

PENDING BOARD OF EDUCATION APPROVAL
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING OF THE PLAINVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION
PLAINVILLE, CONNECTICUT
MONDAY, MAY 11, 2020 @ 7:00 PM
VIRTUAL MEETING

I. Convene: Pledge of Allegiance

Out of caution with regard to the coronavirus, the Plainville Board of Education's Regular Business meeting was held virtually. The meeting was called to order at 7:01 PM by Board Chair Becky Tyrrell. Board Member Foster White led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members Present: Brent Davenport, Deborah Hardy, Becky Martinez, Nicole Palmieri, Laurie Peterson, Board Vice Chair Crystal St. Lawrence, Board Chair Becky Tyrrell, Kathy Wells and Foster White.

Also Present: Steven LePage, Superintendent of Schools
David Levenduski, Asst. Superintendent of Schools
Sam Adlerstein, Director of Business and Operations

Absent: None

Late Arrivals: Nicole Palmieri, 7:52 PM

II. Special Presentations

- A) Acknowledgement of Valedictorian, Helena Yawin, and Salutatorian, Christopher St. Lawrence, for the Class of 2020
- B) CABE Student Leadership Awards will be conducted at the June meeting.
- C) Everyday Hero Award: Terry Colamonico, Toffolon School Cafeteria Manager; Shannon Murphy, Middle School Guidance Counselor; Sarah Bailey, Linden Grade 5 teacher, Diane Lebel, Toffolon Grade 4 teacher, and Lily Cornielle, Wheeler Special Education teacher

III. Approval of Minutes

Minutes of April 20, 2020 Regular BOE meeting

A MOTION WAS MADE BY FOSTER WHITE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION'S REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING OF APRIL 20, 2020 AS PRESENTED. CRYSTAL ST. LAWRENCE SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 8-0.

- IV. Citizen Comments (Citizens are asked to go to the Board's website at www.plainvilleschools.org in order to find the process in which to make comments.)

Mr. LePage stated that the Board received one email under Citizens' Comments. He will pass the email along to Board Members and a response will be returned.

- V. Council Liaison

Mrs. Pugliese spoke about the following updates:

The Town has gone out to bid for runway improvements at Robertson Airport. Two bids were received. The project was awarded to Tilcon in the amount of \$2,389,944. An application has also been filed with the FAA. The Town will receive 100% reimbursement due to the Federal government's CARES Act. The project will begin in late summer, early fall.

The Town of Plainville will continue its partnership with BRRFOC who manages solid waste disposal. The town has done business with the BRRFOC for over 20 years.

The FY2020-21 budget is now complete. The town's budget is set at \$23,354,931 and the Board of Education's budget is set at \$39,144,267 totaling \$62,499,198. This is a spending increase of 1.16% or \$718,376. There will be no tax increase and the mill rate will remain the same. There will be no public voting this year due to the coronavirus. The Town Council unanimously passed the aforementioned budget at their May 4th meeting.

A 252,000 square foot building will be constructed on Northwest Drive. Property on Northwest Drive which has been vacant for over 20 years has been sold to a company called Americold, which is a controlled warehouse and transportation company which stores perishable food items and distributes them to regional grocery stores. The company will generate 119 new jobs and \$850,000 in new taxes in the first year.

- VI. Superintendent's Report

A) Vision of the Graduate and NEASC Update

Mr. LePage introduced Carl Johnson, PHS Principal who gave an update on Vision of the Graduate and NEASC. Mr. Johnson discussed Priority Growth Areas; Accreditation Visit Focus Areas; Vision of the Graduate; Vision/Mission and Next Steps. The original Accreditation visit is scheduled for November 15-18, 2020. Due to the coronavirus, schools will have an option to delay visits. Virtual visits may also be considered. More information will follow at a later date.

B) Grading Committee Update

Mr. LePage stated that a Grading Committee consisting of teachers and administrators have been working on how to align assessments to make it easier to communicate how grading is done.

--The elementary level has relatively minor revisions.

