

Pleasantville School District
Board of Education Work/Action Meeting
Tuesday, September 14, 2010
5:04 P.M.
MINUTES – REVISED OCTOBER 1, 2010

CALL TO ORDER – Mrs. Doris Graves, Board President

This meeting is called to order in the Pleasantville High School Cafeteria, 701 Mill Road, with the Board of Education, City of Pleasantville, in the County of Atlantic, that adequate notice has been given in compliance with Chapter 231, of the Laws of 1976. The Press of Atlantic City, the Absecon and Pleasantville Current and the Mainland Journal were properly notified. Also posted in the Administrative Office and filed with the City Clerk in the City of Pleasantville within the time required by said act.

Present: Ms. Harriet Jackson, Mrs. Darleen Bey-Blocker, Mrs. Joanne Famularo, Mr. Johnny McClellan, Mr. Paul Moore, Jr., Ms. Melanie Griffin, Ms. Ethel Seymore, Mrs. Doris Graves.

ALSO PRESENT: Dr. Gloria Grantham, Dr. Garnell Bailey, Mr. James Riehman, Mr. Damon Tyner, Mr. Raymond Hamlin, Board Solicitors.

Roll Call

Ms. Jackson	Yes
Mrs. Bey-Blocker	Yes
Ms. Famularo	Yes
Mr. McClellan	Yes
Mr. Moore	Yes
Ms. Griffin	Yes
Mr. Royal	Absent
Mrs. Seymore	Yes
Mrs. Graves	Yes

MOTION TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION at 5:06 P.M. was made by Ms. Famularo and seconded by Ms. Griffin. IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the Pleasantville Board of Education may go into closed or private session from which the public shall be excluded in accordance with the provision as set forth in N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 and 10:4-13. The following subjects shall be discussed on this date in the session of the board closed to the public: **PERSONNEL, PUPIL MATTER, PENDING AND ANTICIPATED LITIGATION. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the discussion in closed session will be disclosed to the public at this time or a future meeting of the Board when it is no longer necessary to maintain the confidential nature of the items discussed.

Roll Call
 Ms. Jackson Yes
 Mrs. Bey-Blocker Yes
 Ms. Famularo Yes
 Mr. McClellan Yes
 Mr. Moore Yes
 Ms. Griffin Yes
 Mr. Royal Absent
 Mrs. Seymore Yes
 Mrs. Graves Yes

EIGHT YES, MOTION PASSES

Mr. Royal arrived at 5:26

MOTION TO COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 6:10 PM was made by Ms. Griffin and seconded by Mrs. Bey-Blocker.

Roll Call
 Ms. Jackson Yes
 Mrs. Bey-Blocker Yes
 Ms. Famularo Yes
 Mr. McClellan Yes
 Mr. Moore Yes
 Ms. Griffin Yes
 Mr. Royal Yes
 Mrs. Seymore Yes
 Mrs. Graves Yes

NINE YES, MOTION PASSES

MR. PAUL MOORE –

Flag Salute and Moment of Silence

REPORT OF THE BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR –

- Report given by Elisha Thompson, Comptroller/Assistant Board Secretary
- Mold – to be discussed by Superintendent.
- Several grants need to be approved tonight.

REPORT OF THE STATE MONITOR – JAMES RIEHMAN –

No report tonight.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR – DR. GLORIA GRANTHAM

- Second week of 2010-2011 school year.
- Moved 600 Leeds Avenue students to three other elementary schools and the middle school.
- Leeds Avenue School closed and parents and public notified by robo-call, The Press, Channel 2 and our web site about the mold spores present.
- Coastal Environment – Mary Lee
 - Started on the 1st floor – presently on-going.
 - 2nd and 3rd floors have been cleaned and air quality is perfect. Have also cleaned the Auditorium and the gymnasium.
 - All room unit ventilators have been cleaned and tested.
 - Three turned up with some residual mold.
 - The three are being re-cleaned and retested. Results expected Thursday.
 - The 2nd and 3rd floors can be reopened on Friday if all tests are good.
 - The 1st floor will be done Friday, tested on Monday and results should be back on Tuesday.
 - Negative air flow from 1st to 2nd and 3rd floors.
 - All furniture has been cleaned.
 - Only problem on 1st floor are books and personal items which have been bagged and will be dealt with personally.
- Third week of school starting assessment of all students K thru 12.
- Same type assessment as last year for K thru 2nd. For 3rd thru 8th and 9th thru 12th grade we have same test.
- Working on developing students' citizenship as well as scholarship.
- Working at High School to develop the Band.
- Focusing on academic programs and aligning with State curriculum.
- According to State assessments, Washington Ave. was the only school to make progress last year.
- Heavy focus on reading and math as well as citizenship and scholarship.
- Superintendent's message on Channel 2 each week.

MRS. ETHEL SEYMORE –

- Commended Mrs. Lisa Stuart-Smith and her staff for the job they did at the Leeds Avenue School.
- Mrs. Joan Robinson and parents all worked together and should also be commended.

DR. GRANTHAM –

- We have commended the staff for coming together and helping out.
- The staff gave up their holiday weekend, working Saturday, some on Sunday and all day Monday.
- We commended the host schools for hosting and welcoming the students.
- The County Superintendent and two members of his staff came in and visited every host school and every classroom used for the Leeds Avenue children.
- They commended everyone for moving the children judiciously and without incident to their other school.

MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES DATED June 22, 2010 and July 27, 2010. We had no minutes for August 24, 2010; the meeting was dismissed at 6:50 because we had a lack of a quorum. The Executive Board minutes that have been presented are wrong and must be corrected before they can be presented.

DISCUSSION

- Mrs. Famularo – Page 24-25 motion to send the State a letter -voted no on June 22, 2010.
- Should be 7 yes votes not 5.
- Mrs. Graves recorded as no, she voted yes.
- Mr. Royal made a Motion that approving minutes be tabled until changes are made.
- Motion not required.
- Mrs. Graves to check with each Board Member regarding any changes to minutes and report changes to Mr. Thompkins.
- Board minutes should be given to Board Members within two weeks of meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS -

Please limit comments to three minutes and all comments should be courteous and professional. Please state your name and address.

