

MINUTES
PLAINVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION'S
FACILITIES AND FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING
PLAINVILLE HIGH SCHOOL LEARNING COMMONS
Thursday, December 5, 2023 – 6:30pm

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

- ▶ Facilities: Building Use with Partner Organizations
- ▶ FY25 Plainville Board of Education Capital Plan Proposal
- ▶ FY25 Plainville Board of Education Operating Budget: Contractual Increases
- ▶ FY25 Town Budget—BOE Considerations
- ▶ Middle School Update

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Foster White, Rachel Buchanan, Cassandra Clark, Becky Tyrrell (Ex-officio)

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Brian Reas, Superintendent of Schools, Sam Adlerstein, Director of Business and Operations, Mike Smith, Director of Facilities, Mark Fritz, Athletic Director and Kevin Ross, Director of IT

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

Meeting was called to order at 6:33PM by Subcommittee Chair Foster White

▶ **Facilities: Building Use with Partner Organizations**

Superintendent Brian Reas stated that there has been some talk within the community regarding the use of Plainville schools' facilities. He stated that Mr. Adlerstein has a few items to bring forward. He commented that it is important for the Board to know the history behind the use the various facilities. He then called upon Mr. Adlerstein to give a brief overview.

Mr. Adlerstein stated that the goal with the Partner organizations is to do what is best for the clubs and the community. He stated that the school facilities are very busy as they are used just about every night. The pool is used about 75% of all school days and the fields are used just about every evening as well. Mr. Adlerstein stated while most facilities are used each evening, this often leaves little to no time for cleaning and care for the facilities. Scheduling the facilities between organizations (for fields, gyms and pool) is an ongoing challenge and we've yet to find a way to make it equitable. He also stated that there are six partner organizations (not including tennis) and over 50 different Recreation groups. The overall challenge is likely not apparent to any one group.

Mr. Alderstein then gave a brief overview of the Partner fee history. A group of three local youth sports organizations (Plainville Colts, Plainville Youth Soccer, Plainville Little League) have supported and collaborated on the synthetic turf field project from the start. As a result, these organizations were considered "Partner Organizations" moving forward. As such, these groups will have increased access to the Plainville turf fields and will maintain a higher position in the hierarchy for determining field use. In exchange, these organizations, realizing the need for continued support and investment in the maintenance of the fields, agree to assess an annual "turf field use fee" to all organization participants. Each organization signed a Partner Organization Agreement. As a starting point, this fee will be \$10 per child. All funds collected through Partner Organization fees will go directly into the Turf Maintenance and Replacement Fund.

Mr. Adlerstein stated that as time goes by, new individuals take over the organization and either don't agree with the aforementioned agreement or didn't know there was an agreement which then lowers the amount of money coming in. Most clubs have not honored this commitment or have pointed out the inequity compared to their relative amount of facility usage and don't attend the scheduled meetings. No fees have been paid yet, in addition to fees in arrears. Both Mr. Smith, Director of Facilities and Mr. Fritz, Athletic Director concur that the use of facilities is becoming a problem. A draft proposal was also submitted to the subcommittee for their review. Discussion ensued.

► **FY25 Plainville Board of Education Capital Plan Proposal**

Mr. Adlerstein stated that the Board of Education capital plan has been in the \$300-\$400K range, largely to fund the technology rotational plan. Facilities has received relatively little capital funding and at some point, will require investment. The 2022-23 Board proposal is indicative of what is generally required. 2023-24 included the middle school's most urgent needs. The middle school is not included in the FY25-29 capital budget.

The Superintendent's Proposed Capital Budget is \$976,200. This includes Facilities, Security and Technology. The initial proposal included the following removed or postponed items: 1) A PHS Field House, now moved to an outlying year and 2) MSP and Elementary STEAM equipment. These items are large for our operating budget and small for capital. We intend to submit them as a part of the Operating budget.

Mr. Adlerstein called upon Mr. Smith to speak about the Facilities needs and Mr. Ross to speak about Technology needs.

The proposal now includes:

District: Security Improvements including cameras	\$ 50,000
PHS: Replace walk-in boxes and fridge condenser	\$ 75,000
Technology: Student Chromebooks	\$210,000
Technology: Staff Chromebooks	\$ 54,000
Technology: Network Upgrades ERate	\$ 20,000
Technology: Staff Laptops	\$ 63,000
Technology: Office Desktops	\$ 19,200
Technology: Labs	\$ 30,000
District: Upgrade of radio system	\$125,000
PHS: LED Lighting for Fields	\$125,000
PHS: Stage floor replacement	\$ 70,000
PHS: Replace pool room heater	\$ 40,000
PHS: New roof top unit: Tech Ed Area	\$ 40,000
PHS: Repair cracks in tennis courts	\$ 35,000
PHS: Continued repair and upkeep of pool	\$ 20,000
BOARD OF EDUCATION TOTAL	\$976,200
 Total Facilities	 \$405,000
Total Security	\$175,000
Total Technology	\$396,200

Mr. Smith stated that the amount for the LED field lighting may come in lower with possible Eversource discounts.

The technology capital proposal is based upon a rotational plan, i.e. student Chromebooks are replaced in grades 1, 5 and 9. We believe this is the most use we can get from these devices. Opportunities for reuse, sale or recycling are considered with any equipment replacement. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Fritz reiterated the need for a Field House. He stated that this would be a place that would be used for medical emergencies during games, additional bathrooms, and storage for equipment.

Mr. White asked subcommittee members to reaffirm the proposed capital budget as it was presented. He stated that the investment is adequately justified, necessary and makes sense. He stated that the plan should move forward.

Both Mrs. Buchanan and Mrs. Clark stated that they were in need of additional information prior to committing. Further discussion ensued and questions were answered.

Mr. White again asked for a consensus to move the proposed capital budget plan in the amount of \$976,200 forward (to be voted upon at the December 11 BOE meeting). The consensus was then unanimous.

► **FY25 Plainville Board of Education Operating Budget: Contractual Increases**

Mr. Adlerstein stated that in addition to the usual contractual increases, he has included an amount for special services. These necessary activities and programming have been added during the pandemic and rather than conditions returning to normal, we are now adjusting to a new normal. The contractual increases and special services programming alone would amount to 4.39%. This includes a 5.0% preliminary increase for Health Insurance based upon the State Plan's estimate of 3-7% at this time.

Mr. White thanked Mr. Ross, Mr. Fritz and Mr. Smith for attending this evening's meeting and thanked the administration for their time and putting all of this together.

► **FY25 Town Budget—BOE Considerations**

Mr. Adlerstein also discussed Town expenditures, revenues and the mill rate.

► **Middle School Update**

Mr. Adlerstein included information of the Middle School's conceptual and design phase, as well as the communication and state process phase, and the pre-referendum process and timeline for the MSP renovation project.

Both Mr. Reas and Mr. Adlerstein hopes that the Middle School Project will move forward. It is going to take a lot of time, effort and thought, but the Board will move forward with a positive outlook and approach.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY CASSANDRA CLARK TO ADJOURN. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY RACHEL BUCHANAN. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED. The meeting was adjourned at 8:46 PM.

Respectively Submitted:



Joan Calistro

Recorder of Minutes