

PENDING BOARD OF EDUCATION APPROVAL
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING OF THE PLAINVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION
PLAINVILLE, CONNECTICUT
MONDAY, MAY 13, 2019
Plainville High School Cafeteria
Plainville, Connecticut

7:00 p.m.

Regular Business Meeting of the Plainville Board of Education, PHS Cafeteria

I. CONVENE: PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Board Chair Deborah Hardy re-convened the regular business meeting of the Plainville Board of Education to order at 7:03 PM. Foster White led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members Present: Mesdames Consalvo, Hardy, Palmieri, Peterson, St. Lawrence, Tyrrell, Wells, and Messr. White

Also Present: Maureen Brummett, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools
Steven LePage, Asst. Superintendent
Sam Adlerstein, Director of Business and Operations
Madeline Rund, Student Liaison

Absent: Michael Giuliano, Board Member
Allie Chambrello, Student Liaison

Late Arrivals: None

Early Departures: None

Returns: None

II. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:

Acknowledgement of Valedictorian, Rachel Parsons, and Salutatorian, Daniel Szymula, for the PHS Class of 2019.

CABE Student Leadership Awards: Andrea Ybanez and Brady Callahan

BECKY TYRRELL MADE A MOTION TO ADD ITEM IX.F. FORMATION OF A FOUR MEMBER BI-PARTISAN SUBCOMMITTEE TO DEVELOP A CONTRACT FOR THE NEW SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS. FOSTER WHITE SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 8-0.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A) A MOTION WAS MADE BY FOSTER WHITE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE BOARD'S REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING OF APRIL 15, 2019 AS PRESENTED. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY NICOLE PALMIERI. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 8-0.

B) A MOTION WAS MADE BY FOSTER WHITE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 2, 2019 SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AS PRESENTED (FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE). THE

MOTION WAS SECONDED BY LAURIE PETERSON. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 8-0.

IV. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Pamela Van Beveran, 9 Overlook Drive

Mrs. Van Beveran stated that she has owned a childcare business for the past 15 years, at her home. At the beginning of the 2018-19 school year, she was informed that the bus picking up children from her home would no longer be available. Because notification had been late in getting to her, the Board agreed to allow the bus to run for an additional school year, but would no longer be available for the 2019-20 school year. Mrs. Van Beveran stated that she has concerns about small children walking through the pathway which connects Overlook Drive and Toffolon School. She asks that the bus be reinstated.

POINT OF ORDER: Board Member Becky Tyrrell reminded everyone that Board Members do not generally respond to Citizen's Comments and will not engage in discussion, but can and will respond in writing if a question is brought forward that is in need of an answer.

Sarah Limmer

Ms. Limmer stated that she has a child in the Middle School who loves to play softball and is very upset with the \$12,000 reduction in spring sports. She asks that the sports program be reinstated.

John Kisluk, 65 Forestville Avenue

Mr. Kisluk stated that he is very concerned about this evening's executive session meeting regarding the performance of a Board member. He stated that he fully supports the Board Chair and feels that this public hearing issue is inappropriate.

He commented on a few individuals who spoke at the Town Council's Public Hearing on May 6th. He did not like the fact that teachers' spoke for the education budget. He stated that they are promoting their own salaries and are self-serving and greedy. He stated that the educational system is becoming unmanageable, and that taking away the Middle School's spring sports program is completely wrong and an insult to students and parents.

Erika Graff, 44 Hilltop Road

Mrs. Graff stated that she too is upset with the reduction in the spring sports budget at the Middle School and read an email written by her daughter Alexis, which was submitted to the Town Council prior to the Public Hearing. The email reads as follows:

Hello, I am Alexis Graff, a seventh-grader at MSP. I heard that a budget for the town schools did not pass earlier this week, causing the town council to cut even more money from the budget. MSP sports are on the chopping block at the moment, meaning the town council is recommending it gets cut.