LAKEISH WILLIAMS – Leeds Avenue

- How long before children return to Leeds Avenue.

DR. GRANTHAM –

- We have realized an additional day will be needed for teachers to set up the classrooms for a smooth transition.
- A few items still need to be addressed as previously reported by Mary Lee.
- Presently looks like Thursday, at the latest Friday, for four kindergarten classes and all first thru fifth grade children.

SHANTAE ANDERSON –

- Discussion with Dr. Grantham.
- Expressed displeasure with Dr. Grantham's attitude during discussion.
 - Over-talked her.
 - Talked down to her.
 - Disrespected her.
 - Went around every question.
 - Politic the whole time.
- Question – When can someone sit down and discuss a mother's concerns for her asthmatic children and a nephew who attend Leeds Avenue.

DR. GRANTHAM –

- Differ on recollection of conversation.
- Present were Shanté Anderson and one other person.

- Requested if you felt that way I wish you had told me at the time and we could have set up an appointment.

SHANTE' ANDERSON –

- I did and you walked away from me.
- You entered the house next door to Leeds Avenue.
- When it was clear that we are not coming to a common ground, I stated I would see you at the Board Meeting.
- I went to shake your hand, you looked me up and down and you walked away.

DR. GRANTHAM –

You'll have to forgive me. I don't remember any of that.

SHANTE' ANDERSON –

Now you don't recall. Everybody else recalls.

DR. GRANTHAM –

Let me just say this, if this is about you being upset with me, I have no problem apologizing.

SHANTE' ANDERSON –

This is about the way things were handled. Let's do one thing at a time. You are over-talking me again and I have the mike, thank you very much.

DR. GRANTHAM –

Do you want an answer?

SHANTE' ANDERSON –

Thank you very much.

DR. GRANTHAM –

Go right ahead.

SHANTE' ANDERSON –

- Several parents present at school did not get a call from this robo-list. They had no clue what was going on at Leeds Avenue.
- That first week it was chaotic. It was total chaos.
- The last couple of days it has gotten better thanks to Ms. Stuart-Smith and her staff.
- The children were nervous, crying, even the big kids didn't know what was going on. The parents were in the dark. Nobody knew anything and I came to the boss and I feel like I should have been treated with a little more respect than I was.
- But see, for me, it was about my children going to Leeds Avenue and their health.

- It wasn't about you over-talking me or being put down or anything like that and that is where you took it.
- I just don't understand that since you are a professional and holding the seat you are holding.

DR. GRANTHAM –

All I can tell you is that I don't remember that conversation.

SHANTE' ANDERSON –

You don't recall.

DR. GRANTHAM –

- If you are interested in speaking with me, I would be happy to speak with you.
- If you think that I spoke down to you, allow me to apologize. I have no reason to speak down to you.
- I don't remember that part of our conversation.
- I remember your explanations and introducing your son.

SHANTE' ANDERSON –

I told you it was my nephew.

DR. GRANTHAM –

- You also said he had asthma and we talked about those things that trigger asthma.
- You stated that you worked at a health profession and that you knew a lot about asthma.

SHANTE' ANDERSON –

That is funny. You recall a lot about our conversation, except the part about you being rude.

DR. GRANTHAM –

- Exactly, while I don't remember being rude, but let me again apologize if you think I was rude.
- Please accept my apology.
- Please make an appointment at any time.

VALERIE STONE – California Apartments

- Staff and Principal at Leeds Avenue have been wonderful through this whole chaotic episode.
- Today – Twins in kindergarten were separated in two different schools – One twin arrived and second bus late. The second twin was sent to the Landings. He finally arrived very upset.
- Yesterday – Buses late 1 ½ to 2 hours late. They never arrived at the school they went to aftercare.

- Felt there is a problem when children are separated and discussed with Dr. Grantham previous to school starting.
- During discussion with Dr. Grantham she felt:
 - Over-talked
 - Interrupted
 - Talked down to.
- Does believe that Dr. Grantham doesn't understand how she comes off to people.
- In 2003, my son was at Leeds Avenue School and there was a problem with the mold then. He had to leave the district for a couple of months and then returned. That was eight years ago. The mold has never been addressed. It has gotten progressively worse and here we are today.
- I am concerned that we get on top of this problem for everyone's health.
- People have been present in this school for years and have had many health issues. Mold is a dangerous health issue and I just hope we take this seriously.
- Everybody should work together and stop pointing fingers and get to the point of trying to get everything back on track and establish some type of routine for everybody.
- It is just not fair, covering for yourself and pointing fingers.
- After my son left the District, I had an Administrator ask why I was still concerned about mold and asking questions.
- In 2002-03, there was not a bus for Leeds Avenue to transport children from the Landings and California Apartments. I went to Speedy Marsh and a few other people who met and obtained a bus because the children had to cross Route 9 with no sidewalk. That same Administrator said to me that you can't do this by yourself, you need to rally up the parents and get people to speak up.
- Surprised and disappointed more parents not present.
- Will continue to be an advocate for the children.
- Many people were not notified about the meeting. I attended for my daughter.
- This is so unfair. The repercussions could have been avoided if this had been handled previously.

DENISE GORDY – 408 Nevada Avenue

- Only concern was my daughter who attends Leeds Avenue School and After Care.
- I went to pick her up at South Main Street School. I went into panic alarm.
 - Rang the doorbell, no-one came.
 - Banged on the door for 15 minutes, no one came.
 - The sign said to go to the front door across from the library. I could not get my child.
 - It is now ½ hour later.
 - Should I call the Cops, no one answered at the school.
- Why did I not receive instructions to go to the door in the back?
- Apologized to teachers she talked to that day since she was still upset and her child is very upset about the school change.

DR. GRANTHAM –

I am sorry this happened to you. We will take care of it.

DAVID A. KONTRA – Lawyer in Atlantic City

- Thanked Board for serving.
- School Board laws explicitly state that it is an ethical violation to have members of the family working in the same school district when you are a Board Member.
- There are a number of Board Members who have a number of family members working in the school district in violation of this rule.
- This issue was addressed previously.

KELLY ALI – 1908 McKinley Avenue

- Present for conversation between Dr. Grantham and Shantae Anderson.
- From the first day there was chaos.
- Never received a phone call and was never informed of problem.
- Dr. Grantham stated that the mold problem has been going on for 15 years.
- Why is it still going on?
- How frequently will you be checking for mold in the future?

