

**PLAINFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION  
PLAINFIELD HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM  
May 12, 2021 7:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Kathleen Barry, Mike Broughton, Peggy Bourey, Cindy Arpin, Nick Easton, Audrey Lemieux, Kenneth Di Pietro, Superintendent; Ronald Lussier, Business Manager; Jake Irons & Olivia Bessette, Student Representatives

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

**2. CONSENT AGENDA:**

- a. Minutes of the Meeting of April 14, 2021:

MOTION: Mr. Easton moved to approve the minutes of the April 14<sup>th</sup> meeting.

SECOND: Ms. Arpin

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

**3. COMMUNICATIONS:** None Presented.

**4. PERSONNEL:**

- a. Resignation, Retirements & Non-renewals: None Presented

- b. Appointments: None Presented

**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. SHE Student Presentation: Ms. Pye brought several of her students from the Maker Space class to present their project on building a support out of newspaper and tape that would hold a basketball for 20 seconds. Each student explained a part of the experiment and they discussed why some of the supports did not work.
- c. Student Representatives: Olivia said that testing is beginning and they will soon start rehearsals for graduation. Jake mentioned that the Spring sports are in full swing. The baseball team is doing great.

Mr. Di Pietro presented Jake and Olivia each with a scholarship in gratitude for their service to the Board for the past two years.

## 6. STANDING COMMITTEES AND INDIVIDUAL REPORTS:

- a. Superintendent's Report: Mr. Di Pietro briefly reviewed some of the items from the Strategic Plan that have been accomplished over the past year. He noted that we now have the CNA program at the high school along with diplomas with distinction in various areas. He said that we have had great success with the Maker Space program at all levels and the NEASC Accreditation will begin again in November.

Mr. Easton said that he has a few issues with the Plan. He said that he would like to see the district pushing harder for college preparedness.

MOTION: Mr. Easton moved to refer the Strategic Plan to the policy committee for further review.

SECOND: No second was made.

MOTION: Failed

## 7. OLD BUSINESS:

- a. FY21 Budget & Facilities Report: Mr. Lussier said that there are no unusual or excessive expenditures posted for the month of April and he said that we will be approximately \$900K under plan. Mr. Di Pietro said that due to the large underrun, they will be adding an additional \$100,000 to the pension contribution.
  - COVID Funding: Mr. Lussier said that to date we have expended \$793K against the \$838,678 grant funding.
  - Federal/State Grants: Mr. Lussier informed the board that we have received \$2.028M in grant revenue to date this year.
  - ECHIP Status: Mr. Lussier said that the current balance for the ECHIP account is \$1.9M. Reserves total \$2.581M. The year-end reserve forecast is \$2.477M.
  - Transfers: Mr. Lussier said that there were several accounts that are in the red. He asked the board's authorization to make transfers from under-expended accounts to those that are over-expended.

MOTION: Mr. Easton moved to approve the transfer as presented.

SECOND: Ms. Arpin

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

- b. FY22 Budget: The 2022 Budget will be presented at a Town Meeting on May 17<sup>th</sup> for a vote.
- c. COVID Status Update: Mr. Di Pietro said that we have been doing well. If we happen to get a case of COVID, we quarantine those involved while the others remain in school. Mr. Sugarman said that we have vaccinated of 2,000 people in partnership with Day

Kimball Hospital. We will once again be working with them on May 17<sup>th</sup>, with Board approval, with a clinic to vaccinate students ages 12 and up.

MOTION: Mr. Easton moved to approve the vaccination clinic for students 12 and up on May 17<sup>th</sup> with the second shot being on June 8<sup>th</sup>.

SECOND: Ms. Arpin

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

- d. Transportation Contract: Mr. Di Pietro said that the attorney is settling the contract with Dattco and the Town has come to an agreement with them for rental of the garage property.

## 8. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Proposed 2% Set Aside: Mr. Di Pietro said that there have been questions regarding the 2% set aside account. He said that the Board of Finance has the right annually to determine if any new funds will be put into the account. He presented the Board with a review of the draft policy from the Town and some suggestions to consider.
- b. End of Year Schedule: The High School has restored the end of the year activities with some modifications. The Senior class trip has been scheduled to go to Holiday Hill. They will be the only school in attendance on the property. The Senior Prom will take place outside. Tents will be put up in the area outside of the cafeteria so that the building will be accessible to the students. There will be food trucks and fire pits that evening. The class night and graduation will take place on the football field.

Plainfield Central School will be taking the 8<sup>th</sup> grade classes on a trip. They will go on the Essex Steam Train and then a river boat cruise.

- c. Status of Remote Learners 2021-2022: Mr. Di Pietro said that there are no regulations in place that require the district to provide remote learning to the student next school year. He said that we are expected to get \$3 million from the Esser III grant next year, however, one of the requirements is that the district is open to all students with the elimination of remote learning.

MOTION: Mr. Easton moved to authorize the administration to implement an in-person learning program without a 100% remote learning option for the 2021-2022 school year, unless required by the State of Connecticut, or if deemed necessary by the Plainfield Board of Education. This does not prohibit the implementation of remote learning for emergency situations as directed by the Superintendent.

SECOND: Ms. Lemieux

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

MOTION: Mr. Easton moved to authorize the administration to establish a process of stakeholder engagement inclusive of, but not limited to: BOE Members, Administrators, Teachers & Staff, and

Families (including older representative students) to provide input on pending actions to ensure safe, In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Service.

SECOND: Ms. Lemieux

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

- d. Approval of TEAM Application: Ms. Sherin Gilkenson has submitted her application to train to be a TEAM mentor.

MOTION: Mr. Easton moved to approve the TEAM application for Sherin Gilkenson.

SECOND: Ms. Lemieux

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

- e. Community Recognition: Mr. Di Pietro said that each year the Board shows recognition to some from the community that has been a partner with the school. This year he suggests that the Board recognized Day Kimball Hospital for their efforts with the vaccination clinics and also WINY Radio for the partnership with the school.

## 9. **ADJOURNMENT:**

MOTION: Mr. Broughton moved to adjourn to Executive Session at 8:49 p.m. for the purpose of contract negotiations.

SECOND: Ms. Arpin

VOTE: Passed unanimously.