

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

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

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 November 17, 2021:

MOTION: Ms. Lemieux moved to approve the minutes of the November 17th meeting.

SECOND: Ms. Barry

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

3. INDIVIDUAL STUDENT REPORTS:

a. BOE Student Representatives: The Student Representatives informed the public of the events that have recently taken place at the high school and any upcoming activities that would be of interest.

4. COMMUNICATIONS:

a. PCMS Presentation: The Central Middle school staff and students addressed the Board. Their motto this year is Dream Big, Work Hard and Be Nice. Many of the teachers reviewed the project-based learning that is taking place at the school this.

b. Building Reports: Each principal presented a report prior to the meeting and reviewed for the Board the activities that took place over the past month in their building.

5. PERSONNEL:

a. Resignation & Retirements: None presented

b. Appointments: Ms. Sydney Fogarty was presented to the Board for the position of Music Teacher at Plainfield Central School.

MOTION: Dr. Summa moved to approve the appointment of Sydney Fogarty.

SECOND: Ms. Barry

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

6. PUBLIC FORUM:

- a. Public Forum/Agenda Items: As no one came forward, the Chair moved to the next item on the agenda.

7. STANDING COMMITTEES AND INDIVIDUAL REPORTS:

- a. Superintendent's Report:
 - Mr. Brenton reviewed some of the recent COVID numbers for the state. He stated that they received bids for the HVAC study. A bid was awarded in the amount of \$6,400 to complete the study.

8. OLD BUSINESS:

- a. FY22 Budget & Facilities Report: Mr. Lussier said that total FY22 budget values reported on the Cost Summary include staffing changes, operational cost adjustments and tuition projections as of October 31, 2021. He said that the transfers that were requested last month have been completed. There are some cost overruns due to additional required special education services. This should be resolved when we receive the excess aid funding from the state.

The district continues to move forward with maintenance and repairs of equipment and building systems. While some of the repairs are routine in nature, the frequency and magnitude are increasing as our infrastructure ages.

Snow removal equipment at the Early Childhood Center has been refurbished and will be in good shape for the upcoming winter season.

At Moosup Elementary (MES), room heat continues to be troublesome. The heaters are repaired as needed but as soon as one is repaired, another unit fails. Additionally, the water heater at MES is showing signs of failure. The replacement cost is estimated to be \$10,408. A contract is expected to be signed soon.

At Plainfield Memorial School two room heaters have failed. Replacement units are not available. An electrical engineer is being called in to determine what can be done to modify the current electrical feed to possibly run wall mount style heaters. The current heaters operate on 480 volts and will require step-down transformers to operate the 110/220 volt wall mount units.

At Plainfield High School (PHS), Roof Top Unit #12 is being repaired. The repair work went to the low bidder at a cost of \$52,628 plus an additional \$7,800 for repairs to solenoids and 'king' valves at the condenser and the subsequent pressure testing. The coolant leak was unknown until the RTU was repaired. Total cost to repair the RTU is

\$60,428. The BOE will consider funding this capital repair out of the 2% set-aside account.

Grants: In fiscal year 2021, Plainfield Public Schools received approximately \$2.7M from Federal and State grants. More than \$1.5M of these funds came to Plainfield Schools as part of the Americas Recovery Plan (ARP). There are currently 9 (nine) approved grants for the FY2021/22 school year totaling **\$1,243,146**. These are IDEA 611, IDEA 619, Perkins, Family Resource Center, Inter-district Cooperative, Primary Mental Health, School Readiness - Competitive, School Readiness - Competitive Quality Enhancement and Adult Education. Title I, Title II, Title IV and ARP ESSER III are additional grants that Plainfield should receive this fiscal year. Plainfield Board of Education has received revenues for this fiscal year-to-date totaling **\$1,583,221**. Revenue receipts will increase as additional grants receive approval.

ECHIP: Preliminary November 2021 utilization moved in a slight upward direction and thereby eroding the year-end reserve by approximately \$37K. Plainfield BOE's current cash balance is **\$1.398M**, excluding the CD investment of \$801,254. Combining the cash reserve and CD results in a total reserve of **\$2.199M**. The year-end total reserve is projected to be **\$2.351M**. These values exclude the actual November administration and Stop-Loss fees, as well as any credits from rebates. The following table displays the detail activity for this fiscal year-to-date plus the year-end projection.

- b. Curriculum Committee Report: Ms. Lemieux reported that the Curriculum Committee would like to move forward with the Computer Sciences courses that were presented to the Board.

MOTION: Ms. Bourey moved to approve the Computer Sciences Courses for Plainfield High School as presented.

SECOND: Ms. Barry

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

- c. Policy Committee Report: Mr. Sugarman indicated that the policy from the November meeting were posted for review. He has not received any questions or concerns with regard to the policies. He asked if the Board is ready to approve them. Ms. Haskell asked that the vote be tabled until the January meeting as they do not have them available to review this evening.

Ms. Haskell also said that a new committee needs to schedule a meeting. The Capital Improvement committee will meet on December 16th at 6:00 at the ECC.

9. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Discussion of Possible Utility Broker Contract: Mr. Lussier said that they have managed to hold down utility costs in the previous years by entering into Utility Pricing Agreements with various suppliers. Working in conjunction with a utility

broker/consultant, he receives current market rates for plans covering one to five years. Our last agreement held our supply rate at \$0.085 per kilowatt-hour. This agreement has ended and it is now time to enter into a new agreement. New market rates started at \$0.13 (1 year) to \$0.102 (five year) but have since come down to \$0.1184 (1 year) to \$0.0955 (five year). He said that the near forecast is they may drop a bit more but the long-range forecast is that they will spike in January/ February. He is requesting the Boards approval to allow him to enter into an agreement when the time appears correct to lock in the lowest rate possible.

MOTION: Dr. Summa moved to authorize Mr. Lussier to engage in contracting utilities.

SECOND: Ms. Landry

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

- b. PHS HVAC Maintenance: Mr. Lussier said that at Plainfield High School (PHS), Roof Top Unit #12 is being repaired. The repair work went to the low bidder at a cost of \$52,628 plus an additional \$7,800 for repairs to solenoids and 'king' valves at the condenser and the subsequent pressure testing. The coolant leak was unknown until the time the RTU was repaired. Total cost to repair the RTU is \$60,428. This project was unanticipated and as a result not budgeted within the High School operating budget. This letter will serve as a request to the Board of Education to authorize the payment of this project with funds available in the 2% Set-Aside account.

MOTION: Ms. Bourey moved to permit Mr. Lussier to engage in contracting repairs above \$10,000.

SECOND: Ms. Barry

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

10. ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: Ms. Landry moved to adjourn the meeting.

SECOND: Ms. Boisse

VOTE: Passed unanimously.