

**PLAINFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION  
LIVE STREAMING VIDEO MEETING  
March 10, 2021 7:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Christi Haskell, Kathleen Barry, Mike Broughton, Peggy Bourey, Heather Smith, Nick Easton, Steve Boettcher, Cindy Arpin, 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 February 10, 2021:

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

SECOND: Ms. Barry

VOTE: Passed with abstention from Ms. Arpin.

- b. Minutes of the Budget Workshop of February 20, 2021.

MOTION: Mr. Broughton moved to approve the minutes of the Budget Workshop.

SECOND: Ms. Arpin

VOTE: Passed with abstention from Mr. Boettcher

3. **COMMUNICATIONS:** Ms. Haskell stated that she received notification from the Administration Union that they are now members of CFSA.

**4. PERSONNEL:**

- a. Resignations & Appointments: None received.

- b. Appointments: None

**5. PUBLIC FORUM:**

- a. School Reports of Student Progress During Pandemic: PHS – Mr. Bitgood said that a survey showed that 80% of the parents want to see the student back in school full time. They are working to make that happen. They have added an additional student learning center to help those students that are having difficulty during this time. The high school hosted the vaccine clinic last Friday. It was very successful and over 700 people were vaccinated. He noted that the students are happy that the spring sports are beginning and they are finding some sort of normalcy.

PCS – Mr. Gagnon said that the parents of his students would also like to see the student back to full time instruction. He said that they have been using the remote day to bring in a select number of students that are really struggling through this process to provide them with some extra support. He noted that he recently did some observation in the science classroom and was impressed with the level of engagement that is taking place.

MES – Mr. Nagel did some observations in the Kindergarten classrooms and said that there is lots of hands-on activities taking place. He said that parents seem to be very concerned with the social and emotional well being of their children and would like to see them back in full time.

SHE – Ms. Trahan said that she has been very impressed with the interaction between the students in the classroom and those that are at home learning. The teachers are working hard to make school fun for the students.

ECC – Ms. Fitch said that the PK students are fortunate to be able to attend four days a week and their progress is going well.

- b. Public Forum/Agenda Items: Ms. Haskell said that they hope to be in person for the April meeting but in the meantime, any questions or concerns that are sent to the [BOEquestions@plainfieldschools.org](mailto:BOEquestions@plainfieldschools.org) will go directly to her for review and response.
- c. Student Representatives: Jake said that they are coming to a close with the winter sports. Spring sports are starting.

6. **STANDING COMMITTEES AND INDIVIDUAL REPORTS**: Ms. Haskell said that the new committee assignments were included in the packet. She asked Mrs. Smith to take on the role of the PCS representative and also noted that there is still a vacancy on the Eastconn Board if there are any volunteers.

- a. Superintendent's Search: Ms. Haskell said that interviews were held and they will continue to interview on Thursday and Friday.

## 7. OLD BUSINESS:

- a. FY21 Budget & Facilities Report: Mr. Lussier said that there are no unusual or excessive expenditures posted for the month of February. He said that transportation costs continue to run under plan. He noted that the tuitions account is currently over-expended, but that will change once the excess cost money is received.
  - COVID Funding: Mr. Lussier said that to date we have expended \$792,535 against the \$838,678 grant funding.
  - Federal/State Grants: Mr. Lussier informed the board that we have received \$1.643 million in grant revenue to date this year.

- ECHIP Status: Mr. Lussier said that the current balance for the ECHIP account is \$1.995M. Reserves total \$2.676M. The year-end reserve forecast is \$2.316M due to an anticipated increase in usage.
- b. FY22 Budget Recommendation Adoption: After the Budget Workshop that was held on February 20<sup>th</sup>, the budget appropriation request was reduced from \$255,000 to \$47,138. Based on this, the total budget request for 2022 is \$35,993,861.

MOTION: Ms. Smith moved to approve the submission of the FY2022 budget appropriation to the Board of Finance in the amount of \$35,993,861.

