

PENDING BOARD OF EDUCATION APPROVAL
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING OF THE PLAINVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION
PLAINVILLE HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA
47 ROBERT HOLCOMB WAY
PLAINVILLE, CONNECTICUT

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2020 @ 7:00 PM

This meeting was held both virtually and in-person

I. Convene: Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting was convened at 7:01PM by Board Chair Becky Tyrrell.
Board Member Deborah Hardy led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members Present: Brent Davenport (virtual), 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, Dir. of Business and Operations (virtual)
Katherine Guarco, Student Liaison to the Board

Absent: None

Late Arrivals: None

II. Special Presentations--NONE

III. Approval of Minutes (Becky Tyrrell)

A) Request Approval of Minutes of Board of Education's Regular Business Meeting of September 14, 2020

A MOTION WAS MADE BY LAURIE PETERSON TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE BOARD'S REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 14, 2020 AS PRESENTED. KATHY WELLS SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 9-0.

B) Request Approval of Minutes of Board of Education's Special Meeting of September 24, 2020

A MOTION WAS MADE BY LAURIE PETERSON TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE BOARD'S SPECIAL MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 24, 2020 AS PRESENTED. KATHY WELLS SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 9-0.

IV. Citizen Comments—NONE

V. Council Liaison (Kathy Pugliese)

Mrs. Pugliese could not attend this evening's meeting and asked Mrs. Tyrrell to reported on the following items:

▷Because the first meeting during the month of November is the evening prior to Election Day, the Town Council voted to cancel the November 2nd Town Council meeting. Historically, this has been done in the past.

▷On Thursday, October 15th at 6 PM in the Plainville High School Cafeteria, the Town Council will meet with two developers who are interested in the White Oak property on West Main Street. Those submitting proposals are D'Amato Construction Company and Meyer Enterprises. Both developers will be given 30 minutes to present their proposals to the Town Council and Town staff. The public is invited to attend.

▷Leaf collection will begin on October 26th and will continue through November 30th. Due to COVID-19, the town will not be utilizing temporary workers this year. Residents are therefore asked to assist in getting leaves to the curb as early as possible.

▷2021 Revaluation: As of the October 2021 Grand List, Plainville is scheduled to perform its real estate revaluation, which takes place every five years. Two proposals were submitted and Tyler Technologies was selected to perform the work. The cost for their services will total \$195,900. The Capital Improvement Budget currently has \$140,896 earmarked for the revaluation. The additional \$55,004 will be included in the FY22 Capital Budget.

VI. Superintendent's Report

A) Re-Opening of School Update—COVID-19

Mr. LePage reported that students are now on their sixth day of full in-person learning. Everything is going well. Staff are vigilant in meeting the needs of changing of schedules.

Mr. LePage stated that Shane Lockwood, Regional Heath Director, has praised the district. He is impressed with the great job the district has done to prepare for students coming back and was very pleased with the outcomes when he made his visits. He is also very happy with the rules of quarantine and the way they were articulated to parents. He stated that the district is doing a great job keeping students and staff safe. Mr. LePage has been and will continue to be in constant contact with the Health Department throughout this pandemic.

Mr. LePage stated that students seem to be very happy getting back together, in spite of COVID rules and regulations set forth. He also commented that he has received many nice comments from parents over the last few weeks.

He reported that there are currently 435 students who are continuing with remote learning. He stated that teachers are doing a great job

meeting the needs of both in-person learners and remote learners. He also stated that surveys will be sent out to students, staff and families very soon. He hopes to gather their perceptions as to how things are going.

Mr. LePage lauded Stacy Buden, HR Director and Julie Simard, COVID Liaison, who are doing a fantastic job with communication and contact tracing. Mr. LePage is aware that parents want more details as to who might be carrying the virus in their child's school, but stated that there are legalities and confidentiality laws that must be followed.

Mr. LePage reported that many area Superintendents who communicate on a weekly basis are concerned that an Executive Order from the Governor's office might come down and close schools again. They have been in contact with the Director of CAPSS (Connecticut Association of School Superintendents) who has received no information that this will happen.

Mr. LePage is pleased that, for the time being, the Board has gone back to full Board meetings.

He reminded everyone that the virus seems to be transmitted through gatherings, parties, etc. and asks everyone to be very careful and to wear masks. He stated that the district is doing all that it can to keep both students and staff safe at all times.

In conclusion, Mr. LePage stated that Athletic Director, Chris Farrell, is in the process of bringing back intramural sports at the Middle School for grades 6, 7 and 8 (separately). To begin the program, cross country and soccer will be instituted. Mr. Farrell will communicate further with MSP parents.

B) SEL and Equity Update

Mr. LePage introduced Assistant Superintendent David Levenduski, who will give a brief update on Social-Emotional Learning and Equity.