Middle school sports are very important here at MSP. Many students participate in the schools' sports. I play on the middle school softball team and the season is going well so far. Anyone who plays a sport gets to meet new people which can increase their social and teamwork skills. Sports also pursue a healthy lifestyle and according to the article, "The Impact of Sports on Middle School students," by Elizabeth Sullivan, "The positive effects of participation in interscholastic sports at the middle school level, has been reported in multiple studies over the last several decades." If a student starts playing

sports early on in life and they continue throughout school, they may have a chance at a scholarship. According to the United States Department of Health and Human Services, youth sports participation also reduces the likelihood that teens will eventually drop out of school and increases their chances of attending college.

I hope you consider my opinion for the good of the middle school.

*Thank you,
Alexis Graff
MSP Student
Softball Team '18 and '19*

Mrs. Graff commented that three out of the four students honored this evening were all athletes. She asks that the Board reinstate the interscholastic programs.

Ben Gediman, 5 Dickman Road

Mr. Gediman stated that he was speaking on behalf of the greedy/self-serving people who were at the Town Council meeting on May 6. He stated that every one of those individuals spoke on behalf of the children of Plainville. Not one of them came forward because they were going to lose their job. Calling someone self-serving and greedy is petty. In addition, unless you know how a contract works, that is why salaries are what they are. That's the way it is. He also stated that he wrote a letter to the Board on May 8th and asked if anyone would like to respond.

Katherine Pugliese, 50 West Broad Street

Mrs. Pugliese congratulated Rachel Parsons, Daniel Szymula, Andrea Ybenez and Brady Callahan for their outstanding accomplishments.

Mrs. Pugliese then stated that she has grave concerns about the disfunction between Board of Education members, specifically, this evening's executive session meeting concerning the performance of a Board member. She stated that Andrea Saunders, Nicole Palmieri and now Deborah Hardy (all female republicans) were all scrutinized and threatened by fellow Board Members which she called political motivation, orchestrated during an election year. She stated that the town will pay \$10,000+ in legal fees at a time when they are struggling to pass a budget. She asked why anyone would now want to become a Board Member. She stated that she will not tolerate bullying of any kind and that Plainville is a wonderful town in which to live. She asks that the petty nonsense be stopped.

Brian Ruot, 26 Colonial Court

Mr. Ruot stated that his Middle School-aged daughter has participated in softball sponsored by the Recreation Department and enjoyed it very much. She wants to participate in the MSP's softball team. However with the reduction, that may not be possible. He stated that he works three jobs to make sure his children get what they need and that sports should not be taken away from them. He asks that the Board perhaps not fill a vacant position, should the opportunity arise, in order to make up for the shortfall.

Joanne Edman, 166 West Main Street

Ms. Edman wakes up in the morning and can't decide if she lives in Plainville or Washington D.C. She stated that she can't believe the upheaval and rumblings going on between Board Members. She stated that what has happened to the Board Chair is not very nice, as she is a very capable person, and has no right to be bullied. She asks that

the Board take into consideration that she was ill during the worksessions and was not given any information.

Roberta Lauria, 18 Perron Road

Ms. Lauria stated that she has been hearing bits and pieces about this evening's executive session. She stated that she was Vice Chair of the Conservation Commission a while back and the role of a Vice Chair is to make sure that the Chair receives all information that is needed in order to make decisions. She stated that it is imperative that the Chair receive all information. She commented that to be successful the Board needs to get their act together. This situation needs to stop and the Chair must be kept in the loop at all times.

A) RESPONSE TO CITIZEN COMMENTS

No Response to Citizen's Comments

V. COUNCIL LIAISON

Mrs. Pugliese reported on the following:

Mrs. Pugliese reminded everyone to vote on the education budget tomorrow (May 14) from 6:00 AM to 8:00 PM at the Fire House.

She stated that the Town Council was recently made aware of available acreage on Bradley Street near the intersection of Camp Street. The Planning and Zoning Commission is recommending the acceptance of the acreage for open space purposes. The parcel shares a boundary with the Middle School of Plainville property and can be used for a potential recreation area. In addition, there is potential for additional open space when the Tyler Farms property (on Unionville Avenue) is developed.