SECOND: Mr. Boettcher

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

- c. Update on Solar and LED Installations: Mr. Di Pietro said that there are no solar projects left. At this point, the roof on the high school is structurally sound and if we wish to do so, we could work with other companies to install that project. The LED project has been completed and it was decided to eliminate the high school auditorium from that project.
- d. COVID Status Update: Mr. Di Pietro said that on Friday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, the district hosted a vaccine clinic at PHS for all staff. They were administered with the Johnson & Johnson single dose vaccine. DKH determined that they would have extra doses available to administered and opened the clinic to the public and over 700 people were vaccinated.
  - Mr. Di Pietro said that the administration is working towards opening the district to full in person learning. He said that they are requesting that any student on remote that wishes to return to in person instruction notify the district by March 17<sup>th</sup>. This will allow each school to plan for the number of students that will be in each classroom and arrange for distancing. Students will be required to continue to wear masks and follow social distancing requirements.

MOTION: Mr. Boettcher moved to endorse the full opening of school with safety precautions.

SECOND: Ms. Arpin

VOTE: Passed Unanimously.

- Mr. Di Pietro said that they are planning to hold an enrichment program this summer. This program will give the students some reinforcement and fun activities to get them ready for the next school year.
- e. 2021/22 School Calendar: Mr. Di Pietro presented the board with a calendar for next year. The year would begin for teachers on August 30 and for students on September 1<sup>st</sup>. It is a 182-day calendar with the last day occurring on June 16<sup>th</sup> pending any inclement weather days.

MOTION: Mr. Broughton moved approve the 21/22 school calendar as presented.

SECOND: Ms. Bourey

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

- f. Transportation Contract: Mr. Di Pietro said that they are still negotiating a new contract with Dattco. He said that they presently have come to an agreement with Dattco to pay them 40% for remote learning days. The savings to Plainfield for agreeing to the 40% would be \$325,427. This is in addition to the savings in labor, fuel, field trips and late runs of \$168,517 for a total savings of \$493,944.

MOTION: Ms. Barry moved to approve the agreement to pay Dattco 40% for remote learning days.

SECOND: Mr. Boettcher

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

## 8. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Policies: S504/ADA, Non-Discrimination, Policies 4218.113, 4118.113, 5145, and BOE Policy Development 9311: Mr. Sugarman said that the updates to these policies were necessary due to new legislative language requirements.

MOTION: Ms. Barry moved to adopt the legislative edits to policy numbers 4218.113, 4118.113, 5145 and 9311.

SECOND: Mr. Broughton

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

- b. Healthy Foods Certification: Mr. Lussier stated that this is the yearly certifications that the Board must endorse stating that Plainfield will follow the healthy foods.

MOTION: Healthy Food Option: Ms. Barry moved pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-215f, the board of education or governing authority certifies that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools under its jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, culinary programs, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or non-school organizations and groups.

SECOND: Mr. Boettcher

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

MOTION: Exemption for Food Items: Ms. Barry moved the board of education or governing authority will allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the food items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An "event" is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. For example,

soccer games, school plays, and interscholastic debates are events but soccer practices, play rehearsals, and debate team meetings are not. The “regular school day” is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. “Location” means where the event is being held.

SECOND: Ms. Arpin

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

MOTION: Beverage Exemption: Ms. Barry moved the board of education or governing authority will allow the sale to students of beverages not listed in Section 10-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the beverages are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An “event” is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting or extracurricular activity. The “school day” is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day.

“Location” means where the event is being held, and must be the same place as the beverage sales.

SECOND: Ms. Bourey

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

- c. Superintendent’s Report: Mr. Di Pietro thanked the Board for working with him to ensure that the students will be able to return to school safely.

## 9. **ADJOURNMENT:**

MOTION: Ms. Bourey moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:01 p.m.

SECOND: Ms. Arpin

VOTE: Passed unanimously.