



PLAINEDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Public Work Session & Regular Business Meeting HS - Innovation Learning Center

241 Wyngate Drive
Massapequa, NY 11758
www.plainedgeschools.org

~ Minutes ~

Tuesday, March 15, 2016

8:00 PM

HS - Innovation Learning Center

Call to Order - Public Work Session of the Board of Education

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Catherine Flanagan	President	Present	
Raymond Paris	Vice President	Present	
Debra Grieci	Trustee	Present	
Dennis Gustafson	Trustee	Present	
Douglas Pascarella	Trustee	Late	8:58 PM
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: Open Public Work Session – 7:08 pm

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Sisi Townson, Trustee
SECONDER:	Eric Szillus, Trustee
AYES:	Grieci, Flanagan, Gustafson, Paris, Townson, Szillus
ABSENT:	Douglas Pascarella

3. Motion to: Open Executive Session – 7:09 pm

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Sisi Townson, Trustee
SECONDER:	Eric Szillus, Trustee
AYES:	Grieci, Flanagan, Gustafson, Paris, Townson, Szillus
ABSENT:	Douglas Pascarella

4. Motion to: Adjourn Executive Session – 7:53 pm

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Raymond Paris, Trustee
SECONDER:	Sisi Townson, Trustee
AYES:	Grieci, Flanagan, Gustafson, Paris, Townson, Szillus
ABSENT:	Douglas Pascarella

5. Motion to: Reconvene Public work session – 8:00 pm

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

I. Pledge of Allegiance

Mrs. Flanagan led those assembled in the pledge of allegiance.

II. Superintendent's Remarks

Dr. Salina mentioned that several Board members and staff attended the District art show prior to the meeting. Dr. Salina introduced our guest for the evening, Robert B.A. Schoen the NYSSBA Area 11 Regional Director. Dr. Salina began describing the level of professional development that the Board has achieved. Then, Mr. Schoen spoke briefly about NYSSBA and the training that school board members are required to attend. He described how the Plainedge Board members have gone above and beyond their requirements and excelled at professional development. Mr. Schoen presented Board members Mrs. Grieci, Mr. Gustafson, Mr. Paris with the NYSSBA Board Mastery Award and Board members Mr. Szillus, and Mrs. Townson with the NYSSBA Board Achievement awards.

III. Reports/Discussions/Presentations

a. Special Education 2016-2017 Budget Presentation - Dr. D. Stephanie Lamanno & Mr. Joseph Maisano

Dr. D. Stephanie Lamanno and Mr. Joseph Maisano presented the 2016-2017 Special Education budget. The year to year budget increase is \$15,557 or .35%, the largest decrease is in the area of BOCES spending. The Special education department is responsible for special education curriculum, services, IEP development, CSE and CPSE, state reporting, grant preparation and management, professional development, DOL/DOR, billing for educational services rendered to students from other districts, STAC'S and Medicaid submissions, and transition planning. Special education services offered are resource room, integrated co-teaching, self-contained classes, life skills, out of district placements and all related services. There has been a major integration of

technology into special education. Many other districts have come to visit our life skills program and some have requested to send their students here and we have added cross contracts with those districts.

Some current initiatives are to integrate more technology and research based programs, incorporate i-pads into specialized instruction, ensure transition services are provided, and expand our continuum at the elementary schools. They are recommending to add a new elementary 6:1:2 class (K-1) based on new incoming pre-school student needs as well as current Kindergartners. John H. West is going to need a kindergarten inclusion class and there will be a need for a 1st grade inclusion class. Dr. Lamanno reviewed the costs of educating students within the district versus sending them to an out of district program. Mr. Maisano reviewed the continuum of self-contained services. Mr. Maisano showed a 5-year history chart of out of district placements, we began 2011-12 with 43 students and now in 2015-15 we have only 21 students outside the district.

Some future initiatives include expansion of job training, additional evidence based interventions, integrated co-teaching classroom improvement plan, and enhanced transition planning services.

