

**PENDING BOARD OF EDUCATION APPROVAL**  
**REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING OF THE PLAINVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**PLAINVILLE, CONNECTICUT**  
**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2021**

**Order of Business**  
**7:00 PM**

**I. CONVENE: PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Board Chair Becky Tyrrell re-convened the regular business meeting of the Plainville Board of Education to order at 7:02 PM. Kathy Wells led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Members Present:** Mesdames Hardy, Martinez, Peterson, St. Lawrence, Tyrrell, Wells, and Messr. White

**Also Present:** Steven LePage, Superintendent of Schools  
David Levenduski, Assistant Superintendent  
Samuel Adlerstein, Director of Business and Operations

**Absent:** Board Members: Brent Davenport and Nicole Palmieri  
Garrett Millette, Student Representative

**Late Arrivals:** None

**Early Departures:** None

**Returns:** None

**II. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:**

A) Portrait Pioneer Recognition—Roberta Brown, Plainville Youth Services Director

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- A) A MOTION WAS MADE BY FOSTER WHITE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE BOARD'S REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING OF JUNE 14, 2021 AS PRESENTED. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY CRYSTAL ST. LAWRENCE. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 7-0.
- B) A MOTION WAS MADE BY FOSTER WHITE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE BOARD'S SPECIAL MEETING OF JUNE 8, 2021 AS PRESENTED. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY CRYSTAL ST. LAWRENCE. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 7-0.
- C) A MOTION WAS MADE BY FOSTER WHITE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE BOARD'S SPECIAL MEETING OF JUNE 14, 2021 AS PRESENTED. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY CRYSTAL ST. LAWRENCE. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 7-0.
- D) A MOTION WAS MADE BY FOSTER WHITE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE BOARD'S SPECIAL MEETING OF JULY 12, 2021 AS PRESENTED. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY CRYSTAL ST. LAWRENCE. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 7-0.
- E) A MOTION WAS MADE BY FOSTER WHITE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE BOARD'S SPECIAL MEETING OF JULY 27, 2021 AS

**PRESENTED. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY CRYSTAL ST. LAWRENCE. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 7-0.**

**F) A MOTION WAS MADE BY FOSTER WHITE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE BOARD'S SPECIAL MEETING OF AUGUST 19, 2021 AS PRESENTED. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY CRYSTAL ST. LAWRENCE. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 7-0.**

**G) A MOTION WAS MADE BY FOSTER WHITE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE BOARD'S SPECIAL MEETING OF AUGUST 26, 2021 AS PRESENTED. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY CRYSTAL ST. LAWRENCE. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 7-0.**

#### **IV. CITIZEN COMMENTS**

##### **Cassandra Clark, 39 Pierce Street**

Ms. Clark stated that she understands that masks are to be worn in school. Her daughter, who's a grade 3 student at Linden, was wearing her mask at school, however, the band broke. She told her physical education teacher, who gave her a new mask that was designed a bit like a welder's mast. Her daughter wore the mask for the remainder of the day, but Ms. Clark is asking if something can be done to provide more appropriate masks for these kinds of situations.

##### **RESPONSE TO CITIZEN COMMENTS:**

The aforementioned situation was looked into and addressed following the meeting. Mr. Wallowitz did a follow-up with the parent to provide factual information.

#### **V. COUNCIL LIAISON—No Report**

Due to a schedule Town Council meeting, Mrs. Pugliese could not attend this evening's meeting. She had reported that the Town Council is very busy dealing with such items as: Marijuana legislation; American Rescue Plan Fund; Sewer user fees; the White Oak development project; landfill closure; Sertex Connect broadband interest survey; and the Middle School Renovation Project. The Town Council will meet again on October 12 and 25.

#### **VI. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

##### **A. Opening of School Report**

The following five reports are from Superintendent Steve LePage:

Mr. LePage stated: "There's a full expectation from the State that all students need to be in school and learning from school. Remote options for learning are no longer approved as they were last year. This has been difficult for many families to adjust to. With that said, in late August came the mask mandate which also caused some controversy, along with the vaccine mandate which came out later for all school staff and employees to be fully vaccinated. There has been quite a bit leading up to the start of the school year once again. We anticipated a smoother start to the year, hoping for a bit of an easier summer this year, but once again it has remained challenging."

"In addition, there has been a lot of staff hiring, replacing and filling of positions with qualified individuals. There is a shortage in a number of areas including bus drivers. All of this was going on during an already stressful time. With all of that being said, we welcomed students back after three days of staff development training, convocation, professional learning and the areas we have been focusing on for our goals this year. It was a very positive opening, being around all of the buildings and seeing the kids in the schools, happy and excited to be back. Those who weren't in school last year were very happy to be back in their classrooms.



