

PENDING BOARD OF EDUCATION APPROVAL
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING OF THE PLAINVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION
PLAINVILLE, CONNECTICUT
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2022

Order of Business
7:00 PM

I. CONVENE: PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Board Chair Lori Consalvo convened the regular business meeting of the Plainville Board of Education to order at 7:00 PM. A moment of silence was taken in memory of those who lost their lives on September 11th. Rebecca Martinez 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

Absent: Isabella Grasso, Student Representative

Late Arrivals: None

Early Departures: None

Returns: None

II. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:

Mr. LePage stated that this new award (the PCS All-Star Award) aligns with our new mentality across the district, celebrating the important elements of being a team, coming together as a family, and working toward a common goal. Previously, the Portrait Pioneer Award celebrated the Portrait of the Graduate qualities that are important to us and we continue to instill those qualities in our students. We continue to focus on those qualities, i.e., being communicative, collaborative, mindful, innovating and resilient, and also overcoming the challenges we face. This new award will celebrate these and many additional traits that highlight excellence.

PCS ALL-STARS:

Student All-Star: Jaylen Thigpen, Grade 12

Educator All-Stars: Ken Fusco and John Girard

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A) A MOTION WAS MADE BY FOSTER WHITE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE BOARD'S SPECIAL BUSINESS MEETING OF JUNE 14, 2022 AS PRESENTED. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY BECKY TYRRELL. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 9-0.

B) A MOTION WAS MADE BY FOSTER WHITE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE BOARD'S SPECIAL MEETING (Review of Expulsions) OF JUNE 14, 2022 AS PRESENTED. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY BECKY TYRRELL. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 9-0.

C) A MOTION WAS MADE BY FOSTER WHITE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE BOARD'S SPECIAL MEETING OF JUNE 13, 2022 AS PRESENTED. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY BECKY TYRRELL. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 9-0.

IV. CITIZEN COMMENTS

RESPONSE TO CITIZEN COMMENTS:

V. COUNCIL LIAISON

Due to a scheduled Town Council meeting, Mrs. Pugliese could not attend this evening's meeting. Mrs. Consalvo, on behalf of Mrs. Pugliese, reported on the following items:

1) Farmington Canal Heritage Trail Update

The Department of Transportation's Public Information Meeting for Phase 2 of the Farmington Canal Heritage Trail Project scheduled for September 22nd in the Middle School Auditorium has been canceled due to administrative delays. The meeting is expected to be rescheduled in 2023.

The Town was notified that CRCOG has been awarded a "FY22 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant" in the amount of \$16,366,554. This grant will be used for the "design and construction of two trails in the municipalities of Plainville and New Britain. The first trail will fill the last major gap in the Farmington Canal Heritage Trail and the second trail will connect the FCHT to the CTFastrak in New Britain".

2) Reserve Officer Program

Police Chief Chris Vanghele attended a recent Town Council meeting to discuss the implementation of a "Reserve Officer Program" for the Plainville Police Department.

This proposal allows a town to continue to employ a Police Officer that has retired in good standing, to keep them certified and utilizing them as needed on a part-time basis. These officers would be classified differently for purposes of payroll and enjoy no other benefits from the Town. Specifically in Plainville, Reserve Officers will be utilized to work extra-duty assignments when no other Plainville Officer is available to work. Reserve Officers can also be assigned to large Town events where a significant need for law enforcement manpower is required.

Mrs. Consalvo stated that more information regarding Town Council meetings and minutes can be obtained by going to the Town's website.

VI. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. Opening of School Report & Highlights

Superintendent Steve LePage reported on the following:

Mr. LePage sent out a letter on Friday to Board Members and staff regarding the positive energy that was in the buildings at the opening of school. He stated that it has been a very good feeling to come back to a more normal start of the school year, after a couple of starts that have been anything but normal, with so many obstacles. We still have some obstacles and barriers that we face as we still have cases of COVID popping up here and there, but nothing to the extent that we were dealing with before. He stated that it's been a positive start. The energy levels from the staff, the entire district staff, and the kids, has been terrific. The emphasis on strong attendance has been emphasized across the district. As long as our students and staff