Mrs. Grieci asked a question about how the BOCES budget is decreasing. She also asked if we have students beyond the age of 21. Mr. Gustafson commented about how wonderful the GC Tech opportunity that his daughter received and the internship at the library helped her. Mrs. Flanagan stated that it's important that Plainedge students stay in Plainedge, it's important for the students and their families.

b. Special Education Transition Services Presentation - Dr. D. Stephanie Lamanno & Mr. Joseph Maisano

Mr. Joseph Maisano presented the Special education department transitional services program. Transition services are provided for students and their families for post-secondary life. They include independent living skills, job-readiness skills, access to adult services and college and trade school exposure. Through a federal grant that is helping schools to develop these transition services, a few transition specialists have been hired. Currently transition services are a collaborative effort between the Guidance and Special Education departments. Plainedge offers - level 1 career assessments, interest inventories, tech programs, SEPTA presentations, assistance with Office for Persons with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) and Adult Career and Continuing Education Services-Vocational Rehabilitation (ACCESS-V R), career and employment options, and college exploration through Naviance. Some recent enhancements to our transition services include a broader building level transition team more information about transition fairs, transition information folders, new best buddies international club, more work-based learning experiences and additional SEPTA presentations. Mr. Maisano briefly described the best buddies ball and the positive feedback received from the students. Some next steps include exploring career zone, possibly hosting a transition fair, increasing involvement of the transition coordinator, grade specific transition assessments, expansion of exit summaries, enhanced SEPTA presentations, continued professional development and expanding the transition meetings.

Mr. Gustafson spoke about the aid available by the Office for Persons with Developmental Disabilities and he thinks Plainedge should start the process in 9th grade instead of starting in 11th and 12th grade. If you start earlier with students and discuss a plan for what transition services are available it might be more valuable to the students and families. Mrs. Flanagan spoke about how excited the students were who attended the best buddies ball.

c. Staffing & Enrollment 2016-2017 Budget Presentation - Dr. Guy LeVaillant

Dr. Guy LeVaillant presented the 2016-2017 staffing and enrollment budget. Secondary staffing at the Middle school is decreasing by 1.95 FTE. Middle school enrollment is down from 749 to 692. There is an increase in the High School of 1.5FTE. Mr. Gustafson asked if private school enrollment has increased and Dr. Salina stated it's remained flat. Eastplain is down in enrollment but no change to staff is recommended. John H West enrollment is down slightly but no recommended staff changes. Schwarting slight reduction in enrollment, and one staff reduction in 2nd grade is proposed.

There was a discussion about the 2nd grade class size at Schwarting, some Board members were concerned about the size of 24. Mrs. Townson expressed that she felt that the class size of 24 in 2nd grade was too large. She was concerned about the community reaction to cutting back to 4 sections. She stated that with all the new initiatives we are placing inside the elementary classrooms – the writing program, the STEAM initiatives, small group work and one on one writing that a class size of 24 would not work for 2nd grade. She then spoke about how when her daughter's class went from 4 to 3 sections at the same time that Common Core was implemented that the class and students suffered because it was a strain on the teacher and the students. She referenced how she was told "you can't fight the system" and that the students would get through it but, she stated that their education suffered from the additional pressures put on the teachers and students to learn a new curriculum within a larger group setting. Mr. Paris stated that although he typically would agree with staying within the range, he too feels that 24 is too large a class size for 2nd grade. Mr. Gustafson discussed how there is a large jump in the class size guidelines between 1st to 2nd grade and that even though we have these guidelines we have often gone below them for class sizes. After reviewing the special education class enrollments he felt comfortable that we should leave the 5 sections at Schwarting. He did feel that the Board should possibly review the class size guidelines overall as a topic of discussion for a future agenda and that the policy committee should review it. After a lengthy discussion Mrs. Flanagan asked a poll of the Board, Mrs. Grieci recommended that the fifth section be added back to Schwarting in 2nd grade, Mr. Pascarella disagreed, all other Board members agreed with Mrs. Grieci. The Board directed Dr. Salina to add back the fifth section at Schwarting. Dr. Salina said he would make the adjustment in the Schwarting staffing plan.

