

PENDING BOARD OF EDUCATION APPROVAL
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING OF THE PLAINVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION
PLAINVILLE, CONNECTICUT
MONDAY, MARCH 14, 2022

5:30 PM –Board Development for Work

The Special meeting of the Plainville Board of Education was called to order at 5:30 PM to discuss Board development.

Order of Business
7:00 PM

I. Convene—Pledge of Allegiance

Board Chair Lori Consalvo re-convened the regular business meeting of the Plainville Board of Education to order at 7:05 PM. Crystal St. Lawrence led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members Present: Mesdames Buchanan, Clark, Consalvo, Hardy, Martinez, Peterson, St. Lawrence, Tyrrell, and Messr. White

Also Present: Steven LePage, Superintendent of Schools
David Levenduski, Assistant Superintendent
Samuel Adlerstein, Director of Business and Operations
Garret Millette, Student Representative

Absent: Isabella Grasso, Student Representative

Late Arrivals: None

Early Departures: None

Returns: None

II. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:

A) Portrait Pioneer Award: Lowell Humphrey, Student and Residency Monitor

A MOTION WAS MADE BY FOSTER WHITE TO MOVE ITEM. M., THE APPROVAL OF THE PLAINVILLE ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS CONTRACT 07/01/2022 TO 06/30/2025 FROM UNFINISHED BUSINESS TO ITEM. D. OF NEW BUSINESS. CASSANDRA CLARK SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY 9-0.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A) A MOTION WAS MADE BY RACHEL BUCHANAN TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE BOARD'S REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING OF FEBRUARY 14, 2022 AS PRESENTED. A MOTION WAS SECONDED BY DEBORAH HARDY. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 9-0.

B) A MOTION WAS MADE BY RACHEL BUCHANAN TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE BOARD'S SPECIAL MEETING OF FEBRUARY 23, 2022

AS PRESENTED. A MOTION WAS SECONDED BY DEBORAH HARDY. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 9-0.

IV. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Katherine Curtis, 15 Maiden Lane

I would like to start tonight by taking the time to acknowledge the lives of the 56 Plainville residents who died of COVID and to recognize and speak to their families, their loved ones, their mother, their father, their siblings, their children, their friends and co-workers, all matter, and I am so sorry for your loss. While I am grateful that the number of COVID deaths isn't much higher in our town, we cannot forget those who have died. There is a good reason why all the safety measures were put in place at the beginning of the pandemic. And while it has been hard on our children and all of us, the measures did work. Now we have moved on to this new phase where we are relaxing masking and distancing and hoping that our numbers stay low enough for our hospitals to treat our ill. Whether this is the right timing remains to be seen. But here is the main reason for my speaking tonight. I want the person who has been meeting with the Health Department, who has been following the data and listening to the experts, to make any decision about our schools and the health of our school community. That person is our Superintendent Mr. LePage. I strongly oppose giving the Board the power to circumvent him. Mr. LePage has guided this district during this difficult time and has the best interests of our students and staff at heart. Some of you seem to be motivated by partisan politics. It is truly disheartening. We have to fight to have our kids protected during a once in a century global pandemic. I wrote to the Board immediately after that shameful Zoom meeting in which Mrs. Buchanan tried to undermine the authority of our Superintendent. It was disgraceful and I'm still waiting for her to publicly apologize to him. Instead of trying to micro-manage the professionals, I would appreciate it if this Board would allow the people we pay for their expertise to administrate and to lead. I know I speak for many Plainville parents. If these unprofessional actions by this Board causes us to lose Mr. LePage to another district, you will have a very unhappy town and a very unhappy electorate. Please do your job and let him do his. Thank you.

Gayle Dennehy, Republican Town Committee

Madam Chair, my name is Gayle Dennehy. I am a town resident and voter and Republican Town Committee Chairperson in Plainville. I want to talk briefly on my thoughts as to the Board of Education Special Town Meeting held last month, February 23rd. Although there were some errors made last month at the meeting, procedurally, I believe that we as human beings all make mistakes. But we can learn from them and come away with the knowledge of having to do better the next time. I also believe that there should be a thoughtful and mature respect for each other, and to be able to ask questions and learn from each other. Also, to be able to agree to disagree with grace and give each other the benefit of the doubt and move on from there. Last November, 2021, the voters spoke as to the candidates to be elected to the Board of Education. Let's stick to addressing the questions and concerns that the Plainville voters have and give our children the best education possible. That, I believe is the key focus here at our Board of Education meetings. To learn more about the education curriculum and the knowledge that all the Board of Education members have to share with all of us. From the many meetings, the forums, the seminars and the like, that they attend. I thank all of you for your time, your energy, your education, your expertise and the experience that you all have, and look forward to your great ideas and conversations from all of you moving forward. I thank you.

Rejean Carriere, Plainville Resident

I have been a resident and voter in the town of Plainville for most of my adult life. My children went to school here and now my great-grandchildren attend the Plainville schools. I believe that Board of Education members are voted in to represent the parents and the children attending school here. The Board of Education members set policy for the Superintendent and the Department of Education to follow. It is my hope that those two areas of our government will work well together for the benefit of the children of Plainville. Thank you very much for listening. Good evening.

Dana Snell, 18 Newton Avenue

Good evening! So, I come here today because I've been paying attention to the process and governance of education. Listening to the school administrators take the time and the attention to highlight accomplishments, developing strategies and to implement programs and learning opportunities to create a healthy, safe environment for our children. I look at the faces of the kids as they walk down the halls, and on the playgrounds, and there are so many smiles. And, I know it's because of the teachers and the administrators and how happy the children are to be in school. We want our kids to be healthy, and smart, and competitive. This happens because you can see the commitment of those who work with them and it comes from the top. People are trained and educated and go to college and learn how to implement these programs and it's your responsibility as the Board to get to know them and to learn from them. And, to recognize what your role and responsibility is as a Board of Education member, and that's not necessarily to micro-manage or to impose some of your own personal ideas, but to learn. I am excited about how well we can do things here as a team. But we have to be a team and we have to be respectful of each other in the process. I am going to come back and say stuff all the time, so start getting used to it. I'm going to be your cliff hanger. The only thing I just want to say is, the last time we were here, there were some young kids that talked about their experiences and I want to just reach out to Ms. Buchanan and say to her that although we heard you spend a lot of time at the end of that meeting saying that you were trying to learn, and that you were inquiring. But one of the things I want to ask you to think about was maybe to just sit back and apologize to the little kid who said, "What you said was hurtful to me." Because Ms. Buchanan, I do not believe in my soul that you came here to hurt anybody. That's all I have.

Nolan Meehan, grade 6 Student

After the last Board of Education meeting, Mrs. Buchanan said that my mom made be talk at the meeting about her using a racial slur and trying to take down the Pride flag. I was insulted that just because I'm a kid that she would think that I don't have an opinion on racial slurs being against my race. Or, that I wouldn't care about there being a Pride flag at the High School. Mrs. Buchanan asked why people can use the words black and brown to describe a group of people and not yellow people. First off, I chose to come and talk last month about the Pride flag and about Mrs. Buchanan using a racial slur because I was disappointed that someone who is on the Board of Education would use a racial slur against Asians. Being Asian made me sad that someone would use a racial slur like that. I also came to the Board of Education to speak about the progress of the Pride flag and how it should stay up. I spoke about the Pride flag because having the flag makes all the students feel safer and happier. Secondly, Mrs. Buchanan asked why people can use the words black and brown to describe a group of people and not yellow people. Asians are not yellow, I am not yellow. Calling someone yellow is racist and different than calling someone brown or black because Asian Americans do not want to be called yellow. In the 16th century, the Europeans first called the Asians white because of their culture, literacy and civilization. The Europeans said that Asians were like them in many ways and in their minds, being white means that they are good and powerful.

When the Europeans tried to change their religion from Buddhism to Christianity, the Asians did not want to. This made the Europeans not want to call them white anymore because white to them meant powerful and good. So, the Europeans called the Asians yellow. They called them yellow to put an image in their head that they were different in a bad way. This is why you should never use the term yellow people. Yellow is a term invented by the Europeans to make Asians seem less human. Thank you to all the Board of Education members for their support in keeping the Pride flag up and thank you Mrs. Roberts and Mr. Cornelius for putting up the Plainville Cares sign at the Plainville Middle School.