are well, we want everyone in school every day, learning and taking advantage of the great opportunities that we have here. He stated that the audience heard a small snapshot of those opportunities from our All-Star Award winners earlier tonight. That has been a message that our Principals have conveyed and that Mr. LePage has been conveying in various meetings with several classes. He's trying to set that frame of mind that Plainville Community Schools' already is a model school in many ways, but there is still work to do. Mr. LePage stated that he wants our district to be the model that people look to in Connecticut and to say, I want our schools to be like Plainville. He has heard that from some in a number of areas already. But that is what we are striving for and he has asked the kids to help him, and to help us, to achieve that collective visionary goal. He was very happy to see the students so engaged and talked to all the 8th grades through 12th grades in different classes. They gave him a standing ovation at the end which is something unusual. He stated that it was nice to see the kids focused and having good positive energy. He stated that we will always have our bumps and our hiccups, which is a part of a comprehensive school system in the 21st century, but he is excited about the way things started. Bringing back over 570 staff members and 2,300 students, you're going to have some challenges. He then thanked DATTCO for all that they did, Sheri Bolduc, Sam Adlerstein and everyone who's involved with busing, and Tim Rebstad, our DATTCO Manager. He has heard some woes and headaches around the state from Superintendents about the terrible bus situations they're dealing with. He stated that we have some little things to work out with bus stops, which is typical, but things are running smoothly. We have drivers and routes that are running generally on time. The first day we were back to where we were last year, after corrections were made. So, we're very positive in that way and it's good for our families. Right on down to every individual in our schools, our custodians, maintainers, despite needing to fill some positions, they've done a great job. Our new Facilities Director, Mike Smith, is doing an outstanding job. Everyone is stepping up, from our custodians and maintainers, office professionals, paras, tutors, teachers, specialists, administrators, across the board. It has been a total team effort.

Mr. LePage stated that over the summer, many things have surfaced as topics of interest for possible improvement. One of those areas was grading, specifically at the middle school. Our middle school team did a great job over the summer, shifting and working with administration and keeping us informed as to their changes with a new grading system that encompasses the standards-based grading which aligns grading to the standards that are important to each grade level and gives feedback on those standards. But it's also giving a traditional grade for students and parents to have as a means of communication as to how the students are doing. When you synthesize all of the effort and homework, everything they're doing will better prepare them for the High School experience. It provides the same standards but it's also giving parents and families more information to work with so that students can step it up a bit. Mr. LePage has heard from some parents over the summer. He feels the team did a great job moving quickly. So, this has been rolled out. We've had very positive feedback so far. The middle school also changed their schedule so that enrichment is no longer at the end of the day. It became very difficult to manage, as there's a lot of excitement as you build to the end of the day. To have a less structured period of time with band and chorus happening at the same time and also with all of the other students trying to keep them doing what they need to be doing, and keeping them out of the hallways. Therefore, enrichment is now in the morning. Having meaningful and intentional shifts is so far having positive feedback from students, staff and families. Mr. LePage stated that we will continue to monitor as we're only seven

days into the school year. He said that he appreciates the middle school's work to make those shifts.

Talking about his year and the aspirational goals that have been set, he is confident in saying, in his opinion, that we have the best team of professionals that he has ever worked with. He stated that the district really has a talented staff. Although our new recruit of teachers brought in have quite a few years of experience. They're really talented. We have brought in some great new talent. He explained that he couldn't be more impressed with the new teachers and staff we've brought in from across different parts of the state, who wanted to come to Plainville. Over the coming weeks, (the Board had their Retreat over the summer) they will talk about goals, school improvement plans, Mr. LePage's goals, and how they all align and will work with the Board to keep them consistently informed about our efforts as we are working toward those goals. Our principals will be finalizing school improvement plan goals, working with their teachers over the first month to submit and finalize meaningful and targeted goals that will allow each teacher to be the best teacher they can be, toward the common school goals and the district goals. He stated that we are looking for that coherence and alignment that will really grow and improve our performance as a school district with academic achievement in a number of areas. It is his belief that we will see some outstanding growth this year. Everything is in place and we have a consistent process for looking at important data that will help to guide us and keep us apprised of the data as well. Mr. LePage will be going out to the schools for two formal visits per month this year. They may be a little shorter and less formal but will bring David Levenduski, Assistant Superintendent and Tawana Graham-Douglas, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, on one of those visits to look at data and what supports can be provided to make the kids the best they can possibly be in support of their goals.

