

**DRAFT**  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Public Work Session**  
**September 8, 2015**

At the Public Work Session of the Board of Education of the Plainedge Union Free School District, Town of Oyster Bay, Nassau County, New York held at Plainedge High School, North Massapequa, New York on September 8, 2015 there were:

<b>Attendee Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Status</b>
Catherine Flanagan	President	Present
Raymond Paris	Vice – President	Present
Debra Grieci	Trustee	Present
Dennis Gustafson	Trustee	Present
Douglas Pascarella	Trustee	Present
Eric Szillus	Trustee	Present
Sisi Townson	Trustee	Present
Dr. Edward A Salina, Jr.	Superintendent	Present
Peter Porrazzo	Interim Assistant Superintendent for Business	Present
Todd Winch	Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction	Present
Dr. Guy LeVaillant	Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources & Instructional Technology	Present
Christopher Dillon	Assistant to Superintendent for Administration & Special Projects	Present

**Public Work Session**

**(It is anticipated that the Board of Education will immediately entertain a motion to convene an executive session for the purpose of discussing an employment matter)**

**Public Work Session Call to Order:**

The Board of Education President, Ms. Catherine Flanagan, opened the Public Work Session meeting at 8:05 PM.

**I. Pledge of Allegiance**

Mrs. Flanagan led those assembled in the Pledge of Allegiance

**II. Superintendent Remarks**

**a. Opening of school**

Dr. Salina explained that each Principal from all Schools in the Plainedge UFSD would be giving a brief summary of the opening of schools in each one of their buildings.

Ms. O’Brien the principal at Easplain Elementary stated that at the Kindergarten level, the program that was created for all entering Kindergarteners went very smoothly, citing a wonderful transition for the children, which included a tour of the building,

meeting the staff, seeing the playground, putting their supplies away and meeting their classmates, all before school even started. She explained that she along with Principal Muscarella and Principal Thearle, will be presenting this Kindergarten program at the Long Island Association of Curriculum & Development in October and that they are all excited to share unique program with everyone.

Principal Thearle said that the first day of school went very smoothly, as did the first week. Everyone came in happy and left happy and thanked Dr. Salina and Ms. Flanagan for being there and that things are going really well so far.

Principal Muscarella stated that she is looking forward to back to school night on September 24th. She said the teachers are gearing up for Back to School night and that she is excited to be part of the Columbia University Teachers writing program, and that she is looking forward to launching it in the schools. Lastly, Principal Muscarella stated that the children are all happy and that things are really good.

Ms. Flanagan asked when the Sail into Kindergarten presentation is and stated that she is excited for it. Principal O'Brien stated that it is October 9<sup>th</sup> and that it is called "Transitioning into Kindergarten best practices"

Principal DeRiso said that the opening of schools this year was the best start ever. He stated that everything went smooth and that it was a great start. He thanked the staff and Board of Education members for being there. Principal DeRiso also spoke in brief about the roll out of the new writing program, Columbia Teachers writing program for new writing classes in 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade as well as the math extensions and a handful of stem classes for the 8<sup>th</sup> graders. He mentioned back to school night happening on September 7<sup>th</sup> and that everyone is looking forward to welcoming the middle school parents. Lastly, Principal DeRiso spoke of the first PTA meeting which would be happening the following Wednesday.

Principal Amster spoke about the PTSA Senior breakfast and thanked the PTA moms and Ms. Flanagan. He stated that there were almost 270 students from the senior class in attendance. Principal Amster spoke about the Freshman Orientation that had been held earlier and the balance of grade level assemblies that were held earlier in the day.

Lastly, Mr. Molnar spoke about the Special Education Departments start to the school year. Dr. Salina congratulated Mr. Molnar for his new position in Carle Place, stating that the children re very lucky and that he will be missed. Mr. Molnar thanked Dr. Salina and stated that Special Education is really a 12 month program. He stated that the start of the new school year really starts in July, where classes are run at the MS over summer. He explained the purpose of having the program run over the summer and stated that it's a full day program over the summer for 6 weeks 5 days a week. Mr. Molnar further explained that there are a lot of out of district students and that this year was the biggest program yet. He congratulated Mr. Maisano for doing such a great job during his first year and thanked all of the building psychologists for the great job that they have been doing. Lastly, Mr. Molnar explained that the teachers are continually being taught new skills to make them all more successful year and he lastly thanked the Board of Education for all of their continued support.

Ms. Flanagan thanked Mr. Molnar for his 8 years of dedicated service to the students and parents of Plainedge.

**b. Introduction of new Nassau County BOCES Superintendent – Dr. R. Dillon**

Dr. Robert Dillon was in attendance at the Public Work Session. Dr. Salina introduced him as the Nassau County New Superintendent and thanked Dr. Dillon for joining.

