

PENDING BOARD OF EDUCATION APPROVAL
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING OF THE PLAINVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION
PLAINVILLE, CONNECTICUT
MONDAY, JANUARY 9, 2023

6:45 PM –BOARD OF EDUCATION PHOTO FOR YEARBOOK

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 7:06 PM. Cassandra Clark led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Also Present: Steven LePage, Superintendent of Schools
David Levenduski, Assistant Superintendent
Valiantsin Kasabrukhou, Student Representative

Absent: Deborah Hardy, Board Chair
Laurie Peterson, Board Member
Sam Adlerstein, Director of Business and Operations
Isabella Grasso, Student Representative

Late Arrivals: None

Early Departures: None

Returns: None

II. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:

A) PCS Staff All-Star Awards—Matt Guarino, Wheeler Tutor; Ashley Carl, Director of Food Services and Sharyn Lavore, Assistant Director of Food Services and David Levenduski, Assistant Superintendent of Schools

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A) A MOTION WAS MADE BY FOSTER WHITE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE BOARD'S REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING OF DECEMBER 12, 2022 AS PRESENTED. A MOTION WAS SECONDED BY CASSANDRA CLARK. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 7-0.

B) A MOTION WAS MADE BY FOSTER WHITE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE BOARD'S SPECIAL MEETING OF DECEMBER 7, 2022 (FINANCE/FACILITIES SUBCOMMITTEE) AS PRESENTED. CASSANDRA CLARK SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 7-0.

IV. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES REPORT

Student Liaison Valiantsin Kasabrukhou reported on the following:

Mr. Kasabrukhou hoped everyone has a great winter break and a Happy Holiday.

► Mid-term Exams will take place during the week of January 23rd.

► Students are working hard as the close of Semester 1 is approaching. As the first semester comes to a close, students are starting course selections with a lot of expanded electives being offered. Most notably, a new STEM elective, *Engineering Concepts*, in the ECT Technology Department. He is very pleased to see that it is Level 1 and it's good to see that more courses are being offered.

► In addition, senior college application season is coming to an end with most applications being due at the beginning of this month. As one door shuts, another one opens, with decisions of said colleges beginning to come in.

► Students look forward to having a safe, happy and healthy second half of the school year.

Overview of Events:

► PHS students and staff observed an extremely successful Learning Adventure Day on December 16th, organized by Mrs. Pikiell and Mrs. DeLorenzo. Many students and staff returned with a great story when they returned the following day. He built robots all day.

► The PHS Class of 2026 hosted a Holiday Extravaganza during the evening of December 16th. There were outside vendors, bake sales, musical performances, among other clubs coming out with booths.

► PHS observed Winter Break from December 24th to January 3rd.

► The Middle School and PHS Choir came together on the night of December 21 to hold their annual Winter concerts. Both schools did separate performances as well as two pieces together. In addition, music teachers from PHS accompanied the PHS Concert Choir for an old Latin Holiday piece.

► PHS is currently hosting another Coffee House fundraiser performance on Friday, January 13 at 7PM in the Choir Room. There will be duet's solo's and trio's and more performances to look out for.

► The quarter will be coming to an end on January 20, with Semester 1 closing thereafter following the mid-term week.

► Today PHS held their first VEX ERC Robotics Team meeting. The kits for the club were also delivered. The Club is looking forward to starting the construction of the actual robots soon, as the first competition will take place on January 21. The team will be working with an aggressive schedule, but they think they can get it done. Hopefully, an award will be in sight this year.

► Mid-term week will take place from January 23-January 26 with a 12:10 PM dismissal on those days. The ultimate schedule will be two exams, one from 7:30 AM to 9:30 AM and the other from 10:00 AM to 12:10 PM.

► Looking ahead, there will be no school on Martin Luther King Jr. Day on January 16.

► On Thursday, January 19th there will be a faculty vs. Unified Teams basketball game. This event will be held in the Wood Gym at 6:00 PM.

► Juniors are starting to prepare for AP and SAT testing season with tests fast approaching in late spring.