Laura Meehan, 4 Orchard Lane

It is expected that Board of Education members will not always agree on educational politics. Should funds be allocated for a new playground or soccer field? Should we hire another Science teacher or another World Language teacher? These are expected differences in opinion of caring adults who share a common goal of, How can we support our students and provide them with the best possible educational experience in our schools? Unfortunately, this year we've heard views from some Board members that are not equal differences of opinion but are just simply wrong. Last month I stood before this Board and voiced my outrage at Rachel Buchanan's racist use of the word or term yellow people in reference to Asian students. I expected that Rachel might issue an apology or attempt to back-peddle. I did not anticipate however, her talking to social media to justify her use of this terrible term. She posted these questions and I quote, "Black or brown okay and necessary, but yellow is a racial slur?" "Why are black and brown not racial slurs?" The answer to these two questions are really basic. Yes, black and brown are currently acceptable and appropriate terms to use and yellow is considered derogatory. It's okay if you don't understand why. It's not okay for you to use your ignorance as an excuse. It reflects poorly on our Board, our schools and on our town. You are on the Board of Education, educate yourself. My sincerest hope is that every adult sitting in this room is here because they care about our children. Showing up is the first step, but it is not enough. Our students deserve better. Our town and our schools have changed dramatically since you or I were students here. If you don't have children in our schools, it is especially important to learn about the unique challenges our students are experiencing in 2022. Learn about their rich cultures and heritages. They are bringing this to the classroom. Learn about the new technology and career fields that our students will be entering in this everchanging world. If we want to create life-long learners, we need to model that. If you want a seat at this table, you need to be willing to do your homework. Our children deserve it. That some new Board members would think they are better equipped than Mr. LePage to make decisions for our schools, further shows how much they have to learn. Mr. LePage is an accomplished teacher, administrator and Superintendent. He knows and mentors our students. He knows our staff, our teachers and our families. If you ask him, he will tell you that Plainville Community Schools are a family. To the Plainville Board of Education members who continually fight for our teachers and students, I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart. I see your tireless efforts and I am so grateful for the work you are doing for all of us. Thank you.

Cheryl Provost, 6 Overlook Drive

I have not spoken at Board of Education meetings in years and now I find myself addressing this Board for a second time in two months. That should be an indication of how concerned I am. I have three things tonight. First, to thank the Board for passing the Superintendent's Budget on to the Town Council with a unanimous vote. It was the right thing to do. Now, I hope the Town Council does the right thing to protect my property value and passes it without cuts onto the citizens for a vote. Second, I'm here to show my support and give my thanks to the Superintendent for everything he's done to keep things

moving forward over the last couple of years. Times have been challenging to say the least. And, based on discussions with people in other towns and other states, Plainville has been impressive. That has required extraordinary effort on the part of teachers, staff and the administration. It also doesn't happen in a vacuum. It takes leadership and we have been very lucky to have this Superintendent leading the district. Third, I need to ask the majority members of the Board of Education, how many years' experience they have in education, the degrees you hold, your levels of certification? I understand there is no response to public comments, my question is rhetorical. My point is that you are not qualified, not one of you, to run a school district. That's why we hire a Superintendent. During my time on the Board of Education, I was lucky enough to have Becky Tyrrell as a mentor. She taught me that one of the most important tasks as a Board of Education member was to ensure that the right people are driving the bus. I'm proud to say that I was on the Board that brought Mr. LePage to Plainville. We have the right person driving the bus. Somehow, the majority members of the Board want to replace that bus with a clown car. You know, the little car at the circus, people pouring out all over it, like in a chaotic fashion. The bus moves down the road in a clear direction, sometimes it has to slow down, sometimes it has to speed up to accommodate changes and challenges moving forward. It takes a good driver. We have a good driver and we're lucky to have him. The clown car, full of chaos, slows down forward motion. Stop trying to derail the forward motion of this school district. Let the people who are qualified to manage, manage. Do what is expected of you in your role as members of the Board of Education and stop playing your own agendas.

Melissa Sweeney, 40 Glennwood Drive

Good Evening. I'm here to express my concern with last months meeting. Some Board members are in support of potentially creating policy around future decisions in regard to the pandemic due to the belief that that's what the constituents want. I want to clearly state, this is not an opinion held by me or so many other Plainville parents. Mr. LePage has made difficult and thoughtful decisions in alignment with public health guidance and has successfully gotten us through some of the most difficult times. The decisions he made during this pandemic did not hold our students back any further than necessary and he made this happen as safely as possible. As a reminder, when school had options to go remote or have prolonged hybrid models, we went back. Plainville students had more opportunities to be in the classroom than many in our own State and even Country with every feasible option to have less restrictions, Mr. LePage took them with guidance and mitigation strategies in place to make it happen safely. When masks became optional, he supported that as well. I cannot understand why at this point some members of the Board propose motions to consider any policy that would impede on the ability to make future decisions without the Board's interference. His actions simply do not merit this type of proposal. I am strongly against any such policy or change. Additionally, I am very concerned with the statements and actions of a few of the Board members. Rachel Buchanan, you stated that constituents are asking about the burden of proof specifically. Board of Education meetings are not the place for these questions to be answered and you're not qualified to try to answer them. It is not the responsibility of town members to try to educate those who keep their heads in the sand. Especially at the expense of our students, staff and educators. You said asking questions is how you learn. We don't have time to educate you. It is your responsibility, as well as the other Board of Education members to educate yourselves. It was very clear to us that were watching that meeting, that several members appeared reluctant to vote yes to that motion. I urge all Board of Education members to cast votes with the best interests of our students, staff and families. Those are who you are here to represent and we need to do better for our community. I hope when the time comes, you do the right thing. To ask for needing of education about Science, or even flags, is further proof that we should not have a policy

in place that will hinder our Superintendent's ability to make swift decisions. We have a highly qualified Superintendent. Mr. LePage has demonstrated being a strong leader and I ask you to make his job easier and not more difficult. Thank you, Mr. LePage and the rest of the Board for being so focused and steadfast impeding the actual work of the Board of Education in supporting our schools. Thank you.

Benjamin Gediman, 5 Dickman Road

It's unfortunate that I and many other citizens can't come to these meetings and talk about the upcoming budget, district updates or student accomplishments. Instead we have to speak about our Superintendent, who I don't always agree with, but know that every decision he makes is about the safety and wellbeing of all the students, staff and the entire Plainville community. He was hired to do a very tough job and does it very well. Or, we have to speak about how the meetings are run. Madam Chair, please learn how to run a meeting, and most of all know what you are voting for before you vote. Or, we have to speak about a Board member going after the social justice clubs and the banners hanging up on the High School. After only four months, it has become abundantly clear that Mrs. Buchanan has zero interest in the betterment of Plainville Community Schools. Instead, she just wants to create havoc. She hides behind the guise of, I'm just speaking for the constituents that she claims 1-3 reach out to her every day, which is laughable since not one of them has ever come to a meeting and spoken about any of these issues. Yes, it was true that she was the highest vote getter. I'd like to know how many of these voters actually have school age children. She claims she is just asking questions so she can be more informed. But when those questions are answered and she doesn't like the answers, she completely ignores the answer. A perfect example is the history of the gay Pride flag and its evolution over the years, that she still calls the non-existent progressive flag. She makes a statement supporting a Middle School child that made a statement at the February meeting. But then goes on her own social media and says that child is a pawn being sent up by their parent. The bottom line is she seeks confirmation bias, not answers. When someone, especially an elected official shows you who they are, believe them and hold them accountable. Unfortunately.... parents of Plainville pay attention. Extreme right-wing national politics has affected our town. We need to do all we can to stop it.

Anke Behrends-Cooke, 55 Redstone Hill

I feel I should say probably more than I'm going to but public speaking is not my thing so I'm going to keep it simple. I just wanted to say that I do not believe that the Board of Education should be involved with any day to day decisions that Mr. LePage may need to make like COVID or anything else. He was hired as our Superintendent and has proven again and again that he has the best interest of our students and staff in mind with every single decision he makes. He's done an amazing job throughout the pandemic. I can't thank him enough for all that he has already done. I trust him to continue to make the best choices for Plainville schools and the community. Thank you.

RESPONSE TO CITIZEN COMMENTS: A few responses can be found under Open Forum.

V. COUNCIL LIAISON—NO REPORT

VI. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. LePage: First of all, I'd like to thank everyone who offered their support. I do appreciate it very much. We're working as a group, as a Board of Education, with me as leader of the district to really work together to continue to improve every day and how we lead this district. I will continue to do my best for you and I appreciate all the kind

words. I believe everyone on the Board has good intentions in what they want for this district. I won't defend any one individual person. I just want to say that collectively, we're all here to do a job. I'm 100% committed to Plainville. I plan to be here for as long as I will be tolerated. I love this town, and its great people. We're going to work hard to do our best for you.