Dr. Dillon took the floor, addressing the Board of Education and Central Office Administrators, speaking about his background and his hope and plans as the Nassau BOCES Superintendent. He stated that he was glad to be in attendance at the Public Work Session and thanked Dr. Salina and the Board of Education for all that they do for the Plainedge UFSD.

**c. Staff Spotlight – Principal of the Year Award – Mr. Anthony DeRiso**

Dr. Salina spoke about the Principal of the Year award that Principal DeRiso received at the end of the 2014-2015 school year. He spoke about the award, who nominated him and what the nomination stated. After Dr. Salina was finished speaking of these things, he presented Principal DeRiso with a certificate of accomplishment.

**Superintendents Remarks – Dr. Salina**

Dr. Salina spoke in brief about the potential Bus strike, stating that the team has covered what is going on and that the team has analyzed any impact that it might have on the district itself. He covered what is going on, the status of things and what the central administration team is doing to with the potential impact should it happen. Dr. Salina stated that the team is monitoring everything that is happening and will be prepared should something happen; doing whatever is necessary to ensure that the children of Plainedge are taken care of.

Mr. Gustafson asked if there was an option to bring instruction to the student's homes and Dr. Salina stated that it would not be possible as the programs for these students, is too specialized.

**III. Public Work Session**

**a. Elementary School Principal's Report – Opening of School**

See above.

**b. Middle School Principal's Report – Opening of School**

See above

**c. High School Principal's Report – Opening of School**

See above

**d. Special Education Director’s Report – Opening of School**

See above

**e. Director of Health, Physical Education and Athletics Report – Opening of School**

Dr. Salina stated that this presentation would be done in the near future, but that he has been cycling through all of the gyms and fields. Everything is in full swing and while it is still quite hot, the teachers and coaches are doing everything to ensure the safety of the children.

**f. District Enrollment Update – Presented by Dr. Edward Salina**

Dr. Salina stated that there have been 80 new students registered in Plainedge since July 1<sup>st</sup>, being a higher number than last year. Each Board of Education member had a spreadsheet of current enrollment numbers and Dr. Salina went through the spreadsheet to explain the numbers. He went through how many students are in each school and explained how to look at the numbers, stating that the enrollment this year is higher than last year. Dr. Salina stated that at a later date, likely in November the Board would be presented with a look at a 5 year report of what enrollment will potentially look like and how enrollment is going to be managed.

There was a conversation that followed, between members of the Board of Education and Dr. Salina regarding the number of students enrolled, changes to class sizes, addition of classes to the schedule and how it affects the number of teachers that were budgeted for. Dr. Salina stated that staffing is right on schedule.

**g. 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading I Policies**

Dr. Salina went through the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading of all policies, reading what the policies are, some of the changes and the reason for the presentation of such policies.

**h. Fiscal Reports**

No additional questions on the fiscal reports

**IV. New Business**

No new business

**V. Review of Business Agenda**

Mr. Pascarella asked about the transportation contract that was being swapped in with a contract previously approved. Dr. Salina explained why there was a change and what happened.

**Future Agenda Items**

Ms. Grieci asked for something to be incorporated when looking at test scores when looking at HS’s. She stated that there is a list of the top 500’s High Schools in the nation and is interested in knowing what other schools are doing and where Plainedge can improve in order to make this list. Ms. Flanagan addressed the Board of Education and asked if they would like to see this explored further. The Board of

Education was in agreement and this topic is being added to the Future Agenda Items list.

Ms. Townson would like to talk about forming a legislative committee for the state testing. Ms. Flanagan felt forming the committee is a good idea and will add it to the list for the Board of Education retreat. Dr. Salina confirmed that discussing committees ideas can be options that can be discussed during the retreat but that the actual forming of a committee itself and its goals, must be a public discussion.

Mr. Pascarella asked about moving the Board of Education meetings to a smaller room if there is going to be a small turnout. A conversation then followed between Dr. Salina and the Board of Education regarding the revamping of the Board of Education meeting room, the new meeting agenda program and increasing community member attendance at the Board of Education meetings.

**VI. Question & Answer Period (Agenda Items Only)**

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

Mr. Fuchs, president of the PFT addressed the Board of Education regarding a higher number of staff from each school building, attending the Board of Education meetings starting in October.

**X. Adjourn Public Work Session:**

**RESULT: ADOPTED at 9:02 PM**  
**MOVER: Grieci**  
**SECONDER: Gustafson**  
**AYES: Flanagan, Paris, Grieci, Gustafson, Pascarella, Szillus, Townson**

**Caroline Fratrick  
District Clerk**