► The PHS Showcase will be held on Wednesday, February 15 at 6:00 PM

V. CITIZEN COMMENTS—No Comments RESPONSE TO CITIZEN COMMENTS—No Responses

VI. COUNCIL LIAISON

Mrs. Pugliese wished everyone a Happy New Year. She commented that she has known Matt Guarino for quite some time. Her children went to school with his children many years ago. She remembers him as the Principal of the Middle School and stated that he is a man of many talents. She stated that it is quite remarkable for him to be able to create the wolf out of a tree at the school where he taught and where his children went to

school. The piece is quite amazing and remarkable. She suggested that if the wolf wasn't named yet, a naming contest should be conducted.

Mrs. Pugliese stated that the Town Council last met on January 3rd to discuss the following:

► **Capital Region Council of Governments—Matthew Hart, Executive Director**

Mr. Hart made a presentation to the Council on the benefits of membership to CRCOG.

► **Aviation Commission Subcommittee:**

The Aviation Commission entered into discuss regarding the formation of a joint subcommittee with members of the Town Council to discuss the airport lease agreement and other capital projects.

► **Email Notification—Town Website**

The town website provides an opportunity for residents to sign up for email alerts and notices in addition to the Code Red Emergency Notification System and Tax Payment reminders that are found on the main page of the Town's website.

► **Proposed Verizon Cell Tower**

Mrs. Pugliese stated that the Town Council had a conversation regarding the Verizon Cell Tower proposal. The Council is concerned about the proposed location and is looking for more information from Verizon. She stated that the school system will be a part of all future discussions down the road.

VII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. CAPITAL BUDGET UPDATE, MSP ALTERNATIVE APPROACH AND GYMNASIUM HVAC STATUS

Mr. LePage stated that he met with Town Manager Mike Paulhus, Director of Town Finance, Rob Buden and Assistant Town Manager Andy Cirioli on Wednesday morning to discuss the Capital Budget and the plan for using a bond to address a number of critical MSP needs. The following transpired:

► The Town Manager reduced the Board of Education's Capital Improvement Plan from the requested \$4.173M to an amount in the range of \$370,00 to \$375,000. This was based on a goal of reducing the Board's capital budget to include only the typical recurring technology and some facilities items and costs.

► The plan for the Middle School is to work with Construction Solutions Group (CSG) to identify and map a number of critical improvement and repair plans and to use a bond of up to \$10,000,000 for a number of critical capital improvements at the Middle School. This process will take up to four months to complete before we could start to utilize such funds.

► Mr. LePage stated that CGS provided him with a contract draft for this work, which he shared with Mr. Adlerstein, Mr. Paulhus and Mr. Cirioli to review. He stated that it seems like a reasonable plan based on their meeting and explanation of what the Council wishes to do with the Middle School. Once the contract is executed, CSG will work with administration to identify the critical needs and to plan projects, as well as meet with the State, to determine what can qualify for individual reimbursement, or even a package of items that might be reimbursable.

► Mr. LePage stated that although he believes that the Renovate Like New Plan is the way to go, all things considered and knowing that the district is not going to be able to move to full renovation for the foreseeable future, he is glad that this will at least take care of a big chunk of key projects and get things moving.

► Mr. LePage met with IT Director, Kevin Ross, Director of Facilities Mike Smith and Director of Business and Operations Sam Alderstein today to make decisions on what is necessary to keep and what to remove from the Board proposed Capital budget.

The items chosen to remain on the Capital Plan budget:

► Service Vehicle (to replace 2006 Chevy van which is in bad shape)	\$ 35,000
► Repair of soffits and downspouts at Toffolon School	\$ 35,000
► Student Chromebook Replacement	\$180,000
► Network Updates (E-RATE)	\$ 40,000
► Staff Laptops at MSP (past their life expectancy)	\$ 65,000
► Upgrade one of two labs (MSP and PHS)*	<u>\$ 30,000</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$385,000</u>

*the second lab upgrade will be placed in the 2024 Capital budget

In addition:

The interactive displays (screens) at the Middle School are failing. Lack of MSP displays are causing instructional issues in every classroom. The team is proposing to use ESSER funding and completing this project as soon as possible, during the current school year. The remainder of the MSP CIP will be re-evaluated as a smaller scope of work.