A. ELEMENTARY STRATEGIC UPDATE

Mr. LePage introduced Director of Curriculum, Instructional and Assessment, Tawana Graham-Douglas. Mrs. Graham-Douglas stated that the three elementary principals, Alicia Atterrato, Andrew Batchelder and Jeff Wallowitz, along with Wendy Bender, Elementary Literacy Instructor and Kirsten Penner, Elementary Math and Science Instructional Leader who will give a brief overview of Social and Emotional Learning, Equity and Mastery.

Mr. Batchelder began with a window into Social and Emotional Learning in the Elementary Schools:

Mr. Batchelder stated that for students to reach their Social-Emotional goals, they need to reach their learning competencies. Effective cooperative learning with their peers is paramount to student success. Social-Emotional learning includes Self Awareness, Self-Management, Social Awareness, Relationship Skills and Responsible Decision-Making.

To promote the achievement of Social and Emotional competencies, an approach called RULER is used. RULER is designed to include everyone and to be integrated into all aspects of school.

Recognizing emotions in self and others
Understanding the causes and consequences of emotion
Labeling emotions accurately
Expressing emotions appropriately
Regulating emotions effectively

There are several key strategies students learn to achieve those five skills mentioned. The RULER Approach Anchor Tools includes a Charter, which establishes school and classroom norms; Mood Meter, which increases self-awareness and emotion regulation; and Meta-Moment, to manage responses when triggered. Teachers have access to a wide array of lessons and resources that are organized sequentially in folders to teach all of these strategies and skills. Mr. Batchelder gave examples of the use of RULER around the schools, i.e., classroom Charter, Mood-Meter and recognition of students who exemplify their Charter.

Mr. Batchelder stated that SEL has always been a focus in the schools. But especially throughout the last couple of years due to the isolation, high rate of student absences and quarantines our students have experienced. This work is important to students as they learn how to play games together, take turns, work effectively in small groups or with partners, learn perspective taking skills and learn how to think flexibly. SEL has been and will continue to be an important part of student learning and growing in school every day.

Mr. Batchelder turned the program over to Mr. Wallowitz, Linden Principal, who will speak about Equity.

Mr. Wallowitz will share some of the great things happening at the elementary level here in Plainville.

He stated that about three weeks ago, Mr. LePage shared what Equity looks like at the district level. This evening Mr. Wallowitz will focus on the elementary level. He also reiterated what Mr. LePage shared in terms of why Equity is one of our three district goals.

Why Equity?

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

Equity through Data: Looking through data with one lens, even when the data looks promising can be misleading. If we look at an assessment measure over time and see strong growth, it doesn't necessarily mean we are addressing the needs of all students. Example: If we saw that we had 77% of students meet the benchmark on a reading assessment and then it grew to 80%, unless we looked at the 30% who didn't meet the benchmark, we could be missing a key opportunity to provide all students with equitable access to interventions, support and strategies. Are those 20%-30% mostly boys, mostly girls, mostly students with English as a second language or mostly students new to the district. Until we disaggregate the data and look at it from multiple perspectives, even positive or promising data can be misleading.

Equity through Literature:

Mr. Wallowitz stated that as we look at the books in our classroom libraries, we want all students to see themselves. Like a mirror, students should be able to find books or characters who look like them and have had similar life experiences. Are there books with children in wheelchairs? Are there books with children who have been adopted? Are there books for children with different skin colors or from other countries? Seeing yourself in books is an important part of feeling that you belong. You are seen, and are a part of the school experience. Equally important, students should be able to look out the window and read about characters who have had different experiences than they've had. This enriches our students school experience and allows them to gain empathy, insight and understanding of their peers that they attend school with each day.

School should not be done to children, it should be done with them. Having children and families be a part of any process is critical. It's difficult with equity efforts. We invite our students to be a part of morning announcements and be a powerful voice for themselves and their peers. We've had students share about people who have had an impact on our world during Hispanic Heritage month, Black History month, Women's History month and Music in our Schools month, this year alone. We've had students teach their peers how to say greetings in multiple languages. We've had a student sing Happy Birthday in Polish to the entire school and she was so excited and so cute. Families have come into our classrooms which provides amazing opportunities for students. One of our very own Board Members came into her daughter's classroom, read a Patricia Polacco story, and then did a traditional egg painting activity with the class. Families have come in and read stories in multiple languages. We've had a parent come in to explain why in some Spanish speaking countries, people have two last names. Equity is about recognizing and celebrating differences, but also recognizing that there are many ways we are very similar and even the same.

Mr. Wallowitz ended with a clip of three Wheeler School students participating in morning announcements, educating staff and their peers.

Mrs. Atterrato will now give a presentation on Mastery.

She stated that Mr. Batchelder laid the foundation on how we create a safe environment for all our students, in addition to success and growth. Mr. Wallowitz spoke about how we work to include all of our children in that. She will speak about content.

She stated that when we think about what we want our children to learn and how we want them to learn it, one of our most powerful strategies for teachers is knowing and understanding not just the skills that students need to master in their current grade level, but also those that were learned in their prior grade level, and the next grade. We collaborate together during the PLC's and grade level meetings to fully understand the work.

We recognize that, unfortunately, there has been some interrupted learning for many of our students and we use an acceleration mindset when making instructional decisions regarding lessons in our classrooms. We do much of this work from a district level so that all three of our elementary schools and every child and teacher knows the overall expectations and are consistently able to be provided with high level of targeted instruction for their needs. Every day our teachers use all they know about our children including universal screens, diagnostic assessments, unit level assessments and daily check-ins to guide next steps for the needs of every student. These assessments help us to figure out what our students own and where the areas are that may need additional support. We meet together to review data independently, with our grade level colleagues and with resource teachers and administrators across the district. During these meetings we look for trends, think deeply about our students' needs, discuss best practices and plan for next steps. Our expectations for all of our children remain high, as does our belief that every child in our classrooms are capable of doing the work and making growth and progress regardless of and in spite of that interrupted learning that did occur.

Mrs. Atterrato then introduced Wendy Bender, Elementary Literacy Instructional Leader and Kirsten Penner, Elementary Math and Science Instructional Leader who will give an overview of the specifics regarding what learning and literacy, math and science look like in our classrooms.

Mrs. Penner stated that she is here to share a snapshot of what Literacy looks like in the Plainville Community Schools and will focus on Tier 1 reading instruction.

She stated that Tier 1 is the instruction that happens for all students in the classroom. It is evidence based and aligned with State standards. In grades K-5 Tier 1 reading instruction, we use the Teacher's College Units of Study and the five pillars of Early Literacy in alignment with the Common Core State Standards. Teachers use conferring and small group instruction to differentiate instruction during independent reading. Skill groups, strategy groups and guided reading groups are used to support students where they are in the learning continuum.

The National Reading Panel identified five key concepts at the core of every effective reading instruction program: They are: Phonetic Awareness, Phonics, Fluency, Vocabulary and Comprehension. These concepts have become known as the five pillars of early literacy and reading instruction. She has provided a quick glimpse of each of the pillars for a clear understanding of what they are.

#1Phonetic Awareness: A video was shown of Mrs. Chmielecki's Kindergarten class at Toffolon School. Phonetic Awareness is the ability to identify the different sounds that make up speech.

#2Phonics: A video was shown of Miss Dinsmore's Grade 1 class at Linden Street School. Phonics helps kids match sounds to letters or letter groups.

#3Fluency: Fluency is the ability to read accurately and quickly and can be achieved when the reader can concentrate on the meaning of the text, not the individual words. Guided practice helps children learn to read fast enough to keep up with their brain. Educators use a variety of instructional vehicles to teach fluency and vocabulary skills, i.e., Read Live, Freckle, Raz Kids, Decodable text and Foundations Storytime.

#4Vocabulary: Vocabulary is the key to knowing more about everything. Kids absorb language like sponges, learning new words every day. Help expand their vocabulary by talking to them, reading aloud, and even singing with them. Educators use a variety of instructional vehicles to teach fluency and vocabulary skills, i.e., Foundations, Word study, Read alouds, Shared reading, iReady.

#5 Comprehension: A video was shown of Mrs. Calabro's Grade 5 class at Wheeler School. Comprehension happens when the words become ideas. Once a child is reading fluently with a strong vocabulary, they can read for understanding. Comprehension is that "Oh!, I get it now!" moment, repeated.

This is part of the independent portion of the Teacher's College Workshop model and we combine Teachers' College with units of study with the five pillars of literacy to do the work with students.