The EDA voted to recommend a three-year tax abatement for construction of an industrial building on Lewis Avenue. American Excavating & Septic will construct a 7,500 foot facility.

John Bossi, Technical Services Director, was in attendance at a worksession to discuss the requirements of a proposed Illicit Discharge and Stormwater Connection Ordinance. This ordinance provides legal authority to implement the stormwater management program. The ordinance has been reviewed by the Town Attorney. No action has been taken by the Town Council.

The Town of Plainville has been contacted by the Census Bureau regarding the 2020 census which will begin in the next several months. Some of the key factors include the understanding of the population and the educational grants it can provide due to accurate reporting.

A Public Information session regarding the Valley Water Systems Public Information Session is set for Tuesday, May 14th at 7 PM in the Middle School Auditorium. Water quality issues will be discussed.

Mrs. Pugliese announced that Scott Colby, Asst. to the Town Manager, has been recognized as the person responsible for allowing the Town of Plainville to receive the GFOA's Distinguished Presentation Award. This is the second year Mr. Colby has received this award.

VI. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Brummett announced that the Board of Education voted unanimously to appoint Steven LePage as the next Superintendent of Plainville Community Schools effective July 1st. The Board made the absolute right decision to ensure our very special school district continues to move in a positive direction. Mr. LePage has earned the respect of parents, faculty, staff and students as he led our high school with integrity and passion.

Mr. LePage thanked Dr. Brummett for her kind words and incredible leadership. He also thanked her for considering him for this important role. He stated that back when he was in college he was taught to never follow a strong, well liked Superintendent, yet here he is. He stated that Dr. Brummett is more than a colleague but that of a good friend. He then gave his sincere appreciation of the members of the Board of Education for their collective trust in him. He also thanked them for their vote of confidence. In addition, he gave a special thank you to his family for all of their support. He stated that he will do his very best for this district.

A) Manufacturing Enterprise

Dr. Brummett introduced Carl Johnson, High School Principal, who in turn introduced David Gaignard who gave a brief update on the PHS Industrial Technology Enterprise program. Mr. Johnson stated that both Mr. Gaignard and Mr. Chase have been instrumental in the creation of this forward thinking program which will meet the needs of many students.

Mr. Gaignard began by explaining the many changes to the world's workforce and the need for workers globally. The field of Industrial technology employs various occupations such as engineering, manufacturing, HVAC, plumbing, welding, carpentry, mechanical engineering and more. The program put forward by Mr. Gaignard and Mr. Chase will teach students about (1) Personal skills such as professionalism, work ethic, self-motivation and sense of responsibility. (2) Work place skills such as decision making, teamwork, leadership and communication, and (3) Technical skills, i.e., computer-technology literacy, service orientation, safety and health. The mission of the program is to:

- Promote and provide a workforce for local and statewide industrial, manufacturing and construction jobs.
- To educate students about the changes in the manufacturing and construction industries.
- To provide a competitive skill set based on current and future needs in the construction and manufacturing industries.

Beginning in the fall of 2020, interested Plainville High School students will be interviewed for this program. It is hoped that this program will point students in their direction of choice after graduation. A sample school schedule and more information on the program are included in the attached PowerPoint.

Dr. Brummett thanked Mr. Gaignard for his indepth view of the program and for his forethought behind this project.

In conclusion, Dr. Brummett then thanked the five school district nurses' and read a Proclamation from Governor Ned Lamont. She stated that being a school nurse today is a very complex job and thanked all of them for their service to the students of Plainville.

