

**PLAINFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION  
PLAINFIELD HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM  
November 17, 2021 7:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Christi Haskell, Heather Smith, Mike Broughton, Audrey Lemieux, Kathleen Barry, Diane Summa, Roxanne Boisse, Arrianna Landry, Paul Brenton, Superintendent; Ronald Lussier, Business Manager; Allison Conger, Olivia Digiacommo, Jack Pothier – Student Representatives

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

- 2. WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS & ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

The Superintendent called for nominations for the position of Board Chair.

MOTION: Mr. Broughton moved to nominate Christi Haskell for the position of Chair.

SECOND: Ms. Smith

Tally of votes: 8 votes for Ms. Haskell

Ms. Haskell, as Chair, asked for nominations for the position of Vice Chair.

MOTION: Ms. Lemieux moved to nominate Ms. Barry for Vice Chair.

SECOND: Ms. Smith

MOTION: Ms. Haskell moved to nominate Mr. Broughton for Vice Chair

SECOND: Ms. Boisse

Tally of Votes: Mr. Broughton – 5 votes, Ms. Barry – 3 votes.

Ms. Haskell asked for nomination for the position of Secretary.

MOTION: Ms. Haskell moved to nominate Ms. Lemieux for the position of Secretary.

SECOND: Mr. Broughton

Tally of Votes: 8 votes for Ms. Lemieux

- 3. CONSENT AGENDA:**

- a. Minutes of the Meeting of October 13 2021:

MOTION: Ms. Lemieux moved to approve the minutes of the October 13<sup>th</sup> meeting.

SECOND: Ms. Barry

VOTE: Passed with abstention from Ms. Boisse and Ms. Landry.

#### 4. **INDIVIDUAL STUDENT REPORTS:**

- a. BOE Student Representatives: Olivia stated that they are having Spirit Week, a bonfire will be held on Tuesday and a pep rally on Wednesday before the Thanksgiving Day football game against Griswold.

Allison Conger said that the fall sports are closing and many of the teams did very well this year.

#### 5. **COMMUNICATIONS:**

- a. MES Presentation: Mr. Nagel apologized for not bringing any students with him to the meeting. He informed the board of the events that have been taking place at MES this year, including an outdoor movie night, spirit week, and a competition for the students to see who would be able to “Pie” Mr. Nagel.

#### 6. **PERSONNEL:**

- a. Resignation & Retirements: Mr. Brenton said that two letters of resignation were received. One from Robert Salerno, PCS music teacher and Loreen Campbell, PHS Sp. Ed. Teacher.

MOTION: Ms. Summa moved to accept the letters of resignations.

SECOND: Ms. Lemieux

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

- b. Appointments: None Presented.

- c. Leave of Absence: Mr. Brenton indicated that a request for a childrearing leave was received from a teacher at Shepard Hill. She will be out of the classroom from February through the remainder of the school year.

MOTION: Ms. Barry moved to approve the request for childrearing leave.

SECOND: Ms. Lemieux

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

#### 7. **PUBLIC FORUM:**

- a. Public Forum/Agenda Items: Ms. Joslyn Allen spoke to the Board to express her concerns over the distractions happening at PCS. She said that students are vaping in the bathrooms and teachers seemed to be pushing their own agendas and beliefs on the students.

Jennie Kapszukiewicz said that our schools are losing focus and should not be discussing gender identity in the schools. She would like to know what the district is doing with the ESSER money that it has received from the state.

Robin Uranas also inquired about where the ESSER money is being spent.

## 8. **STANDING COMMITTEES AND INDIVIDUAL REPORTS:**

### a. Superintendent's Report:

- Mr. Brenton reviewed some of the recent COVID numbers for the state. He said that the northeast has higher numbers with Plainfield being higher than the surrounding towns.
- He mentioned that the CIAC will be releasing new guidelines for winter sports.
- There are a few groups of students at the high school that are taking part in Voice for Change and submitting proposal on how they would spend \$20,000 of ESSER money.
- Mr. Brenton also told the Board that he is looking into a new Student Information System that would be more user friendly.
- The next Coffee House will be on December 9<sup>th</sup> at Plainfield High School.
- Snow Days: Mr. Brenton said that at this point, there are no provisions from the State Dept. that allow for remote learning. If there is a need for a snow day, it will be a day without instruction as in the past.
- Mr. Brenton reviewed the damages that were sustained to the bathrooms at PHS due to a nationwide TikTok challenge. He said that they are in the process of replacing the damage with graffiti/damage resistant materials.
- Mr. Sugarman briefly spoke about Screen & Stay.