--The Middle School has improved instruction and is coming along fine, according to Principal Matt Guarino. They are working on students' transition to grade eight.

--The High School is looking for a more uniformed system across departments which will align with universal policies.

C) District Learning Update

Mr. LePage called upon each of the school principals to give a brief update on "a day in the life of a student" using Distance Learning. Principals presented a brief perspective on how Distance Learning works for grades Pre-K to 12 on a daily basis.

Mr. Johnson discussed the change in rotation structure by doing a four day rotation over five days. This gives the student an extra day to catch up on work and to speak to teachers about assignments or non-school related subjects. He also emphasized the importance of social/emotional learning at all levels but most especially at the High School level.

D) District Learning Grading Changes

Principals also discussed the importance of the grading system through Distance Learning. Key power standards are identified at the elementary levels.

At the High School level, Mr. Johnson stated that students deal with a lot and grading impacts students' way beyond High School. He stated that he attended a CAS virtual meeting recently to discuss grading issues and moving to a pass/fail system. He stated that his moto is, Do No Harm. He and his staff have created a system whereby maintaining a numeric grade to come up with a final grade. He stated that this is a good system and is confident that it works well for all students and the school.

Mr. Guarino stated that the Middle School shares the same grading system as the High School and has seen no changes in productivity since the decision to close school for the remainder of the year was communicated.

Tawana Graham-Douglas stated that at the elementary level, key power standards are identified at each grade level and that's what will be represented on each child's report card. Families will also be able to

access more practice/learning skills over the summer on their child's school website.

With regard to transition planning, Mr. LePage commended all district staff as he is very impressed with everything being done. He stated that plans are underway governing graduation ideas including Grade 5 and Grade 8 celebrations as well. He is fully committed to doing everything he can to put forth all of the events students are missing due to these unprecedented times, including prom or senior picnic.

He stated that planning for the opening of schools in the fall have begun. Elementary students will attend their current grade level for one week with their current teacher and classroom. Spending time together will help with the transition. During this time teachers will do assessments and gauge where students are academically. These findings will follow them to the next grade level where they will get the help needed, if necessary.

Becky Tyrrell thanked all administrators and teachers for all of their efforts in putting this report together. She stated that it is extremely helpful.

E) Discussion: Addition of Middle School SRO Position

Mr. LePage stated that he met with Chief Catania recently regarding an idea he had to bring a School Resource Officer to the Middle School. Mr. LePage feels that the interaction with students and the school climate would change for the better with the addition of an SRO. Chief Catania was open to the idea and it was then brought to the Town Council and Mr. Lee last week. The Town Council agreed with the hiring of an SRO but the position was not budgeted in the 2020-21 budget. Mr. LePage stated that he had originally budgeted for a security monitor to be placed at the Middle School and the remaining amount could come from realized savings. He stated that the insurance numbers coming in are suggesting a \$173,000 savings and is coming in 3% less than expected. He is therefore bringing this proposal to the Board for approval should the funds become available.

Mrs. Pugliese stated that she agrees with the hiring of the SRO and that it looks like there will be some changes/savings in terms of insurance. She stated that the six-month traffic officer position could also be put in place if funds are available.

Mr. LePage stated that because this request involves the Police department, the Town Council will have to approve SRO position.

F) Discussion: Innovation in Education Grant Award

Mr. LePage stated that a committee was formed over the last couple of years to oversee the awarding of funds from the Innovation in Education Grant. This year one application was received. Amy Dalena, district speech pathologist, would like to use the funds to open a lending library. Mr. LePage is asking the Board to approve the award of \$840 to Amy Dalena, as partial payment, for a lending library. The Board will be asked to approve the awarding of the grant under New Business. The committee will consider fundraising efforts for the future.

Members of the Innovation in Education Committee include: Steve LePage, Wendy Bender, Sue Bradley, Ann Carnevale, Lynn Davis, Lisa Gianni, Deb Pikiell, Crystal St. Lawrence, Cathy Schloesser and Foster White.