DR. GRANTHAM –

That is a great question. As I mentioned, the environmentalist is here and she can give us some insight into that. Let me just.....

KELLY ALI –

When did you notice that there was mold in that school before August 1, 2010?

DR. GRANTHAM –

I have been here since July of 2009.

KELLY ALI –

You previously stated that the first notice was August 1, 2010.

DR. GRANTHAM –

- Let me go back and tell you what I know.
- We had some tests done.
- Report came back in February stating there was mold.

KELLY ALI –

- Knew in February that there was mold in the school
- You did not decide then to shut the school and disperse the children.

DR. GRANTHAM –

- I am going to let the environmentalist explain that.
- We had a recommendation at that time to have the work done when the children were out of school.

MRS. DORIS GRAVES –

Dr. Grantham, it is citizen participation now. Let them finish, please.

KELLY ALI –

Every time she talks she is making it worse for the Board. I am being honest. How do you notice mold in February and you don't decide then to shut down the school, get it completely cleaned out and then bring the children back.

DR. GRANTHAM –

We knew in February that the mold was in one classroom and it was contained. Mary Lee would you like to speak?

KELLY ALI –

- It was contained!
- My child just started in September.
- My family is well known and they have been teachers forever. I have never seen anything like this in my life.
- If you knew this, why not inform parents when a problem occurs whether it was a small or large problem.
- I had to find out about the mold on the news the day before school opened. My Grandmother informed me about the problem.

DR. GRANTHAM –

- That is not quite true.
- Unfortunately, technically it was not considered "Quote" a mold problem in February like we had in August.
- There was indication of mold above the ceiling, if I am correct on this, and it was contained and the air quality was clean.
- Air quality was tested and the company recommended the work be done when the school year ended.

KELLY ALI –

From February to August the mold spread throughout the entire building from the 1st to the 2nd to the 3rd floor.

DR. GRANTHAM –

That is not true either.

KELLY ALI –

- Where is the mold? Please tell me. I need to know.
- How do you go from one room contained to 1st, 2nd and 3rd floors contaminated?

- Humidity! So summer starts June, July so it must have spread in June and July. Is that correct?

MARY LEE – COASTAL ENVIRONMENTAL

- Air quality testing was performed in February.
- There were no high levels.
- The mold was above the ceiling tiles on the pipe rack that insulates the chiller lines.
- The ceiling is not part of the ventilation system and it was contained.
- As such, it did not affect the air quality.
- I did testing, there was nothing.
- We waited until the summer because we knew this would be a several week long project.
- We have done testing ever since. I have now tested every part of the building.
- I have not had one bad reading even though there is visible mold. You can have visible mold and it doesn't yet affect the air quality. It has to get to a certain level.
- In August, the 1st floor did not look like it did in February.
- First did walk through in July and from July to August condition changed.
- High humidity during this time.
- Presently investigating unit ventilators and discussing work on those unit ventilators so that they dehumidify properly.
- Future plans are to control the temperature and the humidity in the room. The unit ventilators are as old as the building and they need repair. We have contacted a mechanical contractor to check each unit. Maintenance and inspection will be done.

AUDIENCE:

- I am a parent and I'm listening to what she is saying and it is making a lot of sense.
- I wish that we could have spoken to her when this problem first occurred. It would have put a lot of parents a lot more at ease.
- I'm sitting here and I'm looking at the Board and 90% of you all are just looking disinterested. Like this is not a major issue.

MRS. DORIS GRAVES –

- You are looking at the Board and we are looking at you.
- The Board did not know anything about the mold situation. We found out just like you.

QUESTION –

How did you not know?

MRS. DORIS GRAVES –

We are not looking disinterested. We did not know.

QUESTION –

- The Superintendent knew. If the Superintendent knew why didn't the Board know?
- If the board did not know about the mold question, why is she still here?
- You knew about the problem in February.

DR. GRANTHAM –

- I found out about the problem in late August.
- As you heard, the problem escalated, this was not the problem when your children left us in June.
- Again, it was one classroom in February, it was contained. So we were to do.....

QUESTION –

- Mrs. Graves, this Board is supposed to represent the Pleasantville area.
- If your Superintendent is not informing you of a problem whether it is a small or large mold problem, which she stated happened 15 years ago, why is she up here?
- She is very rude, she cuts people off, and she is not informative, what is her position here?
- If the parents had a vote or some of these teachers had a vote, she would not be standing up there.

MICHELE ARCHIE –

- I am here because I have been a parent liaison for 5 years at the Pleasantville Middle School and was treated unfairly and discriminated against. Please allow me to explain.
- On Wednesday, September 8, in a casual conversation, I was asked, "Am I all right with a transfer to Leeds Avenue School."

MRS. DORIS GRAVES –

- Mr. Archie you are still an employee here.
- Would you please take that up with the Superintendent?

MICHELE ARCHIE –

I have already met with the Superintendent.

DR. GRANTHAM –

- Ms. Archie I believe you agreed to have this discussed in the public session.
- What that means is that the Board would discuss it and you would hear it.

MICHELE ARCHIE –

It doesn't mean that I can speak?

DR. GRANTHAM –

It is a process, if you would like me to explain it to the Board you may listen to that and the public has privy to that information.

MICHELE ARCHIE –

When do I get to explain my side of the story?

DR. GRANTHAM –

That is not a part of it. You get to hear it discussed in the public session and then of course you always have the opportunity to meet with your representatives and if you choose to grieve it then you would do that internally.

MR. HAMLIN –

- Meeting open to the public.
- If members of the public choose to come up to speak involving their personnel matters and they have elected to have a discussion from the Board involving themselves, we cannot prohibit employees from talking about anything. That is against the law.

DR. GRANTHAM -

- There is policy that speaks to that. If you wish to violate your policy that is fine. She can speak as the public.

MR. HAMLIN –

- The Board has indicated that there is a portion of your meetings for people to talk about public matters.
- You can't pick and choose as to who talks about what. It is their election to talk about anything, presumably, which is related to the Board.
- So I am not going to sit here and tell you the law prohibits you from communicating to the Board when the Board has indicated through its policy and through its practices and its meetings that there is a session, an opportunity, for members of the public.

