

**PLAINFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION  
PLAINFIELD HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM  
March 10, 2021 7:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Christi Haskell, Kathleen Barry, Mike Broughton, Peggy Bourey, Heather Smith, Nick Easton, Audrey Lemieux, Kenneth Di Pietro, Superintendent; Ronald Lussier, Business Manager; Jake Irons, Student Representative

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

**2. CONSENT AGENDA:**

a. Minutes of the Meeting of March 10, 2021:

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

SECOND: Ms. Bourey

VOTE: Passed with abstention from Ms. Lemieux.

b. Minutes of the Special Meeting of April 6, 2021. Ms. Haskell indicated that the location of the meeting should be listed as the Auditorium and not the Cafeteria.

MOTION: Mr. Easton moved to approve the minutes of the Special meeting.

SECOND: Ms. Smith

VOTE: Passed with abstentions from Ms. Barry and Ms. Lemieux

**3. COMMUNICATIONS:** Ms. Bennett and Mrs. Sherman – 5<sup>th</sup> grade teachers at PMS, along with a few of their students, presented the most recent STEM project that they did. The students had to create a catapult to shoot a marshmallow PEEP the furthest distance. The students explained how they went about creating their catapults and the lessons that they learned.

Ms. Haskell stated that a request was received from the CT State Troopers asking if we would place an ad in their publication. Ms. Haskell said that we had provided this in the past but wondered if the support should go to a cause that is more beneficial to Plainfield directly. The Board agreed that if they choose to support an organization, it should be locally.

Ms. Haskell said that with recognition for para-educators and secretaries taking place this month, the Board wished to show their appreciation to all non-certified staff with a Proclamation of Appreciation. Ms. Haskell read the Proclamation into the record and signed the official copy.

MOTION: Mr. Easton moved to approve the submission of the Proclamation of Appreciation.

SECOND: Mr. Broughton

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

**4. PERSONNEL:**

a. Resignation, Retirements & Non-renewals:

A letter of resignation was received from Scott Sturman, Special Education teacher at SHE, has submitted his resignation effective at the end of this school year.

MOTION: Mr. Easton moved to accept the resignation of Scott Sturman, effective at the end of the school year.

SECOND: Ms. Barry

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

A letter of resignation was received from Rachel Wlodarczyk, elementary teacher at MES. She will be leaving at the end of the school year.

MOTION: Mr. Easton moved to accept the letter of resignation from Rachel Wlodarczyk, with regret.

SECOND: Ms. Barry

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

Ms. Laurie Brunson, PMS teacher, submitted her letter of resignation for the purpose of retirement at thirty-six years of service in Plainfield. Ms. Brunson will retire at the end of the school year.

MOTION: Mr. Easton moved to accept the letter of retirement from Laurie Brunson, effective at the end of the school year.

SECOND: Ms. Barry

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

b. Appointments:

Nathan Musser has been hired as an elementary teacher, effective January 26, 2021 at SHE.

MOTION: Ms. Smith moved to approve the appointment of Nathan Musser.

SECOND: Mr. Broughton

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

Michael Serricchio has been hired for the PE position at SHE and MES, effective March 29, 2021.

MOTION: Mr. Easton moved to approve the appointment of Michael Serricchio as PE teacher at MES and SHE.

SECOND: Ms. Bourey

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

Ms. Amber Mas has been appointed as the Grade Level - Remote Teacher at Plainfield Memorial School for the remainder of the 2020/2021 school year, effective April 5, 2021.

MOTION: Mr. Easton moved to approve the appointment of Amber Mas as the Remote teacher at PMS for the remainder of the school year.

SECOND: Mr. Broughton

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

Ms. Sara has been appointed as the Grade Level - Remote Teacher at Plainfield Memorial School for the remainder of the 2020/2021 school year, effective April 5, 2021.

MOTION: Ms. Bourey moved to approve the appointment of Sara Gray as the Remote teacher at PMS for the remainder of the school year.

SECOND: Mr. Easton

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

Ms. Erin Beit has been appointed as the Grade Level - Remote Teacher at Plainfield Memorial School for the remainder of the 2020/2021 school year, effective April 5, 2021.

MOTION: Mr. Easton moved to approve the appointment of Erin Beit as the Remote teacher at PMS for the remainder of the school year.

SECOND: Ms. Barry

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

Ms. Nicole Assi has been appointed as the Grade Level - Remote Teacher at Shepard Hill Elementary School for the remainder of the 2020/2021 school year, effective April 12, 2021, pending confirmation of certification.

MOTION: Mr. Easton moved to approve the appointment of Nicole Assi as the Remote teacher at SHE for the remainder of the school year, pending confirmation of certification.

SECOND: Ms. Barry

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

Ms. Jessica Serviedo has been appointed as the Grade Level - Remote Teacher at Moosup Elementary School for the remainder of the 2020/2021 school year, effective April 12, 2021, pending confirmation of certification.

MOTION: Bourey moved to approve the appointment of Jessica Serviedo as the Remote teacher at MES for the remainder of the school year, pending confirmation of certification.