Kristen Penner, Elementary Math and Science Instructional Leader.

Mrs. Penner state that we are in our second year of Illustrative Mathematics (IM). IM is a rigorous problem-solving based curriculum which links mathematical concepts with real world scenarios and provides routine opportunities for students to build conceptual understanding. IM has imbedded community-building opportunities, collaboration and follows the developmental progression of student learning.

In a grade 3 example, students make a connection to a real-life situation of playing a board game and they make sense of multiplying multiples of 10. They apply their understanding in a way that makes sense to them and collaborate with their peers to continue the activity.

In the classroom, students experience problem-based learning and productive struggle which supports the development of habit and mind when facing a challenge such as grit, perseverance and resilience, and all align with the Portrait of the Graduate. You will also see Independent and Collaborate Problem-Solving and Communication of Mathematical thinking.

She then showed an example of grade 3 students communicating their mathematical thinking. Students also have the opportunity to express their thinking verbally as seen in a video of grade 1 and 5 students sharing their thinking with their peers).

Science:

In Science, we continue to do our work towards Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) to guide instruction. NGSS integrated three dimensions of Science. Practices--what Scientists do, Core Ideas—what Scientists know and Crosscutting—what Scientists think and the link between Scientific ideas. NCGG is inquiry based (similar to Math) and allows for student led exploration of concepts while following the five E models, *Engage, Explore, Explain, Elaborate and Evaluate*. A video was shown of two components of a NGSS unit for grade 3 regarding balanced and unbalanced forces.

This year teachers and students are excited that the National Camp Invention Hall of Fame will be returning to Plainville in June. Camp Invention is a week-long exploration of science, technology and engineering offered to Grade 4 and 5 students. The Camp infuses collaboration, exploration and discovery through hands-on STEM activities. The teachers and students are very much looking forward to it.

Mrs. Atterrato thanked Board of Education members for their hours of dedication that they provide to students and staff of Plainville Community Schools. The three elementary schools created gifts for Board Members in honor of Board Appreciation Month.

B. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Mr. LePage reported that Dr. Miguel Cardona, the Secretary of Education, visited Linden Street School on February 28. Mr. Wallowitz rolled out the red carpet for the occasion. Mr. LePage stated that it was a very nice experience and it was a terrific visit. The day started with a performance by the Plainville High School Jazz Band who blew the doors off the library. Garret Millette, the Board’s Student Liaison, is a proud member of the Jazz Band. The band just returned from an exciting competition in New Hampshire. Mr. LePage thanked the amazing jazz band, Mr. Wallowitz, Mrs. Levendowski, Linden Art teacher, along with Linden’s wonderful students who created banners, all kinds of greetings as well as special welcomes for Dr. Cardona and his wife Marissa. Dr. Cardona later texted a photo of himself standing in front of the banners and gifts that were sent to his office in Washington D.C. Mr. LePage stated that we are very proud to have been chosen for the visit. He had received a call asking if Plainville Schools would like to host Dr. Cardona’s one-year reflection of being in office. Dr. Cardona and his staff were extremely impressed with Linden, as he would be if he visited all Plainville Schools.

Mr. LePage reported that we are in week two to the day since changes to COVID mitigations and the optional mask wearing was suggested. Mr. LePage stated that if you walk around the schools, it has become a pretty natural transition. It’s nice to see a lot of smiling faces. He stated that the district followed all protocols and procedures as was needed when the guidance said the new option could be transitioned. He stated that going around to the schools and seeing the smiling faces is very nice and for those who are still masking, we’ll see their smiles through their eyes and personalities. If anyone is comfortable making a different choice, it’s totally up to them. He has not heard of any issues thus far, as there were concerns. He reported that case numbers have been really low. We’ve had a situation we’ve had to deal with, in conjunction with our COVID team and also our Health Director. But things are going well. Mr. LePage stated that we’ve had some recent concerns with other illnesses popping up. Since COVID, it seems other illnesses have been held at bay. We’re asking that parents follow the protocols sent out by the district if their child is exhibiting symptoms. We have a letter which was sent out regarding direct guidance from our nurses. Like anytime, we don’t want sick children coming to school. It can put others at risk of getting sick as well, whether it’s the flu or strep throat. We hope things will continue to go well.

Mr. LePage provided information to the Board regarding security measure upgrades and updates. School security is our top priority, being both physically and mentally safe. We've taken a lot of steps and measures over the years with a process of keeping the community safe in our schools and have partnered with our Police Department. Mr. LePage has met with new Police Chief Christopher Vanghele and also met with some security technology integration systems companies since then. We've been fortunate to work on some new substantial grants with Sam Adlerstein, Steve Busel and Kevin Ross. The three of them have done a lot of work on these grants. Plainville was awarded a grant for approximately \$430,000 for security upgrades which include the ability to communicate more effectively during a crisis (or at any time), including cameras and panic systems. We also received another grant that awarded Plainville approximately \$23,000. There is a growing concern with vaping in the schools, as there have been across the state and country. We have selected a company who will be installing vape sensors. The sensor will sense vape, THC and has the ability to track sound such as a gunshot. It will track the sound and alert the Police as to exactly where the sound is coming from and we obviously hope that never happens. The sensor has the capabilities with built-in securities. We're always looking for ways to increase our security system in various ways.

On April 21st the district will hold its Annual Superintendent's (in-person) Showcase. Last year the Showcase was done online through a bitmoji classroom, which was a lot of fun, and as a side note, the district won a CABE award for the Showcase. Last year, we got to highlight the things that make Plainville tremendous as a district. This year we will do this in person. We'll have some performances from different groups, including the jazz band. The Showcase will begin in the PHS Auditorium and will transition to other locations throughout the building. There will be demonstrations, performances, and to give everyone a chance to learn about what's happening in our schools.

Mr. LePage also thanked Steve Busel and Sam Adlerstein for working on a number of solar applications. There's a new series of Eversource Solar grants available. It took a lot of work by both Mr. Busel and Mr. Adlerstein. The district has submitted applications for four Plainville Schools for advanced solar technology which will help make our schools more efficient and will provide revenue over the course of the years ahead. It is a great program that has become available. The district is looking for as many energy saving efficiencies in order to operate in an efficient way.

Mr. LePage stated that the district is in the process of a Middle School renovation. Board Members were given updates on the project at their February 14th meeting. The Plan is to submit the application to the state by June 30th, which is the deadline. There's a lot of work that already has been done. Tomorrow morning Mr. Ross, Mr. Adlerstein, Mr. Busel and Mr. LePage will review the Ed. Specs. for the project. A space exemption was requested. The building is larger than the number of students. It's larger than if a new school were to be built. The current building is approximately 105,000 sq. ft., taking out the district storage which is an additional \$8,000 sq. ft. A brand new building would be approximately 94,000 sq. ft. for the population projected at the time of the grant application. Therefore, administration has worked very hard to submit a request for exemption because there are many unique programs at the Middle School, i.e., Vex Robotics, STEAM programs with labs, the school has an Auditorium which is in very good shape, an auxiliary gym. Without going too far, the grant application must be submitted by June 30. The district is using Construction Services Group (CSG) to utilize our Project Manager to get us to that point. The next steps are refining the Ed. Specs. and then working on a cost projection for the project, then submitting the application. It will go to referendum vote. However, that date is still uncertain. It was originally planned for

late Spring. It can take place after the application has been submitted., so it may be early Fall. Mr. LePage will keep the Board updated as to any further details coming in and as the CBPC meets and things start moving forward.

Mr. LePage congratulated the Vex Robotics team. He was an inspector of the Robots before they went to competition on March 5th. He stated that so many students are interested in Robotics. A few years ago, we had some issues moving the Robotics program forward at the High School after having two State championship robotics teams. There was a bit of a gap with students who were interested and trouble finding advisors. Mr. LePage and Mr. Johnson, High School Principal, and Steven Michaud, IL for Career and Technology Education are very much committed to working with Camille Westfall, MSP Robotics teacher, who is a tremendous leader of the Vex Robotics program at the Middle School. Mr. LePage reported that they are looking into successful options to bring Robotics back to the high School as well as the elementary level. They are looking forward into the Vex program and the way it will tie into Portrait of the Graduate work. Robotics encapsulates being communicative, collaborative, resilient, mindful and innovative which are the five pillars of the Portrait of the Graduate. Mr. LePage stated that he is very excited and committed to the program.