Mr. Levenduski explained that Social-Emotional Learning is the major goal in educating the whole child. He referenced the Theory of Action which states, "If we provide safe, supportive and equitable learning environments that support the social and emotional needs of our learning community, then students and staff will thrive and flourish."

Mr. Levenduski explained that Social-Emotional Learning is the process through which children and adults understand and manage emotions, set and achieve positive goals, feel and show empathy for others,

establish and maintain positive relationships, and make responsible decisions.

Through SEL, students will learn self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills and responsible decision-making.

Many of these skills are what employers look for when hiring new employees. Students who participate in school-based programs focused on social and emotional learning benefit in multiple ways as compared to students who do not experience programming in social and emotional learning.

Mr. Levenduski stated that SEL is more important than ever due to pandemic experiences, student and adult trauma, increased anxiety, stress and depression, relationship building, sense of belonging and indicators of success in school and life.

Mr. Levenduski then touched on the what is being done for SEL.

The following district goals include:

- ▷ District and school committees dedicated to SEL
- ▷ Multi-year, district training on RULER program
- ▷ Internal, ongoing professional learning within district
- ▷ Staff members learning about and practicing the RULER elements
- ▷ Establishing school and classroom Charters for how everyone would like to feel in those spaces
- ▷ Implementing strategies to allow for positive relationship building and sense of belonging among staff and students
- ▷ Enhancing our parent communication and family engagement
- ▷ Integrating all SEL strategies into daily practices and programming
- ▷ Helping students learn about and apply the RULER elements throughout their day
- ▷ Developing and reinforcing school/classroom charters
- ▷ Explicit SEL instruction and support during daily meetings
- ▷ Recognizing student efforts
- ▷ Roll-out and student use of the "mood meter"
- ▷ Including parents in this work
- ▷ Targeted lessons for small groups
- ▷ Positive, weekly treats and messages for staff
- ▷ Additional opportunities for counseling support
- ▷ Expanding student voice and choice in learning
- ▷ Connecting the Portrait of a Graduate to daily work
- ▷ Sensory Room for students to regulate emotions

Recognizing emotions in self and others

Understanding the causes and consequences of emotions

Labeling emotions accurately

Expressing emotions appropriately

Regulating emotions effectively

Mr. Levenduski then explained that Educational Equity is a measure of achievement, fairness and opportunity in education.

- ▶ All students deserve to be supported, taught, and challenged in an appropriate manner
- ▶ No student should feel there are barriers in place that limit access and opportunities
- ▶ A student's identity or background should not predetermine their educational outcomes

Plainville's community is changing:

- ▶ In two years, languages spoken jumped from 18 to 25
- ▶ The number of students who speak the top four languages (Spanish, Polish, Urdu and Arabic) increased by 125
- ▶ Students eligible for free and reduced lunch is over 40% districtwide
- ▶ Because of increase in Spanish speaking students, the district is now required to provide a bilingual program

Mr. Levenduski then touched on the what is being done for Equity.

The following district goals include:

- ▷ Dedicated committees to oversee this work at district and school levels
- ▷ Examination of school and district practices to ensure there are no barriers to access/opportunity for specific groups of students
- ▷ Disaggregating student data to assess any discrepancies in achievement based on ethnicity, socio-economic status or educational status (special education, English learner)
- ▷ Incorporating culturally responsive instruction as well as more voice and choice in student learning
- ▷ Ongoing professional learning
- ▷ Cultural celebrations and studies/sharing
- ▷ Incorporating examples of successful individuals that match our students' cultures/ethnicities into the curriculum
- ▷ Including more literature that connects to our students' backgrounds
- ▷ More targeted support for our students in need (academically, physically, socially)
- ▷ Meeting the specific language needs of our families
- ▷ More student involvement (representation on committees, creation of clubs) to address equity issues

- ▷ Utilizing established time during the school day through class meetings, homeroom and advisory periods to discuss equity
- ▷ Surveying families and students regarding personal experiences and connectedness to school

For more information on SEL and Equity Work, please contact:
David Levenduski, Asst. Superintendent—levenduski@plainvilleschools.org
Tawana Graham-Douglas, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment—grahamt@plainvilleschools.org
Lily Cornielle, EL/Equity/Student Supports Specialist—cornielle@plainvilleschools.org
Vicki Trzcinski, Director of Special Services—trzcinskiv@plainvilleschools.org
Christina Kiley, Supervisor of Special Services—kileyc@plainvilleschools.org

VII. Board Subcommittee Reports

A) Student Representative Report (Katherine Guarco)

Katherine Guarco expressed her concerns and feelings, and those of her fellow classmates, about being a student during these unprecedented times and the uncertainty of things. She stated that students are getting used to wearing masks and social distancing. She commented that teachers and staff have been incredible as they try to meet the needs of students.

Ms. Guarco stated that the Senior class has many questions regarding senior events that take place throughout the year.

