

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE PLAINVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
PLAINVILLE, CONNECTICUT  
THURSDAY, JANUARY 27, 2022**

**Special Meeting Topics:** ► **Additional Review and Discussion of the Superintendent's Proposed Budget for FY2022-23**

► **Continuation of Board Budget Session with potential determination of BOE budget, which will officially be voted upon at their February 14<sup>th</sup> Regular Business Meeting**

► **Other**

**Place and Time:** Plainville High School Cafeteria at 7:00 PM

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

**Members Absent:** Cassandra Clark

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

**Early Departures:** None

Board Chair Lori Consalvo called the special meeting of the Plainville Board of Education to order at 7:06 PM.

Superintendent LePage presented a PowerPoint of the proposed 2022-23 Budget for Plainville Community Schools which includes: Health Insurance (new unfavorable information), Questions and Answers, Board Discussion: What do you need to support the budget as currently revised? Where we are the in process and consensus on the BOE budget for formal vote of February 14<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. LePage stated that he received a phone call on Wednesday regarding the District's Health Insurance. He stated that he is working in sync with Town Manager Robert Lee and Director of Finance, Rob Buden with regard to insurance rates. He stated that the insurance rate that was originally placed in the proposed budget is based upon information the district received from the State at that time. The State typically gives preliminary guidance in early February and sets rates in April. However, on Friday he received early guidance and it was contrary to the previous indication, estimating a rate increase of 8.0% over 2021-22.

Upon clarification from a State official (as written): *"In regard to my email from last month, we did not have any figures from Segal at that time, so we could not anticipate the starting increase. Recently we have seen a significant increase in COVID-related claims and with elective surgeries, which made the starting point closer to 12%. We hope these two categories will trend back to normal in the upcoming months, but believe that for now it is best to anticipate an 8% increase."* Mr. LePage stated that many partnership Towns and Districts are in a similar situation, having used the earlier more favorable information.

Upon conferring with Mr. Lee and Mr. Buden, it was agreed to assume an overall 8% health insurance increase. This is still an estimate that will be updated in coming months. In prior years, the district has considered the Board's budget both with and without the increase to health insurance, because that one item is so impactful and still unknown. With the 8% increase to insurance, the new budget proposal reads as follows: 3.72% which is an increase of \$1,016,671 and \$465,154 (increase to health insurance) totaling \$41,308,797.

Mr. LePage and the Board then discussed the various questions which were received since the January 25<sup>th</sup> meeting took place.

He then discussed the budget process with Board Members.

- ▶ The Board of Education approves its budget at their regular February meeting.
- ▶ The Town Manager then considers the Board of Education in relation to all items in the process and proposes his budget to the Town Council. Our indication at this point is that he would include this BOE budget as part of his Town Manager Budget Proposal to the Town Council.
- ▶ The Town Council evaluates and deliberates, including taking input from residents.
- ▶ The Town Council proposes a budget to residents which will be voted upon at the April 26<sup>th</sup> budget referendum.

Further discussion ensued.

A five-minute break was taken.

Mrs. Consalvo asked for a Roll Call Consensus on the 3.72% budget proposal:

Mrs. Buchanan—No, not ready to make a consideration just yet

Mrs. Clark—Absent

Mrs. Hardy—No, feels the budget should be reduced further

Mrs. Martinez—Yes, feels there are no extras in this budget. She is in favor of the proposed budget

Ms. Peterson—No, feels the budget is a little too high and should be reduced further

Mrs. St. Lawrence—Yes, she is in favor of the proposed budget

Mrs. Tyrrell—Yes, she will support this budget. It is important to put forth a fair budget for the kids.

Mr. White—Yes, stated that we are sailing in uncharted waters but is in favor of the budget as proposed.

Mrs. Consalvo—Yes, she is in favor of the proposed budget.

No action was taken at this meeting.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY BECKY TYRRELL TO ADJOURN THE SPECIAL MEETING AT 9:22 PM. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY REBECCA MARTINEZ. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 8-0.**

Respectfully submitted,

*Joan Calistro*

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Recorder of Minutes