VII. BOARD SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Student Representative Report

Madeline Rund reported on the following:

- ▶ This is AP Week: AP testing began on Tuesday, May 7 with AP Spanish Language and Composition and will end with AP Statistics on Thursday, May 16.
- ▶ The Spring Band Concert is scheduled for Thursday, May 16 at 7:30 PM in the PHS Auditorium.
- ▶ On Friday, May 17th, PHS Physics classes will visit Lake Compounce to apply their knowledge to real life examples
- ▶ The Super Senior Banquet will be held on May 23 at the Aqua Turf at 7 PM
- ▶ The Class of 2019 and 2020 will hold their (combined) Proms at the Aqua Turf on Saturday, May 25
- ▶ The PHS Band will perform two songs in the Memorial Day Parade on May 27th. This will be used as their audition tape for their trip to Disney in December.
- ▶ Spring Sports Awards Banquet will take place on May 29
- ▶ One Act Plays are set for Friday, May 31 and Saturday, June 1
- ▶ Senior Class Night will take place on May 30
- ▶ Senior Class Picnic will take place at Camp Chase on May 31
- ▶ The Girls' Tennis team is doing okay. They won most of their recent matches. Only two seniors qualified for States.
- ▶ The Boys' Tennis team is now working toward States. They have two more meets until the end of their season. The next meet is Wednesday against Bristol Eastern.
- ▶ The Track team members are working to improve their personal records to finish the season strong. They have had an outstanding season thus far.
- ▶ The Baseball team has had a favorable season. They will play their next game tomorrow at 7 PM against RHAM.
- ▶ Girls' Softball will play Bristol Eastern on Friday, May 17

B. Facilities Subcommittee Report—No Report

C. Policy Subcommittee Report--NoReport

D. Finance Subcommittee Report

Ms. Peterson stated that the Finance Subcommittee met on May 2nd. Because the education budget did not pass on April 30, the Town Council reduced the original 2019-20 operating budget of \$38,329,105 by \$100,000. Ms. Peterson said it was difficult to find areas to cut, but the subcommittee was able to reduce the 2019-20 operating budget to \$38,229,105. She reminded everyone to vote on May 14th.

E. Advocacy Update—No Report

F. Turf Committee Report—No Report

G. PAC Liaison--Plainville High School Report

The PHS PAC meeting was held on Tuesday, May 8th. Mr. White reported on the following:

- ▶ The PAC treasury currently holds \$3,315.17. There are enough funds on hand to meet all scholarship requirements and other expenses.
- ▶ The PAC are currently selling lawn signs for \$10 each.
- ▶ There will be a raffle (fundraiser) to upgrade VP seats and VP parking for graduation this year. Tickets are \$10.
- ▶ Karen Lyman will be the new PAC Chair for the next school year

► Reminders of upcoming activities include: PHS Spring Concert on Thursday, May 16 at 7:30 PM in the PHS Auditorium; May 23rd Super Senior Banquet at the Aqua Turf at 7 PM; June 5th Senior Athlete Awards Night; and June 13 Night of Excellence.

H. PTO Liaison--Toffolon Elementary School Report

Mrs. Consalvo reported on the following items:

► Toffolon teachers were grateful for all the Teacher Appreciation gifts. They stated, "It's so nice of parents to think of us and treat us so well each year."

► Color Run—June 1, all elementary students are invited to register. A color run is a fun, new race concept that involves students running by adults who throw powder paint at them to cover them in a rainbow of colors.

► In Makerspace, students built raised beds and are now growing a variety of vegetables. Families are volunteering to water the plants throughout the summer. Toffolon looks forward to a big salad on the first day of school next year.

► The PTO thanked all parents who came out to support the budget at the Town Council meeting on Monday, May 6.

► Toffolon is planning Summer Reading Nights. The plan is for volunteers from the Toffolon staff to join students on three evenings during the summer to keep the reading excitement alive. Hopefully some grant funding will support a book give away. Toffolon is looking forward to this new endeavor.

► The PTO has donated Scholastic dollars to every class for classroom books.

► The Toffolon PTO scholarships this year are going to PHS seniors and past Toffolonians, Kayla DiTolla and Andrew Kane.

