

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE PLAINVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION
PLAINVILLE, CONNECTICUT
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2022**

Special Meeting Topics: ► Board workshop on Board Bylaws with Nick Caruso of CABE
► Board introduction to the Lighthouse Project with Nick Caruso of CABE
► Board closeout of budget workshops for February 14th vote at Regular Business Meeting

Place and Time: Plainville High School Learning Commons at 6:30 PM

Members Present: Rachel Buchanan, Cassandra Clark, Chair Lori Consalvo, Vice Chair Deborah Hardy, Rebecca Martinez, Laurie Peterson, Becky Tyrrell, and Foster White

Members Absent: Crystal St. Lawrence

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

Early Departures: None

The Special Meeting of the Plainville Board of Education was called to order at 6:30 PM.

Mr. Adlerstein introduced Mr. Nick Caruso, Senior Staff Associate for Field Services from the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE).

Mr. Caruso stated that he will work this evening to help modify a few of the Board of Education's Bylaws. He gave the Board a copy of the *Connecticut Code of Ethics for Boards of Education*, which is based upon Standards of Leadership for Members of Boards of Education, recommended by the CABE Board of Directors. He also distributed a copy of a Board of Education Compact, listing various actions which will help Board Members become accountable to the Board standards.

He then asked Board Members to read the Code of Ethics for Boards of Education and compare it to the Board's current bylaw. Although there weren't many differences between the two documents, a few Board Members brought up various topics for discussion. A few changes were brought forward. The revisions were presented as follows:

To add Item No. 16 from the CABE Code of Ethics as follows:

"I will support and protect school personnel in the proper performance of their duties. I will strive to ensure that all personnel have not only the requisite responsibilities, but the necessary authority to perform effectively."

The phrase "supportive of each other" was also discussed. It was asked if a separate document could be created with each Board Member outlining their commitment to the Board. This document could be read at the beginning of each meeting or can be posted on the wall, and signed by all members.

To make changes to Item No. 7 in the Board's Bylaws:

"I will recognize my responsibility to support our administration, and together with my fellow board members, ensure that our schools are well run through effective policies."

Mr. Levenduski who oversees the Board's Policy Subcommittee will gather the suggestions and will share the ideas discussed this evening with the Policy Subcommittee, who will then make their recommendations for change, similar to any policy revision.

Mrs. Clark explained that there has been some tension and discourse between Board Members over the last couple of months. She hopes the Board can come together and talk out their differences, so that they can gain trust and honesty among themselves. She stated that the Board must put things behind them in order to move forward. Mr. Caruso

suggested the full Board schedule a Board Evaluation session, which would be held in Executive Session, to hash out whatever differences there may be, and to use this meeting as a tool that will ultimately allow them to move forward.

This topic led to Mr. Caruso's explanation of CABA's Lighthouse Project. The Lighthouse project provides training opportunities for introspective conversations and a renewed focus on improving student achievement. The Lighthouse Project is a research-based program developed by the Iowa School Boards Association in partnership with a multi-state coalition, including Connecticut.

Mr. Caruso stated that there would be no cost to the school district, as the Lighthouse Project is fully funded by the State. He explained how The Lighthouse Project came to fruition and the benefits it provides all Boards of Education. He stated that Lighthouse is a series of three modules or sessions attended by the full Board. Once the members are onboard, a survey will be given districtwide which basically gives the Board some sense as to how they are doing and will ultimately provide information as to how the district is doing with regard to student achievement. These three modules should be taken within a three-month period. After the first three modules are taken, a few more sessions will also be offered but would be strictly up to the Board as to what sessions they would like to partake in. Overall, this project will give the Board of Education an idea as to where they are on the spectrum, and will determine their strengths and weaknesses. He asked the Board to contact him if they would like to move forward with this project.

A five-minute break was taken.

Mr. LePage also added to the discussion of the CABA Bylaws and Lighthouse Project, then presented a short Powerpoint. He stated that he had originally proposed a budget of 3.43% (an increase of \$1,365,536) but with the call from the insurance company possibly increasing their rates, was forced to increase the proposed budget to 3.72% (an increase of \$1,481,825). He asked that all Board Members support the 2022-2023 proposed budget as it was presented with the increase to insurance. Once the budget is voted upon on February 14th, the Town Council and Town Manager will then assess the Board's approved proposal as one line in the 2022-2023 General Fund Balance Budget. First, the Town Council will evaluate and deliberate, including taking input from residents. The Town Council will then propose a budget to the residents which will be voted upon at the April 26th budget referendum.

Mr. LePage then reviewed additional questions asked by the Board and reminded Board Members that contractual increases before insurance is a 2.62% increase compared to 2.55% proposed in the revised Superintendent's budget.

Mrs. Consalvo then asked for a Roll Call Consensus on the 3.72% budget proposal:

Mrs. Buchanan—Stated she is struggling to make a decision at this time

Mrs. Clark—Yes, will vote for the 3.72% budget

Mrs. Hardy—No comment, would like to consider what was presented this evening

Mrs. Martinez—Yes, will vote for the 3.72% budget

Ms. Peterson—No comment, would like to consider what was presented this evening

Mrs. St. Lawrence—Absent

Mrs. Tyrrell—Yes, will vote for the 3.72% budget

Mr. White—Yes, will vote for the 3.72% budget

Mrs. Consalvo—Yes, will vote for the 3.72% budget

Mrs. Clark thanked Mr. LePage and Mr. Adlerstein for all of the information that was sent to her. She stated that they were very transparent and answered all of her questions.

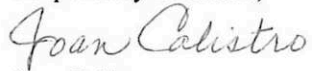
Mr. Alderstein stated that they encourage Board Members to ask questions and to ask for information, as it will help in making a final decision.

Mr. LePage stated that he will send out an overview or wrap-up of the proposed budget during this coming week.

No action was taken at this meeting.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY BECKY TYRRELL TO ADJOURN THE SPECIAL MEETING AT 9:08 PM. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY REBECCA MARTINEZ. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 8-0.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joan Calistro".

Joan Calistro

Recorder of Minutes