► Mr. LePage stated that he will work with his team and town leadership to review and execute the contract with CSG so we can get vital planning and preparation for a bond process moving. He will share the CSG contract with the Board once it is reviewed and ready to execute.

Mr. LePage stated that Mike Smith and Mike Dixon have been pricing air conditioning units for the MSP and reviewing different options. There is some promising news with a company that would install a unit along the outside of the building to handle air conditioning, but the conversations continue with this company and also our existing Trane provider, and others, to determine what the best options will be, and the most cost effective. The new unit would be substantially cheaper (hundreds and thousands cheaper) than the original estimate of \$420,000 for replacement of the roof handlers with air conditioning units; but there is more to be done on this. Once the best option has been determined, Mr. LePage will have Mr. Smith present the proposal to the Board in the same manner that was done with the PHS Learning Commons and the Linden Playground projects. We will likely have a few more proposals for the Board to consider for use of the remaining ESSER/ARPA funds as well. He stated that we will try to set-up a session soon to review several potential options.

B. CELL TOWER-TOFFOLON/MSP REQUEST FOR VERIZON (INFORMATIONAL)

Mr. LePage stated that the Town Council met in Executive Session to discuss the Verizon request/proposal to place a cell phone tower in the area of the Middle School and Toffolon School. He stated that this would be in very close proximity to the schools should the plan be approved. He also stated that because of his input, Town Manager, Mike Paulhus and Town Planner Mark Devoe helped share anticipated concerns with the Town Council. With that said, the Town Council has arranged for an informational public meeting with Verizon, to learn more about the proposal, safety items, possible proposed locations, height of such a tower, and a change for public questions and comments. The Board will be informed when this meeting will take place. Mr. LePage

stated that he will also be sure to inform the school community about the meeting once the date and time are made available.

C. PHS STRATEGIC UPDATE

Mr. LePage called upon Carl Johnson, Plainville High School Principal, to give an overview of the happenings at Plainville High School.

Student Enrollment:

Mr. Johnson stated that he is very happy to come to the Board each year to speak about the High School's accomplishments and hopes for the future. He began by giving a brief overview of enrollments at the High School. The largest class is actually the freshmen class (Class of 2026) which is at 202 students compared to the other class sizes which remain consistent at around 160+/- per class. Mr. Johnson stated that over the last seven years, enrollment at PHS has stayed pretty consistent at 690+/- students.

Staffing Update:

Mr. Johnson reported that there are currently 11 academic departments; 61 faculty members; 19 Paraprofessionals and tutors; 5 school counselors; 1 school psychologist; 1 school social worker; 4 administrators; 1 School Resource Officer; 6 Office Professionals and 2 Security Monitors. He stated that the numbers have remained stable over the past year.

Student Learning and Performance:

SAT/PSAT Results Class of 2023:

The High School continues to see consistent growth over time for each of the cohorts. Mr. Johnson said that he was very proud that PHS student's scores have remained pretty consistent after the pandemic, as opposed to other school systems whose scores have declined. Scores seem to always reach and remain at the 970-980 mark.

Class of 2024:

The Class of 2024 has also shown consistent growth over time in the PSAT. Mr. Johnson commented that he and fellow administrators will be interested in seeing next year's scores.

Class of 2025:

The sophomore class has made quite a jump this year in their scores and teachers and administrators are very proud. There was a 110-point jump in the PSAT taken in the fall. This was quite an increase from last year. He gives a lot of credit to teachers and students. Seeing the payoff gives him hope of seeing the bar raised higher.

Class of 2026:

The class is starting at a pretty good place at a score of 850.