SECOND: Ms. Barry

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

Ms. Haskell stated that the Board met prior to the meeting to discuss the contract with Mr. Paul Brenton. She said that she felt that they had agreed to a fair contract for the

position of Superintendent of Schools. She asked the Board for their approval of the contract.

MOTION: Ms. Smith moved to approve the contract for the Superintendent of Schools, effective July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2024.

SECOND: Mr. Broughton

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

## 5. PUBLIC FORUM:

- a. Public Forum/Agenda Items: As no one came forward the chair moved to the next item on the agenda. She said that if there are any questions or concerns they can still be sent to [BOEquestions@plainfieldschools.org](mailto:BOEquestions@plainfieldschools.org) for those people that do not feel comfortable attending in person.
- b. Student Representatives: Jake said that Spring sports are running and spectators have been allowed to attend. He said that it is great to be back in the school full time with all students. There is a lot of energy in the school and they are hoping for the opportunity for some senior activities this year.
- c. Superintendent's Report: Mr. Di Pietro started by thanking the administration for their hard work to get the school re-opened. He shared with the Board that there were a few COVID cases this past week at PHS and PMS that caused a few of classroom to be put on remote, however, all other students are still attending in person.

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 March
  - COVID Funding: Mr. Lussier said that to date we have expended \$792,541 against the \$838,678 grant funding.
  - Federal/State Grants: Mr. Lussier informed the board that we have received \$1,831,739 in grant revenue to date this year.
  - ECHIP Status: Mr. Lussier said that the current balance for the ECHIP account is \$1.841M. Reserves total \$2.521M. The year-end reserve forecast is \$2.370M.
- b. FY22 Budget: The 2022 Budget was presented to the Board of Finance last Wednesday. He said that there is a reduction to the amount of revenue that is being received. With that in mind, the board was expecting to have \$540,000 to put into the 2% set aside, but the auditors said that there is actually \$640,000. He suggested that we take the additional \$100,000 that we were not expecting and put it towards the revenue deficit.

MOTION: Ms. Lemieux moved to allow up to \$100,000 from the 2% set aside money to be applied to the revenue deficit.

SECOND: Mr. Broughton

VOTE: Passed with abstention from Ms. Smith.

- c. 2021-2022 Calendar Adjustment: Mr. Di Pietro informed the Board that the State will be conducting their testing during the planned April break next year. Due to this, he is asking to move the April break to the week following Good Friday (April 18 – 22).

MOTION: Ms. Bourey moved to revised the 21-22 calendar by moving the April break to April 18-22.

SECOND: Ms. Lemieux

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

- d. COVID Status Update: Mr. Di Pietro reviewed the process for returning to work after the April vacation. He noted that Monday through Wednesday would be remote days to allow students and staff that traveled time to get tested and receive results before returning. He asked that the Board approve the remote days for Monday through Wednesday.

MOTION: Ms. Lemieux moved to approve remote days on Monday through Wednesday following the April break.

SECOND: Mr. Easton

VOTE: Passed with abstention from Mr. Broughton.

End of Year Planning: Mr. Di Pietro said that the administration is currently working on plans for the end of the year activities. They are hoping to have an end of the year as normal as possible so that the students can enjoy the typical activities.

Summer Programming: Mr. Di Pietro said that they are planning to have two classed per grade level to participate in enrichment programs. Mr. Simmons, Town Recreation Director, is working with the district to provide recreation services to the student for the summer. The high school will be providing services for enrichment, recovery and special education.

- e. Transportation Contract: Mr. Di Pietro said that the new contract with DATTCO is currently be reviewed by the board's attorney. He said that they were the only bidder for the transportation services. He asked for the Board's authority to sign the contract after approval from the attorney.

MOTION: Mr. Easton moved to authorize the superintendent to sign the DATTCO contract upon approval from the attorney.

SECOND: Ms. Bourey

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

## **8. NEW BUSINESS:**

- a. State Testing: Mrs. Cadro reviewed the state testing that the district is required to perform. She provided each member with a list of who needs to take the tests and when they are administered.
  
- b. Gas Pricing Contract: Mr. Lussier said that they are again working with Connect Energy Resources with regard to the gas pricing. He said that our current contract will expire on December 31, 2022. He said that a 36-month pricing option gives Plainfield the greatest savings at \$15,506 per year or \$46,518 over the life of the agreement. He asked the Board for their approval to work with CER to obtain the best price and enter into an agreement that best serves Plainfield.

MOTION: Ms. Barry moved to authorized the Business Manager to work with CER and enter into an agreement for the best price.

SECOND: Ms. Smith

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

- c. ESSER III Grant: Mr. Di Pietro said that Plainfield will be getting \$3.1 million in ESSER money. He will be receiving more information by the end of the month and will report back to the Board at the next meeting.

## 9. **ADJOURNMENT:**

MOTION: Ms. Barry moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:49 p.m.

SECOND: Ms. Lemieux

VOTE: Passed unanimously.