

**PLAINVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Special Meeting Minutes**

**Special Meeting Title:** Presentation on decision to return to school via full in-person status

**Date:** Thursday, September 24, 2020 @ 6:00 PM

**Place:** Plainville High School Cafeteria, 47 Robert Holcomb Way, Plainville, CT 06062

**Attendees:** Brent Davenport (virtual), Deborah Hardy, Becky Martinez (virtual), Nicole Palmieri, Laurie Peterson, Crystal St. Lawrence, Becky Tyrrell, Kathy Wells and Foster White

**Members Absent:** None

**Also Present:** Steven LePage, Superintendent of Schools  
David Levenduski, Asst. Superintendent of Schools

Chair Becky Tyrrell called the special meeting to order at 6:05 PM.

Mr. LePage thanked the Board and the administrative staff for attending this evening's meeting. He stated that the reason for the meeting is to give rationale and specifics on the district going from hybrid to in-person learning. He reported that on July 24<sup>th</sup> a letter was sent to the State stating that students would return to full in-person learning when they returned in September. However, after a meeting with the Governor and Commissioner of Education, which gave school district's more flexibility, he thought the best way to go would be to transition from hybrid first, then go to in-person full learning. He stated that he didn't make this decision lightly. With guidance from the CDC and CPH, weekly meetings with the Department of Health, meetings with bargaining groups, weekly Superintendent meetings with the Hartford Area Superintendent's Association, daily communication with the district's Compliance Liaison and HR Director, he thought that transitioning would be the best way to go, with full in-person learning beginning on October 5<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. LePage proceeded to give an overview of the new Re-opening model (a copy will be attached to the minutes). He stated that on Wednesday, he sent a survey to all parents with an open-ended question, seeking feedback, questions and concerns about expanding to the in-person model. Over the last 24 hours he received 338 responses. He stated that all responses were read prior to this evening's meeting and were broken into various categories for further review, making sure that as many concerns as possible will be appropriately addressed. He also stated that according to Dr. Lynn Sosa of the Connecticut Department of Health during her state update on September 22<sup>nd</sup>, there has not been a single COVID-

19 case transmitted at a Connecticut school, which shows that school migration strategies are working, whether in full or hybrid models. He spoke about CSDE and DPH's Addendum 4: Interim Guidance for Decision-Making in Connecticut Schools During COVID-19 and reviewed various *EdSight* findings which supplies key leading indicators to support decision-making of in-person education recommended by the DPH and CSDE. He then discussed Mitigation Strategies being used.

Mr. LePage then called upon Steve Busel, Director of Facilities, to give a brief update on the buildings' aspect. Mr. Busel stated that all air handling units have had their filters upgraded to MERV 13; Time Schedules have been increased so that air handlers run 2 hours before and after the buildings are occupied; Outside air volumes have been increased to improve air changes in the schools; Additional PPE has been ordered; A few drinking fountains in each school are being retrofitted as bottle filling stations, approved by the State Department of Health; Deep cleaning of all schools will continue regularly and on Wednesdays, which will be early dismissal days for students each week, effective October 7, 2020.

Mr. LePage confirmed that PLC days will be held every Wednesday at all schools and stated that Plainville High School students will also dismiss each day at 12:10 PM, as they are unable to cohort. Students have an option of taking a grab and go lunch; they will be required to log-on from home for their last class of the day from 1:25 to 2:10 PM on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday; students staying after for approved reasons will eat and continue their final class from supervised school locations. Mr. LePage then called upon each of the five Principals to give brief details of each of their schools' re-openings. Each school will hold their own virtual Parent Information meeting as follows:

Plainville High School: Monday, September 28<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM  
Middle School of Plainville: Tuesday, September 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM  
Linden Street School: Tuesday, September 29<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM  
Toffolon School: Wednesday, September 30<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM  
Wheeler School: Thursday, October 1<sup>st</sup> at 6 PM

Mr. LePage then called upon Athletic Director Chris Farrell to give an update on school sports.

Mr. Farrell stated that he had spent most of the day today at CIAC meetings. All schools, which have been broken up into regions, were allowed to assess the proper implementation of mitigation strategies for their districts. With that said, the plan for low risk activities with a limited number of games has been approved. Updates on all sports may be found on twitter and social media. Mr. Farrell stated that students are trying to get back to normal.

Mr. LePage thanked Ashley Onion, the district's new Food Service Director for coordinating the Free Meals Program for all students which will run until December 31<sup>st</sup>. Distance and

hybrid meals may be picked up at Plainville High School (near the flagpole) daily from 9:15 AM to 9:45 AM. He stated that Ms. Onion is doing a phenomenal job. Mrs. Tyrrell added that if students would like to participate in the meals program, it would certainly help the district's bottom line financially. She encourages all students to participate and to help spread the word.

Mrs. Martinez questioned the 6' spacing of students. Discussion ensued.

Mr. LePage encourages parents to check out the State Department of Education and DHP's websites if they are looking for further resources.

Mr. LePage called upon Human Resource Director Stacy Buden. Mrs. Buden asks that if children or staff members are diagnosed with COVID-19, they should contact her in Central Office or Mrs. Simard at Wheeler School, so they can begin immediate contact tracing.

Mrs. Tyrrell stated that she appreciates all the work that the administrators have done for tonight's meeting. The planning and strategizing with the help of staff has been phenomenal and is much appreciated. She also commented that she hopes the Board is communicating well with parents. She stated that the Board's main job is to keep students and staff safe.

She also stated that there were 120 participants listening to this evening's meeting and 147 participants on YouTube. Because of time constraints, the number of participants, and the reporting back to the 338 parents who sent in questions to the Superintendent, they will forego the question and answer period. However, Mr. LePage stated that he will keep all families fully informed as best he can, and asks them to continue to send in questions and/or concerns. Also, FAQ will be placed on the district website.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY FOSTER WHITE TO ADJOURN THE SPECIAL MEETING.  
KATHY WELLS SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 9-0. The meeting adjourned at 7:41 PM

Respectfully submitted,

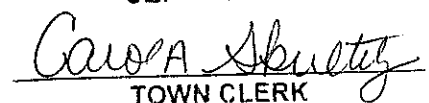


Joan Calistro

Recorder of Minutes

**RECEIVED**

SEP 29 2020

  
TOWN CLERK