

**PLAINFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**MINUTES**  
**ANNUAL MEETING – MARCH 8, 2014**

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At a legal meeting of the voters of the School District of Plainfield, Moderator Paul Franklin called the meeting to order at 10:02 am on Saturday, March 8, 2014, at the Plainfield School in the Village of Meriden in said Plainfield.

Reverends Susan and John Gregory-Davis opened the meeting with words of affirmation from graduates of Plainfield Elementary School, Lebanon High School and Kimball Union Academy. The thoughtful, caring and respectful spirit of these affirmations will inspire us through the next few hours of deliberation.

Attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance lead by John MacNamara.

The Moderator introduced the School District Clerk (Myra Ferguson), School Board (Kate Whybrow DVM, Mike Sutherland, Chris Forman, Christie Danen, Brian Garfield), District Counsel (David Bradley, Esq.) and Professional Staff (Superintendent Greg Vogt, PhD, Principal Ellen Langsner, Special Education Director Laura Spratt, and School Finance Beth Bierwirth)

The Moderator explained the rules of the meeting and read the statement by Myra Ferguson, School District Clerk of Plainfield, NH, that hereby certifies that on the 12th day of February, 2014, the posting of the true and attested copy of the within warrant at the Plainfield School, the Meriden and Plainfield Town Halls and Libraries, said locations being public places within the district—notarized by Michelle Marsh, Notary Public on February 12, 2014.

The Moderator then read the Certification of Posting and Certification of the Checklist, noting that 1,553 names were listed on the Checklist.

A motion was made by Richard Atkinson and seconded by Boone Rondeau to dispense with the reading of the entire warrant. The vote, by voice, was in the affirmative, and it was so declared.



**ARTICLE I:** The following resolution was offered by Chris Forman and seconded by Brian Garfield that it be adopted.

*Resolved:* That the District accept the reports of Agents, Auditors, Committees and other officers as printed in the 2014 annual report.

The vote, by voice, was in the affirmative, and it was so declared.







**ARTICLE III:** The following resolution was offered, moved by Brian Garfield and seconded by Christie Danen, that it be adopted.

*Resolved:* To see if the District will approve the cost items included in the two-year, collective bargaining agreement reached during good-faith negotiations between the Plainfield School Board and the Plainfield Support Staff Association which calls for the increase in support staff salaries and benefits:

Year	Estimated Increase
2014-2015	\$16,227
2015-2016	\$20,159

The above sums represent the additional costs attributed to the increase in salaries and benefits over those of the appropriation at current staffing levels paid in the prior fiscal year.

Brian Garfield presented slides #16 and #17 in support of the adoption of Article III. The slides demonstrated 1) the dollar impact of the Support Staff contract for a two-year duration and 2) the comparison of Plainfield’s support staff to Claremont’s and Lebanon’s support staff salaries.

The floor was then open to debate and discussion. Questions were asked by residents and answered by Board members.

The vote for Article III by secret ballot resulted in:

<b>YES 132</b>	<b>NO 62</b>
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The vote was in the affirmative, the resolution adopted, and it was so declared.



**ARTICLE IV:** The following resolution was offered, moved by Mike Sutherland and seconded by Kate Whybrow that it be adopted.

*Resolved:* To see if the District will approve the cost items included in the two-year, collective bargaining agreement reached during good-faith negotiations between the Plainfield School Board and the Plainfield Education Association which calls for the increase in teacher salaries and benefits:

Year	Estimated Increase
2014-2015	\$51,495
2015-2016	\$55,116

The above sums represent the additional costs attributed to the increase in salaries and benefits over those of the appropriation at current staffing levels paid in the prior fiscal year.

Mike Sutherland presented slides #18 and #19 in support of the adoption of Article IV. The slides demonstrated 1) the dollar impact of the Teacher contract for a two-year duration and 2) the comparison of Plainfield’s teaching staff to Claremont, Cornish, Grantham, Lebanon, Lyme and Hanover’s teaching staff salaries.

The floor was then open to debate and discussion. Questions were asked by residents and answered by Board members and school administrators.

