

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

PRESENT: Christi Haskell, Mike Broughton, Cindy Arpin, Peggy Bourey, Audrey Lemieux, Steve Boettcher, Nick Easton, Kenneth Di Pietro, Superintendent; Ronald Lussier, Business Manager; Courtney Langlois, Sterling Representative

**1. CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**2. CONSENT AGENDA:**

- a. Minutes of the Meeting of November 12, 2020:

MOTION: Mr. Boettcher moved to table the minutes until the January meeting.

SECOND: Mr. Easton

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

3. **COMMUNICATIONS:** Ms. Haskell did not have any communications to bring forward to the Board.

**4. PERSONNEL:**

- a. Consideration of BOE Candidate: Ms. Haskell stated that the members of the Board had the opportunity to interview Heather Smith prior to tonight's meeting. She is very interested in filling the vacant seat on the Board. Ms. Haskell said that she is the only applicant that they received. If they choose not to appoint her to the position, it will go to the Town and they will fill the vacancy.

MOTION: Ms. Lemieux moved to appoint Heather Smith to the vacant seat on the Board.

SECOND: Ms. Arpin

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

- b. Resignations & Appointments: Ms. Haskell said that a resignation for the purpose of retirement was received from Mr. James Hynes, elementary PE teacher. Mr. Hynes has been teaching in Plainfield for 43 years.

MOTION: Mr. Easton moved to accept the letter of resignation for the purpose of retirement from Mr. James Hynes, with regret.

SECOND: Ms. Lemieux

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

- c. Appointments: None

**5. PUBLIC FORUM:**

- a. Public Forum/Agenda Items: Ms. Haskell said that she did not have any messages from the public to relay to the board.

- b. Student Representatives: Jake said that several high school students were involved in a Zoom meeting with 8<sup>th</sup> graders that will be coming to PHS next year. Olivia said that there was a food drive at PHS to help the community during Thanksgiving.

6. **STANDING COMMITTEES AND INDIVIDUAL REPORTS**: None presented.

7. **OLD BUSINESS**:

- a. FY21 Budget & Facilities Report: Mr. Lussier said that there are no unusual or excessive expenditures posted for the month of November. Most of the expenditures were made through the CARES Act and the Coronavirus Relief Fund. He noted that transportation costs are currently under plan by approximately \$500,000 and fuel savings of about \$32,000. Mr. Lussier said that the facilities report includes a leak in the main staircase tower at SHE. Research is being conducted to see if there are any warranties that may come into play. The solar project at PMS/PCS is on hold while a sewer issue is resolved. A review of the roof at PHS was completed and results should be available in about four weeks.
  - i. COVID Funding: Mr. Lussier said that to date we have expended \$518,834 and encumbered \$70,331 against the CARES and Coronavirus Relief fund grants. We have a remaining \$249,513 available to spend.
  - ii. Federal/State Grants: Mr. Lussier informed the board that there are currently seven approved grants for this school year totaling \$1,211,237. So far this year, we have received \$830,861 of that money.
  - iii. ECHIP Status: Mr. Lussier said that the current balance for the ECHIP account is \$1.6M. This is a \$200,000 increase over last month.
- b. School Lunch RFP: Mr. Lussier said that the USDA requires the district to complete the RFP process to secure a new food service contract by July 1, 2021.
- c. LED Project Finalization: Mr. Lussier said that the LED projects are now complete throughout the district. He noted that we will not continue with the plan to replace the lights in the auditorium at this time due to the increase in the cost that was not originally planned.

MOTION: Mr. Easton moved to end the LED project without the replacement of lights in the high school auditorium.

SECOND: Mr. Boettcher

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

- d. COVID Instructional Model: Mr. Di Pietro updated the board on the status of the district due to the pandemic. He said that less than 20 staff and less than 50 students reported positive COVID status, symptoms or potential contact. He said that there have been no staff to student or student to student transmissions due to attendance at school. We have had only one traced case of possible transmission from staff to staff and in that case, the primary contact was a-symptomatic.
- e. Superintendent Search Committee: Ms. Haskell said that the members of the board were provided with information from the two companies that have expressed an interest in performing the search. Ms. Haskell said that after reviewing the information and fees, she would like to engage CES to take on the responsibilities. She stated that they offered three different options for the board to choose. Upon research from the previous superintendent search, she said that option 2 is what was used before and seemed to provide the services necessary for the search.

MOTION: Mr. Easton moved to appoint CES Consulting to handle the Superintendent Search.

SECOND: Mr. Broughton

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

MOTION: Mr. Easton moved to use Option 2 of the CES proposal.

SECOND: Ms. Bourey

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

- f. Face Mask Policy – Second Reading: Mr. Sugarman said that the policy has been posted on the website for the past month. He said that there were two amendments that were made: 1. The district reserves the right to limit the style of facemasks. 2. Require proof of medical exemption for not wearing a facemask. The district will be able to provide alternatives for disabilities to wear a facemask.

MOTION: Ms. Bourey moved to approve the facemask policy with the stated amendments.

SECOND: Ms. Arpin

VOTE: Passed with a nay vote from Mr. Boettcher. Ms. Lemieux abstained.

- g. Bus Contract – Finalization: Mr. Di Pietro said that the consultant has begun to pull the bid packages together. The bids will be returned by the end of January so that there can be a public opening in February.

## 8. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Ratification of PEA Contract: Mr. Di Pietro said that the teachers have ratified the contract. It will provide them with a 2.19% increase in the first year and a switch to a high deductible HSA insurance plan in year two.

MOTION: Mr. Easton moved to ratify the two-year contract for the PEA.

SECOND: Ms. Arpin

VOTE: Passed with a nay vote from Ms. Lemieux

- b. Curriculum Report – Student Grading: Mrs. Cadro said that she surveyed several teachers with regard to the curriculum and how the students are progressing through the distance and remote learning. She said that grades 1-3 have made some changes to the report card and black out a few items that they have not been able to accomplish at this point. She also said that the curriculum information and pacing guides are available on the website for parents to reference.
- c. School Calendar Adjustment: Mr. Di Pietro said that he needed to make some adjustments to the school calendar to meet CSDE requirements. He asked the board to approve the following changes:
  1. Professional Day on January 6<sup>th</sup>
  2. Move the January 27<sup>th</sup> PD Day to February 3<sup>rd</sup>.
  3. Move the February 12<sup>th</sup> PD Day to February 16<sup>th</sup>.
  4. Move the last day of school to June 17<sup>th</sup>.

MOTION: Mr. Easton moved to approve the adjusted school calendar.

SECOND: Ms. Arpin

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

d. TEAM Applications: None presented.

9. **ADJOURNMENT:**

MOTION: Mr. Easton moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:14 p.m.

SECOND: Mr. Boettcher

VOTE: Passed unanimously.