



# PLAINEDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION

## Public Work Session High School Library - Room A

241 Wyngate Drive  
Massapequa, NY 11758  
[www.plainedgeschools.org](http://www.plainedgeschools.org)

~ Minutes ~

Tuesday, December 8, 2015

8:00 PM

High School Library - Room A

### Meeting Called to Order by President

#### Call to Order

Attendee Name	Title	Status
Catherine Flanagan	President	Present
Raymond Paris	Vice President	Present
Debra Grieci	Trustee	Present
Dennis Gustafson	Trustee	Present
Douglas Pascarella	Trustee	Late
Eric Szillus	Trustee	Present
Sisi Townson	Trustee	Present
Edward A. Salina	Superintendent	Present
Guy J. Le Vaillant	Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources & Instructional Technology	Present
Todd Winch	Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction	Present
Peter Porrazzo	Assistant Superintendent for Business	Present
Christopher Dillon	Assistant to the Superintendent for Administration & Special Projects	Present

#### 2. Motion to: convene the Public Work Session

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [6 TO 0]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Raymond Paris, Vice President
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Sisi Townson, Trustee
<b>AYES:</b>	Grieci, Flanagan, Gustafson, Paris, Townson, Szillus
<b>AWAY:</b>	Douglas Pascarella

#### I. Pledge of Allegiance

Mrs. Flanagan led those assembled in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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**II. Superintendent's Remarks****a. Student Recognition - High School Varsity Football**

Dr. Salina started the meeting by introducing the Plainedge Varsity Football team, recognizing them for such a tremendous football season. He spoke about the 2015 Red Ribbon Photo Contest Winners at West Elementary School and stated that the photo is on the district website and that the school received a \$1,000 award for the picture. Dr. Salina asked everyone in attendance to give John H. West school a big round of applause.

**III. Reports/Discussions/Presentations****a. Best Buddies Program - Presentation**

Dr. Salina introduced the presentation by stating that the team is very excited to be accepted into the Best Buddies Club. That with many staff members involved with students of special needs on all levels, it's a great opportunity for the students and staff and the team feels very strongly about the program.

Mr. Winch gave the background story on the Best Buddies program and explained that the idea would be to start the Best Buddies program in the High School. He explained that the program is a one on one program for students with disabilities and non-disabled peers, where the students would participate in extracurricular opportunities and various other programs, together. Mr. Winch spoke about the types of opportunities these students might have by being in the Best Buddies program that they might not have otherwise. He stated that it provides opportunities for students with and without disabilities and that it is a well-rounded program for all students who would participate. He explained that the program would require two advisors and also explained the student structure, such as meeting on a twice a month basis, going to events that Best Buddies might have, for example; bowling outside of the school as well as signature type events. Mr. Gustafson asked how the peer buddies (non-disabled students) would be determined. Mr. Winch explained that the students would volunteer and the advisors would match the students up appropriately. Mr. Winch discussed in more depth, the types of club activities that would occur in the program, both within Plainedge and within the Best Buddies International Program itself. He explained that it is a difficult program to get into and that we've been fortunate to be chosen to participate. Mr. Pascarella asked a question regarding the Advisor and what their role would be. Mr. Winch explained one role would be to match peer buddy with a buddy, but that they would also have to hold meetings, plan events and would have a

variety of jobs. Mr. Winch explained that it's a club but also an international organization with guidelines that they have to abide by. He explained that there will be local events as well as events they will participate in as a Best Buddies Long Island Chapter. Mr. Pascarella and Mrs. Grieci asked how many students Mr. Winch thinks would potentially be involved. Mr. Maisano stated that there is currently a population of students who are already involved at a more local, grass roots level. All of the members of the Board were in favor of moving forward with the Best Buddies Program.

**b. Board of Education Committees and Liaisons - Discussion**

Dr. Salina spoke about putting some structure around forming various committees for the Board of Education. He spoke of various definitions in regards to forming committees and what the committees encompass. Dr. Salina asked the Board if they had any questions on the framework that he outlined.