Mr. LePage and his team will present a current look to the Board of Education at the October Board of Education meeting, of the PCS data and where we stand at this time. After two years of operating through a pandemic, you'll see some of the standardized results and other measures as well as where we are at this current point in time and where we're planning to go.

B. Facilities Update

Mr. LePage stated that the facilities are in very good shape overall. There are some needs that have been addressed throughout the summer and are continuing to be addressed. The most obvious and significant issues are the Middle school systems which are consistently failing and needing attention or replacement. These issues recently included a water heater that failed and needed to be replaced at a cost of \$16,000. The fire sprinkler pump is failing. The company representatives that came out said it is an antique and should be placed in a museum. They are going to try to fix it. This is an important system at the Middle School which is unsettling. Anyone who has visited the middle school recently and as much as our facilities staff try to keep the tiles replaced, and work with companies to patch leaks, those efforts are becoming ongoing. It's like whack a mole, you fix one problem and another one pops up. Mr. LePage stated that these issues weigh heavily on him. He stated that it is unfortunate that the renovate like new status was not passed back in June with a 4-3 majority of the Town Council voting it down due to the cost of the project. We're taking steps to see where we go from here to try to make the best effort that we can to prepare and to work with the new Town Manager and Town Council to hopefully move that project forward for the next deadline date of June 30, 2023. We were given a 1-3 years range of time that some of the Town Council members were

looking at. Mr. LePage is urging them and the Capital Projects Building Committee to really look carefully at the items needing repair and replacement and the delay of the project. Costs won't go down. We can look at some value engineering that might bring that price down in advance of the project (this usually happens after the project starts). There are a number of things that are concerning. Some of the smells from the old cabinetry, the lack of a secure vestibule which required Mr. LePage to hire a School Safety and Security Officer to guard the front doors to help secure the building. Again, it is important to keep the project in mind. We spent an entire year preparing for the application last year. With a lot of individuals in the Capital Projects Building Committee and CSG who was hired by the town to get us to referendum. We'll keep this in the forefront and will continue to do so. Mr. LePage will keep the Board updated.

Linden Street School's playscapes are just about done. You may have seen the spotlight on the news. The newsroom called asking for opening of school updates. Linden is where we ended up doing the interview. They have been putting in the mulch this week. It is a lot of mulch and needs to be put in by code. The project should be completed by the end of the week. It is exciting and the playscapes are beautiful. It is exciting for Linden's kids to have a playscape that's comparable to what they have at Wheeler and Toffolon. Mr. LePage sees that they are very excited. He started that he'll talk further about a possible grand opening, hopefully in the next month or so.

Mr. LePage stated that we're also working on some upgrades, solutions for the Pre-K and early childhood equipment at Toffolon as well. They have a nice playground for the main playground but not for the younger students. Mr. Smith will meet with Mrs. Attarrato later this week. We do have the ESSER funds and will be giving the Board quarterly reports as requested. The Board will also be hearing about the work being done by our Strategic Planning Committee to be sure that we are spending the money wisely and what's in the best interest of the town and the kids.

The High School Learning Commons project is almost complete. There are currently some backordered items. Once received, we will do a full makeover. This project should be done by mid to late October.

The Toffolon chillers need to be replaced and have been ordered through the Town's ARPA funds, which we appreciate. Unfortunately, the chiller is on backorder for 36 weeks. It's a long time but hopefully we'll receive them by the spring, in time for the hot weather. Hopefully, the hot weather is behind us now and we can wait until spring before the chillers need to be replaced.

The floors in the gyms have been refinished at all the schools over the summer. The custodians did a wonderful job.

At the High School, the diving block has been replaced and the dive stands are in the process of being replaced. They moved the block to the left dive stand so that the season can begin. The Board was made aware.

The boilers at Plainville High School are also in the process of being replaced. The new Town Manager, Michael Paulhus came out and met with our team, Mike Smith, Steve Busel and Mike Dixon, and looked at the project. This is another project that will be funded by ARPA. The Town Council will vote on it in October. Once the boilers are replaced, the large smoke stack will no longer be needed. Taking the

smoke stack down was part of the capital project request because it is in disrepair and it either needs to be fixed or taken down. Once the boilers are replaced there won't be a need for the smoke stack and it will be taken down. Also, at Plainville High School there will be a repointing of the 1950's section of the building that was approved in the capital projects over a three-year period. They are currently working on obtaining bids. This will help to make the outside of the building secure and to help the leaks from coming in.