► The PTO held elections and the officers for 2019-20 are:

President—Anke Cooke

Vice President—Bethal Hairston

Treasurer—Sarah Blake

Secretary—Kristen Campbell

I. PTO Liaison--Linden Street Elementary School Report

Mrs. Wells reported on the following:

► PTO members discussed the upcoming Grade 5 Graduation which is set for June 13

► Mrs. Wells wanted to recognize a small but mighty group who have done so much for Linden Street School. They are Linden's PTO members for 2018-19:

President: Sara Wartonick

Vice President: Sean Sullivan

Treasurer: Nancy Autunno

Secretary: Brandi Kay

She stated that they should all be commended.

J. PTC Liaison--Middle School of Plainville Report

- ▶ The next MSP PTC meeting will take place on May 14 at 7 PM in the MSP Library.
- ▶ The election of new officers will take place at the next meeting.
- ▶ Last Tuesday, teachers and staff were treated to breakfast in honor of Teacher Appreciation Week.
- ▶ PTO members will discuss the eighth grade promotion dance which is scheduled for June 17

K. PTO Liaison--Wheeler Elementary School Report

Ms. Palmieri reported on the following:

- ▶ Dr. Brummett attended the last PTO meeting to give an update on the 2019-20 budget. She also attended all PTO, PAC and PTC meetings. Please come out and vote on the 14th.
 - ▶ The PTO was planning for Teacher Appreciation Week.
- The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 14th at 6 PM at Wheeler

L. CREC Council Report—No Report

No report on the last meeting. The Annual CABE meeting is set for Wednesday, May 15.

M. Chairperson's Report

Mrs. Hardy reported on the following:

- ▶ Mrs. Hardy asked everyone to come out and vote tomorrow to support the budget.
- ▶ Mrs. Hardy stated that she attended the Superintendent's Showcase on April 29th and said it was excellent. She enjoyed the Makerspace presentation and the garden display which was overseen by one of the students who was so excited to explain the process of forming the garden.
- ▶ She also attended the Family Fun Fest on May 11. She stated that it was a beautiful day. There were many vendors and displays. The Festival was very well attended and included many great events.
- ▶ The Super Senior Banquet is set for May 23 at 7 PM at the Aqua Turf. This is where students from the Class of 2019 are recognized for four years of no accumulated disciplinary consequences. Mrs. Hardy congratulated them on their fine efforts.

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

IX. NEW BUSINESS

A) Board Open Forum

Becky Tyrrell reported that she attended the 50th Anniversary Celebration at Toffolon on May 8th. She stated that each door was decorated in a different decade. The function was very well attended and it was a very nice event.

She also congratulated Mrs. Donna Cavallaro and her staff from the PFRN who once again did a great job coordinating Family Fun Fest this year. She stated it is a completely free event for families and was well attended. She also congratulated both the Valedictorian Rachel Parsons and Salutatorian Daniel Szymula, as well as Andrea Ybenez and Brady Callahan who were awarded the CABE Student Leadership Awards.

Nicole Palmieri stated that she and Mrs. Consalvo attended the Newington Board of Education meeting on Tuesday, to support Dr. Brummett when she was voted in as their new Superintendent. She stated that Newington knows that they are getting the best. She

stated that she is very happy for her as this is a great opportunity. In addition, she congratulated Mr. LePage who was unanimously voted in as Plainville's new Superintendent of Schools. She stated that the Board is very happy to have him and knows that he will continue to move forward with everything that's great about Plainville schools.

She too commented that Family Fun Fest had a great day and was a lot of fun. She also asked everyone to vote "yes" tomorrow.

B) Quarterly Special Education Cost Report (October, January, April and June)—No Report

As of today there are currently 17 out-placements for the month of April, plus 3 transition services and support placements and 12 magnet and tech support placements. The original budget for tuitions is as follows: \$1,605,000. Budgeted Excess Cost grant amount: (\$600,000). Open Choice tuition reimbursement: (\$250,000). Total revised budget for tuitions: \$755,000. Expenditures /Encumbrances to date: \$1,639,697. Expected remaining expenditures: \$(11,897). Expected excess cost reimbursement: (\$574,800). Expected Choice Reimbursement: (\$298,000). Total expected expenditures: \$755,000. Forecast Surplus/Deficit: \$0.

