

**PLAINFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
PLAINFIELD HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM
September 8, 2021 7:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Christi Haskell, Heather Smith, Mike Broughton, Audrey Lemieux, Kathleen Barry, Cindy Arpin, Peggy Bourey, Nick Easton, Paul Brenton, Superintendent; Ronald Lussier, Business Manager

1. CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:00 and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. CONSENT AGENDA:

a. Minutes of the Meeting of August 11, 2021:

MOTION: Ms. Lemieux moved to approve the minutes of the August 11th meeting.

SECOND: Ms. Arpin

VOTE: Passed with abstentions from Ms. Barry.

3. INDIVIDUAL STUDENT REPORTS:

a. Principals'/Students Report on Opening of Schools: Mr. Gagnon presented several students from Plainfield Central School. Each student introduced themselves and then reported on how the first day of school went for them this year.

b. BOE Student Representatives: The new student representatives introduced themselves and gave a brief bio. This year's representatives are: Jack Pothier, Allison Conger and Olivia Digiacomo.

4. COMMUNICATIONS:

a. EASTCONN Board of Directors Bylaws: Mr. Brenton said that they are abolishing the voting by 3 members of the Executive Board and now giving each district voting rights. Ms. Haskell said that she would still like to have a member of the Board participate on the EASTCONN Board of Directors. If anyone is interested, please let her know.

b. Board of Education Member Resignation: Mr. Steve Boettcher submitted his letter of resignation from the Board of Education, effective as of August 19, 2021.

c. Communication from Plainfield RTC: Ms. Haskell stated that the Republican Town Committee has put forward Dr. Diane Summa to fill the vacant seat on the Board. Dr. Summa spoke to the Board about her experience in education.

MOTION: Mr. Broughton moved to approve the appointment of Diane Summa to the vacant seat on the Board.

SECOND: Ms. Barry
VOTE: Passed unanimously.

5. **PERSONNEL:**

a. Resignation & Retirements:

The following resignation were received during the month of August:

Joshua Farrish	-	PHS English
Cassandra Menard	-	Speech Pathologist
Cathleen Brown	-	PHS Art
Nickole Assi	-	SHE ILP
Nicole Baillargeon	-	Sp. Ed. Preschool
Sara Russo	-	Speech Pathologist

MOTION: Ms. Barry moved to accept the slate of resignations.
SECOND: Ms. Lemieux
VOTE: Passed unanimously.

b. Appointments:

Mr. Brenton presented the Board with seventeen new employees for approval.

Michael Mercado	Mathematics	PCS
Emily Lattanzii	Music	PHS
Olivia Orr	Social Worker	ECC
Colyn Petre-Pion	Art	PHS
Stephanie Dufault	Kindergarten	MES
Donna Tavares	Speech Pathologist	

MOTION: Ms. Barry moved to approve the appointments of the above six certified staff members.
SECOND: Mr. Broughton
VOTE: Passed unanimously.

c. Childrearing Leave: Ms. Bryanna Kirk has requested a four-month unpaid leave for childrearing purposes.

MOTION: Ms. Barry Moved to approve the request for childrearing leave.
SECOND: Mr. Easton
VOTE: Passed unanimously.

6. PUBLIC FORUM:

- a. Public Forum/Agenda Items: Ms. Carla Desjardens spoke to the Board to thank them for requiring masks in the schools to keep our children safe.

Ms. Dorothy Davidson also thanked the board for setting rules and keeping the students safe.

Mrs. & Mr. LaPrade came forward and asked if the bullying policy has been changed.

7. STANDING COMMITTEES AND INDIVIDUAL REPORTS:

- a. Superintendent's Report: Mr. Brenton said that it was a positive good opening this year. He was pleased to announce that Kevin Mariano, Plainfield Teacher of the Year, is now a State Semi Finalist. He informed the Board that they are keeping close watch on the COVID numbers. Plainfield is now in the red zone and the infection rate is at 19%. He informed the Board that with the Governor's Executive Order 13D, every school employee must be vaccinated or submit to weekly testing. He said that there will be a testing site at the Plainfield Town Hall.
- b. Curriculum Committee Report: Mrs. Cadro provided the members of the Board with a copy of the most recent curriculum revisions. She also presented the plan for future revisions in the next several years.

8. OLD BUSINESS:

- a. FY22 Budget & Facilities Report: Mr. Lussier said that there have been no unusual expenditures to date. He said that new hires and staff changes have not been reflected in the budget at this time. As soon as this is completed, he will be able to reconcile the budget. The lead custodians reported that the buildings were ready and there were no problems with the opening of schools. Mr. Lussier noted that the ECHIP account is presently at \$1.303M and an additional CD investment of \$681,000.
- b. FY21 Budget Year End Report: Mr. Lussier said that we ended the year with approximately \$900,000 under budget. This was mostly due to the savings in transportation with remote learning.
- c. ESSER III Grant Update: Mr. Brenton said that they are presently moving forward with the initiatives that were outlined at the last meeting.
- d. School Walkthrough Schedule: The school walkthroughs will take place on October 6th and 7th.

9. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Child Nutrition Program Signatures: Mr. Brenton stated that with a new superintendent in place, the Board will need to authorize the revision of authorized signers for the ED-099 Agreement for Child Nutrition Programs.

MOTION: Mr. Easton moved to authorize Mr. Brenton as the first signature on the ED-099.

SECOND: Mr. Broughton

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

- b. Special Education Report: Mr. Sugarman review the different programs that students attend that are not inside the district. He said that there are many including those for special education students as well as technical, magnet and VoAg placements.

10. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

MOTION: Mr. Broughton moved to go into Executive Session at 8:43 for personnel reasons.

SECOND: Ms. Barry

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

The Board came out of executive session at 9:10 p.m.

MOTION: Ms. Lemieux moved to approve the contract for the Business Manager.

SECOND: Ms. Bourey

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

MOTION: Ms. Lemieux moved to approve the contract for the Technology Director.

SECOND: Ms. Arpin

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

11. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.