DR. GRANTHAM -

There is a policy, Mr. Hamlin, we have that policy pulled, but go ahead.

MICHELE ARCHIE –

- On Wednesday, September 8, in a casual conversation, I was asked, "Am I all right with a transfer to Leeds Avenue School?"
- I was shocked, stunned and appalled.
- I had no knowledge of the transfer.
- Later that morning in the hallway when the children were walking through the hallway, my building principal came to me and said, "Can I talk to you?"
- I said yes. She stated I was being transferred. The Superintendent said you are being transferred to Leeds.
- I asked when this had occurred.

- Could not get a straight answer.
- I work at the Middle School and have been there longer than any of my co-workers who work there and have been here longer than one of them in the District.
- This is back door dealing and unfair treatment.
- I requested a meeting with Dr. Grantham on September 8, 2010.
- On September 9th, I received a certified letter that stated I would be discussed tonight at the School Board Meeting.
- On Friday, September 10th, I met with Dr. Grantham and Mrs. White. I was told by Dr. Grantham I was being moved because my granddaughter attends the Middle School and it was nepotism.
- There are over 30 employees who work in the same office and the same building with a family member yet it is nepotism for me.
- Nepotism in the workplace occurs when the employees favor relatives and make employment decisions. That is what nepotism is.
- As I continued to talk to the Superintendent, she said that they had to move somebody and because one of my co-workers is bi-lingual, I had to be the one to be transferred.
- Another one of my co-workers does the band. She couldn't be moved.
- From the date of hire 5 years ago until now, September 8th, bi-lingual was not a requirement in my job description. Am I being discriminated against?
- Madam President and the Board please rescind this transfer. Allow me to remain at the Middle School where I have developed a relationship with the children and the parents and this year I have moved along with my children from last year.
- If you are going to transfer me for nepotism, then all 30 people need to be moved. Not just me.

DR. GRANTHAM -

- Ms. Archie, I can assure you I don't know you, so it is not personal.
- The reason that you are being moved is as I previously explained to you.
- Did you want to share that part of it, or do you want me to?

MICHELE ARCHIE –

Share it, share it.

DR. GRANTHAM -

- We have 600 children at Leeds Avenue School and we have one parent liaison.
- There are 600 children at the Middle School. We have three parent liaisons.
- We need to take one parent liaison from the Middle School so that Leeds Avenue is covered.

MICHELE ARCHIE –

- Agreed someone was needed at the Leeds Ave. School.
- Decision should be made in the right way.

- What criteria were used to arrive at the conclusion to move me? That is what I asked you in the meeting.
- At the meeting you said my granddaughter was the criteria.

DR. GRANTHAM -

I said I considered that last year because you were in the same school with your granddaughter.

MICHELE ARCHIE –

- There are 30 other people that are in the same school with their family members.
- You have a security guard that works at the Middle School who has two kids there. So that is not nepotism for her, but it is nepotism for me.

DR. GRANTHAM -

- We discussed that. I did not say that was the criteria for this move.
- If you recall, we discussed that. I said this was a discussion.
- Well the discussion I shared with you was that I would not move the Spanish speaking parent liaison because we have approximately 49% of our student population speaking Spanish.
- I also explained to you that we will be moving to affirmative action rather than equal opportunity for appointment. That was all a part of our discussion.
- We must bring more bi-lingual people on board in the district.
- Now the reason that you were selected and I did have this discussion also with Ms. White, but part of the reason that you were selected was because I did not wish to move the bi-lingual person or the person for the smaller community of performing arts, and that is why you were chosen to move.

MICHELE ARCHIE –

- But it is not fair.
- If you go by seniority, it is not fair.
- Doesn't Leeds Avenue have bi-lingual children?

DR. GRANTHAM -

Leeds Avenue does have bi-lingual students.

MICHELE ARCHIE –

The Middle School already has two office bi-lingual people.

DR. GRANTHAM -

- Can I end this conversation and can we continue?
- This is not a court of law; I must remind you of that.
- You are still an employee.

MICHELE ARCHIE –

No, I am an employee, but I have a right to speak and I don't want to feel that I am being brushed to the side and everything is going to be forgotten.

DR. GRANTHAM -

- That is the reason I invited you to make an appointment.
- You have explained it now or if you have more to say please feel free.

MICHELE ARCHIE –

Board; please reconsider this transfer because it was not done fairly. Thank you.

MR. ARCHIE –

- When my wife comes home upset and crying; I have to come in and speak in her defense as well.
- She explained to me that she is being moved because one of the criteria is my granddaughter, who has Down syndrome, is in the district. My wife was working in the district before my granddaughter came to the Middle School. Now when she arrives to the Middle school they say she has to leave because my granddaughter constitutes nepotism.
- Nepotism can only come when someone is in the position of authority with the power to hire and fire. My wife does not have that power. Her paycheck doesn't indicate that she has the ability or the power to hire or fire. So therefore that should not be the reason.
- My wife was here before the Spanish speaking individual and speaking Spanish was not in her job description, however she must now move.
- Using that criteria, if we have an influx of Haitian students and someone comes in who speaks Spanish, English and Haitian, should the Spanish speaking person be moved?
- Notice of move was not handled in a professional manner.
- The bond developed between students and Mrs. Archie should have been considered. The move was not done in a fair manner.

MELISA ANDREWS – Marina DelRay

- I have three children that attend Leeds Avenue and I have a couple of questions and concerns about it.
- Today the buses were very very late. They came about 4:00 P.M. and children walk.
- When I drove by no crossing guard was present on Main Street.
- This is a serious hazard for the children.
- Is there anything being done about the late arrival of buses?
- Main concern is the health of students. One son has an allergy to mold and asthma.
- Also concerned about the education of children and what will happen if on Friday the problem has not been solved.

DR. GRANTHAM –

- Yes, that was brought to my attention.
- Crossing guards leave at 4:00 P.M. For the duration of this present schedule, we will have additional guards present.
- I will address education of students in a few minutes.

