

MINUTES of the Agenda Conference of the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield held on Monday, **January 8, 2024** at 7:39 p.m. via Zoom.

PRESENT:

Council Members: Aimee Corzo, Council Vice President
Suzette Given
Steven McIntyre
Everett Merrill
Keiona R. Miller (7:40 p.m.)
Wendy Schaefer
Frank “Skip” Stabile, Council President (absent – excused)

Also Present: Lawrence La Ronde, Mayor
David E. Hollod, Business Administrator
Phil George, Esq., Associate Borough Attorney
Michele Irby-Garry, CMR, Acting Borough Clerk

Council Vice President Corzo read the following Notice of Compliance:

"This meeting is being held in compliance with N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq. Adequate notice of this meeting was provided by transmitting notice to the official newspapers of the Borough, The Courier News, WKMB Radio, WJLP-TV, the Alternative Press and also to the Star Ledger on December 11, 2023 and by posting a copy of this notice on the bulletin boards in the Municipal Building and the Memorial Library reserved for such purpose."

The Flag Salute was led by Dr. Aquino followed by a moment of silence for the men and women serving in the Armed Forces.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Presentation by Dr. Aquino, School Superintendent** – S. G. Dr. Michelle Aquino, Superintendent of Schools, began the presentation with a discussion about school pedestrian safety. The Board of Education has invested more than thirty thousand dollars on signage with crosswalks and speeding at the forefront. Ridewise visited the elementary schools to talk about and practice crosswalk safety with the students. Pedestrian safety was included at Somerset School, a review and discussion of safety protocols was conducted with Middle School students and High School morning announcements for students include safety tips for walking to school. Our website includes a comprehensive list of crossing guard locations and times.

Mr. Felipe Luis, Assistant Superintendent, detailed the need for a Full-Time Residency and Truancy Officer to carry out investigations requested by school administration to substantiate or refute questionable residencies in North Plainfield. Investigations may include surveillance, attendance at family court as a liaison for the school district and attendance at

Board of Education meetings to detail the results of the investigations. Mr. Luis shared details of the residency registration process for parents to enroll their children in the school system.

Mr. McIntyre commented on Somerset County's consideration of a mid-block crosswalk on Greenbrook Road which would further ensure pedestrian safety. Referencing the proposal to extend the sidewalk on the south side of Greenbrook Road from Grove Street to Rockview Terrace, Dr. Aquino suggested a joint effort to address Somerset County about same. Dr. Aquino confirmed the schools' plans for evacuation and reunification sites in the event of an emergency had been updated.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Marc Hudock, 2 Orchard Avenue, North Plainfield, urged for the council to double-down on the importance of implementing any and all safety measures on Greenbrook Road to ensure the safety of our students.

Francine Gargano, 57 Willow Avenue, North Plainfield, shared her concerns with vehicles parking along Greenbrook Road while the parents wait to pick up students from the Middle School. She called for stronger enforcement of those that trespass on school property during evenings and weekends.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

REPORTS OF BOARDS, COMMITTEES & COMMISSIONS: None.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Ms. Miller, seconded by Ms. Schaefer and on voice vote carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:59 p.m.

Borough Clerk

Council President