Class of 2022 Post Secondary Plans:

Higher Education	78%
Vocational & Trade Schools	9%
Military	2%
Work Force	4%
Gap Year Experience	3%
Undecided	2%

4 Year College	69%
2 Year College	31%
In-State	73%
Out of State	27%

- ▶ Overall the Class of 2022 performed over 4,300 hours of community service
- ▶ 405 of the class took one or more UCONN ECE Courses while at PHS (they earned 675 college credits through 205 courses taken)
- ▶ 39% of the class took one or more AP course while at PHS (157 exams were taken and over 250 credits were earned through those exams)
- ▶ Six members of the class participated in the CCSU Partnership Program and earned 34 college credits.
- ▶ Six members participated in the Goodwin College Partnership and earned 18 college credits

Mr. Johnson then highlighted a few of the PHS building improvements.

PHS School Improvement Goals:

- 1) To utilize high level PLC's to analyze data on both student performance and instructional practices, to guide instruction to ensure all students are college and career ready.
- 2) To develop a more complete Response to Intervention system that supports all PHS students.
- 3) To provide safe, supportive and equitable learning environments that support the social and emotional needs of our learning community.
- 4) To support students in achieving their Mastery Based Credit Experience while highlighting the Plainville Portrait of the Graduate Skills

PHS Standing Committee Work for 2022-23:

Mr. Johnson stated that four standing committees were established during the 2021-22 school year in hopes of giving students more of a voice throughout their four years of school. The committees include the SEL & Advisory Building Level Committee, Learning Adventure Day Committee, Faculty Advisory Council and Mastery Based Credit and Portrait of the Graduate Committee.

Attendance Work at PHS:

- ▶ Increased focus on attendance, both daily and classroom attendance.
- ▶ Messaging and communication around attendance.
- ▶ Use of systems and procedures to better monitor.
- ▶ Use of Student Assistance Meetings to meet student and family needs.
- ▶ Attendance review letters and mappings.

College and Career Pathways:

- ▶ Clear delineation of pathways for students in our departments
- ▶ Increased work with students around their SSP Folders and future pathways
- ▶ Increased electives for 9th graders to begin Pathways exploration earlier
- ▶ "Experience PHS" night in September
- ▶ Promotion in the building and each department
- ▶ Increased partnerships with colleges and universities
- ▶ Alignment with District level committees and MSP
- ▶ Job Shadows, Field Work Experience, and Career Center

Learning Adventure Days (LAD):

- ▶ Two very successful Learning Days this year (10/01/22 and 12/16/22)
- ▶ Focus on unique, relevant, and positive growth experiences for our students
- ▶ Direct alignment to PCS Portrait of the Graduate Skills, College and Career Pathways and Mastery Based Graduation Requirements.

Mr. Johnson highlighted both Student Adventure Days with photos.

Mr. Johnson then highlighted the various departments in the High School such as Fine Arts, English, Music, Math, Science, Social Studies, School Counseling, Career and Technical Education (CTE), World Language, Health and Physical Education, and Special Education

PHS Next Steps:

- 1) Continued implementation the Learning Adventure Program, College and Career Pathway work, Student Success Plans and Advisory programs for the benefit of all students.
- 2) Continue to be a leader in providing exploration and growth opportunities to our students around their post-secondary pathways.
- 3) Implementation of the Mastery Based Credit Experience at PHS, with a focus on Portrait of the Graduate skills and increased opportunities for reflection by students on their personal growth
- 4) Dedication to support the whole student at PHS through partnerships, opportunities, social and emotional learning, and professional growth.
- 5) Refinement and growth around assessment practices at PHS with a focus on accurate measurement of student learning and skills.
- 6) Continue to focus on attendance as a critical component of success and finding ways to support students and families.

Mr. LePage thanked Mr. Johnson and members of his staff for this in-depth report.

D. DISTRICT SECURITY AND SAFETY UPDATE

Mr. LePage called upon Director of Safety and Security Richard Marques as well as Director of Technology Kevin Ross to give a brief overview of the happenings in the Safety and Security Department.