VERNON WALKER – Reading Avenue

- Has a child attending Leeds Ave. and I am frustrated because of the mold.
- Did research on line and found that in 2001 mold was found in Leeds Avenue School.
- Teacher was highly affected, also students had health problems.
- What happened from 2001 to 2010 to solve this problem?
- Buses not arriving until 4:00 P.M. have caused many problems for parents with jobs and small children.
- Who dropped the ball this time and will that person be held accountable? The principal reported mold and we were told it would be taken care of in August.

END OF DISC ONE

DR. GRANTHAM –

- I closed school on Saturday afternoon at 4:00 P.M. because there were reports of mold and I refused, no matter how unpopular the move, to allow your children and my staff to go into that building.
- My staff came in and we put through a strategic plan on Saturday.
- While I am unpopular with you as parents, please know this about everything that was said here tonight.
 - One, I do have your children's best interest at heart and that is why the school is closed.
 - If you need someone to hang out there because you are angry about mold, you must know that eventually it is all going to come out. All I am asking you to do is be patient because I am trying to run a very transparent administration. I will hold nothing back from you but it is very easy to jump to conclusions. It is very easy to hear little bits and pieces of information, try to put those bits and pieces of information together to come out so that you have a scapegoat.
 - I am not interested in a scapegoat right now. I do know what the problem was. I don't know that that problem is necessarily public business.
 - What you need to know is, is my child safe,
 - Is the building clean? I can assure you that Leeds Avenue will be the cleanest building in the district air-wise.
 - So if we need a couple more days, I am asking again that you be patient.
 - But let me say this to each of you. Your children are so important to me and my staff is so important to me and I do love them dearly. If you feel that you have been harmed by any conversation by me make an

appointment and come to see me and get to know me. But I want to say something else to you.

- I hope that after the mold problem is over that the Leeds Avenue parents will continue to be involved with the education of their children. We invite you all to attend PTA and PTO meetings and work with the school to improve the education of the children.
- Ms. Archie, Mr. Archie if you wish to join her, you can feel free to come and see me in my office and we can continue to talk about your concerns.
- There is no building seniority in this District and we try to make the fairest assessments.
- No one is entitled, this is policy and this is law.
- You are not entitled to a building. You are entitled to a job. Where you are assigned is in fact, by policy, the Superintendent's role. I must place the right people in the right positions; otherwise this Board cannot hold me responsible for the education, goals and objectives that I set forth for your children and this District.
- First let me publicly apologize to anyone who believes that they were mistreated because that was never my intention. Nor is it now. I am not angry, I am not frustrated.
- Does the school have a mold problem? Yes it has. Has it been cleaned up over the years, yes it has. It was cleaned up! All the carpeting was removed at one time. Tile was replaced at one time because there was mold in the carpets. It has been a recurring situation. This year I think hopefully we can move forward from here and we can be about the children's education. Thank you.

MR. MARVIN ROYAL –

- Mold identified as a health and safety matter.
- As soon as mold spores and air quality reported; no child or employee would have gone into the school.
- Understand parents' frustration.
- At no time was the Board notified that mold was present in any school that would require the shutting down of school.
- Need a correction action plan that will insure that there will be interval testing of air quality in all schools.
- Past problems should not be discussed unless you have full knowledge.
- We (Board) are being put in a legal situation.
- Lisa Stuart-Smith and the whole administration have tried to contain the situation.
- The Board received an incomplete report and a more comprehensive report should be done regarding what happened, how it happened and what the final conclusions are.
- Two other tests previously conducted are not included in report.
- Report should not have been submitted at this time.
- Let's not lay blame until all facts are known.

DR. GRANTHAM –

- This is a transparent administration and if people are patient we will get to the answers.
- Mr. Tyner did say report was incomplete.
- If there is blame to be laid, you can't hide it, it is going to come out.
- I can also state that I had no knowledge of this problem.
- February was one classroom and one report until the 21st of July or August.
- I hold a weekly cabinet meeting. I have a weekly principals meeting. I have meetings of the whole and the Board has committee meeting. No minutes exist with any mention of the mold problem.

MRS. ETHEL SEYMORE -

- Mold has been there since Leeds Avenue school addition.
- My children have attended Leeds Avenue School.
- Lived in district for 40 years. I just became a member of the Board.
- Grandson now attending High School.
- Cannot point fingers at anyone since it has been a problem for some time.

MRS. DORIS GRAVES –

- It is an absolute disgrace; it was an inconvenient for the students, staff and everybody.
- It was negligent,
- We did have mold in the past and it was attended to right away.
- No school or room was ever closed in the past.
- Discussion continued on the need to find a solution.

MOTION TO RICE the Superintendent until September 28, 2010 made by Mr. Moore and seconded by Mr. McClellan.

DISCUSSION:

- Pleasantville resident since 1968.
- Some present Board Members know why the mold was not cleaned up from February.
- Let's put the blame where it belongs.
- The Board Members know what is going on.
- There were Facilities Meetings. When the children left school in June, the mold should have been addressed immediately.
- We should not be blaming Dr. Grantham, who is in charge of Facilities?

MR. PAUL MOORE, JR. -

- Dr. Grantham was at every meeting of Facilities.

DR. GRANTHAM –

- Did you discuss mold at any of your meetings?

AUDIENCE DISCUSSION –

- Expressed displeasure at conduct of meeting.
- Expressed displeasure at Board’s conduct with each other.

Roll Call

Ms. Jackson	No
Mrs. Bey-Blocker	No
Ms. Famularo	No
Mr. McClellan	Yes
Mr. Moore	Yes
Ms. Griffin	Yes
Mr. Royal	Yes
Mrs. Seymour	Absent
Mrs. Graves	yes

FIVE YES, Motion PASSES.

DISCUSSION –

- Mrs. Graves and Ms. Famularo have a discussion regarding Legal Representatives and who has valid contracts.

MS. HARRIET JACKSON –

- We need to do the work of the District.
- We need to work as a community to solve our problems.
- Tonight is a disgrace to our community.
- As a Board member, I am embraced to sit here with the attitude being displayed.
- We need to stick to the agenda and conduct our business in a professional manner.
- We need to concentrate on taking care of the children.
- As a community we need to support our schools, our teachers, our parents, our principles and this administration.