With regard to the school grounds issues, Mr. LePage has been meeting with former Town Manager Robert Lee, Michael Paulhus, David Emery, Mike Ferrara, Sam Adlerstein, Mike Smith and Steve Busel. He is hoping to come up with a system where the outside of the buildings are maintained and look as nice on the outside as they do on the inside. They have gotten in really bad shape over the summer. Mr. LePage stated that we do have visitors coming to the schools during the summer and he wants to make sure the buildings are maintained well. We do go to an outside landscaper to do the touch ups but we're working on a process to collaborate with the town to ensure that we have a better system of keeping our grounds to the level of quality we would like them to be. We are hopeful. This also relates to the snow and ice. Before you know it, we'll be preparing for snow and ice and those decisions on whether we can open on time or not at all. Those decisions start at 4:15 AM and Mr. LePage makes a lot of calls to the Police Department and Buildings and Grounds to find out the shape of the parking lots and sidewalks. Roadways plow our large parking areas. It's a team effort, so we're making sure we have everything in place for the winter months.

We are also having issues with overflowing trash bins. We have had some complaints from neighbors so we are working on a system where our trash is being emptied more regularly. We will be purchasing more of the oil drum barrels and placing them out by the fields.

C. Dress Code Policy Committee

Mr. LePage stated that he had spoken about forming a dress code committee a few times regarding different topics, i.e., pajamas, wearing of hats. In speaking with members of the Board, our administrative team, and talking to our students at their student meetings, we're going to pull together, with the help of Mr. Levenduski, who oversees policy and regulation updates, a committee who involves students, administrators and Board of Education members, from the Policy Subcommittee who would like to attend. The district's dress code policy was last updated in 2007. The policy is going on 16 years old. Somethings change over time, somethings don't. Hopefully, this will lead to positive outcomes and feelings of involvement. And, maybe an understanding by students as to why things are in place, or looking at potential to make any changes. It's been a hot topic and students seem to be engaged.

D. Strategic Plan Update (September 28)

Mr. LePage stated that our next Strategic Planning meeting will be held on September 28th. As you know, we had brought in a consultant, Marta Combs, who did a great job working with our administrative team, Lynn Davis, Sam Adlerstein, Lily Cornielle, David Levenduski, Tawana Graham-Douglas and Mr. LePage to lead approximately 45-50 members of the community through a process where they looked at a number of projects and ideas for the improvement of our community. They were sent in through surveys, shared by Principals, shared by families, shared by students and looking at the areas that were presented and adding additional ideas that evening when they met in the spring. The committee considered getting together

over the summer but couldn't align enough people due to summer vacations, time people needed to get away. So, it was decided to pick up in the fall and move forward with a number of the projects and ideas that had a lot of capacity that we believe are needed within the district. We are going to continue to work on the development of the Strategic Plan that focuses on the five areas that everything aligned with, which includes equity, social-emotional learning, and the supports related to that mastery and student achievement, district systems, operations improvements, and community connections. Mr. LePage stated that we are building those community bonds and connections, similar to what you heard from our All-Stars. Building those connections, with not only colleges, but also building connections to our families through different means, getting them involved and having more of a voice. That work will continue on September 28th and we'll have two additional meetings after that. We'll certainly involve the community in the process and will be looking forward to seeing the positive changes that will result. Board of Education members will also be involved as well.