### b. Policy Committee Report: Mr. Sugarman said that the Policy Committee met and reviewed and moved forward to the Board, four policies in the 4000 series. He asked that the Board waive the first reading and post the policies to the website for review.

MOTION: Mr. Broughton moved to dispense with the reading of Policy 4111 Personnel Recruitment & Selection and post to the website for review.

SECOND: Ms. Barry

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

MOTION: Mr. Broughton moved to dispense with the reading of Policy 4112 Personnel, Certified Appointment and post to the website for review.

SECOND: Ms. Summa

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

MOTION: Ms. Smith moved to dispense with the reading of Policy 4112.5 Personnel Security Check/Fingerprinting and post to the website for review.

SECOND: Mr. Broughton

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

MOTION: Ms. Lemieux moved to dispense with the reading of Policy 4112.51 Personnel Employment/Reference Checks and post to the website for review.

SECOND: Ms. Barry

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

## 9. OLD BUSINESS:

- a. FY22 Budget & Facilities Report: Mr. Lussier said that the 2020-21 Audit of the Board of Education (BOE) Financials is complete. The auditors are preparing the year-end report. The report is a combination of Town and BOE financials and appears to indicate a clean audit. The report indicates a net BOE budget underrun of \$687,724 for FY21. Total FY22 budget values reported on the Cost Summary include staffing changes, operational cost adjustments and tuition projections as of October 31, 2021. Cost overruns in Purchased Instructional Services and Purchased Pupil Services are due to additional required special education services. Additional, unanticipated student participation in two special education programs is driving the cost overrun in the two Purchased Services accounts. Additionally, the budget in the Purchased Pupil Services account is created with the anticipation of receiving Special Education Excess Aid as a cost offset. Until the Excess Aid is received, the account will be over plan.
- b. FY22 Transfers & Budget Reconciliation: Mr. Lussier said that he is requesting the Board's approval to transfer the following budget amounts between the certified, non-certified, utilities, Rentals, tuition and Dues/Fees accounts. The net impact to the 2022 operating plan is \$0.
- |              |                        |
|--------------|------------------------|
| \$296,089    | Certified Salaries     |
| (\$ 147,056) | Non-Certified Salaries |
| \$81,689     | Utilities              |
| (\$ 4,357)   | Rentals                |
| (\$ 233,222) | Tuitions               |
| \$ 6,857     | Dues and Fees          |

MOTION: Ms. Barry moved to approve the transfers as presented.

SECOND: Mr. Broughton

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

- c. Building Walkthrough Results: Mr. Lussier indicated that a report was provided of the walkthroughs in all of the buildings. He said that this information will be used to develop the five-year capital plan.

## 10. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Updated Budget Calendar: Mr. Brenton presented the Board with a calendar of the upcoming meeting in or to prepare the budget for next fiscal year. There will be a district-wide budget meeting on January 15, 2022.
- b. BOE New Member Conference: Ms. Haskell said that CABA is presenting a workshop on December 8<sup>th</sup> for new member of the Board. She said that it is very insightful and helpful to new members to learn about the roles and responsibilities of being a member of the board of education.
- c. Wrestling – Team of One: Mr. Brenton stated that we recently had a student transfer to PHS from NFA. He would like to participate in wrestling. He would compete with Griswold as a Team of One for Plainfield. All costs and transportation will be provided by the parents.

MOTION: Ms. Lemieux moved to approve the Team of One in Wrestling.

SECOND: Ms. Barry

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

## 11. ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: Ms. Boisse moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:41 p.m.

SECOND: Ms. Lemieux

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tammy St. Amour,  
Recording Secretary