IT IS RECOMMENDED, that the Board of Education City of Pleasantville approve the following Finance Action Item Number Eleven - the Emergency Contract Agreement for mold abated between Pleasantville Public School District and Serv-Pro of Egg Harbor-Ventnor in the amount of \$258,801.00; Account#11-000-261-420-0000-352.

MOTION TO APPROVE PAYMENTS OF \$\$258,801.00 was made by Mr. Royal and seconded by Ms. Griffin.

DISCUSSION –

MRS. DORIS GRAVES –

- Is there going to be more?
- Why, is this being pulled tonight?

ELISHA THOMPKINS –

- We must pursue the money that is being expended out
- The process for an emergency purchase is to request that the Board approve the resolution first.
- Then we start pursuing the funding from the DCA and/or the insurance company.

MRS. MELANIE GRIFFIN -

- What happens if we do not get approved by either one of them?

ELISHA THOMPKINS –

- If we do not get approval from either, then those funds must come out of the general fund.

MR. MARVIN ROYAL -

- Mr. Riehman, is it correct that an expenditure that we approve might not be covered by the State?

MR. JAMES RIEHMAN –

- Yes

MR. MARVIN ROYAL -

- Would you consider this expenditure to be one of those items that could possibly not be reimbursed?

MR. JAMES RIEHMAN –

- We have no guarantee, it is always possible. We are going to pursue the reimbursement of funds for the District.

MR. MARVIN ROYAL -

- In your experience, do you think this is an expenditure that will not be covered by the State?

MR. JAMES RIEHMAN –

- Not in my experience, but I have never been in this position to begin with.

MRS. MELANIE GRIFFIN -

- Can you tell me if this is the total or are we going to accrue any more expenses?
- Previously asked this question and this is not the correct total.
- What is the correct total that we are going to pay?
- We owe for \$5,000 to Mount Zion Church.
- We owe for the 12 buses.

ELISHA THOMPKINS –

- The number purposed can go either way. It could be higher or lower, depending on the time factor we are dealing with.

- The initial work will be completed next week.
- Additional work still will need to be done and that work will be bid.
- We need to follow the process to pursue the funding by statute.

MR. MARVIN ROYAL –

- When an emergency occurs the expenses need to be paid.

MRS. DORIS GRAVES –

- If we had started July 1st to clean up the school we would not have had the additional expenses of moving students.

MR. MARVIN ROYAL –

- We need to deal with the problem presented now. I call for a vote.

Roll Call

Ms. Jackson	Yes
Mrs. Bey-Blocker	Yes
Ms. Famularo	Yes
Mr. McClellan	Yes,
Mr. Moore	Yes,
Ms. Griffin	Yes
Mr. Royal	Yes
Mrs. Seymore	Yes
Mrs. Graves	Yes

NINE YES, MOTION PASSES

IT IS RECOMMENDED that the Board of Education of the City of Pleasantville approve the following Finance Action Item Numbers Sixteen, Seventeen, Eighteen and Nineteen.

MOTION TO APPROVE Finance Item Numbers Sixteen, Seventeen, Eighteen and Nineteen was made by Mrs. Jackson and seconded by Mr. Royal.

Roll Call

Ms. Jackson	Yes
Mrs. Bey-Blocker	Yes
Ms. Famularo	No
Mr. McClellan	Yes
Mr. Moore	Yes
Ms. Griffin	Yes
Mr. Royal	Yes
Mrs. Seymore	Yes
Mrs. Graves	Yes

EIGHT YES, MOTION PASSES

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE Board of Education of the City of Pleasantville approve the following Finance Action Item Number Twenty-three, for authorization to submit the application and accept the New Jersey Juvenile Justice Commission Truancy Grant award for a total of \$166,000.00 for our Pleasantville School District for the 2010-2011 School year.

MOTION TO APPROVE Finance Action Item number twenty-three was made by Ms. Griffin and seconded by Mr. Royal.

DISCUSSION:

MRS. JOANNE FAMULARO –

- Questioned a \$500 Fax machine.

ELISHA THOMPKINS –

- Mrs. Famularo that doesn't mean that we are buying a \$500 fax machine.

MRS. JOANNE FAMULARO –

- Questioned who watches the money that is being spent?

ELISHA THOMPKINS –

- As your comptroller, I will be responsible.
- We do not have a grant coordinator.

MRS. JOANNE FAMULARO –

- What are fringe benefits?

ELISHA THOMPKINS –

- Fringe Benefits are FICA, Health Insurance, and Workers' Comp.

MRS. JOANNE FAMULARO –

- So these are not the complete expenses of new hires.

ELISHA THOMPKINS –

- Salary is one line item and fringe benefits are a second component to that.

MRS. JOANNE FAMULARO –

- Questioned the real cost of a job and the method of presenting the cost of new jobs.

MR. MARVIN ROYAL –

- Common to provide fringe benefits to employees.
- Called for roll call.

Roll Call	
Ms. Jackson	Yes
Mrs. Bey-Blocker	No
Ms. Famularo	No
Mr. McClellan	Yes
Mr. Moore	Yes
Ms. Griffin	Yes
Mr. Royal	Yes
Mrs. Seymore	Yes
Mrs. Graves	Yes

SEVEN YES, MOTION PASSES

MRS. DORIS GRAVES –

What items do we have in Curriculum and Instruction and Policy that we have to vote on tonight?

DR. GRANTHAM –

Need to address the following:

- Policy.
- Curriculum and Instruction.
- Human Resources should be done first.
- It is recommended that the Board approve Human Resource Items 1 through 19.

ELISHA THOMPKINS –

We need to return to Finance Item Number 25.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT the Board of Education of the City of Pleasantville approve the following Finance Action Item Number Twenty-five, to accept the proposal of the Mount Zion Community Life Center to temporarily house a specific number of students for a period of (10) ten school days at a cost of \$500.00 per day.

MOTION TO APPROVE Finance Action Item number twenty-five was made by Mr. Marvin and seconded by Ms. Griffin.

MRS. ETHEL SEYMORE –

- Questioned if a few more days should be added to the resolution in case we need to keep the children at Mount Zion longer than presently planned.

MRS. DORIS GRAVES –

- Questioned if the check needed to be done tonight.
- We can pay this now and take care of any additional money later.

DR. GRANTHAM -

- It would be wise to include 3 more days in the motion.