E. School Security Updates

Mr. LePage stated that today was an important reminder of how we never know what's going to happen. He stated that he was at a meeting with a parent and the High School Principal when he received notification from the Police Department that there was an incident involving a weapon in the neighborhood (down the street), involving a gun. This was not directly near the schools but close enough where the Police had told the administration to go into shelter in place Code Yellow. All doors were then locked. No one went in or out until they were given the okay. Students and staff went about their normal business. Mr. LePage stated that he stayed at the High School and sent our new Director of School Safety and Security to Linden Street School. Both the High School and Linden were both in a Code Yellow. Mr. LePage was able to navigate the situation with the SRO's and by talking with Chief Vanghele. Mr. LePage also sent an update to families and shared whatever information he could. The students did a great job as it was business as usual. Everyone had to avoid coming and going from the schools. If someone was to be picked up, they had a police escort to their car. Other safety items include the hiring of Director of School Safety and Security, Rich Marques, who is a 27-year retired Sergeant who left the Plainville Police Department in late August. He is doing an outstanding job already. Both Mr. LePage and Director Marques have met a number of times looking at our complete Safety and Security Operations All Hazard Plan, our reunification plans, our Technology and our systems, working with Kevin Ross IT Director, and the Technology Department staff on those important pieces. We've been working over the summer on a number of things, our camera upgrades that Kevin Ross and his team spearheaded, that were much needed at Linden (both indoors and outdoors) which are really high tech with incredible visibility. And, also at Toffolon, the same thing. They were wiring the Middle School when Mr. LePage was there the other day. The hallway was closed off as the technicians were wiring the hallways. The cameras are going to go up as well to give the administration the visibility they really need. These are preventative measures just like all of the vape sensors and detectors in all of the bathrooms. It's another preventative measure and deterrent. It will help people to make the right decisions. In addition to that, last week Director Marques, Aimee Roberts and Mr. LePage interviewed candidates for the School Safety and Security Officer at the Middle School. When you come to the middle school now and use the main entrance you will see a desk with a computer, the Raptor visitor system, a telephone, and other items needed for that position. They're right by the front doors. The gentleman that was hired was a three-year SRO at Prince Tech in Hartford, a 23-year member of the State Police force, he led the

Governor's security detail as a Sergeant, which is quite an honor. Mr. LePage has been told that this gentleman is an incredible, above and beyond kind of guy. He is over qualified for the position but the district is really excited about it. We welcome Myles Ginley, who's a Plainville resident. He will start on September 21st. He will add a layer of security to the Middle School in the absence of a secure vestibule.

Mr. LePage mentioned that he posted the position as a retired officer. Both Director Marques and Security Officer Ginley are retire officers that are going for the training that is required for a School Safety and Security Officer to carry a service weapon for the position. All the research shows that if there is an incident of an armed intruder, the best way to stop an armed intruder is to have armed security. So, we have our SRO's at the Middle School and High School, Director Marques is a retired officer in good standing and will be an armed officer as is Officer Ginley, also a retired officer in good standing. It is an added layer of security and protection that we hope we'll never have to use.

Questions of the Board:

Mrs. Consalvo: Regarding the Toffolon chillers, is this something that is needed for the kitchen?

Mr. LePage: The chillers run the HVAC system for the air conditioning. We actually rented a temporary chiller when it failed but our chiller was fixed and it failed again. It is a very expensive piece of equipment, approximately \$300,000. It is a significant cost. We do appreciate the Town using ARPA funds/grant to pay for this item.

Mrs. Hardy: Asked for the total ESSER funds that the school system received to date?

Mr. Adlerstein: The total dollars received by ESSER is \$6.7M. There is \$3.6M remaining and must be spent by September 30, 2024.

Mrs. Clark: Asked if PHS students can help with the cleaning and gardening to use toward their volunteer hours?

Mr. LePage: stated that we had done this in the past. In the meeting with the Town, we want a system where the personnel can do what needs to be done. However, there may be a way to get some service hours in.

Mrs. Consalvo: Regarding the wiring of the cameras at the Middle School and the water sprinkler pump, since the Town Council voted to not send in the reno application, are we now bringing these items to the forefront?

Mr. LePage: We are doing some repairs so that we don't have systems that aren't functional, i.e., water heater. The MSP building is over 30 years old now so things are starting to fail.

Mr. White: Is the sprinkler pump operable now? Without a sprinkler system that would really be a big concern.

Mr. Adlerstein: The sprinkler pump works but it is getting hot. The facilities staff are not happy with how it is working, they think they can repair it at low cost to keep it running.

Mr. White: Not to have that pump working at all would put us at significant risk.

Mrs. Consalvo: Does that have anything to do with the repairs to the roof? Usually the sprinkler system is fed through the roof area. Didn't the Town Council say something about repairing half of the roof?

Mr. LePage: The sprinkler pump that feeds the system is in the basement. The pipes are underneath the roof, a space between the roof and the ceiling. It's the pump that pushes the water through.

Mr. White: Without the pump the sprinkler would not work.

Mrs. Hardy: She has been going through CABA's book regarding the Board's Roles and Responsibilities of the Board membership. She came across a few things she would like to share that may be some Board of Education members know, but some don't know. Some are responsibilities that we have as BOE members. The ones selected, she thought would be appropriate to share.