Mr. Marques began with a report on what has been done:

- ▶ He has visited each of the five schools to review and refresh lockdown and emergency procedures, implemented ALICE training and updated areas of refuge. He stated that he has also reviewed and submitted the District's All Hazards Plan to the Department of Emergency Services and Homeland Security (DEMHS), which includes a new mandate in C.G.S. to develop protocol for after school/intramural activities.
- ▶ A new security officer has been hired at the Middle School.
- ▶ *Stop and Bleed* training for staff has been implemented (for traumatic bleeding)
- ▶ *Stop and Bleed* kits have been purchased and installed in each of the five schools and will be stored with defibrillators.
- ▶ New cameras (total of 303) have been added and upgraded. Linden added 88 cameras, Toffolon added 51 cameras, Wheeler has 52 cameras, the Middle School added 60 cameras and the High School has 52 cameras with upgrades in the works.
- ▶ Installing, implementing and training Mutualink communication system which allows any hardwired phone to initiate a lockdown, instantaneous notification to police and school administration, and also allows the merger of portable radios, cameras and phones.

- ▶ Physical security assessments have been conducted at each school per mandate (every two years).
- ▶ Signage has been affixed to the exterior of the buildings.
- ▶ New exterior cameras have been added and additional interior cameras will be added at Plainville High School.

Mr. Marques then called upon IT Director Kevin Ross who gave a brief explanation of what and where these changes have been done throughout the five schools.

Mr. Ross stated that he is currently looking at exterior cameras at PHS and how the cameras are laid out. Linden has more cameras due to the design of the building. There are many hallways and many turns. Most of the schools didn't need as many due to the fact that they have long straight hallways. The cameras at Wheeler School were installed during the renovation project. The Middle School installations are now complete. The Middle School now has a significantly better view. There are a few more cafeteria cameras needing installation. The High School exterior cameras are being placed throughout the sports fields.

He then spoke about Mutualink. Mutualink is put in place to allow a faster response time by our police department. Mutualink is inside our dispatch so if a building goes into lockdown, there are one of many ways to alert first responders i.e., panic buttons to phone numbers to apps on phones. The building will go into lockdown with an immediate response from the police department. It will be instantaneous. Prior to this new system, the previous alarm company would have to call back which could take up to approximately 2+ minutes. With the new system, the police are instantly on their way. Mr. Ross said he and his team worked hard over the last year, and prior years, while working with Mutualink. The system has been revised and now has new parts (cameras and mapping) which is all new to the system.

What the team hopes to accomplish (Mr. Marques):

- ▶ Hopes to hire more security officers; one for each school
- ▶ Modify entry vestibule at the Middle School to enhance security and access control
- ▶ Institute National Guard Cyber-Security Audit Spring 2003. This is a free service to collaborate with our Technology Department to conduct an in-house security audit of our files, data and servers, etc.
- ▶ Create more signage for better react time in an emergency

Mr. LePage thanked both Mr. Marques and Mr. Ross on the fantastic job they are doing to help keep Plainville schools' safe. Discussion ensued.

VIII. BOARD SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Facilities/Finance Subcommittee Report—No Report

B. Policy Subcommittee Report—No Report

C. Curriculum Subcommittee Report

Mrs. Martinez stated that the Curriculum Subcommittee met prior to this evening's Board meeting. They spoke about the Illustrative Math program at the elementary schools. Overall, the program is doing well. The program had just started when COVID hit. Everyone is now getting back into the groove.

The Middle School Math Program is called DESMOS. The program is going well. The Middle School staff has noticed that the 8th grade honors Math class

(the class that gets the high school credits) would benefit from something more rigorous. They are looking at other programs and seeing what other towns are doing.

Language Arts: Tawana Graham-Douglas, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment and David Levenduski, Assistant Superintendent, gave the subcommittee an update on the K-3 State approved reading model curricula and district waiver. They spoke about how Phonics has been increased and they have a new assessment called Acadian, that they've incorporated and they do believe that Plainville Schools are in good shape and will be filing a waiver in February.