Seeing all of the students and their families makes the start of school a special time of year. There's always a certain level of apprehension and anxiety during any year and this year was no exception. All in all, everything went as planned."

"Of course, we started the year with a flood, about 6" of rain the night before. These days are interesting as I get up around 4 AM to call police, roadways and the bus company trying to find out if we can open school. For the first day it added an extra wrinkle. Then after visiting the Middle School and Toffolon School for a little while, I was driving past the Farmington Industrial Park and just pulling into Wheeler School. I was greeting some of the children outside, when one of them pointed in the distance. I looked up to find a horrible explosion of some kind with a huge black smoke cloud. We then had to address what we found to be a very sad plane crash that happened a couple of miles within three of our schools. It's never short of things we need to be prepared for and react to. I spoke to both police and fire officials and made the decision to keep all students inside due to the smell of fumes from the air. I wanted to be sure no one was inhaling toxic fumes of any kind. I worked closely with Acting Chief Peterson, Ron Dievert, Plainville's Fire Marshall and Fire Chief Tom Moschini. Within 45 minutes everything was cleared and we received word that it was safe to resume normal activities, which we were very grateful for. I communicated to families in hopes that it would alleviated any concerns. It was a sad wrinkle to the first day. We've also needed to deal with bus challenges and driver shortages. Mr. Adlerstein has been working hard with both DATTCO and CREC to provide some of our transportation needs. The opening of school had its normal challenges and some additional challenges that were out of our control. We try to be prepared for every situation and deal the best we can. Our staff did a nice job dealing with those difficult situations."

"We currently have over 2300 students in our schools. It's a larger number than we've had in a couple of years. We do have a full-day NAEYC credited Pre-school. We have a total of eight classrooms of pre-schoolers this year. We're excited about getting our schools started in a strong way, learning at a high level which will accelerate them to prepare for whatever challenges they may face in the future. We are also excited to share, that as part of the renovation of Wheeler School we are required to have an enrollment of up to 352 students in order to have the full renovation reimbursement for that project. Currently, we are at 356 students at Wheeler School. Last year, we had 309 students. A lot of work has been done to make these shifts happen. We're in a good position as the State will base the reimbursement on the October 1<sup>st</sup> enrollment. We hope everyone continues to come to school and no one withdraws."

## **B. COVID-19 Updates**

Mr. LePage stated: "Updates were sent out to the district on Friday. We had nine cases at the start of the year with a few over the summer that were reported through the summer school program. During the first seven days of school we have had nine COVID cases, and an additional seven more popping. Most new cases were traced back to the home, whether it be a parent or relative at home that had the virus. We are operating under tighter quarters with more kids in schools as required. There are also fewer mitigation strategies which is under the direction of the State Health Department. It's a challenging conundrum. In general, we have done very well but there are certain ramifications of quarantines needing to happen based on the guidelines. Quarantines are for students who are in close contact, by the definition of the Health Department. Students who are isolated or who are sick or have COVID (who have been tested), these students will be allowed a remote learning plan.



COVID continues to be a challenge, it continues to hang on, and we're doing our best to keep everyone safe and learning. That's what you see when you enter our schools, you see kids who are excited and doing their best to work through the challenges. I'd like to thank my whole team for a strong opening and continued resilience through all of the COVID challenges."

**C. Middle School Renovation Status Update**

Mr. LePage has attended a few of the recent Capital Project Building Committee meetings. The last one was a couple of weeks ago with a tour of the Middle School. Steve Busel, Director of Facilities, talked members of the committee to come to the tour as it was meant for them to see first-hand the many areas needed to both renovate and make new.

Mr. LePage stated: "In a prior meeting, the committee agreed upon using an Owner Project Manager (OPM) group called *Construction Services Group* (CSG). The approval to hire an OPM needs to come from the Town Council, which may be happening this evening at tonight's Town Council meeting. CSG will take the district through the referendum vote, to help explain why the project is very much needed. The building is approaching the 30-year mark since it has been built. Many renovations, updates and upgrades need to happen. When you look at it from the surface, it's easy to see the leaks, the mechanical problems, etc. The project is in a good place. There is time before the referendum. The referendum date will be in the Spring of 2022. Once CSG has been approved, things will get underway (CSG has been used in a number of school projects in the area and are well respected)."

**D. CABA Awards**

Mr. LePage stated that the Board obtained a few CABA awards this year. The Board won the Bonnie B. Carney Award of Excellence for Educational Education in two categories: SOCIAL MEDIA: Plainville Community Schools: Linden Street School Principal's Twitter account and SPECIAL PROJECTS (AV): Plainville Superintendent's Showcase.

The Board also obtained the Bonnie B. Carney Award of Excellence for Educational Education (honorable mention) in two categories: ANNUAL REPORT: Plainville Community Schools Budget Brief and COURSE SELECTION GUIDE: Plainville Adult and Continuing Education Program Guide.