Mrs. Consalvo asked if Mrs. Hardy wouldn't mind sharing this information under Open Forum.

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 September 26, 2022 at 4:30 PM in the PHS Learning Commons. Other meeting dates include December 19, February 27 and May 1.

D. Curriculum Subcommittee Report—No Report

Mrs. Martinez stated that the committee is looking at meeting dates.

E. Outreach Subcommittee Report—No Report

F. PAC Liaison--Plainville High School Report

Mr. White reported that the next PAC meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, September 15 at 7 PM hopefully in-person. He hasn't heard from anyone as yet as to whether this is the actual date.

G. PTO Liaison--Toffolon Elementary School Report

Ms. Martinez reported on the following:

► The PAC met on Wednesday, August 17th and welcomed new officers: President, Rebecca Preston; Vice Presidents, Melissa Steele and Jenny Witkowski; Treasurer, Anne Tacinelli; and Co-Secretaries, Rachel Johnson and Barbara Marzi.

► Treasurer's Report: The PTO paid \$1,000 for scholarships. They were also able to contribute \$187 for yearbooks for 5th grader who would have been unable to afford the yearbook.

► Upcoming events include:

--The PTO did an amazing job decorating for the first day of school.

- The PTO have friendship grams coming.
- They are ordering some field trip shirts
- The PTO is getting ready for the Annual APEX Fun Run in October
- The Annual Fall Festival is being planned (they do an amazing job with crafts). They'll have games and many other good things.
- Toffolon will hold their Annual Scholastic Book Fair
- Amy Plourde and Robin Crook will be taking the lead on yearbooks this year
- Kelly Maynard will take the lead on the 4 O'clock Flower Sale

H. PTO Liaison--Linden Street Elementary School Report—No Report

Mrs. Clark reported that the next Linden PTC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 14 at 6 PM in the Linden Library.

I. PTC Liaison--Middle School of Plainville Report—No Report

Mrs. St. Lawrence reported that she is looking forward to the first meeting of the year tomorrow September 13 at 7 PM in the MSP Library (in-person).

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

Mrs. Buchanan reported on the following:

Mr. Batchelder is excited to report that Wheeler is off to a terrific start. Students returned happy and teachers are developing their classroom charter with their students. Classroom Charters reflect the collective perception of students in terms of how they want to feel when they come to Wheeler School each day and how they pledge to help one another feel that way which is a nice way to start the school year.

Mrs. Buchanan is awaiting to hear back from the PTO President Rebecca Belanger about upcoming events and will have a more comprehensive report next month.

K. CREC Council Report—No Report

Mrs. Tyrrell reported that the CREC Council will meet later this week.

L. Chairperson's Report—No Report

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

IX. NEW BUSINESS

A) Board Open Forum

Deborah Hardy stated that she had a question asked of her as to what the Board of Education members responsibilities are beside going to meetings. Besides going to the meetings and making sure our children get a good education she wasn't sure how to answer. She remembered that she had received a book back when she started on the Board and reviewed a few topics of interest.

1) The Board of Education members should recognize that Board of Education members responsibilities are not to run the schools, but to see that the schools are run well.

2) The Board of Education is responsible for developing the school budget including the cost of operating the public schools and an Annual Report which shows costs and includes the cost to the Town.

As Mrs. Hardy was reviewing the book, she said she didn't really realize that the Board had so much more responsibilities other than coming to meetings. She stated that Mr. LePage does a good job at what he does. The Board needs to make sure that everything is going well for the school system and that the children are learning and making sure parents are aware of all this because not all parents are aware of what really goes on in the school system and the responsibilities of a Superintendent.

Foster White stated that CAGE provides monthly articles both paper and online which contains a section from the Nutmeg Board of Education as to what Board of Education members should do, but also what they should not do. CAGE is a great resource.

Mr. White also stated that Jaylen Thigpen is mostly known as a musician and an excellent student but Jaylen is also on the football team and it shows that this gentleman, and his parents, are outstanding folks as well. He has been aware of Jaylen since he was playing the trumpet at events at the elementary level. Mr. White stated that he heard a story recently but has not verified it yet. There was an altercation last year in the hallway and before anyone could get there (it was not that serious) two students were in some type of a physical altercation. Jaylen stepped in between them and said, "We don't do this at PHS." This is the type of student we like to recognize and I thank the Superintendent for doing so tonight. This is the type of example that the youth really need to be broadcast out. There's a lot of hope.

