



Community Letter

Fall 2004

Promote a challenging environment creating an extraordinary community of learners

Q&A:

What is the Plainville Community Schools' Long-Range Plan?

The Long-Range Plan ensures that school facilities will continue to suit the needs of students and the community. The first phase includes the renovation and addition to Linden Street School. The second phase includes the renovation of Toffolon School and the conversion of storage space at the Middle School into four additional classrooms. The third phase of the Long-Range Plan is the renovation of Plainville High School.

Why is the Long-Range Plan important for the community?

Our schools serve the community in a variety of ways by providing meeting and recreation spaces. Our buildings are aging and work is required to update them. The Long-Range Plan will resolve these issues with a common sense approach that makes the best use of the facilities to control project costs. The success of the current Long-Range Plan will provide safe and efficient schools that are in compliance with state and federal codes.

Message from the Board of Education

Our school system is one in which town residents can take great pride. The district has received state and national recognition for the quality programs our students enjoy. Our advancing school system is increasing the value of our homes and property, making Plainville more attractive to newcomers relocating to the area.

Our schools form the hub of our community, adding to the quality of life for town residents. From the Police Athletic League to the Brownies, our schools support many fine programs that strengthen the unity of town residents. Our athletic fields hum with countless personal triumphs and team victories. Our facilities house clubs that do tremendous work for our town and strengthen the fiber of our youth. Parks and Recreation programs at our schools teach hundreds of children swimming, water safety and sports each year. Our community pride swells when a high school senior receives national merit recognition, our athletes stand out in competition, or another young man becomes an Eagle Scout.

This year the school district received a budget appropriation that was lower than the amount needed to operate the same programs as last year. The Board made difficult decisions about student fees, supplies, and professional development. As a Board of Education we will continue to work to provide the best possible education for our children, however daunting the challenge.

PHS Building Improvement Update

High School Indoor Air Quality Project

Over the summer, about 20,000 square feet of the high school roof was replaced while the classrooms and halls below that roof area were completely renovated. Rooms were painted by parent volunteers and students, furniture was returned to the classrooms by students, and our staff put in a tremendous effort to be able to open school for the first day. New carpets, ceilings, light fixtures, and blinds make these rooms look like new.

Auditorium

The Town of Plainville has received a state grant to remove the deteriorated asbestos-containing floor tiles from the auditorium. Robert Lee, the Town Manager, is working out the details and timing for the use of these funds. As soon as the school district is given the green light to proceed, plans will be made to begin work on the auditorium. We all look forward to reopening that facility for student and community use as soon as we can.

Linden Street School Project Update

Site work has begun on the Linden Street School Project. Currently, a water retention area and building foundation are under construction, and soon, steel will be erected on the site. In addition, the entrance and parking lot are being renovated. These areas are expected to be completed by early November. Until that time, students, staff and visitors are using the East Maple Street entrance for the building.

The Building Committee continues to meet twice a month to review and evaluate bid proposals for the construction companies that will work on the Linden Street School addition and renovation.

The students and staff held a groundbreaking ceremony in June and they are excited to see an army of construction workers on the grounds every day. The building project provides many instructional opportunities, as Linden staff members weave building-related themes into every day learning.

L i n d e n i s t h e *Key* t o t h e L o n g R a n g e P l a n

Let's Chat with...Greg Ziogas, New Principal PHS



Greg Ziogas, former Assistant Principal was recently appointed Principal of Plainville High School. Greg's educational career spans 34 years in the Plainville School System.