She reported that SAT's will be taken by Sophomores and Juniors on October 14. Seniors took SAT's in September and Freshman will take them in the spring.

Portraits for the yearbook will be taken soon. They are trying to arrange a class photo on the football field so that they can spread out.

Various fall sports are underway with an abbreviated season.

Students and teachers are working on ways to honor veterans on Veteran's Day. The Senior class has ideas on how to structure this year's class competitions and they are also looking at different ways to structure Homecoming.

Parent/Teacher Conferences will be held virtually on October 28th.

The first quarter of the school year will end on November 6th.

Mrs. Tyrrell thanked Ms. Guarco for expressing her concerns about being a student under these abnormal times.

- B) Facilities/Finance Subcommittee Reports (Foster White)—No Report
Mr. LePage stated a Facilities/Finance Subcommittee meeting will be coordinated within the next few weeks. The agenda will include the Capital Budget for FY21-22 and next steps for the Middle School Renovation project.
- C) Policy Subcommittee Report (Crystal St. Lawrence)-No Report
A policy meeting will be set-up sometime in November.
- D) Curriculum Subcommittee Report (Kathy Wells)-No Report
- E) Outreach Subcommittee Report (Crystal St. Lawrence)-No Report
- F) PAC Liaison—Plainville High School Report (Foster White)
Mr. White stated that the PAC last met on September 30, 2020 via a Zoom meeting. New PAC officers for the year are Karen Lyman, President, Christine Wells, Vice President, Julie Lavigne, Treasurer, and Lisa Levesque, Secretary. There was no Treasurer's Report. The pie and cookie fundraiser began on October 1 and ended on October 12 with a delivery date scheduled for November 11. The PAC will consider a bottle and can drive as an additional fundraiser. They also hope to sell Butter Braids later in the year. The next meeting of the PAC will be on October 21, followed by another meeting on November 11 at 7 PM. It has not been determined if the meetings will be in person or on Zoom.
- G) PTO Liaison—Toffolon Elementary School Report (Becky Martinez)
Mrs. Martinez reported on the following:
- The first Toffolon PTO meeting of the school year was held on September 17 on Facebook live.
 - Toffolon PTO meetings will be held on the 3rd Thursday of the month and will be held virtually, at least until the end of the year.
 - New PTO Officers include: Bethel Hairston, President, Kristin Campbell, Vice President, Sarah Blake, Treasurer and Rebecca Preston, Secretary.
 - The Treasurer's Report includes: \$52 from Amazon Smiles; \$100 received from Baystate Textiles and \$297 from submitted boxtops.
 - The PTO welcomed all new Toffolon staff.
 - PTO member spoke about the recent Golf Tournament in honor of Axel Ouellette. The tournament was a great success. The PTO donated a raffle basket. Another tournament is being planned as the outcome was so overwhelming.
 - Students are asked to send in photos of the first day of school for the yearbook.
 - Upcoming fundraisers include (most will be virtual): Bracelet fundraiser; Scholastic Book Fair; Calendar raffle and A Taste of Toffolon Week.
 - The Apex Fun Run will be held from May 24th to June 4th.
 - The next PTO meeting is scheduled for October 15 at 7 PM.
- H) PTO Liaison—Linden Elementary School Report (Kathy Wells)

Mrs. Wells stated that the Linden PTO will meet virtually tomorrow morning at 11 AM and again at 7 PM. Links can be obtained through an email from the Principal.

► The Cherrydale Farms fundraiser will begin on Monday. All orders can be placed online.

► The Linden PTO has a new Facebook page. Check it out!

- I) PTC Liaison—Middle School Report (Crystal St. Lawrence)
Mrs. St. Lawrence stated that the PTC met on September 22nd and will meet again (virtually) tomorrow October 14th at 7 PM. The PTC is looking for new officers.

- J) PTO Liaison—Wheeler Elementary School Report (Nicole Palmieri)—
No Report

- K) CREC Council Report (Becky Tyrrell)—No Report
The next CREC Council meeting is scheduled for October 21st

- L) Chairperson's Report (Becky Tyrrell)
Mrs. Tyrrell stated that she had a conversation with Sam Adlerstein, the district's Director of Business and Operations, about exploring various ways that the Board can communicate to the public and an attempt to establish procedures and principles for the benefit of current and future BOE members. Mr. Adlerstein recommended speaking to members of CABE or CAPSS to see if they have any recommendations or procedures as to how this may be done. She stated that she is thinking about putting something out through the CABE Board Chair List Serve or perhaps a BOE handbook which is used by the Berlin BOE.

VIII. Unfinished Business
No Unfinished Business

IX. New Business
A) Board Open Forum

Foster White thanked Mr. Levenduski for his presentation on Social-Emotional Learning and Equity, as he felt it was most timely. He also recommended Dr. Marc Brackett's book, *Permission to Feel*, and offered to lend his copy to any Board Member who might be interested in reading it.

