 14, 2020:

MOTION: Mr. Cartier moved to approve the minutes of the October 14th meeting.

SECOND: Ms. Lemieux

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

4. **COMMUNICATIONS:** Ms. Haskell said that she has received a letter of resignation from his position on the Board from Mr. Cartier. He stated that he will be moving out of town and his resignation will be effective as of November 13th, 2020.

MOTION: Ms. Arpin moved to accept the letter of resignation from Mr. Cartier, effective November 13, 2020, with extreme regret.

SECOND: Mr. Easton

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

Ms. Haskell stated that she had received some correspondence from several parents with concerns with regard to COVID. She indicated that she did respond to those questions and feels that the Board will be addressing the concerns this evening.

5. **PERSONNEL:**

- A. Resignations & Retirements: Mr. Di Pietro said that at this point he is submitting his letter of resignation for the purpose of retirement, effective July 31, 2021. He informed the Board that when he started in Plainfield, he would stay for ten years. This retirement date would put him close to eleven years in the district.

MOTION: Ms. Lemieux moved to accept the letter of resignation for the purpose of retirement from Mr. Di Pietro, effective as of July 31, 2021, with regret.

SECOND: Mr. Boettcher

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

6. PUBLIC FORUM:

- Questions: Ms. Haskell answered the questions that were sent to the Board via email.
- Student Representatives: As this was a ZOOM meeting, the student representatives were not present. Ms. Haskell asked if they could receive the link if the next meeting is on line so that they can communicate with the board.

7. STANDING COMMITTEES & INDIVIDUAL REPORTS:

- Standing Committee Memberships: Ms. Haskell mentioned that the Sterling Cooperative meeting took place on Tuesday. There was discussion on how the tuition rate is calculated and the fact that there has been a reduction in the population at PHS, which is causing an increase in the tuition. She said that they would like to received some information showing the benefits of continuing to send their students to Plainfield rather than to another surrounding town and they will meet again in the near future.
- Safety Committee Plan Submission: Mr. Nagel stated that each building completed their own safety plan along with a district plan of protocols to following during emergencies.

8. OLD BUSINESS:

- A. FY21 Budget & Facilities Report: Mr. Lussier said that the 20/21 budget remains running under plan. He said that \$162,000 has been transferred to the CARES Act grant to cover items purchased for COVID. He noted that due to the decrease in transportation, we are currently running \$200,000 under in the account. He informed the Board that at this time he would like to transfer \$275,000 from underrun accounts to those that have been over expended.

MOTION: Ms. Arpin moved to approve the requested transfers.

SECOND: Mr. Easton

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

- COVID Budget – Mr. Lussier said that there is \$838,000 in grant money to help with COVID expenses. There is still over \$300,000 to be spent.
- Federal & State Grants – Mr. Lussier said that an additional grant was received since the last report for a total of seven.
- ECHIP Status – Mr. Lussier said that the account has received an additional \$100,000 through September. There is now 2.1 million in reserves.
- PHS Roof & LED Lighting – Mr. Lussier said that the Town Engineer will be reviewing the PHS roof and should have a report for them in about 4 weeks. Mr. Lussier said that the LED lighting in the auditorium is all that is left at PHS. Due top the need for dimmable lights in that area, the cost is more than originally projected by an additional \$35,562. He said that we could leave the lights as they are, but we will need to continue to change the lights as they burn out, which is a very encompassing job; we can have the project completed and extend the length of the period to pay back the money to seven years; or we could pay for the upgrade in full with some of the money from the 2% set aside.

MOTION: Mr. Easton moved to pay for the additional costs to complete the LED project with the money from the 2% set aside fund.

SECOND: Ms. Bourey

MOTION: Passed with abstention from Mr. Cartier.

B. Pandemic School Operation: Mr. Di Pietro said that there were potentially 35 cases of COVID between staff, students and parents in the district. Only four cases came back as positive and no further cases have arisen from this. He said that we are currently on remote with PK, K and some special education students attending in either hybrid or full attendance. He said that the students will be returning on an AB Remote AB schedule as of October 19th.

- Solar/LED Project Update: Mr. Lussier said that the Town is resolving the solar installation issue. The town engineer will come to the high school and do an analysis of the roof and they will proceed from there.

C. COVID Instructional Model: Mr. Di Pietro reviewed the fact that we now have nine cases of COVID among staff members. He said that there has been no transmittal from staff or students. Although, due to the increase in cases, to avoid any further cases in the schools, the district is currently working on remote status until after the Thanksgiving break. Mr. Di Pietro said that due to the increasing cases, he would like to have the students and staff continue on remote status until the Thursday after Thanksgiving. (December 3rd) This will give almost a week after Thanksgiving to help ensure that everyone is virus free before returning. The students will be remote for Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. (Nov. 30-Dec. 2). He said that he would also like to follow this protocol after the New Year's holiday.

MOTION: Mr. Easton moved to approve the remote days after the holidays.

SECOND: Ms. Bourey

VOTE: Passed with opposition from Mr. Boettcher.

D. Harassment Policy: Mr. Sugarman said that the revisions are for the Sexual Harassment policies 4118.112 and 5145.31. The policies are for staff and students and are updated to reflex new legislation that was instituted this year.

MOTION: Mr. Broughton moved to adopt the legislative edits to policies #4118.112 and 5145.31 regarding sexual harassment.

SECOND: Ms. Lemieux

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

9. **NEW BUSINESS:**

A. Policy Regarding Face Masks: Mr. Sugarman presented the Board with a policy with regard to wearing face coverings in the schools. He said that this would be a temporary policy during the pandemic and used while Plainfield and Connecticut are operating under a public health emergency. He said that it is a first reading so he asked that the Board dispense with the public reading and post the policy on the webpage for the public to see.

MOTION: Ms. Arpin moved to dispense with the first reading of the policy and post on the website for the public to view.

SECOND: Mr. Easton

VOTE: Passed with abstention from Mr. Boettcher.

- B. Custodial Contract Ratification: Mr. Di Pietro said that the custodial union has agreed to a one year contract that included an increase to the shoe reimbursement, and bereavement and sick time for part-time custodial workers.

MOTION: Ms. Lemieux moved to approve the custodial contract for 20/21.

SECOND: Ms. Arpin

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

- C. TEAM Application: Mrs. Cadro said that there are presently three teachers that are interested in being trained to be mentors and help with supporting new teachers. Heather Eighme, Kathleen Silver and Kathleen Goebel would all like to submit their applications.

MOTION: Ms. Bourey moved to approve the applications for Heather Eighme, Kathleen Silver and Kathleen Goebel to participate in the TEAM programs.

SECOND: Ms. Lemieux

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

10. ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: Mr. Easton moved to adjourn to executive session for the purpose of negotiations at 8:23 p.m.

SECOND: Mr. Broughton

VOTE: Passed unanimously.