World Language: A new World Language teacher has been hired at the Middle School.

New Course Proposals at Plainville High School consist of Business, Greek Mythology and SAT Prep.

New College and Career Pathway Possibilities:

--Goodwin has Engineering Concepts. Looking into a CAD system and blueprinting.

--CCSU: Healthcare pathways and STEAM pathways and Construction Management

--UConn General Education and Special Education course in Hartford Healthcare

D. Outreach Subcommittee Report—No Report

E. PAC Liaison--Plainville High School Report—No Report

► The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 11 at 7 PM.

F. PTO Liaison--Toffolon Elementary School Report—No Report

G. PTO Liaison--Linden Street Elementary School Report

Mrs. Clark reported on the following:

► Nicole Michaud reported that Linden is super awesome. She is very excited to head the Linden PTO. They are having a great year.

► The PTO just finished their Holiday Sale. The PTO is thanking everyone who made it such a success. All of the gifts from the Holiday Shop were \$2 each and it allowed the children to shop for their families and pets.

► Linden held a Holiday sing-a-long during school time. Students enjoyed the sing-a-long very much (the sing-a-long was not sponsored by the PTO). However, members were allowed to take pictures for the yearbook.

► The PTO held a successful butterbraid fundraiser.

► Mrs. Michaud wished everyone a Happy Holiday and Happy New Year.

► The next meeting is set for January 11th at 6 PM

H. PTC Liaison--Middle School of Plainville Report

Mrs. St. Lawrence reported on the following:

► The PTC had a successful Bingo Night

► They also held an awesome Texas Road House fundraiser

► They had great success with their Spiritwear fundraiser with the new MSP logo

- ▶ The PTC sponsored Ornament Making Art Night which included a hot cocoa bar
- ▶ The PTC is planning to send out surveys to all 8th grade parents regarding a special end of the year picnic/field day they hope to plan. Because of COVID, students have missed their end of the year activities.
- ▶ Looking ahead, there will be Valentinegrams for students on Valentine's Day and candy bars for MSP staff.
- ▶ Another Paint Night is being discussed, as is another Bingo Night which is a big hit at the Middle School.
- ▶ The next meeting is set for Tuesday, January 10 at 7 PM.

I. PTO Liaison--Wheeler Elementary School Report

Mrs. Buchanan reported that the following:

- ▶ Wheeler is looking forward to two field trips this month:
 - Pre-K students will go to the New Britain Museum of Art on January 20
 - Grade 1 students will go to the CCSU Planetarium on January 12
- ▶ On February 1st, Grade 5 students will hold their Winter Chorus and Band Concerts
- ▶ Please stop by Wheeler to see the incredible wolf that was created by Mr. Guarino. It's terrific!
- ▶ During Career Adventure Day, some of the PHS students came to Wheeler as an opportunity for those who may be interested in becoming teachers. Students were able to go back to their home elementary school to explore the experience.
- ▶ Quite a bit of money was turned over to many organizations in need, from the donations collected from Spirit Days which takes place at Wheeler every Friday. ▶ The Wheeler PTO's January meeting is scheduled for January 19th from 6-7 PM in the Wheeler School Library

J. CREC Council Report—No Report

The CREC Council does not meet in December.

K. Chairperson's Report—No Report

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

X. NEW BUSINESS

A) Board Open Forum

Foster White stated that in this particular room there has been several wonderful things that have take place physically. On December 16 & 17, the PHS Theater Club put on a dramatic production of *The Price of Firewood*. This is unique because it was a play that was selected by the cast members themselves and is a play that dealt with several current and very sensitive topics such as domestic abuse and freedom of the press, and all of these issues were excellently taken and presented in an outstanding theatrical production. This was all done under the direction of TJ Riccardo, who is an outstanding teacher/educator and a great supporter of the arts. He has actually turned this space into a kind of black box which is essential in theater. This highlights some of the other activities that Mr. Johnson outlined, i.e., the great things that are taking place at PHS.