Nicole Palmieri asked if the Board could receive guidelines on the process of receipt of information. What information does the Board receive and what information do they not receive? She referenced a recent article in the Hartford Courant regarding two lawsuits brought against the district, which she just learned about.

In response to Ms. Palmieri's question, Mrs. Tyrrell stated that the Board was informed of both incidents and the pending lawsuits. She stated that both incidents took place a few years ago and wasn't sure why the article ended up back in the newspaper at this time. She also

stated that most all information is shared, unless there are confidentiality issues that cannot be shared and are mandated by the law.

B) Quarterly Special Education Cost Report (Oct., Jan., Mar., June)

Mr. Adlerstein stated that this is a quarterly review of the district's Special Education costs. The forecast for tuition, as things currently stand, is unfavorable by (\$361,448) at year end. There are currently 33 outplaced students to date, 3 are short term placements, one transition services and support and 9 magnet and Tech support. This year, new situations are driving an anticipated \$457,876 additional cost with little offset at this point. However, at least two of the current outplacements are targeted for potential return to the district. In October, the situation is fluid and will be monitored carefully.

Vicki Trzcinski, stated that three new students who need to be outplaced entered the district, which was a bit of a surprise. In addition, two new students have been outplaced due to expulsions. She stated that they are looking to bring students back into the district as soon as they can.

Mr. LePage thanked Ms. Trzcinski, Ms. Kiley and their staff for the hard work they do. He stated that this can be a thankless job at times but they do a great job. He commented that their hard work and dedication is much appreciated by the district.

C) Turf Committee Report (Sept. & May)—No Report

D) Request Approval of Collective Bargaining Agreement: Plainville Association of School Administrators 07/01/21 to 06/30/22

Mr. LePage brought forth the contract extension for the district's administrators for 2021-22 which he asked the Board to approve. He stated that the administrator's support and maintain our schools and do an exceptional job. Since COVID started they have given up much of their personal time and have been challenged to the fullest.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY FOSTER WHITE TO APPROVE THE PLAINVILLE ASSOCIATION SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS AGREEMENT FOR 07/01/21 TO 06/30/22 AS PRESENTED THROUGH REDLINE AGREEMENT. REBECCA MARTINEZ SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 9-0.

X. Consent Agenda

A) Budget Object Summary

- B) Food Service Report
- C) Check Registers
- D) HR Report (Informational Item)
- E) Private Donations for the Month of September (Informational Item)
 - ▶ The Bocompani family donation for Chromebooks.....\$30
 - ▶ Pierette's Closet to the Adult Education Department..... \$100

A MOTION WAS MADE BY FOSTER WHITE TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED. CRYSTAL ST. LAWRENCE SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 9-0.

XI. Adjournment

A MOTION WAS MADE BY LAURIE PETERSON TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. REBECCA MARTINEZ SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 9-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:01 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Joan Calistro
Recorder of Minutes

RECEIVED

OCT 19 2020


TOWN CLERK

**REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING OF THE PLAINVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION
PLAINVILLE, CONNECTICUT
SUMMARY OF MOTIONS
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2020**

- Approval of Minutes
2327. Request Approval of Minutes of Board of Education's Regular Business Meeting of September 14, 2020
A MOTION WAS MADE BY LAURIE PETERSON TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE BOARD'S REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 14, 2020 AS PRESENTED. KATHY WELLS SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 9-0.

2328. Request Approval of Minutes of Board of Education's Special Meeting of September 24, 2020
A MOTION WAS MADE BY LAURIE PETERSON TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE BOARD'S SPECIAL MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 24, 2020 AS PRESENTED. KATHY WELLS SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 9-0.

2329. Request Approval of Collective Bargaining Agreement: Plainville Association of School Administrators 07/01/21 to 06/30/22

A MOTION WAS MADE BY FOSTER WHITE TO APPROVE THE PLAINVILLE ASSOCIATION SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS AGREEMENT FOR 07/01/21 TO 06/30/22 AS PRESENTED THROUGH REDLINE AGREEMENT. REBECCA MARTINEZ SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 9-0.

2330. Consent Agenda
- A) Budget Object Summary
 - B) Food Service Report
 - C) Check Registers
 - D) HR Report (Informational Item)
 - E) Private Donations for the Month of September (Informational Item)
 - The Bocompani family donation for Chromebooks.....\$30
 - Pierette's Closet to the Adult Education Department..... \$100

A MOTION WAS MADE BY FOSTER WHITE TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED. CRYSTAL ST. LAWRENCE SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 9-0.

2331. Adjournment
A MOTION WAS MADE BY LAURIE PETERSON TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. REBECCA MARTINEZ SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 9-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:01 PM.