Mr. LePage stated that as we look at the wonderful things in our district and planning for the future, our Strategic Planning will progress with the Board and the Plainville community. A survey was recently sent out with approximately 150 responses returned. He is looking for a broad collection of responses from community members, staff and students. He will be making a video to send out to students, asking them to complete the survey. It is a very short survey basically asking, What are you proud of in the district? and What can we do better? Do you have another idea we should bring forward? Once we have a set of ideas (approximately 12-15), they will be sent back out to everyone and we will have everyone rank those ideas in order of importance. He asked that everyone complete the survey and stated that he appreciates everyone's insight and input.

C. BOARD OF EDUCATION RECOGNITION

To end his report, Mr. LePage stated that he will echo the sentiments thanking the Board of Education. A board position is an unpaid volunteer job. When they run for office they are tricked to believe that there are only ten meetings a year, but it's much more. It can be difficult in normal times, but it's really difficult in times of COVID and the division we're feeling in our country and the fears we have for the Ukraine and our world, as whole. It just compounds everything. It is not easy to be a leader. I get paid to be a leader. They are all volunteers and there are differences in personalities and opinions and what everyone brings to the table. I am confident we can all come together. We met for an hour and a half tonight, prior to this meeting to work on Board development which will continue. It's not an easy responsibility. We're all working toward making this unit of Board Members, working as efficiently and effectively as we can, in the best interest of the district and our kids. He thanked the Board for their efforts and stated that a few more thank you gifts will be forthcoming.

VIII. BOARD SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Student Representatives' Report

Garret Millette reported on the following:

- ▶ Because of the few days of school being cancelled due to inclement weather, students and staff have adapted to the changes.
- ▶ As COVID-19 numbers continue to lower, students look forward to the conclusion of this pandemic and Student Class Advisors are planning the end of the school year, such as the class picnic, Super Senior Banquet and graduation.

- ▶ The PHS Jazz Band performed at the Clark Terry Jazz Festival at the University of New Hampshire this past weekend under the Direction of Mr. Talotta. And, thanks to Mr. LePage for buying dinner that night.
- ▶ Plainville High School celebrated Pie Day today by raising money for Student Council. Part of the proceeds went to support the Ukraine. For every teacher whose students donated \$100, they were pie'd in the face during one of the lunch waves.
- ▶ Spirit Week is this week at Plainville High School. Tomorrow is Pajama Day, Wednesday is PHS Spirit Gear Day and Thursday is green and gold day in celebration of St. Patrick's Day.
- ▶ Looking ahead, there will be a PHS Band Concert which will take place on Wednesday March 16 in the PHS Auditorium at 7:30 PM.
- ▶ There will be no school on Friday, March 18th due to Teacher Professional Development Day.
- ▶ The PHS Theater Unlimited Club, run by Mr. Riccardo, will present a World Premier play entitled, A Word for Mother. The shows will take place on Friday, March 18 at 7:30PM and Saturday, March 19 at 2 PM in the High School Auditorium.
- ▶ On Wednesday, March 23 Sophomores and Juniors will take their SAT's.

B. Facilities/Finance Subcommittee Report—No Report

C. Policy Subcommittee Report—No Report

D. Curriculum Subcommittee Report—No Report

The Curriculum Subcommittee will meet on Monday, March 28th.

E. Outreach Subcommittee Report—No Report

F. PAC Liaison--Plainville High School Report

Mr. White reported that the PAC met on Wednesday, March 9 via Zoom.

- ▶ Mr. Johnson announced to parents that Mr. PHS will take place on Thursday, April 7th.
- ▶ There will be another PHS Learning Adventure Day on April 8th.
- ▶ The Class Picnic is set for May 8th.
- ▶ Both the Junior and Senior Proms will be held on May 21st.
- ▶ A date for Night of Excellence as not yet been set.
- ▶ The PAC has a treasury balance of \$4,334.71, which does not include \$183 raised in their butterbraid fundraiser.
- ▶ The PAC is looking into other fundraising efforts. The proceeds raised are used for PHS scholarships. The PAC has raised enough funds to present two scholarships but would like to present three if funding will allow. The PAC is thinking of continuing with the VIP Parking at Graduation fundraiser as well as doing further fundraising with graduation signs and the continuation of the Adopt-A-Senior program.
- ▶ The next meeting of the PAC will take place on May 11 at 7 PM.

G. PTO Liaison--Toffolon Elementary School Report

Mrs. Martinez reported on the following:

Mrs. Martinez reported that the Toffolon PTO last met on February 16th.

- ▶ The PTO has received a few fundraising checks: Boxtops \$266.40; Bay State Textiles \$81.50; Smashburger \$261.91; Minifigs \$42 and Rite-aid \$11.25.

▶ The PTO is still working on stocking the staff lounge. They stacked the lounge on February 11th and had quite a few donations from a few families. They're always looking for donations.

▶ The PTO received \$65 which was donated by Cheddar Up. Cheddar Up will also do shopping for you.

▶ The Scholastic Book Fair will be held from March 21-25 during Parent/Teacher Conferences. They are also looking for volunteers to help staff the Book Fair.

▶ Work has begun on this year's yearbook.

▶ Upcoming fundraisers include: Friendship-grams for St. Patrick's Day; the Calendar Raffle was postponed but may return: the 4 O'Clock Flower Sale, in conjunction with the Petit Foundation will split a 50/50 profit. The 4 O'Clock's are \$5 each. Sales will begin in April and pick-up will be on Mother's Day weekend.

▶ The APEX Fun Run will take place from May 2-13.

▶ The PTO is also working on Toffolon's end-of-the-year picnic.

▶ The next meeting of the Toffolon PTO is set for March 16th.

H. PTO Liaison--Linden Street Elementary School Report

Mrs. Clark reported on the following:

Mrs. Clark reported that the Toffolon PTO last met on March 9th.

▶ The PTO had success with their Valentine lolligrams with a profit of \$1,077. Valentine lollipops were also given to all staff and students from the PTO.

▶ The Hop Haus Restaurant fundraiser on February 17th netted \$300.

▶ Tomorrow night the PTO will sponsor a Lucky Leprechaun Bingo Night which will be held virtually @ 6 PM. Children will be able to play Bingo that evening and will receive their prizes on St. Patrick's Day.

▶ In April, the PTO will sponsor an Excellent Start to Spring Day. This will include an obstacle course, inflatable slide, grab bags, possibly some food trucks, a 50/50 raffle, along with raffle baskets. The event will be held on Saturday, April 9th.

▶ The next Linden PTO meeting is scheduled for April 6.

I. PTC Liaison--Middle School of Plainville Report

Mrs. St. Lawrence reported that the MSP PTC met virtually on March 8th.

▶ The PTC had a successful Oreogram Sale for Valentine's Day.

▶ The PTC gave a special thank you to school nurses by distributing appreciation gift cards. In addition, all teachers received specially created candy bars and treats as a thank you for all that they do.

▶ The PTC is asking that all MSP families stay tuned to their emails as there are a lot of great things coming up in the Spring. There will be a Cornhole Tournament fundraiser. Possibly another Bingo Night and Paint Night, a lot of activities families have enjoyed.

▶ Discussion also took place regarding possible end-of-the-year field trips

▶ Planning has begun for the MSP 8th Grade Dance.

J. PTO Liaison--Wheeler Elementary School Report—No Report

K. CREC Council Report

Mrs. Tyrrell stated that the CREC Council met last month. They spoke about the Legislative Update and the Day on the Hill festivities which was held virtually and attended by several Board Members. It is her hope that the event will go back to in-person next year.

L. Chairperson's Report—No Report

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A) Request Approval: Students: Suspension, Expulsion and Due Process No. 5114—ELIMINATE—2nd Reading

A MOTION WAS MADE BY FOSTER WHITE TO REMOVE THE ELIMINATION OF POLICY NO. 5114 STUDENTS: SUSPENSION, EXPULSION AND DUE PROCESS FROM THE TABLE. REBECCA MARTINEZ SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 9-0.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY FOSTER WHITE TO APPROVE THE ELIMINATION OF POLICY NO. 5114 STUDENTS: SUSPENSION, EXPULSION AND DUE PROCESS. CASSANDRA CLARK SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 9-0.

B) Request Approval: Students: Student Discipline Policy No. 5114—REPLACE POLICY—2nd Reading

A MOTION WAS MADE BY FOSTER WHITE TO REMOVE THE REPLACEMENT OF POLICY NO. 5114 STUDENTS: STUDENT DISCIPLINE FROM THE TABLE. REBECCA MARTINEZ SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 9-0.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY FOSTER WHITE TO APPROVE THE REPLACEMENT OF POLICY NO. 5114 STUDENTS: STUDENT DISCIPLINE AS PRESENTED. CASSANDRA CLARK SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 9-0.