G) Discussion: Hockey Co-op Shift

Mr. LePage stated that Athletic Director Chris Farrell contacted him earlier in the week to let him know that the Hockey Co-op with the town of Wethersfield will break up due to the fact that Wethersfield now has their own team. That said, Plainville will now play in a new co-op consisting of Rocky Hill, Middletown and Haddam-Killingworth. Rocky Hill will host the team.

H) Acknowledgement of Nurses' Day—May 6, 2020

Mr. LePage stated that May 6th was Nurses' Day and last week was Teacher Appreciation Week. He thanked both the school nurses and teachers for the tremendous job that they've done, especially during these unprecedented times.

Mr. LePage stated that he will propose a calendar change. This year, the last day of school for seniors will be held on June 12. Because of the three snow days which took place over the winter, the remaining students last day of school is scheduled for June 17. He would like to propose that all students' last day be June 12 in order to hold professional learning time over the remaining three days. This will take the school year to 177 days instead of 180. This number of days does exceed most of the towns in Connecticut. The Board will be asked to vote on this under New Business.

The Linden Principal Search is underway. He thanked Tawana Graham-Douglas for stepping in as interim principal. He stated that a survey has been sent out to parents asking what qualities they would like to see in a principal. He has received a few requests from parents to be on the interview team.

Food Share Mobile distribution will be set-up at Plainville High School in the front parking lot (every other Monday) during the summer. This request came from the Senior Center.

Mr. LePage will be serving on an SEL Forum tomorrow, sponsored by CCSU. He will be on a panel with eight people including former Superintendent Dr. Maureen Brummett. This will be a statewide webinar on social/emotional learning.

Mr. LePage reminded the Board that his evaluation will take place prior to the June Board meeting. He will prepare a summary.

Mr. LePage announced the name of the Board's new Student Liaison, Katherine Guarco. Both she and Allie Chambrello couldn't attend the meeting this evening as they are both studying for AP exams.

Mr. LePage stated that the Math Curriculum Committee reviewed several new math programs over the last few months. They chose the *Illustrative Math* program which they are confident is a great program for students. The Board will be asked to approve the new program under New Business.

VII. Board Subcommittee Reports

A) Student Representative Report—NO REPORT

B) Facilities/Finance Subcommittee Reports—NO REPORT

C) Policy Subcommittee Report—NO REPORT

D) Curriculum Subcommittee Report

Kathy Wells reported that a presentation regarding the proposed new Math curriculum for the elementary schools took place on May 6th. The dedicated team of Wendy Bender, Alicia Atterato, Kirsten Penner and Sue Stoker, as well as Principals and administrators investigated and reviewed several program options. The team visited several school districts and obtained input from the State level. The team has chosen a program called *Illustrative Math*. It was described as rigorous, problem solving and inquiry based. The team is confident this will be a great program for all elementary students. The committee also discussed Distance Learning and asked the Superintendent for information on "a day in the life of a student" which was presented at this evening's meeting.

E) Outreach Subcommittee Report—NO REPORT

F) PAC Liaison—Plainville High School Report

Mr. Johnson commended the members of PAC who are mobilizing to assist in all end of the year plans for the Class of 2020. He stated that members are stepping up and doing things that haven't been done before. He thanked them for their efforts.

Foster White stated that he received a communication from Lynn Davis and Sue Bradley. There is another fundraising event underway which includes the sale of banners and lawn signs for the graduates. He stated that this is just another way to add support to the Class of 2020.

G) PAC Liaison—Toffolon Elementary School Report

Becky Martinez stated that the PTO's yearbook committee is working hard on getting the yearbook together. The Deadline to order Toffolon yearbooks is May 15. Distance Learning photos and photos from the parades have been incorporated. You may go to the PTO or Premier Photos Facebook page to find out more about ordering a yearbook.

Sadly, PTO members were not able to give treats to teachers throughout the week, as they did last year, so they treated all Toffolon staff with Amazon gift cards for Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week. The PTO also provided classroom teachers and reading paras with \$50 worth of Scholastic books and supplies, using Scholastic dollars.