Mr. LePage also reported that the Board of Education obtained the CABA Board Leadership Award. This award recognizes excellence in the leadership activities of local boards of education. The award will be presented at the CABA/CAPSS Convention in Mystic on November 12. He congratulated the Board on receiving the awards.

**E. District Strategic Planning**

Mr. LePage stated: "Strategic Planning typically takes place every 3 to 5 years. This is the fifth year of the current plan. The document that you often see is the 3-ring plan with the district's vision, mission, goals and core values articulated. Everything that we do in the schools should tie back to the plan tightly and closely. All of our resources and the funding that we spend should align with the strategic plan as well. The district does a good job staying true to our vision. This year the process will begin in late September or early October. I will begin putting a committee together with community members. The last time, the committee had approximately 50-55 members. This year the district will have to work on the logistics given the

limitations we currently have, regarding large group gatherings. Information will be sent out soon and a survey will be put together asking what the community is willing to work on and/or what items the district needs to continue to work on to improve education at Plainville Community Schools. This will be exciting work and I hope to continue some of the efforts we currently have in place. Certainly, the plan will be updated and changed. A consulting company will be brought in to help lead the committee through this process.

## **VII. BOARD SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **A. Student Representative Report—No Report**

### **B. Facilities/Finance Subcommittee Report—No Report**

### **C. Policy Subcommittee Report—No Report**

Mrs. St. Lawrence mentioned that there is a Policy Subcommittee meeting set for October 18 and two other meetings will be held in January and April of 2022.

### **D. Curriculum Subcommittee Report—No Report**

### **E. Outreach Subcommittee Report—No Report**

### **F. PAC Liaison--Plainville High School Report**

Mr. White reported that the next PAC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 15 at 7 PM hopefully in-person.

► PAC Officers are: Karen Lyman, President; Christine Wells, Vice President; Lisa Levesque, Secretary and Melissa Smith, Treasurer.

### **G. PTO Liaison--Toffolon Elementary School Report**

Ms. Martinez reported on the following:

► The PAC met on Wednesday, August 25<sup>th</sup> with new officers, President, Rebecca Preston; Vice President, Melissa Steele; Co-Treasurers, Rachel Blake and Anne Tacinelli; and Secretary, Rachel Johnson.

► The Toffolon PTO received a check from Baystate Textiles for \$28.

► The Toffolon PTO also received two checks from the United Way.

► PTO members discussed all of the details for the first day of school. (Ms. Martinez stated that the PTO did an amazing job putting together a “red carpet” themed program for all students when they returned).

► She also stated that PTO did a great job covering the staff breakroom, making sure that Toffolon staff had plenty of snacks and also added additional organizational bins. She stated that a lot of parents donated items so that staff would have enough to eat during their breaktime.

► The PTO discussed their ongoing fundraisers, such as Amazon Smiles, boxtops, grocery cards, Shutterfly, Baystate Textiles and they went into a conversation regarding some of the new and exciting fundraisers, such as Pop into the New School Year with Poppingrams (which are a big hit with kids).

► The PTO will continue with their Scholastic Book Fair (virtual) which will coincide with Parent/Teacher Conferences in November.

► The PTO will also have a Buy A Box fundraiser, a calendar raffle, they’ll sell 4 o’clock flowers in April, and will hold an APEX Fun Run.

► The PTO also reviewed all of the tunings for pick-up and drop-off procedures for new parents.

► The next Toffolon PTO meeting will be held on September 15 at 7 PM.



- H. PTO Liaison--Linden Street Elementary School Report—No Report**
- I. PTC Liaison--Middle School of Plainville Report—No Report**  
Mrs. St. Lawrence reported that the next MSP PTC will be held virtually on Tuesday, September 14<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM.
- J. PTO Liaison--Wheeler Elementary School Report—No Report**
- K. CREC Council Report—No Report**  
Mrs. Tyrrell reported that the CREC Council will meet on Wednesday, September 15<sup>th</sup>.
- L. Chairperson's Report**  
Mrs. Tyrrell mentioned that CABE/CAPSS will be holding their annual convention on Friday, November 12<sup>th</sup> at the Mystic Marriott Hotel. Due to COVID, this will be a one-day convention this year. She also mentioned that the Board will receive their Leadership Award at the convention's reception. Board of Education members are asked to contact Joan Calistro if they are interested in attending.

## **VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

## **IX. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A) Board Open Forum**

None

### **B) Quarterly Special Education Cost Report (October, January, March and June)—No Report**

In a matrix to the Board, Mr. Adlerstein reported that the district started this year in better shape financially than last year with respect to outplacements. The district currently has 29 outplaced students, compared with 38 through much of last year. The decrease includes some students who have left the district and contributed to last year being (\$378,194) over budget by our latest accounting. Prior to last year, we were close to budget. The administration is seeing nothing at this point that would indicate otherwise for this year. There was no discussion.