C) Request Approval: Students: Alcohol Use, Drugs and Tobacco Policy No. 5131.6—ELIMINATE—2nd Reading

A MOTION WAS MADE BY FOSTER WHITE TO REMOVE THE ELIMINATION OF POLICY NO. 5131.6 STUDENTS: ALCOHOL USE, DRUGS AND TOBACCO FROM THE TABLE. REBECCA MARTINEZ SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 9-0.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY FOSTER WHITE TO APPROVE THE ELIMINATION OF POLICY NO. 5131.6 STUDENTS: ALCOHOL USE, DRUGS AND TOBACCO. CASSANDRA CLARK SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 9-0.

D) Request Approval: Students: Drug and Alcohol Use by Students, Policy No. 5131.6—REPLACE POLICY—2nd Reading

A MOTION WAS MADE BY FOSTER WHITE TO REMOVE THE REPLACEMENT OF POLICY NO. 5131.6 STUDENTS: DRUG AND ALCOHOL USE BY STUDENTS FROM THE TABLE. REBECCA MARTINEZ SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 9-0.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY FOSTER WHITE TO APPROVE POLICY NO. 5131.6 STUDENTS: DRUG AND ALCOHOL USE BY STUDENTS AS PRESENTED. CASSANDRA CLARK SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 9-0.

E) Request Approval: Students: Chemical Health Policy for Student Athletes Policy No. 5131.7—ELIMINATE—2nd Reading

A MOTION WAS MADE BY FOSTER WHITE TO REMOVE THE ELIMINATION OF POLICY NO. 5131.7 STUDENTS: CHEMICAL HEALTH POLICY FOR STUDENT ATHLETES FROM THE TABLE. REBECCA MARTINEZ SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 9-0.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY FOSTER WHITE TO APPROVE THE ELIMINATION OF POLICY NO. 5131.7 STUDENTS: CHEMICAL HEALTH POLICY FOR STUDENTS ATHLETES AS PRESENTED. CASSANDRA CLARK SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 9-0.

F) Request Approval: Students: Chemical Health Policy for Student Athletes Policy No. 5131.7—REPLACE POLICY—1st Reading

A MOTION WAS MADE BY FOSTER WHITE TO REMOVE THE REPLACEMENT OF POLICY NO. 5131.7 STUDENTS: CHEMICAL HEALTH POLICY FOR STUDENT ATHLETES FROM THE TABLE. REBECCA MARTINEZ SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 9-0.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY FOSTER WHITE TO APPROVE THE REPLACEMENT OF POLICY NO. 5131.7 STUDENTS: CHEMICAL HEALTH POLICY FOR STUDENT ATHLETES AS PRESENTED. CASSANDRA CLARK SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 9-0.

G) Request Approval: Personnel: Alcohol, Tobacco and Drug Free Workplace Policy No. 4430—ELIMINATE—2nd Reading

A MOTION WAS MADE BY FOSTER WHITE TO REMOVE THE ELIMINATION OF POLICY NO. 4430 PERSONNEL: ALCOHOL, TOBACCO AND DRUG FREE WORKPLACE FROM THE TABLE. REBECCA MARTINEZ SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 9-0.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY FOSTER WHITE TO APPROVE THE ELIMINATION OF POLICY NO. 4430 PERSONNEL: ALCOHOL, TOBACCO AND DRUG FREE WORKPLACE AS PRESENTED. CASSANDRA CLARK SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 9-0.

H) Request Approval: Personnel: Alcohol, Tobacco and Drug Free Workplace Policy No. 4430—UPDATE POLICY—2nd Reading

A MOTION WAS MADE BY FOSTER WHITE TO REMOVE THE UPDATE OF POLICY NO. 4430 PERSONNEL: ALCOHOL, TOBACCO AND DRUG FREE WORKPLACE FROM THE TABLE. REBECCA MARTINEZ SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 9-0.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY FOSTER WHITE TO APPROVE THE UPDATE OF POLICY NO. 4430 PERSONNEL: ALCOHOL, TOBACCO AND DRUG

FREE WORKPLACE AS PRESENTED. REBECCA MARTINEZ SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 9-0.

- I) Request Approval: Community Relations: Smoking in School Facilities Policy
No. 1331—ELIMINATE—2nd Reading

A MOTION WAS MADE BY FOSTER WHITE TO REMOVE THE ELIMINATION OF POLICY NO. 1331 COMMUNITY RELATIONS: SMOKING IN SCHOOL FACILITIES FROM THE TABLE. REBECCA MARTINEZ SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 9-0.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY FOSTER WHITE TO APPROVE THE ELIMINATION OF POLICY NO. 1331 COMMUNITY RELATIONS: SMOKING IN SCHOOL FACILITIES AS PRESENTED. CASSANDRA CLARK SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 9-0.

- J) Request Approval: Community Relations: Smoking in School Facilities Policy
No. 1331—REPLACE POLICY—2nd Reading

A MOTION WAS MADE BY FOSTER WHITE TO REMOVE THE REPLACEMENT OF POLICY NO. 1331 COMMUNITY RELATIONS: SMOKING IN SCHOOL FACILITIES FROM THE TABLE. REBECCA MARTINEZ SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 9-0.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY FOSTER WHITE TO APPROVE THE REPLACEMENT OF POLICY NO. 1331 COMMUNITY RELATIONS: SMOKING IN SCHOOL FACILITIES AS PRESENTED. CASSANDRA CLARK SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 9-0.

- K) Request Approval: Students: Attendance and Excuses Policy No. 5113—
ELIMINATE—2nd Reading

A MOTION WAS MADE BY FOSTER WHITE TO REMOVE THE ELIMINATION OF POLICY NO. 5113 STUDENTS: ATTENDANCE AND EXCUSES FROM THE TABLE. REBECCA MARTINEZ SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 9-0.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY FOSTER WHITE TO APPROVE THE ELIMINATION OF POLICY NO. 5113 STUDENTS: ATTENDANCE AND EXCUSES AS PRESENTED. CASSANDRA CLARK SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 9-0.

- L) Request Approval: Students: Attendance, Truancy and Chronic Absenteeism
Policy No. 5113—UPDATE POLICY—2nd Reading

A MOTION WAS MADE BY FOSTER WHITE TO REMOVE THE UPDATE OF POLICY NO. 5113 STUDENTS: ATTENDANCE, TRUANCY AND CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM FROM THE TABLE. REBECCA MARTINEZ SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 9-0.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY FOSTER WHITE TO APPROVE THE UPDATE OF POLICY NO. 5113 STUDENTS: ATTENDANCE, TRUANCY AND

CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM AS PRESENTED. CASSANDRA CLARK
SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 9-0.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

A) Board Open Forum

Cassandra Clark—Mr. LePage was so kind and generous explaining that the new board members are in fact new, and it is volunteer. So, when we have our meetings, we go by Robert's Rules. It is run by a book that is this thick (book was shown) and it's not easy. It is a daunting task. So, to simplify things I just wanted to speak on that real quick. That the school board holds a business meeting that is held in the public eye. We follow Robert's Rules to ensure the meeting runs smoothly and in a fair and organized fashion. The Board Chair is our Conductor of the Orchestra and the members of the Board take turns speaking as we are recognized. The agenda is placed to give order to the meeting and is created and posted to the public prior to our meeting. To move through the agenda, the Chair gives motions, as you've seen our Chair do tonight and we second motions and the process continues as discussion. And then we decide to vote to accept or if it's not accepted as a vote, it just goes away. So, as things are given to a motion or to second a motion, the only reason for it is to bring it to discussion. So, I just wanted to educate the public so that we as board members bring a motion or second a motion, it is just because we want to discuss something. Nothing changes for policy, noting changes alarmingly. We cannot in a board meeting make anything happen. So, I just want to reassure the quorum of that, and hopefully we can get some grace from the public that again these are not easy rules to learn and we are all doing the best we can. Hopefully, as time goes on, we will all become much better and our most important people are our children here in Plainville. With all of that said, we're thinking of the kids, we're thinking of you, the teachers and wanting to move things through. It is hard to remember we still have to follow rules and how they all go together. So please be patient with us as we go through that. I assure you that with the Superintendent, who is doing a superb job, that we all agree and with Lori by our side as Chair, who is learning right beside us, we're going to do great. Thank you.

Rebecca Martinez--I just wanted to say thank you so much for our Board appreciation gifts. The pictures and the calendar are absolutely adorable and I look forward to using it along with our notebooks and our pens. I just wanted to say it's not easy to come and speak at these meetings and Nolan you are a Rockstar and you are going to do amazing things. The amount of bravery that it takes and to see you do it so eloquently was amazing.