Rachel Buchanan stated that language is very important and facts are even more important as they go hand in hand. She stated that she wanted to make sure that before leaving this meeting the word reneged, used by Mrs. Consalvo, be clarified.

She stated that the word “reneg” means to back out of an agreement, and you can’t renege on something that wasn’t agreed upon (referring to the Middle School’s Renovation Project and the decision made by the Town Council). She stated that she was very grateful for Mr. LePage reiterating, re-clarifying and reviewing the timeline so that way the Board and Town Council can all work together as a team, and when it is appropriate, to then send the project to referendum and let the taxpayers vote and decide.

Lori Consalvo stated that she wanted to be very clear, and that the agreement was reneged upon by the Town Council. She stated that it was an agreement that was spoken to Mr. LePage and it was agreed upon by the Town Council to revisit the renovation project at its 30-year mark. So, therefore it was reneged upon.

Rachel Buchanan stated that nothing was formally agreed upon. It is her understanding that everyone’s intention was that at 30 years the project be revisited, (that’s when the schools are able to be evaluated), it doesn’t mean it’s an automatic process. She stated that language and facts are important. The Town Council did not renege upon anything because they had not agreed to anything. They formally and legally could not have done so.

Becky Tyrrell stated that one of the most important things you can do at a High School is create relevant experiences and give kids something that makes them want to come to school every day. The Board has talked about the importance of the arts, the importance of sports, and everything that happens in a school. She said she was thinking about the students in the video trying to get across the pool in a rickety old box. Someday, maybe 50 years from now, they are going to be talking about that. It is an experience they will never have anywhere else and will probably never happen again in their lifetime. It was just awesome!

On a personal note, she stated that her favorite class in High School, and she stated she didn’t have a favorite class in High School. In fact, there was not a lot to be happy about. She stated that she didn’t go to Plainville Schools but did go to a school nearby. Her favorite class was Greek Mythology which the Curriculum Subcommittee had discussed at their meeting this evening.

Mrs. Tyrrell then added her congratulations to Ashley Carl, Director of Food Services. Mrs. Tyrrell is a Food Service Director for multiple school districts in the northwest corner of the state. She stated that it is a difficult job on a good day. But COVID really hit that department and what we have to do is really hard. Every year we keep thinking (since March 2020) it’s going to get easier, but the regulations and requirements are the hoops we have to jump through. “But Ashley has done an awesome job and I really appreciate all of her work.” She also congratulated Mr. Guarino for taking on the wolf at Wheeler School. And, she congratulated David Levenduski, Assistant Superintendent as well. She stated that the Board appreciates Mr. Levenduski for always giving them a lot to think about and they appreciate his previous experiences from another district. It’s what makes him a great fit.

Mrs. Tyrrell stated that later in the month of January she will be attending a session representing CAFE as the Federal Relations Chair, down in Washington D.C. The session will take place for three days and they will meet with Connecticut State Representatives to talk about the agenda for Connecticut schools.

Lastly, she spoke about the Middle School Renovation project. She stated, "What we're really talking about is the ability of the Town to make a decision as to what they want to do. We've made this decision multiple times before on these construction projects and sometimes we've voted no and other times we've voted yes. But it has been up to the Town to make the decision, understanding that over many years (well over 20) we have been working on the long-range plan and taking care of the buildings. We have also had some very difficult economic times and we've had some good economic times. But, it's up to the people. If you vote once and it fails it tells us that we have to re-look at things. Is it not exactly what the people want, is it not the right time, maybe it's something else? But letting it go forward and letting people vote on whether they want to do the project or not." "I think it's something that should be done." She said she hopes the Town Council will reconsider and move forward with the project in June. She stated, "Personally, from the perspective of the Board, I believe that's what we should be advocating for, and the people who should be most invested in this are actually elementary school parents. Everyone ends up at the middle school and in a few years your children will be there and you'll want that building to have had a full renovation."

Cassandra Clark stated that she wanted to clarify (speaking to Mrs. Consalvo). She stated, "I thought you had said to me and Rachel that we need to grow up. Is that what you said underneath your breath earlier?"