Cassandra Clark stated that the Board should do more to encourage parents to get involved in the PTO's. She is aware that each Board member is assigned a school PTO/PTC or PAC as a liaison but she stated it would be nice if the Board could attend the different events as well. Also, if they could get the word out as to how important the PTO's are to each of the schools. She is aware that some of the Board members have participated in PTO's and have done quite a bit throughout the years but there might be others who might be interested but don't know much about it. She asked if there might be a way to reach out to the public. She stated that she never realized how important and how much the PTO's do for the schools. She stated that it would be great to see all of the schools have great PTO's/PTC's/PAC's.

Steve LePage stated that this is a great idea and that the PTO member's will be recognized at the Volunteer Appreciation dinner in April.

Becky Tyrrell stated that the Board has spoken about the school groups several times and possibly having someone come in who has expertise in making things as low maintenance as possible. She's not sure this is something that would be worthwhile. Not making a lot of work and making it where there aren't as many weeds and needed care in the front of the schools, would be great. The Board has spoken about this prior to building projects, then we do the opposite and wind up with more maintenance. She stated that she's not sure if it would be feasible to look into other organizations that can do that kind of thing.

In addition, not moving the Middle School forward was a big loss for the community and as a Board of Education she feels that it is their job to keep talking about the project and to make sure people understand that this didn't just go away. It just snowballs our issues. She thinks the Board needs to talk about getting public support because the more people who support the project, will bring a better outcome. As a Board member, we need to think about what we want to do whether collectively or individually to try and make sure we keep the Middle School project in the forefront.

Rachel Buchanan sends a congratulations out to Jaylen Thigpen. She stated that the few times she has heard him perform has stopped her in her tracks. She was led to the sound of the trumpet. She stated that Jaylen is a very powerful, incredible young man and he has "it". Whatever that "it" is that can't be defined, as far as work ethic and nature. She can certainly understand why he was recognized and celebrated today as well as Mr. Girard and Mr. Fusco. She was excited to hear about their project. We touched a little bit about looking beyond High School graduation for Plainville students and gathering the data on the back end. Thank you to them for taking that on themselves. That way, especially with different driving forces that might be attributing to certain academic performances in different areas right now. Bravo to them for taking this on.

Also, since the Board's retreat this summer, Mrs. Buchanan stated that she was really excited to hear words such as team work, excellence, positivity, and unity. She stated that this excites her as an Alumni of Plainville Community Schools because that would be her expectation of everyone sitting here. As a new Board of Education member, the Board has said so many great things. She then thanked Deb Hardy for revisiting the Board's roles and responsibilities and bringing it back to the forefront at the start of the new school year, which is a perfect opportunity. She stated that the Board members all know what their roles and responsibilities are but the people watching the meetings don't. She often gets asked, "What do you guys do?" She stated that her answer is, as a parent she understood it, as someone who was interested in running for the board, and now 10-11 months into it, she understands it as a Board member. However, there are very different perspectives and shifts during the whole thing. Revisiting the roles and responsibilities is a good thing, she feels it would help the Board with their vision of moving forward as a team. She stated that it is important for folks to understand that there is only one employee for Mr. LePage and as elected officials we provide oversight, transparency and to be the voice of the people here, and that is a very big job. Bigger than she thinks she'll understand after her four-year term on the Board. She then thanked all of the Board members who have been serving for so long. This isn't an easy job and during some of the meetings we don't have big turnouts, however, she found out recently that many people tune into YouTube streaming to watch the Board meetings. She thanked them for doing so. However, she wanted to let people know that they might not see everything but that's why the BOE members were elected to do the job and everyone here is working hard to figure out how to proceed together in the best interest of the school system. This tells her everything she needs to know about being on a team and leadership. She stated that she was very excited to move forward in unity, reigniting Mr. LePage's contract and getting him back into the school year and for him to come back with a running start and kicking off positively. She is happy that everyone is stepping up as Mr. LePage reported earlier. She stated that as someone who had a child go through the system, who has family sitting in the schools, that will always be her requirement. The Board doesn't always have to agree on how they get there, but that's her expectation and that is the expectation of those who elected her. She thanked everyone on the Board. She stated that she looks forward to this year with a little more insight and those roles and responsibilities. A lot of people have been here for a long time and people are interested in serving. She stated that turnover is a positive thing. Mrs. Buchanan stated that if any one out there is looking to run for Board of Education, everyone up here is kind and welcoming and would love to be there for you, to help you know what to do.