Rachel Buchanan—I would just like to thank everyone for coming tonight and especially for exercising your first amendment right. I am grateful for that. The good news is this Board of Education has one unified goal, which is having a laser focus on our children and their education. That is the intention of this Board. The Board of Education's job, how we invoke change, is through policy. So, it's through policy that we make change. To second what Cassandra said, when we bring something to the table, it can be interpreted by everyone differently because they don't know the intention behind it. Making a motion, the intent is to have a conversation, and from that conversation will come transparency. I have the upmost respect for Mr. Steven LePage. When my daughter went through this school system he was phenomenal and I need to say that, and he knows that. Unfortunately, I think folks might receive the intent as they feel it and not necessarily as the intention was. So, to second what a lot of folks said today, procedurally we will learn, we are all human. We are all here to support our Board Chair and insure that this Board runs as effectively and efficiently

as possible. Just to touch on a few concerns in regards to education. When I was elected to the Board I was put on a team and I love being a part of a team. I cannot proceed filtering through everyone else's personal bias and interpretation of my intentions. All I can do is my job that I was elected to do. I think it was asked, why do the folks that talk to me, why don't they come before the Board, and I can answer that. People are not as comfortable coming and speaking about certain things because like me, they might be stereotyped or categorized or judged. All I can ask is for a chance to give back to my home community. The school system that I went through and love. I have the utmost respect for every person sitting here. Our focus is on education and we're going to have differences of opinions about what that might look like and it is very difficult in this current climate for us to talk about certain topics because they're often met with resistance. So, we're in a community that believes in diversity, equity and inclusion, and inclusion is an action or state of including, or being included in a structure or a group. There is nothing in that definition that says, unless you are blank. It's everyone and the inclusion that I believe in includes inclusion of thought. I don't categorize people by skin color. I don't even think that way. The young man, Nolan, you kept me up all night because all I could think about was that there was some young man out there that genuinely believes that a sitting Board of Education member was racist against Asians. I don't think that way, genuinely, I am at a level of true inclusion, true equity, and true diversity. I don't think in terms of skin color. So, I can't apologize for something that wasn't the intention that I had, that was the bias in which something was received. I can't apologize for something that wasn't my intention. So, my intention was not to be racist and I am sincerely sorry that it was taken that way. And, my intention was never, ever, to override Mr. LePage. As elected Board of Education members, we are here to create change through policy. That's our job. You might not like the motion but the conversation is the most important part. And, we need to have difficult conversations. And after the meeting we had tonight, I think we're going to be in a position to do that. I think every person up here is reasonable and we can leave personal bias at the door, with an emphasis and focus on our kids. I would have to imagine that every person sitting here agrees with that 100% and that is the goal, and the intension. I offer myself to each and every one of your sitting out there in the audience. If you have specific questions or concerns, I am here. Let's have a conversation in the best interest of my hometown's school system. So, thank you for the time and thank you again for coming and speaking out.

Crystal St. Lawrence—I would just like to say thank you. A couple of weeks ago I read at Read Across America Day. It was so great to be back in the schools and to be back in-person and get to see those smiling faces. I was able to read in Ms. Dodenhoff's 2nd grade class at Linden and also Mrs. Valentine's Pre-K class too, and I read a fun book. My kids are all grown up and nobody wants to read with me anymore. But I found this fun book, because I love picture books about super heroes and how we all are super heroes. Being kind, best friends, with our teachers and it was just really fun being back in the schools to see what we're going. What we're really doing, our real focus. And so, I am grateful for that opportunity and can't wait to get back in there again soon. Thank you.

Becky Tyrrell—Just really quickly, thank you to everyone who comes out and addresses the Board. We know it's not easy and for Mr. LePage to kind of recognize the role of the Board and the fact that we're volunteer folks but what we have to do is very serious. And, what we do as a group of nine people is really important. We got off to a rocky start and we'll get better at this. We'll move together as a group and we'll do it because it's the right thing for Plainville. It's the right thing for the

community and the right thing for kids in the schools. That's what we always do. We've had rocky starts before and we will get through this one.

Foster White—I would just like to thank the team from our three elementary schools that I think gave a very concise and informative presentation to us tonight of what is going on at this level of our education system and of our kids. And, how you are compensating by what we have been going through in the last two years with COVID. So, it was an excellent and informative presentation and I thank you for taking the time and staying with us, for this rather long meeting tonight. Thank you so much for an excellent presentation.

Lori Consalvo—I would just like to take this time to thank everybody for coming forward. I know it's not easy to have to come in here and speak about the things you all have. It's not easy for us to listen to either. So, I just wanted to thank you all for coming here and I hope that we can all move forward professionally and maturely and act in the best interests of the students and staff. I am not perfect, I make mistakes and I will always endeavor to put my best self forward, to improve or solve contentious issues. I ask that the Board of Education, Mr. LePage and the citizen's and staff of Plainville please allow me the opportunity. As we all know, being new and learning a new process can be challenging. Again, I apologize. I do accept responsibility for the inefficient and unprofessional meeting and I do vow to work harder to regain the trust of the Board members, Mr. LePage and our citizens. So, thank you all for listening and we do appreciate all your comments. Thank you.

Cassandra Clark-- I just want to say thank you Lori.

Lori Consalvo—You're welcome.

B) Quarterly Special Education Cost Report (October, January, March and June)

Mr. Alderstein reported as follows:

Four times a year you ask us to report on Special Education outplacement costs from a financial perspective because this is such a large item and it could swing. It's been unfavorable since October and since the beginning of the year and it continues to be unfavorable. If we ended the year now our outplacement cost would be unfavorable to the budget by about \$473,000. That's been since October, so it's about where we expect to end the year. We've been managing since October. The next report will be in June. Ms. Trzcinski is here if you have any questions related to Special Education or if you have any cost questions, I'm here.

C) Turf Committee Report (September and May)—NO REPORT

D) Request Approval of Plainville Association of School Administrators' Contract for 07/01/2022 to 06/30/2025

A MOTION WAS MADE BY FOSTER WHITE TO APPROVE THE THREE-YEAR COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT FOR THE PLAINVILLE ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS ADMINISTRATORS FOR 07/01/2022 TO 06/30/2025 AS PRESENTED THROUGH REDLINE AGREEMENT. BECKY TYRRELL SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 9-0.

X. CONSENT AGENDA—Board Approval

- (A) Budget Object Summary
- (B) Food Service Report

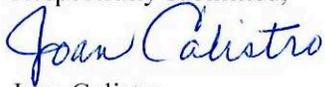
- (C) Check Registers
- (D) MOU with EAP
- (E) Non-Renewal of Non-Tenured Teachers
- (F) HR Report (Informational Item)
- (G) Private Donation for the month of February (Informational Item)
 - Robotics Education & Competition Foundation \$1,000

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

XI. ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION WAS MADE BY CASSANDRA CLARK TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. RACHEL BUCHANAN SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 9-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:04 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Joan Calistro
Recorder of Minutes

**REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING OF THE PLAINVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION
PLAINVILLE, CONNECTICUT
SUMMARY OF MOTIONS
MONDAY, MARCH 14, 2022**

2502. A MOTION WAS MADE BY FOSTER WHITE TO MOVE ITEM. M., THE APPROVAL OF THE PLAINVILLE ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS CONTRACT 07/01/2022 TO 06/30/2025 FROM UNFINISHED BUSINESS TO ITEM. D. OF NEW BUSINESS. CASSANDRA CLARK SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY 9-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2503. A MOTION WAS MADE BY RACHEL BUCHANAN TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE BOARD'S REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING OF FEBRUARY 14, 2022 AS PRESENTED. A MOTION WAS SECONDED BY DEBORAH HARDY. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 9-0.
2504. A MOTION WAS MADE BY RACHEL BUCHANAN TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE BOARD'S SPECIAL MEETING OF FEBRUARY 23, 2022 AS PRESENTED. A MOTION WAS SECONDED BY DEBORAH HARDY. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 9-0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

2505. Request Approval: Students: Suspension, Expulsion and Due Process No. 5114—
ELIMINATE—2nd Reading
A MOTION WAS MADE BY FOSTER WHITE TO REMOVE THE ELIMINATION OF POLICY NO. 5114 STUDENTS: SUSPENSION, EXPULSION AND DUE PROCESS FROM THE TABLE. REBECCA MARTINEZ SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 9-0.
- A MOTION WAS MADE BY FOSTER WHITE TO APPROVE THE ELIMINATION OF POLICY NO. 5114 STUDENTS: SUSPENSION, EXPULSION AND DUE PROCESS. CASSANDRA CLARK SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 9-0.
2506. Request Approval: Students: Student Discipline Policy No. 5114—REPLACE
POLICY—2nd Reading
A MOTION WAS MADE BY FOSTER WHITE TO REMOVE THE REPLACEMENT OF POLICY NO. 5114 STUDENTS: STUDENT DISCIPLINE FROM THE TABLE. REBECCA MARTINEZ SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 9-0.
- A MOTION WAS MADE BY FOSTER WHITE TO APPROVE THE REPLACEMENT OF POLICY NO. 5114 STUDENTS: STUDENT DISCIPLINE AS PRESENTED. CASSANDRA CLARK SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 9-0.