Lori Consalvo, "No"

Cassandra Clark, "I was pretty sure that's what you said to me. I think it is important that Board Members treat each other respectfully and I have been trying to do my best. So, I will be respectful to everyone on this Board. But I don't expect anybody to be speaking to me in such a manner."

"The other thing I wanted to say, is with that said, it was the first of the year and I went to the CABA training and they spoke to contentions school Boards and I would have to say that when there is a difference between a disagreement and contentiousness, there hasn't been a disagreement, per say, it is just clarifying a statement of what has happened. That's all! So, with that said, there's no reason to speak ill of anybody including myself or Mrs. Buchanan."

Second, "I would like to say that the presentations tonight have been amazing and I thank every single one of the people who came here tonight very much for coming and presenting to us. Even though you've had to put up with watching all of this. Because there is no reason for it."

Third, "I have spoken to the Town Council in support of our budget, and the lack of anybody else on the Board. So, before anyone says I am not in favor of supporting our schools. I really, please, I have had it!"

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

Mr. LePage stated that Mr. Alderstein was not able to be here this evening and will give the quarterly report on his behalf. The quarterly Special Education Cost Report has remained status quo. With regard to the budget, we are running on course this year. Last year at this point we were \$300,000 unfavorable to the budget. So, we are in a much better position with Special

Education outplacement costs for students that we had outplaced in different programs to meet their needs.

Mr. LePage is doing an internal investigation and looking at potential in-district options that we're investigating on a preliminary basis with the hopes of offsetting some of our outplacements. At this point it is just preliminary. He pulled a committee together a couple of weeks ago. Tomorrow he is visiting some spaces that might be a potential option. Right now, it is preliminary but with the amount of expenses for outplacement programs, it would be great to design and build a program in-district that will meet the needs of the students without sending them outside of the district, and without all of the transportation costs and other expenses that are incurred through outplacement. We always have difficulty monitoring and staying on-course with them because you never know what's going to happen. Who will move into town? What could happen? He stated that he just wanted to keep the Board apprized of what he is doing. He's not sure if it will work but he'll give it a try. He did oversee two alternative programs in his district when he was an Assistant Principal.

C) Turf Committee Report (September and May)—No Report

XI. CONSENT AGENDA—Board Approval

- (A) Budget Object Summary
- (B) Food Service Report
- (C) Check Registers
- (D) HR Report (Informational Item)
- (E) Private Donation for the month of December (Informational Item)
 - Donation from M and T Enterprises to the PHS Wrestling Team.....\$1,000

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

XII. ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION WAS MADE BY BECKY TYRRELL TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. CRYSTAL ST. LAWRENCE SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 7-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Joan Calistro

Recorder of Minutes

**REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING OF THE PLAINVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION
PLAINVILLE, CONNECTICUT
SUMMARY OF MOTIONS
MONDAY, JANUARY 9, 2023**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- 2699. A MOTION WAS MADE BY FOSTER WHITE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE BOARD'S REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING OF DECEMBER 12, 2022 AS PRESENTED. A MOTION WAS SECONDED BY CASSANDRA CLARK. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 7-0,**
- 2700. A MOTION WAS MADE BY FOSTER WHITE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE BOARD'S SPECIAL MEETING OF DECEMBER 7, 2022 (FINANCE/FACILITIES SUBCOMMITTEE) AS PRESENTED. CASSANDRA CLARK SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 7-0.**

2701. *CONSENT AGENDA—Board Approval*

- (A) Budget Object Summary
- (B) Food Service Report
- (C) Check Registers
- (D) HR Report (Informational Item)
- (E) Private Donation for the month of December (Informational Item)
 - Donation from M and T Enterprises to the PHS Wrestling Team.....\$1,000

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

2702. *ADJOURNMENT*

A MOTION WAS MADE BY BECKY TYRRELL TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. CRYSTAL ST. LAWRENCE SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 7-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM.