

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE PLAINVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION
PLAINVILLE, CONNECTICUT
MONDAY, JANUARY 27, 2020**

Special Meeting Topics: 1) Additional Review of the Superintendent's Proposed Budget
2) Continuation of Board Budget Development Session
3) Other

Place and Time: Plainville High School (Learning Commons)
47 Robert Holcomb Way
Plainville, CT 06062

7:00 PM

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

Members Absent: None

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

Early Departures: None

Board Chair Becky Tyrrell called the special meeting of the Plainville Board of Education to order at 7:04 PM.

Superintendent LePage began with a brief PowerPoint presentation highlighting the Budget Summary by Location (correction to a slide); Index of object page changes; Certified advisors; Health Insurance; What is not in the budget; What does the proposed budget represent?

Mr. LePage stated that he is very proud of the budget he has put forth. He stated that although this is a bare bones budget, he feels that it will give the students what they need while looking out for the taxpayers. A brief discussion ensued.

Mrs. Tyrrell then asked each Board of Education member to give their thoughts and/or recommendations about the budget and asked if they should move forward with the proposed 2.61%.

Foster White thanked Mr. LePage for his explanation as to what areas aren't in the budget. He said he feels that the Board is cutting it close with regard to Special Education funding, as well as not funding an additional custodian to keep up with the needs of the newly renovated buildings which leads for more requests for overtime, which is a concern. He feels that the Board should Re-evaluate, Reallocate and Reinvest and not look at items as expenses, but rather as an investment in the educational system. He stated that this budget deserves the Board's support.

Laurie Peterson stated that we are in a State where students are now leaving to find jobs in other states and is concerned about the investment.

Brent Davenport stated that it is the Board's duty to invest in the students who are enrolled in this district. He also stated that there were many Plainville High School graduates at this meeting.

Ms. Peterson stated the district is investing a lot of money for students who will eventually move away.

Mr. White stated that investing in education brings a positive value to real estate in town as well. As set forth in local entities, it is the responsibility of the Board to educate the youth in their town/community. The return on real estate reacts positively and the community becomes economically stable.

Mr. LePage stated that many Plainville graduates who have left, come back which is quite evident in the High School's Career Day festivities. Many students know that it is a great school district and come back to raise their own children in this town. He stated that it is his job to propose the very best budget and to do what is right for the

students. He feels good about this budget as it takes care of the needs of Plainville's students, while also looking out for the taxpayers.

Brent Davenport stated that another value is the representation of Plainville people in this room who are interested in the budget process. It is important to maintain the high quality of education in this town and he will support this budget.

Crystal St. Lawrence stated that the Board must do their very best for its students. She herself went away to school but returned to Plainville and raised a family here. She doesn't see the correlation between approving a fair budget and people moving away. She too is in favor of this budget.

Kathleen Wells stated that her daughter was a Plainville High School graduate, went away to school, and returned to Plainville, and is now a teacher in the Plainville school system. She was needed here. She doesn't see many people leaving Plainville.

Rebecca Martinez stated that many students have come back and the main reason is because of the high quality school system Plainville offers.

Laurie Peterson stated that with a lack of jobs in the state, a large amount of former students will not return. She feels the budget is too high.

Becky Tyrrell stated that as elected officials, they are obligated to do the best that they can to make the school system strong. With a strong school system, comes a strong community. She asked if there are any suggestions that Ms. Peterson can give to reduce the budget further.

Deborah Hardy then asked Mr. LePage about Smarter Balance scores. She asked if thing will be changed around..

Mr. LePage stated that the administration and teachers are working hard to improve the district scores. They are looking at benchmark scores and with the addition of PLC days, it allows teachers to track where a student is academically and how they are doing.

Mr. Davenport stated that he appreciates all that Mr. LePage and his staff have done with regard to this budget. He feels this is a lean budget and is in favor of moving this budget forward.

Nicole Palmieri stated that this is a responsible budget and she will support it.

Kathy Wells stated that she also supports this budget. She stated that it is a \$26,000 increase not counting contractual obligations.

Becky Martinez stated that she is very pleased with the administrative team. They wear many hats and take on many roles. She is in agreement with the 10 month administrative positions and is pleased that a Security Officer has been hired. She has noticed that over the years, the Board has had to reduce many items but asks when it is time to reallocate the funding. She stated that the budget is a conservative budget and a responsible budget. She is in favor of moving forward with the 2.61%.

Becky Tyrrell stated that if an individual doesn't support the budget then please give examples of where the budget might be reduced. She stated that this budget is almost completely contractual. She also commented that she appreciates the work that the Superintendent and his staff did, as well as building administrators and heads of departments. She stated that it is obvious the amount of work and the level of detail that went into this budget and how careful and thoughtful they were to present this low of a budget.

Mr. White stated that it is not fair to say that you don't like the budget without saying why. To make a responsible statement, you should say where the budget should be reduced. You are well within your right to feel that the budget should be reduced but you are obligated to let everyone know what it is that you would like to see reduced so that it can be discussed by the entire Board.

Ms. Peterson stated that it is too high overall and we can do better.

The consensus:

Brent Davenport—agrees with 2.61% budget

Deborah Hardy—does not agree, asks to cut further

Becky Martinez—agrees with 2.61% budget

Nicole Palmieri-- agrees with 2.61% budget

Laurie Peterson-- does not agree, asks to cut further

Crystal St. Lawrence-- agrees with 2.61% budget

Kathy Wells-- agrees with 2.61% budget

Foster White-- agrees with 2.61% budget

Becky Tyrrell-- agrees with 2.61% budget

It is the consensus of the Board that a 2.61% budget be brought to their February 10th Board meeting for approval.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY FOSTER WHITE TO ADJOURN THE SPECIAL MEETING AT 8:12 PM.
THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY BRENT DAVENPORT. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED
9-0.**

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Calistro

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Recorder of Minutes

RECEIVED

JAN 30 2020

Carla Skutney
TOWN CLERK