2507. Request Approval: Students: Alcohol Use, Drugs and Tobacco Policy No. 5131.6—
ELIMINATE—2nd Reading

A MOTION WAS MADE BY FOSTER WHITE TO REMOVE THE ELIMINATION OF POLICY NO. 5131.6 STUDENTS: ALCOHOL USE, DRUGS AND TOBACCO FROM THE TABLE. REBECCA MARTINEZ SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 9-0.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY FOSTER WHITE TO APPROVE THE ELIMINATION OF POLICY NO. 5131.6 STUDENTS: ALCOHOL USE, DRUGS AND TOBACCO. CASSANDRA CLARK SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 9-0.

- 2508. Request Approval: Students: Drug and Alcohol Use by Students, Policy No. 5131.6—REPLACE POLICY—2nd Reading**

A MOTION WAS MADE BY FOSTER WHITE TO REMOVE THE REPLACEMENT OF POLICY NO. 5131.6 STUDENTS: DRUG AND ALCOHOL USE BY STUDENTS FROM THE TABLE. REBECCA MARTINEZ SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 9-0.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY FOSTER WHITE TO APPROVE POLICY NO. 5131.6 STUDENTS: DRUG AND ALCOHOL USE BY STUDENTS AS PRESENTED. CASSANDRA CLARK SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 9-0.

- 2509. Request Approval: Students: Chemical Health Policy for Student Athletes Policy No. 5131.7—ELIMINATE—2nd Reading**

A MOTION WAS MADE BY FOSTER WHITE TO REMOVE THE ELIMINATION OF POLICY NO. 5131.7 STUDENTS: CHEMICAL HEALTH POLICY FOR STUDENT ATHLETES FROM THE TABLE. REBECCA MARTINEZ SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 9-0.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY FOSTER WHITE TO APPROVE THE ELIMINATION OF POLICY NO. 5131.7 STUDENTS: CHEMICAL HEALTH POLICY FOR STUDENTS ATHLETES AS PRESENTED. CASSANDRA CLARK SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 9-0.

- 2510. Request Approval: Students: Chemical Health Policy for Student Athletes Policy No. 5131.7—REPLACE POLICY—1st Reading**

A MOTION WAS MADE BY FOSTER WHITE TO REMOVE THE REPLACEMENT OF POLICY NO. 5131.7 STUDENTS: CHEMICAL HEALTH POLICY FOR STUDENT ATHLETES FROM THE TABLE. REBECCA MARTINEZ SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 9-0.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY FOSTER WHITE TO APPROVE THE REPLACEMENT OF POLICY NO. 5131.7 STUDENTS: CHEMICAL HEALTH POLICY FOR STUDENT ATHLETES AS PRESENTED. CASSANDRA CLARK SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 9-0.

- 2511. Request Approval: Personnel: Alcohol, Tobacco and Drug Free Workplace Policy No. 4430—ELIMINATE—2nd Reading**

A MOTION WAS MADE BY FOSTER WHITE TO REMOVE THE ELIMINATION OF POLICY NO. 4430 PERSONNEL: ALCOHOL, TOBACCO AND DRUG FREE WORKPLACE FROM THE TABLE. REBECCA MARTINEZ SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 9-0.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY FOSTER WHITE TO APPROVE THE ELIMINATION OF POLICY NO. 4430 PERSONNEL: ALCOHOL, TOBACCO AND DRUG FREE WORKPLACE AS PRESENTED. CASSANDRA CLARK SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 9-0.

2512. Request Approval: Personnel: Alcohol, Tobacco and Drug Free Workplace Policy No. 4430—UPDATE POLICY—2nd Reading

A MOTION WAS MADE BY FOSTER WHITE TO REMOVE THE UPDATE OF POLICY NO. 4430 PERSONNEL: ALCOHOL, TOBACCO AND DRUG FREE WORKPLACE FROM THE TABLE. REBECCA MARTINEZ SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 9-0.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY FOSTER WHITE TO APPROVE THE UPDATE OF POLICY NO. 4430 PERSONNEL: ALCOHOL, TOBACCO AND DRUG FREE WORKPLACE AS PRESENTED. REBECCA MARTINEZ SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 9-0.

2513. Request Approval: Community Relations: Smoking in School Facilities Policy No. 1331—ELIMINATE—2nd Reading

A MOTION WAS MADE BY FOSTER WHITE TO REMOVE THE ELIMINATION OF POLICY NO. 1331 COMMUNITY RELATIONS: SMOKING IN SCHOOL FACILITIES FROM THE TABLE. REBECCA MARTINEZ SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 9-0.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY FOSTER WHITE TO APPROVE THE ELIMINATION OF POLICY NO. 1331 COMMUNITY RELATIONS: SMOKING IN SCHOOL FACILITIES AS PRESENTED. CASSANDRA CLARK SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 9-0.

2514. Request Approval: Community Relations: Smoking in School Facilities Policy No. 1331—REPLACE POLICY—2nd Reading

A MOTION WAS MADE BY FOSTER WHITE TO REMOVE THE REPLACEMENT OF POLICY NO. 1331 COMMUNITY RELATIONS: SMOKING IN SCHOOL FACILITIES FROM THE TABLE. REBECCA MARTINEZ SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 9-0.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY FOSTER WHITE TO APPROVE THE REPLACEMENT OF POLICY NO. 1331 COMMUNITY RELATIONS: SMOKING IN SCHOOL FACILITIES AS PRESENTED. CASSANDRA CLARK SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 9-0.

2515. **Request Approval: Students: Attendance and Excuses Policy No. 5113—
ELIMINATE—2nd Reading**
A MOTION WAS MADE BY FOSTER WHITE TO REMOVE THE ELIMINATION OF POLICY NO. 5113 STUDENTS: ATTENDANCE AND EXCUSES FROM THE TABLE. REBECCA MARTINEZ SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 9-0.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY FOSTER WHITE TO APPROVE THE ELIMINATION OF POLICY NO. 5113 STUDENTS: ATTENDANCE AND EXCUSES AS PRESENTED. CASSANDRA CLARK SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 9-0.

2516. **Request Approval: Students: Attendance, Truancy and Chronic Absenteeism Policy No. 5113—UPDATE POLICY—2nd Reading**
A MOTION WAS MADE BY FOSTER WHITE TO REMOVE THE UPDATE OF POLICY NO. 5113 STUDENTS: ATTENDANCE, TRUANCY AND CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM FROM THE TABLE. REBECCA MARTINEZ SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 9-0.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY FOSTER WHITE TO APPROVE THE UPDATE OF POLICY NO. 5113 STUDENTS: ATTENDANCE, TRUANCY AND CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM AS PRESENTED. CASSANDRA CLARK SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 9-0.

2517. *Request Approval of Plainville Association of School Administrators' Contract for 07/01/2022 to 06/30/2025*
A MOTION WAS MADE BY FOSTER WHITE TO APPROVE THE THREE-YEAR COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT FOR THE PLAINVILLE ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS ADMINISTRATORS FOR 07/01/2022 TO 06/30/2025 AS PRESENTED THROUGH REDLINE AGREEMENT. BECKY TYRRELL SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 9-0.

2518. **CONSENT AGENDA—Board Approval**

- (A) Budget Object Summary
- (B) Food Service Report
- (C) Check Registers
- (D) MOU with EAP
- (E) Non-Renewal of Non-Tenured Teachers
- (F) HR Report (Informational Item)
- (G) Private Donation for the month of February (Informational Item)
--Robotics Education & Competition Foundation \$1,000

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

2519. **ADJOURNMENT**

A MOTION WAS MADE BY CASSANDRA CLARK TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. RACHEL BUCHANAN SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 9-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:04 PM.