- District Audit Committee  
*Dr. Salina explained how he laid out each committee framework, starting with the Audit Committee. Spoke of no changes, turned over to Mrs. Flanagan. Mrs. Flanagan asked if anyone had any questions. All Board of Education Members were in favor of the District Audit Committee as is.*

**1. Motion to: approve District Audit Committee**

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>AYES:</b>	Grieci, Pascarella, Flanagan, Gustafson, Paris, Townson, Szillus

- District Legislative Advocacy Committee  
*Dr. Salina spoke of the potential District Legislative Advocacy committee. He laid out the framework for this potential committee as well, speaking of the potential participants. Mr. Gustafson asked why a District Resident could be a Co-Chairperson for this committee but not for others and Dr. Salina explained the significant importance around having a community member involved at that level in a committee such as this one and stated that ultimately, the structure is up to the Board of Education to decide. Mrs. Grieci asked what the vision would be around selecting that chairperson from the community. Dr. Salina stated that he believes the Board of Education President chooses the committee member, as based on the policy. Mr. Gustafson voiced concern around this particular committee and the determination of a Co-Chair from the community. Dr. Salina read an explanation of the procedure and process. Mrs. Flanagan asked the Board how they*

*felt about having a district resident as a Co-Chair for this committee. Each Board of Education member expressed their thoughts. There was a discussion between members regarding the benefits of having a community resident as a Co-Chairperson versus just sitting on the committee. Mr. Paris proposed changing the Advocacy Committee Process to having one Board of Education member as chairman of the committee. A further discussion was had and Mrs. Flanagan addressed the Board of Education and asked the following questions;*

**Q:** *Is the Board of Education in Agreement that there should be a Board of Education Advocacy Committee.*

**A:** *All Board of Education Members were in agreement that there should be an advocacy committee, except for Mr. Pascarella.*

**Q:** *Structure of the Legislative Advocacy Committee*

*1 - Proposal of Co-Chairs of the committee being one Board of Education Member and one Plainedge community member.*

**A:** *Yay - Flanagan, Szillus, Townson / Nay - Paris, Grieci, Gustafson, Pascarella (3, 4)*

*2 - Proposal of Co-Chairs of Committee being 2 Board of Education Members*

**A:** *Yay - Gustafson, Szillus, Grieci, Pascarella, Townson / Nay Paris, Flanagan (5, 2)*

*3 - Proposal of Chairperson of the Committee being one Board of Education Member*

**A:** *Yay – Flanagan, Gustafson, Grieci, Szillus, Paris, Pascarella / Nay – Townson (6, 1)*

**Final Result:** *One Board of Education Member as Chairperson of the Legislative Advocacy Committee.*

**2. Motion to:** approve District Legislative Advocacy Committee

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>AYES:</b>	Grieci, Pascarella, Flanagan, Gustafson, Paris, Townson, Szillus

- Board of Education Policy Review Committee

*Dr. Salina spoke about the Board of Education Policy Review Committee and explained why he feels that this committee is important as well as explained our current process. Mrs. Flanagan took a vote as to if the Board of Education is in agreement with this committee. All Board of Education members were in agreement with moving forward with this committee.*

**3. Motion to: approve Board of Education Policy Review Committee**

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>AYES:</b>	Grieci, Pascarella, Flanagan, Gustafson, Paris, Townson, Szillus

• **BOCES Liaison(s)**

*Mrs. Flanagan explained the BOCES Liaisons committee and what it would consist of. Mrs. Flanagan took a vote as to if the Board of Education is in agreement with continuing with this committee. All Board of Education members were in agreement with continuing to move forward with this committee.*

**4. Motion to: approve BOCES Liaison(s)**

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>AYES:</b>	Grieci, Pascarella, Flanagan, Gustafson, Paris, Townson, Szillus

• **Health, Wellness, and Drug-Free Youth Coalition Liaison(s)**

*Mrs. Flanagan asked if all Board of Education members were in agreement with continuing to move forward with this committee. All Board of Education members were in agreement with continuing to move forward with this committee.*

*Mrs. Flanagan stated that there are always options to add more committees to the list. Everyone was in agreement that what is laid out is OK at this time.*

