

Sterling Board of Education
Minutes of the Regular Meeting
November 17, 2020
Cafeteria - 6:00 pm
“EXCELLENCE WITH KINDNESS”

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by F. Bood, Board Chair at 6:09 pm.

Present were: F. Bood, L. Shippee, D. Capobianco, H. Wood, C. Langlois and M. Rouillard.

Also in attendance were: G. Lanza, H. Nickerson, L. Smith, D. Chrzan and D. Zajac

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Public Comment

- T. Shaw, PTO, provided an update. The Meadow Farms fundraiser was extended from 11/19 to 11/30; they have provided masks to students and staff and \$75.00 for playground equipment.
- P. Ryan discussed high school options and information she provided regarding local schools and their high school options.
- C. Kettle presented information on local high school tuition and graduation rates and approximate students broken down by which schools they attend.
- K. Nash discussed allowing students to attend other traditional high schools in addition to Plainfield.
- C. San Souci thanked the Board for everything during these trying times. She asked questions on the status of the Plainfield cooperative agreement and if Woodstock and NFA would be options. She spoke to Amy Fauvreau at Woodstock Academy and the offer for transportation is still valid for the first 3 years. She also spoke to the headmaster at NFA and they would be interested in negotiating a deal. She discussed concerns that S. Veader had since she was unable to attend.
- D. Anforth discussed his concerns regarding bus drivers

IV. Reports and Communications

A. Correspondence

An email was received from S. Veader regarding high school options.

B. Consent Agenda

1. Minutes of Regular Meeting, October 20, 2020
2. Superintendent/Special Education Director’s Report
3. Principal’s Report
4. Clinical Supervisor’s Report
5. Monthly check register

A motion was made by C. Langlois and seconded by M. Rouillard to approve the consent agenda as presented. Vote: All in favor.

C. Budget and Expense Report - 10/31/20

A motion was made by L. Shippee and seconded by M. Rouillard to accept the Budget and Expense report as presented. Vote: All in favor.

D. Plainfield Board of Education Liaison

M. Cartier, Plainfield Liaison, resigned from the Plainfield Board of Education. C. Langlois attended the Plainfield BOE meeting on November 12th. K. DiPietro, Plainfield Superintendent has submitted his resignation effective 6/30/21. They have submitted their All-Hazards School Security & Safety Plan to the State. They have had several cases of COVID including one staff member last week and found most cases were from social gatherings outside of school.

V. Unfinished Business

A. Job Descriptions

A motion was made by M. Rouillard and seconded by D. Capobianco to table the job descriptions and resubmit to the Board with modifications. Vote: 5 in favor; 1 abstained

A motion was made by C. Langlois and seconded by M. Rouillard to add *1st reading of amended Policy#9130 to the Agenda under new business A. Policies.* Vote: All in favor.

A motion was made by L. Shippee and seconded by H. Wood to add *Appointment of Committees on the Agenda following election of officers under New Business A. Election of Officers: A-1.* Vote: All in favor.

B. Plainfield High School Cooperative Agreement

F. Bood reviewed the Cooperative Agreement status and the benefits of a long-term relationship with PHS including a seat on their BOE, Sterling's administrative team at their graduation, curriculum development similar to our middle school and sharing services - OT, PT and S/L. They also offer advanced placement courses and diplomas of distinction such as Early Childhood, CNA and Engineering. He noted that if Sterling was not in a cooperative agreement with PHS, the cost per pupil would go up from \$14,931.00 to \$17,517.90. The other issue is that other high schools may not take all of our students and we need to look at the whole picture when making a decision.

VI. New Business

A. Election of Officers

F. Bood turned the meeting over to G. Lanza for Election of Officers.

A motion was made by C. Langlois and seconded by M. Rouillard to open nominations for 2020/21. Vote: All in favor.

A motion was made by D. Capobianco and seconded by F. Bood to nominate H. Wood for Board Chair.

A motion was made by C. Langlois and seconded by H. Wood to nominate F. Bood to continue as Board Chair.

Vote for Board Chair: H. Wood - 5; F. Bood - 1.

