

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE PLAINVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION
PLAINVILLE, CONNECTICUT
THURSDAY, JANUARY 20, 2022**

Special Meeting Topics: ► **Overview of Budget Goals and Priorities for FY2022-23**
► **Review Line Item Budget Details**
► **Other**

Place and Time: Plainville High School Learning Commons at 7:00 PM

Members Present: Rachel Buchanan, Cassandra Clark, Chair Lori Consalvo, Vice Chair Deborah Hardy, Rebecca Martinez, Laurie Peterson, Crystal St. Lawrence, Becky Tyrrell, and Foster White

Members Absent: None

Also Present: Steven K. LePage, Superintendent of Schools
David Levenduski, Asst, Superintendent of Schools
Sam Adlerstein, Director of Business and Operations
District Administrators

Early Departures: None

Board Chair Lori Consalvo called the special meeting of the Plainville Board of Education to order at 7:05 PM.

Superintendent LePage presented a PowerPoint of the proposed 2022-23 Budget for Plainville Community Schools. He began by highlighted the goals and actions of the District's vision document and discussed the areas of focus, Equity, Social Emotional Learning and Mastery. Also aligned with the district's vision are Portrait of the Graduate, i.e., (Mindfulness, Resiliency, Communicative, Innovative and Collaborative), Interventions and Enrichment and College and Career Pathways. He commented that a lot of work has been done throughout the District in these three areas.

Mr. LePage stated that he is happy with a number of branding and building improvements that have taken place such as the awnings for the main entrance and security office of the High School, the outside flags which run across Robert Holcomb Way (which also align with Portrait of the Graduate) and new signage to better direct traffic around the building.

He spoke about College and Career Pathways being developed throughout all grade levels Pre-K to 12. Learning Adventure Days which was recently piloted, giving students 35 different offerings from which to choose. The Board just approved the expansion of this program. He then discussed fieldwork experience (training on the job) and the companies that participate in the program. He then discussed outcomes and destinations of students from the Class of 2021 and the various paths and opportunities afforded the students. He discussed the meaningful learning opportunities for students, such as Veteran's Day and the many challenges they have faced over the past year due to COVID. He also discussed the impact COVID has had on student learning. He then discussed ESSER and ARPA funding and how it impacts the schools. He discussed Per Pupil Cost, Plainville's cost per student of \$19,123 ranks #100 in cost out, of 166 (lower than 60% of all districts). He reported on the impact of COVID, both in terms of enrollment and expenditures (including COVID grant funding). He then discussed the Board of Education Budget History and Balance Returned to the Town (\$1,768,168 was returned to the town over the past two fiscal years. \$1,428,596 of unspent, appropriated education funds and \$339,572 used to fund Capital Plan expenditures). This cost savings stemmed from a very undesirable circumstance (COVID) that disrupted teaching and learning.

Mr. LePage then reported on the BOE Budget Status as of December 31, 2021:

- Salary and Benefits comprise 85% of the District budget.
- BOE spending to date approximates a typical year and the district is running the usual array of programs plus additional COVID relief support.

- ▶ Tuition for outplaced students is the district's biggest budget risk, forecasted to be unfavorable by more than \$500,000.
- ▶ At this time last year, it was expected that the cafeteria operation would lose more than (\$100,000) for the year. Instead, they made up lost ground and ended in the red by (\$48,021). This year the operation has been running in the black all year, more than making up for the prior loss and also making additional investment back in the program.

BOE Budget Status: COVID Impacts:

- ▶ Expenditures for programs to address learning loss are planned for COVID grant funding that include expanded summer school programs, remediation, personnel and additional investment in software technology.
- ▶ CRF and ESSER I COVID-19 recovery grants were expended in prior years. The District has been granted additional COVID relief funding, through ESSER II and ESSER III.
- ▶ Strategic planning aimed at continued recovery, and innovative investment related to these grants will begin with a shared webinar on February 15.
- ▶ Community members will then have opportunities to share their thoughts and have a voice in the use of some of these remaining grant resources.

Mr. LePage stated that in 2021-22 the local school budget is 28% or \$11,004,705 funded by the State, through the Education Cost Sharing (ECS) Grant. The amount of funding is based upon a formula using several factors including student count and level of need. Local funded cost is \$28,822,267 or 72%. In FY2019, State legislation phased-in a grant formula over 10 years. Some towns like Plainville benefit, while others are phased out. Per the formula, Plainville received increased ECS funds approximately \$200,000 annually. These revenues are paid to the town, and all residents benefit. In 2021-22, the district changed to tuition-free preschool. Tuition-free preschool students will be added to the ECS reimbursement amount, increasing the grant well in excess of tuition previously received and allowing the district to use those funds to expand the program without additional local cost.

Mr. LePage stated that the MSP Renovation project is moving forward. Education Specs are under development by Antinozzi Associates who are working with our OPM, CSG Group. This primary design is for the purpose of a programming Fit Test and State approval. Within a few weeks, the Education Specs will be presented to the Board of Education for their approval to proceed. The building is deemed oversized compared to the enrollment. The district is in the process of applying for a size waiver with the state based upon the schools programming and other factors. The current schedule calls for a referendum in May and State Grant Application in June. The district recently learned that the reimbursement rate for Plainville will increase by 0.5% after July 1, 2022 so the district will plan accordingly.

Mr. LePage then discussed the Board's estimated 2022-23 contractual increases.

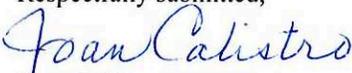
He stated that the administration will continue to be thoughtful and mindful in their budget approach. They will request only what they believe essential to educate and support their students' through this season of change, they will continue to collaborate, communicate, innovate and remain mindful and resilient in their budgeting practices and in all things and will do their very best for the children, families and dedicated PCS team. With that said, Mr. LePage proposed a budget of \$41,192,508 which is a 3.43% increase or \$1,365,536 dollar increase for the 2022-23 fiscal year.

Mr. LePage also stated that the Board has an upcoming budget meeting scheduled for January 25th and suggests that they review the materials over the next few days and reconvene on the 25th to review line item budget details and to discuss goals and priorities. All questions and concerns may be forwarded to him prior to the meeting.

No action was taken at this meeting.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY BECKY MARTINEZ TO ADJOURN THE SPECIAL MEETING AT 9:20 PM. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY FOSTER WHITE. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 9-0.

Respectfully submitted,



Joan Calistro
Recorder of Minutes