*Dr. Salina complimented the Board on a great discussion.*

**5. Motion to: approve Health, Wellness and Drug-Free Youth Coalition Liaison(s)**

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>AYES:</b>	Grieci, Pascarella, Flanagan, Gustafson, Paris, Townson, Szillus

**c. 2016-2017 District School Year Calendar - Discussion**

Dr. Salina explained the calendar in its enhanced version. He spoke about how the process started and what the basis of the structure was, opening it up to the Board of Education for discussion. Dr. Salina notated two things, being structural adjustments to the meetings in February, March and April. Mrs. Flanagan asked if anyone had any questions or comments. All were in agreement to move forward with adopting the District School Year calendar for 2016-2017.

**d. 2016-2017 Board of Education Calendar - Discussion**

Mrs. Flanagan stated that July 7, 2016 was not a good date for the Organization meeting for a number of Board of Education members and proposed holding the meeting on Tuesday July 12, 2016 as opposed to Thursday July 7, 2016. All Board of Education members were in agreement with moving the date of the Organization meeting to July 12, 2016.

**e. Area 11 Director - Special Election Ballot - Discussion**

Mrs. Flanagan spoke about the Area 11 Director vacancy and needing to elect someone into the position. She stated that the Board of Education had agreed to nominate all candidates and now they must cast their vote. A vote was taken and there were five votes for Stephen Witt, with two Board of Education members abstaining from voting. Mrs. Flanagan stated that a resolution to cast the vote, would be added to the Thursday Regular Business Meeting agenda.

**IV. Public Work Session****a. 1st Reading - Capital Assets Accounting Policy #6300**

Mr. Porrazzo read the reason behind revisiting and adjusting the Capital Asset Policy #6300 which included changing the review of inventory to every 5 years.

**b. Fiscal Reports**

Mrs. Flanagan asked if there were any questions on the Fiscal reports. Mr. Pascarella commented that it was amazing to see how the district has been able to sustain itself for the first couple of months into the new year. There were no other questions or comments.

**1. Cash Flow Summary - September 2015****2. Claims Audit Report - October 2015**

3. Claims Audit Report - November 2015
4. Collateral Report- September 2015
5. Revenue & Budget Status Report: Fund A
6. Revenue & Budget Status Report: Fund C
7. Revenue & Budget Status Report: Fund F
8. Revenue & Budget Status Report: Fund H
9. Revenue & Budget Status Report: Fund V
10. Treasurers Report
11. Trial Balance Report September 2015
12. Warrant Report #29 - #36

**V. New Business**

There was no new business to discuss.

**VI. Review of Business Agenda**

Mrs. Grieci mentioned the resolution on the Thursday Regular Business Meeting as it pertains to the NSBA conference in April. Dr. Salina stated that it would be reviewed and adjusted as appropriate.

**VII. Future Agenda Items**

There were no future agenda items to discuss.

**VIII. Opportunity for Public to be Heard - Question and Answer Period**

- All questions are directed to the Board of Education President
- Each speaker is limited to two minutes in total
- Each speaker is expected to use the microphone and clearly state their name

Mr. Kussman, community member, addressed the Board of Education stating that he felt that the Board of Education committee discussion was very interesting, especially the Advocacy committee. He stated that he was glad that some members of the Board of Education had enough trust in the public to participate in the committees as equals, but that he was also disappointed that some Board of Education members did not feel the same way. He stated that he is however glad that some Board of Education members do feel that members of the community can make decisions in the best interest of the students.

Mr. Fuchs - PFT President, thanked the Board of Education for forming the Legislative Advocacy Committee.

Ms. Diane Bruenig, Treasurer of SEPTA, thanked the Central Office Administration and the Board of Education for the Best Buddies Program.

**IX. Adjournment of Public Work Session**

The meeting was closed at 9:52 PM

1. **Motion to:** Adjourn the Public Work Session

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Debra Grieci, Trustee
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Raymond Paris, Vice President
<b>AYES:</b>	Grieci, Pascarella, Flanagan, Gustafson, Paris, Townson, Szillus

**X. NOTES**