MS. MELANIE GRIFFIN –

- Was the Mount Zion Church approved by the County Superintendant?

DR. GRANTHAM -

- It is an approved pre-school site.
- We could amend the motion to approve additional days for Mount Zion.

ELISHA THOMPKINS –

- This is not a payment
- Need to approve to be in compliance with our standard operating procedures.
- Board must approve so we can attach a purchase order number.
- This is procedure.

Roll Call

Ms. Jackson	Yes
Mrs. Bey-Blocker	Yes
Ms. Famularo	Yes
Mr. McClellan	No
Mr. Moore	No
Ms. Griffin	No
Mr. Royal	Yes
Mrs. Seymore	Yes
Mrs. Graves	Yes

SIX YES, MOTION PASSES

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE Board of Education of the City of Pleasantville approve the following Human Resource Item Numbers One through Nineteen.

Motion to approve Human Resource item number one through 19 made by Mr. Royal and Seconded by Mrs. Seymore.

QUESTION:

This is a work session. This is to be voted on at the Action Meeting.

DR. GRANTHAM -

Some of these are hires and we really need to move forward tonight.

MRS. DORIS GRAVES –

Do we need to move forward on this tonight or can we wait until September 28th?

ELISHA THOMPSON –

- All the items, to the best of our knowledge, can wait until the 28th unless there are some emergency items in Human Resources.

MR. MARVIN ROYAL –

- There is a correction on a resignation effective for September 1st.
- We should not hold up two employees' resignations.

MR. JAMES RIEHMAN –

Items like that can be accepted on the 28th.

MRS. DORIS GRAVES –

We will do Human Resources on the 28th.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT the Board of Education of the City of Pleasantville approve the following Second Reading state mandated policy and regulation on the 1000 Administrative Series policy 1570 internal controls.

MOTION TO APPROVE the state mandated policy and regulation on the 1000 Administrative Series Policy 1570 internal controls made by Ms. Griffin and seconded Mrs. Bey-Blocker.

Roll Call

Ms. Jackson	Yes
Mrs. Bey-Blocker	Yes
Ms. Famularo	Yes
Mr. McClellan	Yes
Mr. Moore	Yes
Ms. Griffin	Yes
Mr. Royal	Yes
Mrs. Seymore	Yes
Mrs. Graves	Yes

NINE YES, MOTION PASSES

It is recommended that the Board of Education of the City of Pleasantville approve the second reading granting emergency approval of the following state mandated policy in the 6000 Finances Series, Policy 6423 - Expenditures for Non-Employee Activities, Meals, and Refreshments.

MOTION TO APPROVE the State Mandated Policy in the 6000 Financial Series, Policy 6423 was made by Mr. Royal and seconded by Ms. Griffin.

Roll Call

Ms. Jackson	Yes
Mrs. Bey-Blocker	Yes
Ms. Famularo	Yes
Mr. McClellan	Yes
Mr. Moore	Yes
Ms. Griffin	Yes
Mr. Royal	Yes
Mrs. Seymore	Yes
Mrs. Graves	Yes

NINE YES, MOTION PASSES

MRS. DORIS GRAVES –

- We need a retreat previously proposed for September 21st.
- Need to schedule another date next week.
- Will schedule at the Middle School, 5:00 P.M., date to be set by Mrs. Graves and Monitor.
- Mrs. Graves will notify the Board Members.

MRS. ETHEL SEYMORE –

- Concerned about a student who was attending an out of District school.
- Paperwork was completed for this particular student to return to the District.
- Mr. Cherry's office did not have a secretary to complete the paperwork.
- Some secretaries were let go. But if you really need a secretary in that particular office is it possible that you could get one there?
- Presently, the child has returned to Pineland and we would like the child returned to Pleasantville.
- Dr. Grantham, could you please speak on that.

DR. GRANTHAM –

- Mr. Cherry is in the process of moving his entire staff into a suite on the third floor.
- Office space will be shared by eleven people, including a secretary.
- I can assure you that is not the reason the paperwork was not done.
- All work is being completed.
- Please contact me after the meeting.

MS. MELANIE GRIFFIN -

- Where are alternative kids being helped right now.
- What happened with the purchase of a trailer?
- Are they being blended in?

DR. GRANTHAM –

- Yes, they are at the high school from 3:00 to 7:00.

MS. MELANIE GRIFFIN –

- Are they being blended in?
- Did the Board approve teachers working 3 to 7?

DR. GRANTHAM –

- Will investigate and report back.

MR. MARVIN ROYAL –

- We voted on professional contracts for board and labor attorneys in June.
- Both items approved.
- Still having discussions regarding contracts.
- Mrs. Graves stated previously she had not signed professional contracts.
- It is not correct or proper that one contract be singled out and persons being informed that they cannot use our legal representative for any and all legal matters representing the Board.
- Requested that Mr. Riehman straighten out this matter so that we can move on.
- Want to put a motion on the floor that this matter be resolved and the contracts be signed by the next board meeting to insure that Mr. Riehman come into compliance about the contracts.

MRS. DORIS GRAVES –

- Told Mr. Riehman that there was a contract that I did sign.
- Mr. Riehman had another contract which had to be returned.
- I have signed that contract also.
- I have never signed insurance company contracts.
- I intend to take up this matter with Trenton tomorrow.
- Disagreement on language in contract for Mr. Hamlin.
- Mr. Hamlin does not feel he has a contract.

BOARD MEMBER -

Mrs. Graves we already voted on a contract, why should we be voting again.

MRS. DORIS GRAVES –

- Mr. Riehman will not accept the contract.
- Mr. Hamlin gave a nice contract.
- Mr. Riehman would prefer different language.
- The \$4,000 retainer was the original problem.
- Mr. Hamlin removed that.
- Everything else is all right, but it is the language that Mr. Riehman wants and it is not right. I told him that a few minutes ago and he is sitting there looking and he won't let Mr. Hamlin have it.
- We presently owe Mr. Hamlin for June and July and we can't pay him.

BOARD MEMBER -

Mrs. Graves, I voted on one contract and I am not voting on the same contract again.

MR. JAMES RIEHMAN –

- If Mr. Hamlin would sign the contract I have presented, everything would be done.
- At Mrs. Graves's request, Mr. Riehman will provide a copy of the contract this week.
- You will be able to see why I am in the position I am in.
- According to the law there must be a signed contract before payment.