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

C) Turf Committee Report (September and May)

Mr. Adlerstein reported as follows:

The Plainville High School fields are now being professionally cleaned and de-compacted annually each summer and are in excellent condition. In addition, our turf fields are required to be swept monthly, an approximate two-hour project. Administration is working closely with Public Works to ensure compliance, maintaining of the district's investment, and keeping our fields in the best condition possible.

The Turf Fund balance is \$179,562. \$50,000 was paid into the fund from the 2021-22 BOE budget as approved at the June 14, 2022 Board of Education meeting. In addition, a summer maintenance fee of \$6,800 was paid. Our fields are open and we are still transitioning back to usual activities outside of school. We have not received field rental, sign rental, nor partner organization fees since 2020.

Anticipated future cost: Resurfacing costs: \$500,000 main field, \$200,000 softball field (a very rough estimate). The fund was created in 2015-16 so we are in the eighth year with useful life initially estimated at ten years. We began reflecting the turf replacement on the 5-year capital plan, in the fifth year out. However, through continued good maintenance, the field is likely to last longer than another five years.

D) Request Approval of Collective Bargaining Agreement: AFSCME Local 1303-023 Council 4, Custodians and Maintainers

A MOTION WAS MADE BY BECKY TYRRELL TO APPROVE THE THREE-YEAR COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT FOR AFSCME LOCAL 1303-023 OF COUNCIL 4 (CUSTODIANS AND MAINTAINERS) FOR THE PERIOD OF 07/01/2022 TO 06/30/2025, AS PRESENTED THROUGH REDLINE AGREEMENT. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY FOSTER WHITE. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 9-0.

X. CONSENT AGENDA--Board Approval

- (A) Budget Object Summary
- (B) Food Service Report
- (C) Check Registers
- (D) Superintendent's Authorizations
- (E) Close Out of FY2021-22
- (F) HR Report (Informational Item)—**No Report**
- (G) Private Donation for the months of June, July & August (Informational Item)--**NONE**

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

XI. ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION WAS MADE BY BECKY TYRRELL TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. CRYSTAL ST. LAWRENCE SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 9-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:21 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joan Calistro". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Joan Calistro

Recorder of Minutes

**REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING OF THE PLAINVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION
PLAINVILLE, CONNECTICUT
SUMMARY OF MOTIONS
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2022**

Approval of Minutes

2660. A MOTION WAS MADE BY FOSTER WHITE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE BOARD'S SPECIAL BUSINESS MEETING OF JUNE 14, 2022 AS PRESENTED. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY BECKY TYRRELL. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 9-0.
2661. A MOTION WAS MADE BY FOSTER WHITE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE BOARD'S SPECIAL MEETING (Review of Expulsions) OF JUNE 14, 2022 AS PRESENTED. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY BECKY TYRRELL. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 9-0.
2662. A MOTION WAS MADE BY FOSTER WHITE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE BOARD'S SPECIAL MEETING OF JUNE 13, 2022 AS PRESENTED. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY BECKY TYRRELL. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 9-0.
2663. Request Approval of Collective Bargaining Agreement: AFSCME Local 1303-023 Council 4, Custodians and Maintainers
A MOTION WAS MADE BY BECKY TYRRELL TO APPROVE THE THREE-YEAR COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT FOR AFSCME LOCAL 1303-023 OF COUNCIL 4 (CUSTODIANS AND MAINTAINERS) FOR THE PERIOD OF 07/01/2022 TO 06/30/2025, AS PRESENTED THROUGH REDLINE AGREEMENT. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY FOSTER WHITE. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 9-0.
2664. Consent Agenda--Board Approval
(A) Budget Object Summary
(B) Food Service Report
(C) Check Registers
(D) Superintendent's Authorizations
(E) Close Out of FY2021-22
(F) HR Report (Informational Item)—No Report
(G) Private Donation for the months of June, July & August (Informational Item)--
NONE
- A MOTION WAS MADE BY FOSTER WHITE TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED. REBECCA MARTINEZ SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 9-0.
2665. Adjournment
A MOTION WAS MADE BY BECKY TYRRELL TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. CRYSTAL ST. LAWRENCE SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 9-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:21 PM.