The vote for Article IV by secret ballot resulted in:

**YES 114**

NO 76

The vote was in the affirmative, the resolution adopted, and it was so declared.



Moderator Franklin recessed the meeting for lunch at 1:00 pm to resume at 1:45 PM.



Board Chair Forman acknowledged three teaching staff members retiring on June 31, 2014: Larry Wolken, Julie Perkins and Betsey Rybeck-Lynd These three teachers, each with more than thirty years apiece—more than 100 years added together—received a round of applause, a bouquet each and much appreciation for their contributions to our school. Principal Ellen Langsner received, after nine years of service with our school, words of appreciation, a bouquet and a standing ovation. Chair Forman also voiced appreciation for Emily Chapin, with the school for sixteen years and a member of our Support Staff, also retires this school year.



**ARTICLE V:** The following resolution was offered, moved by Kate Whybrow and seconded by Mike Sutherland that it be adopted.

*Resolved:* To see if the District will vote to establish an A.R.E.A. Agreement Committee whose purpose will be to study the current A.R.E.A. Tuition Agreement between SAU #32 and SAU #88.

Kate Whybrow explained slide number #20 where the current A.R.E.A. was where, among other things, tuition is now more easily predicted from year-to-year and stressing that periodic review of this agreement is wise. Mike Sutherland explained slide #21 by highlighting the composition, charge and timeline of the proposed A.R.E.A. Agreement Committee.

The floor was then open to debate and discussion. Questions were asked by residents and answered by Board members.

The vote for Article V, by voice, was in the affirmative, and it was so declared.



**ARTICLE VI:** The following resolution was offered, moved by Chris Forman and seconded by Christie Danen that it be adopted with an amendment that deleted the word “up to” before the \$85,000 sum.

*Resolved:* To see if the District will vote to establish a full-day Kindergarten program at the Plainfield School commencing on the first school day of FY 15; and to see if the District

will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$85,000 (Eighty-five thousand dollars) for the purpose of funding the cost items associated with a full-day Kindergarten program.

Chris Forman, using slide #22, asked for the town's opinion regarding the merits of the addition of a full-day kindergarten to the school. The floor was then open to debate and discussion. Questions were asked by residents and answered by Board members and school administrators.

The vote for Article VI by secret ballot resulted in:

YES 62

**NO 102**

The vote was in the negative, the resolution was not adopted, and it was so declared.



**ARTICLE VII:** The following resolution was offered, moved by Christie Danen and seconded by Brian Garfield that it be adopted.

*Resolved:* To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$40,000 (forty thousand dollars) to be placed in the Special Education and Tuition Reserve Fund created in 2000 pursuant to RSA 35:1-c, for the purpose of either special education expenses or tuition expenses or both.

Christie Danen, using slide # 23, explained the motion on the floor. One clarification question was asked regarding how much money is currently in this trust. The Special Education and Tuition Reserve Fund as of this date contains \$196,300.

The vote for Article VII by secret ballot resulted in:

**YES 81**

NO 24

The vote was in the affirmative, the resolution adopted, and it was so declared.



**ARTICLE VIII:** The following resolution was offered, moved by Kate Whybrow and seconded by Chris Forman that it be adopted.

*Resolved:* To see if the District will vote to establish a Committee whose purpose will be to study possible collaboration opportunities with the Cornish School District.

Kate Whybrow explained the motion using slides # 24 and # 25. However, no discussion followed.

The vote for Article VIII, by voice, was in the affirmative, and it was so declared.



**ARTICLE IX:** The following resolution was offered, moved by Christie Danen and seconded by Kate Whybrow that it be adopted.

*Resolved:* That the District vote to instruct the moderator to appoint a finance committee (advisory only) of six Plainfield residents to advise the School Board in the area of the School District budget.

The vote for Article XI, by voice, was in the affirmative, and it was so declared.



**ARTICLE X:** Other Business

*Resolved:* To transact any other business that may come before this meeting.

Stephen Taylor made a motion to adjourn and it was seconded by Steve Beaupré

The vote for Article X, by voice, was in the affirmative, and it was so declared.



Moderator Paul Franklin adjourned the School District meeting at 3:32 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

*Myra Ferguson*

Plainfield School District Clerk