MR. HAMLIN –

- There is a signed contract.
- Mr. Riehman's contract contains language that is not in accordance with the law.
- It is inaccurate and it would require that this Board, from a legal standpoint, not be protected by its board counsel.
- As a lawyer, I would not sign a contract that would prohibit the Board from representation in matters that are beyond the scope of the insurance policy.
- The language now in the contract, which you indicated was in the contract, which if it is then it should be no problem. The language is specific, detailed and it insures that the Board is protected in the event that there is an intentional tort. This is an allegation of a violation of civil rights claims and the conscientious employee protection act that are not covered by insurance.
- Why this is a problem is beyond me.

MR. JAMES RIEHMAN –

- The problem arises when the insurance carrier is either pushed out of covering the Board and then the Board is billed excessively on cases the insurance company should be covering.
- The insurance company and the Board attorney are both working on the same case and we get billed from both.
- I have never before encountered this problem with any other Board of Education.

MR. HAMLIN –

- As I indicated at the last meeting, there are reservations of rights letters that insurance companies always send to Districts when intentional torts are filed against the District.
- Mr. Riehman does not want that information to come before the Board because the insurance companies do not cover intentional acts of discrimination.
- No insurance company does.
- They give reservations of rights. There are certain things that they will cover and certain things that they won't cover.
- It does not make sense for the Board not to have representation on those uncovered claims. Why you would not want the Board to have a representative on those claims is beyond me. It is very simple.

- All the reservation of rights letters that have been sent to the District by the insurance company should be brought to the Board meeting to inform the Board what they cover and what they don't cover.
- If they cover punitive damages, we don't need to represent the Board.
- If they don't cover punitive damages, it would be malpractice for the Board not to have an attorney representing them in that type of claim, which they generally do not cover.
- Questioned why this coverage is not desired. It doesn't make sense and it is against the law.

QUESTION –

- Mr. Riehman has a lawyer representing him.
- What are his bills for this representation?
- Why is it alright for him to have a lawyer and the Board not to have representation?

MRS. DORIS GRAVES –

- The discussed cases are referred to Mr. Hamlin by the Board Secretary.
- Requested that checks be prepared for Mr. Hamlin's firm by the next Board meeting.
- If the New Jersey School Board cannot handle a matter, we have Mr. Riehman to protect us.

MR. JAMES RIEHMAN –

- You will have a response on the entire matter by the next Board meeting.

MR. HAMLIN -

- At the same time you can explain why there was a determination that they were not going to pay our firm because we didn't have a contract, but you are paying other firms without contracts.

MR. RIEHMAN –

We did not have a signed contract until you handed it to me tonight.

MR. HAMLIN -

That is fine, that makes perfect sense. So you can provide the documentation that justifies the payment to another law firm that doesn't have a contract either.

MRS. ETHEL SEYMORE –

- I have no problem with the attorneys being paid.
- Would like more information than the Attorneys' name and the amount requested for payment.

MR. HAMLIN -

That cannot be my firm since we have not been paid since May.

MRS. ETHEL SEYMORE –
Your name is in the request.

MRS. DORIS GRAVES –

- Has a duplicate bill sent to her from Mr. Hamlin’s firm.
- Requested that copies of all legal bills be sent to her.
- Has never seen a bill from Parker McCay, I have never signed their contract; however they get paid and Mr. Hamlin does not.

MOTION TO APPROVE the State Monitor to come into compliance concerning legal counsel and to fully comply with affirmative vote of June 22, 2010 was made by Mr. Royal and seconded by Ms. Griffin.

MRS. JOANNE FAMULARO –

Did Mr. Hamlin represent you Mrs. Graves, Mr. McClellan and Ms. Griffin?

MRS. DORIS GRAVES –

No.

MRS. JOANNE FAMULARO –

They don’t represent you in a lawsuit?

MRS GRAVES –

Do they? They can yes.

MRS. FAMULARO –

Do they?

MRS. DORIS GRAVES –

Yes. What does that have to do with it?

Roll Call

Ms. Jackson	No
Mrs. Bey-Blocker	No
Ms. Famularo	No
Mr. McClellan	Yes
Mr. Moore	Yes
Ms. Griffin	Yes
Mr. Royal	Yes
Mrs. Seymore	No
Mrs. Graves	Yes

FIVE YES, MOTION PASSES

MOTION TO APPROVE the purchase of e-readers (Kindles) for every child in the District was made by Ms. Famularo and seconded by.

MRS. JOANNE FAMULARO –

- Kindles would be directly for the kids.
- Every book would be on the Kindle
- Why no second for something to help the kids?

MR. MARVIN ROYAL –

What is the cost?

MRS. JOANNE FAMULARO –

- Kindles cost \$139 each.
- This would be 3800 times \$139.
- This is the retail price. A lower price could be obtained.
- Money should be approved for the children.

MR. HAMLIN -

- Illegal and contrary to the bidding laws.
- Not a professional service or extraordinary service.
- Motion would violate the law.

MOTION TO APPROVE sending out bids for e-readers for every child in the District was made by Ms. Famularo and seconded by Mrs. Seymore.

Roll Call

Ms. Jackson	Yes
Mrs. Bey-Blocker	Yes
Ms. Famularo	Yes
Mr. McClellan	Yes
Mr. Moore	Yes
Ms. Griffin	Yes
Mr. Royal	Yes
Mrs. Seymore	Yes
Mrs. Graves	No

EIGHT YES, MOTION PASSES

MOTION TO ADJOURN AT 8:35 P.M. was made by Ms. Griffin and seconded by Mr. Royal.

Roll Call

Ms. Jackson	Yes
Mrs. Bey-Blocker	Yes
Ms. Famularo	No
Mr. McClellan	Yes
Mr. Moore	Yes
Ms. Griffin	Yes
Mr. Royal	Absent
Mrs. Seymore	Absent
Mrs. Graves	Yes

SIX YES, MOTION PASSES

RESPECTIVELY SUBMITTED BY

ELISHA THOMPKINS JR.
ACTING BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR
COMTROLLER/ASSISTANT BOARD SECRETRY

DATE