Mr. Pascarella then spoke about the 5th grade section at Eastplain and how he thought it could be reduced from three to two sections bringing the class size to 27.5 within the Board guidelines. There was a discussion among the Board and Dr. Salina. Dr Salina

expressed his concerns about any elementary class size over 25, he doesn't recommend it. Mrs. Flanagan asked the rest of the Board if they agreed with Mr. Pascarella. Mrs. Flanagan polled the Board and all the members agreed to keep the classes the way they were projected. Mr. Gustafson and Mr. Szillus said they would like to revisit the class size limits guidelines. Mr. Pascarella then asked if John H. West grade 3 could be reduced to three sections from four. Mrs. Flanagan polled the Board and they all said to keep all the sections. Mr. Pascarella then asked if the Schwarting 3rd grade could be reduced from four to three sections, Mrs. Flanagan polled the Board and they all wanted to keep the four sections.

Enrollment of special education students is decreasing from last year. There will be one more life skills class at John H. West next year. There is one change in Administration, the creation of a new position - Executive Director for Instructional Services. Mrs. Flanagan asked Dr. Salina to explain the focus of this new position. Dr. Salina spoke about all the additional curriculum initiatives, the responsibility for the K-12 STEAM program, ENL programs, AIS/RTI programs, textbook distribution, and continued evaluation responsibilities. Mr. Gustafson stated he hopes there will be more focus on the middle and high school writing and reading program. Mr. Winch explained more about the Teachers College initiative.

Mr. Paris stated that if our enrollment continues to decline maybe the district should consider in future years utilizing a grade level structure. Mrs. Flanagan asked about the demographic study we began last year. Dr. Salina said we should revisit the census information we gathered and have the consultant present that information to the Board. Mr. Pascarella asked if the Board would receive a job description about the Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction and the new Executive Director for Instructional Services position.

IV. Review of Business Agenda

There were no questions.

V. Future Agenda Items

Mr. Gustafson asked if the class size guidelines could be reviewed by the policy committee and then bring back to the Board recommendations.

VI. Opportunity for the Public to be Heard - Question & Answer Period - (On Agenda Items Only)

1. Mrs. Karageorges - she commented on the class size policy, she stated they were developed in the 90's and that it was strictly about saving money and not based on any scientific evidence. Then she stated the policies were revised to add the provision that they were a guideline so Board members could override the finance issue. Mrs. Karageorges asked about the cross contracted students if the home district pays for their transportation. Dr. Salina said yes the

District of Residence pays for transportation. Mrs. Karageorges asked why the Maria Regina cost went up by \$140,000, Dr. Salina responded.

2. Lisa Nancus - she thanked the Board for the transition service coordinator, she was told by guidance and psychologist that her child was too highly functioning and not eligible for services and then she went to a workshop and found that she could receive services if she applied by April 15th. She stated there's a lot of information that isn't readily available to the families. She spoke about all the available supports that people need to know about earlier and all the paperwork involved.

3. Perry Fuchs - he addressed the subject of class size, he said that he could not imagine that with all the initiatives in elementary schools that a class size of 25 or larger would be feasible. He thanked the Board for keeping the smaller class size.

4. Joanne Labella - she felt strongly that the class sizes should remain small and that it would be detrimental to the students, she commended the Board for keeping the class sizes small.

5. Gayle Moran - she commended the Board for keeping the small class sizes, she said her children were in the 25+ class sizes and it was difficult for them, she felt her increase in taxes were worth the small class size.