The PTO's Scholarship Committee has been hard at work inputting their votes for the two \$500 Toffolon scholarships. The names of the two scholarship winners are Maggie Cronkhite and Alexis Ludko.

H) PAC Liaison—Linden Elementary School Report

Kathy Wells reported that the Linden PTO has been very busy. They sent out virtual gift cards to Linden teachers and staff for Teacher Appreciation Week. Families were encouraged to send videos directly to teachers. The PTO is still working on holding a virtual Book Fair. They are still collaborating on the details.

The PTO continues to work on the Linden yearbook which will be free of cost to all 5th grade Linden students.

The Election of new officers will take place at their next meeting and the PTO is ready, willing and able to help with any end of the year festivities that can be done.

I) PAC Liaison—Middle School Report

Crystal St. Lawrence stated that the MSP PTC met virtually on April 21st. Most of the discussion centered around plans for the 8th grade promotion festivities of some sort, instead of their usual dinner/dance. Discussion will continue tomorrow evening at their next meeting.

Mr. Guarino stated that the PTC will hold off on their election of new officers until the fall. They will then include incoming elementary school parents who may want to participate.

J) PAC Liaison—Wheeler Elementary School Report—NO REPORT

K) CREC Council Report—NO REPORT

L) Chairperson's Report

Mrs. Tyrrell stated that every Friday at 2 PM, CABE has been holding a virtual Board Chair Roundtable discussion where they bring up various things that districts around the State are doing. She stated that the meeting has been very informative. This past week, a gentleman from CCM, a Town Manager from West Haven, spoke about collaboration between Boards of Education and their Town government. He stated that it is imperative to have a good collaboration between the two. She thought how fortunate Plainville was to have the budget pass as well as it had and thanked the Town Manager, Mr. LePage, and the Town Council who worked collaboratively to help the district move forward. She stated that there will be some unexpected items that will arise next year as far as the reopening of school, i.e., issues dealing with things kids have missed. She stated that the Board needs to be ready to handle each situation as it arises and will need to take care of those students next year.

She then congratulated the Class of 2020 Valedictorian, Helena Yawin and Salutatorian, Christopher St. Lawrence. She also thanked all teachers and staff in honor of Teacher Appreciation Week. She commented that this has been a challenging year that no one could have predicted.

Lastly, she gave a big thank you to the district's Technology Department. Almost everything the Board talks about revolves around Technology and the Technology staff. They are the reason the district is in such good shape. Kevin Ross and his team make a big difference as to what teachers, students and staff are able to do within each building.

VIII. Unfinished Business

IX. New Business

A MOTION WAS MADE BY FOSTER WHITE TO ADD THE APPROVAL OF CHANGES TO THE 2019-20 SCHOOL CALENDAR UNDER NEW BUSINESS, ITEM H. NICOLE PALMIERI SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 9-0.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY BECKY MARTINEZ TO ADD THE APPROVAL OF THE ILLUSTRATIVE MATH PROGRAM UNDER NEW BUSINESS, ITEM I. BRENT DAVENPORT SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 9-0.

A) Board Open Forum

Crystal St. Lawrence congratulated Chris and Helena (Valedictorian and Salutatorian). As a parent she sees them as two little people at Linden Street School. She also congratulated the Everyday Heroes and

all administrators, teachers and staff who are doing a great job for Plainville's students.

In addition, if you drive around town you may see a flamingo on someone's lawn. She is spearheading the flamingo project, along with Project Graduation. She stated this is all done for fun and will take place within the next couple of weeks. Some families are happy to have a flamingo on their lawn.

Foster White extends his thanks and appreciation to Allie Chambrello for her service as student liaison of the Board. He sends his good wishes as she continues her education. He stated, "It's been a pleasure to have served with her on the Board".