As of April 30, 2019 the district was (\$11,897) unfavorable to the budget for outplaced tuition. Costs have been adjusted for all known outplacements as of April 30, as if these would remain in effect for the full year. Also adjusted were our Excess Cost Reimbursement, based on the April submittal to the state, and updated Choice reimbursement to the end of the year. Unknowns include outplacement changes and payments due from Hartford.

C) Acceptance of Dr. Maureen Brummett's Letter of Resignation as Superintendent of Schools

A MOTION WAS MADE BY FOSTER WHITE TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION LETTER OF DR. MAUREEN BRUMMETT, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS WITH REGRET, EFFECTIVE JUNE 30, 2019. NICOLE PALMIERI SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 8-0.

Becky Tyrrell stated that Dr. Brummett has been an awesome leader. The district was very lucky to have her when Dr. Kitching left, as she was someone who was ready to step in, knew everything about the district, and could lead without missing a step. She stated that we have been lucky twice, as most districts don't have people with those kinds of qualities and leadership skills. We are now lucky to have Mr. LePage. She concluded by saying that we were very fortunate to have Dr. Brummett for three years and congratulates her for going to a place that also appreciates her talents. She will be missed.

Foster White stated that he learned a great deal from Dr. Brummett. He commented that she has done more things that no one knows are being done in this district. He stated that Mr. LePage once commented that she will be a tough act to follow. However, he has every confidence that Mr. LePage will move the district forward and has no doubt that we are in good hands. Mr. White then thanked Dr. Brummett for all she has done for the district.

D) Request to Approve Appointment of New Superintendent of Schools

A MOTION WAS MADE BY BECKY TYRRELL APPOINT MR. STEVEN K. LEPAGE AS PLAINVILLE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS' NEW SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2019. FOSTER WHITE SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 8-0.

Becky Tyrrell asked who could be lucky enough to have the right person, with experience, knows the job and the district. She stated that Mr. LePage is totally right for this job and that there is no need for a search. This district is extremely fortunate to have someone with the caliber of knowledge he brings with him.

E) Request to Approve Contract: CT Institute of the Blind (Oak Hill) for 09/01/19 to 08/31/20 (Middle School of Plainville

A MOTION WAS MADE BY BECKY TYRRELL TO AUTHORIZE THE DIRECTOR OF BUSINESS AND OPERATIONS TO ENTER INTO A ONE-YEAR CONTRACT WITH OAK HILL ACADEMY FOR THE USE OF SPACE AT THE MIDDLE SCHOOL OF PLAINVILLE FOR THE PERIOD 09/01/19 TO 08/31/20. NICOLE PALMIERI SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 8-0.

F) Formation of a Four Member Bi-Partisan Subcommittee to develop a contract for the new Superintendent of Schools

A MOTION WAS MADE BY BECKY TYRRELL TO AUTHORIZE THE FORMATION OF A FOUR MEMBER BI-PARTISAN SUBCOMMITTEE TO DEVELOP A CONTRACT FOR THE NEW SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS. FOSTER WHITE SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 8-0

X. CONSENT AGENDA--Board Approval

- (A) Budget Object Summary
- (B) Food Service Report
- (C) Check Registers
- (D) Request Approval of Adult Education PEP Grant
- (E) HR Report (Informational Item)
- (F) Private Donation for the month of April (Informational Item)
 - Community Foundation of New Britain donation to the Plainville Family Resource Center's Conscious Discipline Program.....\$3,500
 - Community Foundation of New Britain donation to the Plainville Family Resource Center's Family Fun Fest.....\$500
 - Liberty Bank donation to the Adult Education's post-secondary scholarship Credit Diploma Program..... \$2,000

A MOTION WAS MADE BY BECKY TYRRELL TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED. FOSTER WHITE SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 8-0.

XI. Adjournment

A MOTION WAS MADE BY BECKY TYRRELL TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. FOSTER WHITE SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED. The meeting adjourned at 8:53 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Calistro
Joan Calistro
Recorder of Minutes