L. Shippee thanked F. Bood for his time and service as Board Chair.

A motion was made by M. Rouillard and seconded by D. Capobianco to nominate L. Shippee as Vice-Chair. Vote: 5 in favor; 1 abstained.

A motion was made by M. Rouillard and seconded by F. Bood to nominate D. Capobianco as Treasurer. Vote: All in favor.

A motion was made by C. Langlois and seconded by F. Bood to nominate M. Rouillard as Vice-Treasurer. Vote: All in favor.

A-1. Appointment of Committees

The meeting was turned over to H. Wood, Board Chair, to appoint Board members to the Budget, Policy and Negotiations Committees.

The following committees were established:

Budget Committee: L. Shippee, M. Rouillard and F. Bood

Policy Committee: H. Wood, D. Capobianco

Negotiations Committee: H. Wood, L. Shippee, D. Capobianco, M. Rouillard, C. Langlois and F. Bood.

B. Policies (1st reading):

- Policy#3010 - Business/Non-Instructional Operations - Goals and Objectives
- Policy#3160 - Business/Non-Instructional Operations - Transfer of Funds Between Categories; Amendments
- Policy#3260 - Business/Non-Instructional Operations - Disposal of Property
- Policy#3320 - Business/Non-Instructional Operations - Purchasing Procedures
- Policy#3541 - Business/Non-Instructional Operations - Transportation
- Policy#9130 - Bylaws of the Board - Board Committees - Standing Committee

A motion was made by D. Capobianco and seconded by L. Shippee to add Policy#3010, Policy#3160, Policy#3260, Policy#3541 and Policy#9130 to the December regular meeting agenda as a 2nd reading and vote. Policy#3320 will be added as a 1st reading at the December meeting. Vote: All in favor.

C. Unaffiliated Staff Resignation

A motion was made by D. Capobianco and seconded by F. Bood to accept the resignation of F. Coderre, School Nurse. Vote: All in favor.

D. Line Item Transfers

A motion was made by L. Shippee and seconded by D. Capobianco to approve the transfer of \$91,829.00 out of A.6110.561.01.00.73 Tuition Plainfield and transfer into A.6110.561.05.00.73 Tuition: Magnet, QMC, Stem. Vote: All in favor.

VII. Recommendations, Questions and/or Comments

F. Bood asked how Plainfield field trips balance out to the town and was told it is not considered revenue.

H. Wood asked if a microphone could be set up for Board meetings and for a copy of the staff handbook.

L. Shippee asked for copies of written communication from public comment. She also asked for a listing of all staff assignments, including bus drivers.

VIII. Public Comment

- C. Kettle presented a 2020/21 Parish Hill High School profile report.
- M. Rouillard, driver, discussed routing software and contact tracing software.
- K. San Souci discussed Plainfield being the only high school option.
- T. Shaw asked if she could request to the Board that her child attend NFA.
- The Board determined to schedule a workshop regarding high school options and invite parents. The workshop will be scheduled and a notice will be emailed to parents and put on the school website.

IX. Executive Session

A motion was made by L. Shippee and seconded by M. Rouillard to go into executive session at 8:00 pm for the purpose of unaffiliated contract negotiations; superintendent evaluation. Vote: All in favor.

Present during executive session: H. Wood, L. Shippee, D. Capobianco, M. Rouillard, C. Langlois and F. Bood. Also in attendance: G. Lanza.

The Board exited executive session at 8:45 pm.

A motion was made by C. Langlois and seconded by F. Bood to approve the unaffiliated contract of L. Smith. Vote: All in favor.

A motion was made by C. Langlois and seconded by F. Bood to accept the unaffiliated contract of D. Zajac with possible amendment of 3% annuity. Vote: All in favor.

A motion was made by L. Shippee and seconded by D. Capobianco that the Superintendent refused to accept her evaluation because it was not done by June 30th. Vote: All in favor.

X. Adjournment

A motion was made by F. Bood and seconded by C. Langlois to adjourn the meeting at 8:48 pm. Vote: All in favor.