Nicole Palmieri stated that there is a group on Facebook looking for people to adopt a High School senior (throughout Connecticut) to make their senior year special. The website will remain for the next couple of weeks. People can send cards, gifts, make baked goods, do something special for the student to celebrate their accomplishments.

B) Quarterly Special Education Cost Report (Oct., Jan., Mar., June)—NO REPORT

C) Turf Committee Report (Sept. & May)

Mr. Alderstein stated that the purpose of including this report on the agenda is to stay on top of the committee's activities. He stated that somewhere down the road there will be a significant expense for the resurfacing of the High School fields. The resurfacing estimate at this time is approximately \$500,000 for the main field and approximately \$200,000 for the softball field (this is a rough draft). Currently, the committee has raised \$99,501.

Mr. Adlerstein stated that he got together with the Partner Organizations (Little League, Football and Soccer) in early April to review their contributions and expectations. Discussion also ensued regarding the maintenance of the fields.

Next year, the advertising signs around the fences are up for renewal which will generate funding. Funds are also generated through the rental of the fields.

D) Request Approval to add Middle School of Plainville School Resource Officer Position

A MOTION WAS MADE BY FOSTER WHITE TO APPROVE THE HIRING OF A SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER FOR THE MIDDLE SCHOOL OF PLAINVILLE DURING THE 2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR,

PENDING AVAILABLE FUNDING. CRYSTAL ST. LAWRENCE SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 9-0.

- E) Request Approval of Vision of the Graduate Qualities
A MOTION WAS MADE BY BECKY MARTINEZ TO APPROVE NEW QUALITIES FOR THE VISION OF THE GRADUATE PROGRAM. BRENT DAVENPORT SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 9-0.
- F) Request Approval of Innovation in Education Grant Award
A MOTION WAS MADE BY CRYSTAL ST. LAWRENCE TO AWARD PARTIAL PAYMENT OF \$840 TO AMY DALENA, SPEECH PATHOLOGIST, FROM THE INNOVATION IN EDUCATION GRANT, WHICH WILL BE USED FOR A LENDING LIBRARY. BRENT DAVENPORT SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED 8-0 WITH ONE ABSENTION FROM MS. PALMIERI WHO WAS NOT PRESENT DURING THE DISCUSSION.
- G) Request Approval of Proposal: CT Institute for the Blind (Oak Hill) rental agreement for 09/01/20 to 08/31/21
A MOTION WAS MADE BY BECKY MARTINEZ 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 09/01/20 TO 08/31/21. BRENT DAVENPORT SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 9-0.
- H) *Request Approval of Changes to 2019-2020 School Calendar*
A MOTION WAS MADE BY BECKY MARTINEZ TO APPROVE CHANGES TO THE 2019-20 SCHOOL CALENDAR WHEREBY ALLOWING ALL STUDENTS TO END THE 2019-20 SCHOOL YEAR ON FRIDAY, JUNE 12, 2020 AND TO ALLOW JUNE 15-17, 2020 TO BE USED AS PROFESSIONAL LEARNING DAYS FOR TEACHERS AND STAFF. BRENT DAVENPORT SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 9-0.
- I) *Request Approval of Illustrative Math Program*
A MOTION WAS MADE BY BECKY MARTINEZ TO APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF THE ILLUSTRATIVE MATH PROGRAM FOR ALL ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS. BRENT DAVENPORT SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 9-0.

- X. Consent Agenda
A) Budget Object Summary
B) Food Service Report

- C) Check Registers
- D) Request Approval of Adult Education PEP Grant
- E) HR Report
- F) Private Donations for the Month of April
 - There were no private donations for the month of April

A MOTION WAS MADE BY CHRYSTAL ST. LAWRENCE TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED. NICOLE PALMIERI SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 9-0.

XI. Adjournment

A MOTION WAS MADE BY NICOLE PALMIERI TO ADJOURN THE REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING OF THE PLAINVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION. BRENT DAVENPORT SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 9-0. The meeting was adjourned at 9:37 PM

Respectfully submitted

Joan Calistro

Joan Calistro
Recorder of Minutes