### **C)Turf Committee Report (September and May)**

Mr. Adlerstein stated that in August, the PHS fields were professionally cleaned and de-compacted. The fee for the cleaning, \$6,800, was charged to the Turf Fund. The revised plan is now to charge these annual fees to the fund rather than to the Town's operating budget. In addition, our turf fields are required to be swept monthly, an approximate two-hour project. The District is working closely with Public Works to ensure compliance, maintain the district's investment, and keep our fields in the best condition possible.

The Turf Fund balance is \$136,330. \$50,000 was paid into the fund from the 2020-21 BOE budget as approved at the June 14, 2021 Board of Education meeting. In addition, the aforementioned summer maintenance fee of \$6,800 was also paid.

The district has also started Partners fees, \$10 per participant per year. The Athletic Backers postponed sign renewals for one year, due to COVID. The district anticipates approximately \$2,000 in signage income in 2021-22.

Anticipated future cost: Resurfacing costs: \$500,000 main field, \$200,000 softball field (very rough estimate). The Turf Fund was created in 2015-16 which means the district is in its 7<sup>th</sup> year with useful life initially estimated at 10 years. This year, administrators will reflect on the replacement of the resurfacing on the 5-year capital plan, in the 5<sup>th</sup> year out. However, through continued good maintenance, the field is likely to last longer than another five years.

Mrs. Tyrrell stated that while looking at the amounts, she knows they won't make the additional \$500,000 needed, but it will make a dent.

**X. CONSENT AGENDA--Board Approval**

- (A) Budget Object Summary
- (B) Food Service Report
- (C) Check Registers
- (D) Superintendent's Authorizations
- (E) Close Out of FY2020-21
- (F) HR Report (Informational Item)
- (G) Private Donation for the months of June, July & August (Informational Item)
  - Main Street Community Foundation for PHS Greenhouse.....\$ 3,500
  - Pierrette's Closet to Adult Education.....\$ 54

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY FOSTER WHITE TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED. REBECCA MARTINEZ SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 7-0.**

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY REBECCA MARTINEZ TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. DEBORAH HARDY SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 7-0. The meeting adjourned at 7:36 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,



Joan Calistro  
Recorder of Minutes



**REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING OF THE PLAINVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
PLAINVILLE, CONNECTICUT  
SUMMARY OF MOTIONS  
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2021**

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

2402. A MOTION WAS MADE BY FOSTER WHITE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE BOARD'S REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING OF JUNE 14, 2021 AS PRESENTED. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY CRYSTAL ST. LAWRENCE. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 7-0.
2403. A MOTION WAS MADE BY FOSTER WHITE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE BOARD'S SPECIAL MEETING OF JUNE 8, 2021 AS PRESENTED. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY CRYSTAL ST. LAWRENCE. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 7-0.
2404. A MOTION WAS MADE BY FOSTER WHITE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE BOARD'S SPECIAL MEETING OF JUNE 14, 2021 AS PRESENTED. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY CRYSTAL ST. LAWRENCE. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 7-0.
2405. A MOTION WAS MADE BY FOSTER WHITE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE BOARD'S SPECIAL MEETING OF JULY 12, 2021 AS PRESENTED. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY CRYSTAL ST. LAWRENCE. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 7-0.
2406. A MOTION WAS MADE BY FOSTER WHITE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE BOARD'S SPECIAL MEETING OF JULY 27, 2021 AS PRESENTED. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY CRYSTAL ST. LAWRENCE. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 7-0.
2407. A MOTION WAS MADE BY FOSTER WHITE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE BOARD'S SPECIAL MEETING OF AUGUST 19, 2021 AS PRESENTED. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY CRYSTAL ST. LAWRENCE. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 7-0.
2408. A MOTION WAS MADE BY FOSTER WHITE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE BOARD'S SPECIAL MEETING OF AUGUST 26, 2021 AS PRESENTED. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY CRYSTAL ST. LAWRENCE. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 7-0.

**X. CONSENT AGENDA—Board Approval**

- (A) Budget Object Summary
- (B) Food Service Report
- (C) Check Registers
- (D) Superintendent's Authorizations
- (E) Close Out of FY2020-21
- (F) HR Report (Informational Item)
- (G) Private Donation for the months of June, July & August (Informational Item)
  - Main Street Community Foundation for PHS Greenhouse.....\$ 3,500



--Pierrette's Closet to Adult Education.....\$ 54

**2409. A MOTION WAS MADE BY FOSTER WHITE TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED. REBECCA MARTINEZ SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 7-0.**

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

**2410. A MOTION WAS MADE BY REBECCA MARTINEZ TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. DEBORAH HARDY SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 7-0. The meeting adjourned at 7:36 PM.**