VII. Adjournment of Public Work Meeting

1. **Motion to:** Adjourn the Public Work session - 9:48 pm

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Debra Grieci, Trustee
SECONDER:	Dennis Gustafson, Trustee
AYES:	Grieci, Pascarella, Flanagan, Gustafson, Paris, Townson, Szillus

VIII. Convene Regular Business Meeting

1. **Motion to:** Open Regular Business Meeting - 9:50pm

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Raymond Paris, Vice President
SECONDER:	Eric Szillus, Trustee
AYES:	Grieci, Pascarella, Flanagan, Gustafson, Paris, Townson, Szillus

IX. Opportunities for Board of Education Members

Mr. Gustafson mentioned attending the art show and said it was excellent. Mr. Paris attended the Schwarting 5th grade play last week and tonight's art show.

X. New Business

Motion to: Accept New Business items #1-12

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Dennis Gustafson, Trustee
SECONDER:	Douglas Pascarella, Trustee
AYES:	Grieci, Pascarella, Flanagan, Gustafson, Paris, Townson, Szillus

1. March 15 Personnel Action Report

RESOLVED, that the Plainedge Board of Education approves the appointments, resignations, terminations, elimination of positions, transfers and leaves of absence as detailed in the Professional Personnel Action Report.

2. Appointment of Acting Clerk

RESOLVED, that the Plainedge Board of Education approves the appointment of Maureen Byrne to serve as Acting Assistant District Clerk for the May 17, 2016 Annual School Budget Vote.

3. Appointment of Election Chairperson

RESOLVED, that Catherine Flanagan be appointed as Election Chairperson for the May 17, 2016 Annual School District Election.

4. Cummins Generator Maintenance Contract

RESOLVED, that the Plainedge Board of Education approves the maintenance and service contract between Plainedge Public Schools and Cummins Electrical for the Plainedge Middle School for March 2016 - March 2019.

5. Dan Christoffel

RESOLVED, that the Plainedge Board of Education approves the contract between Plainedge Public Schools and Dan Christoffel for a visiting artist day for the 2015-2016 school year.

6. Donation - NYSE Brian Moore Scholarship Fund

RESOLVED, that the Plainedge Board of Education approve the donation of \$10,000 from NY Stock Exchange Fallen Heroes Fund for the establishment of the Detective Brian Moore Scholarship Fund.

7. Frank Olt

RESOLVED, that the Plainedge Board of Education approves the contract between Plainedge Public Schools and Frank Olt for a visiting artist day for the 2015-2016 school year.

8. Martin de Porres School

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approves the Agreement between Plainedge Public Schools and Martin de Porres School for tuition for the 2015-2016 school year.

9. Nassau BOCES Board Nominations

RESOLVED, that the Plainedge Board of Education nominates one or more candidates, specifically: Fran Langsner and Robert B.A. Schoen, for a three year term to the Nassau BOCES Board effective July 1, 2016.

10. Notice of Annual Meeting and Election

RESOLVED, that the Plainedge Board of Education hereby gives public notice of the Annual Meeting and Annual Election of Members of the Board of Education to be held on May 17, 2016 in one election district, and directs that this Notice be promulgated and advertised and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that such notice be on file for public inspection with the District Clerk.

11. Obsolete Equipment

RESOLVED, that the Plainedge Board of Education approves the disposal of Obsolete Equipment from Plainedge Public School District for the High School.

12. Premier/School Specialty

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approves the Agreement between Plainedge Public Schools and Premier Agendas to provide student agendas for the elementary schools.

XI. Opportunity for the Public to be Heard - Question & Answer Period

1. Gayle Moran - she asked if enrollment decreases would the Elementary Assistant Principal be reassigned. Then she asked if there was any way the 6th grade would ever go back to the elementary school. Dr. Salina stated that we were not looking at that change currently but anything is possible in the future.

XII. Other

XIII. Adjournment of Regular Business Meeting

The meeting was closed at 10:15 PM

1. **Motion to:** Adjourn Regular Business Meeting - 10:15 pm

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Debra Grieci, Trustee
SECONDER:	Douglas Pascarella, Trustee
AYES:	Grieci, Pascarella, Flanagan, Gustafson, Paris, Townson, Szillus