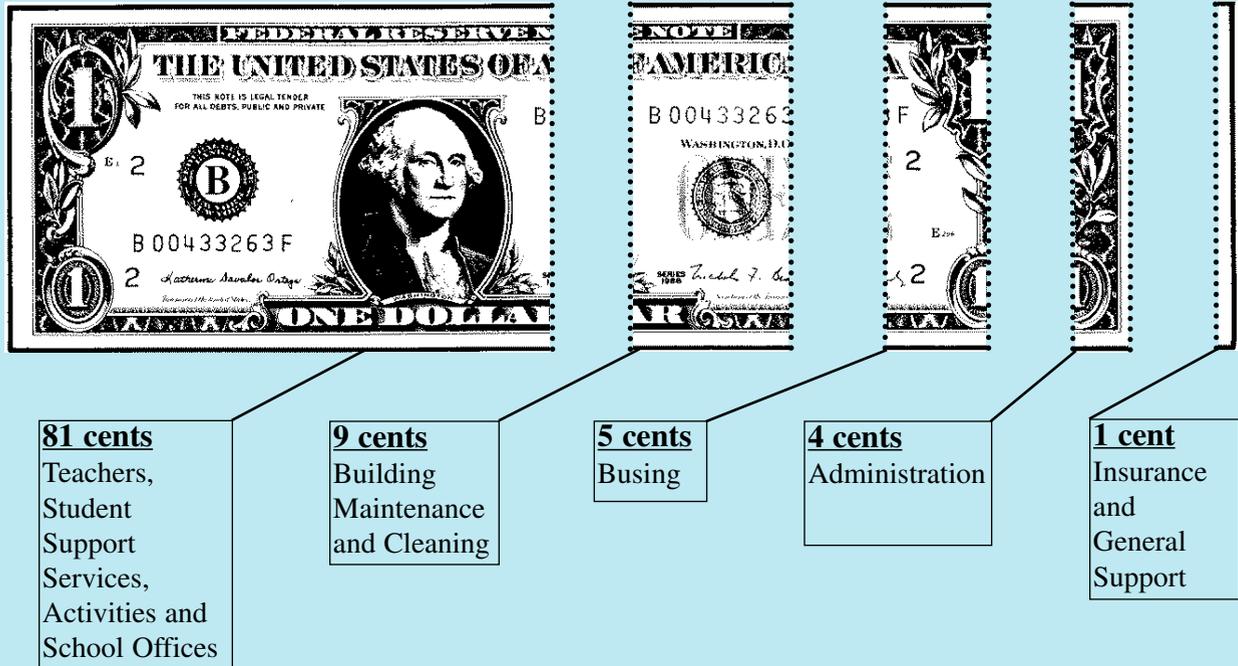
What is your leadership style? “I believe in shared leadership. Plainville High School is fortunate to have both exceptional instructional leaders and a staff of solid educators who share with me in the responsibility and leadership at the high school. By empowering staff members through leadership roles, we are able to collectively move toward achieving goals and improving education.”

How can PHS further engage both parents and the community at school? “One of my long-range plans is to develop a school mentoring program that connects adults in the high school with every Plainville High School student. Studies have shown that positive adult role models can have a substantial impact on both student achievement and personal growth. Another goal for increased parental involvement is to work together with the Parent Advisory Council to enhance programming for students and parents. More parental involvement makes for a better school. In addition, the opportunity to enhance partnerships with the community will also remain a priority.”

What do you see as your most difficult challenge? “Our most difficult challenge is to improve standardized testing performance in areas like the Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT), the Scholastic Aptitude Test, (SAT) and Advance Placement (AP) tests. We will work as a group to formulate and implement a plan that addresses this challenge.”

What has been the most significant achievement in your educational career in Plainville? “When I look back over my 34 years as an educator in Plainville, I believe that my greatest achievement is not necessarily one particular event or accomplishment, but rather, it is best reflected in my overall commitment to our school district. Over the years, I hope I have demonstrated my loyalty and dedication to our students, parents, colleagues, and community members.”

Where Will the Dollars Go? 2004-2005 Budget



Above is a pictograph showing how we expect to spend the money in the Board of Education's operating budget this year. Over 80 cents of every dollar goes directly toward classroom instruction and student services. The Plainville Board of Education is committed to providing a quality education for all students, despite the reduction in the requested operating budget for the 2004-2005 school year.

The impact of these reductions is evidenced in these areas:

•Inability to expand general program improvements in World Languages, Health and

Mathematics

- Decreased interscholastic sports and administrative staff
- Increased class size

As well as reductions in:

- Monitors and student advisors
- Repairs to equipment
- Field trips
- Instructional supplies
- Equipment purchases
- Library books and periodicals

Finally, as a result of reductions in the requested budget, the Board of Education has introduced student parking and activity fees. Parking fees are required for Plainville High School stu-

dents who choose to drive to school. Activity fees are required for any high school student participating in an activity that is not part of the school curriculum, such as sports and clubs.

While the reduction in the requested 2004-2005 budget is significant, the operating budget is 2.6% higher than last year's budget. The Board of Education remains steadfast in its efforts to provide each student with quality educational services, while demonstrating an excellent educational value per dollar to Plainville taxpayers.

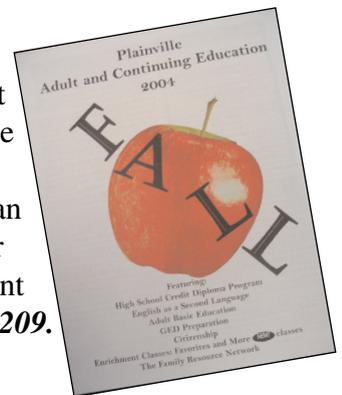
The No Child Left Behind Federal legislation requires strong parent and community knowledge about our schools and Federal programs. As part of our district communication efforts, we have created the Plainville Board of Education's Community Letter. Funding is provided through grants including Title V Federal Funds and a Strategic Planning Grant from General Electric.

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Adult and Continuing Education

Once again, the Plainville Adult and Continuing Education Center is offering a wide variety of enrichment courses open to the public. Although some classes have started, there is still time to register for the following classes: Spanish & Italian II, The Next Steps, The Domestic Partner Relationship, Woman and Money Take Charge!, What You Need to Know about Life Insurance, Nursing Home Horror Stories, Caregivers Workshop, Lose Weight with Hypnosis, and Stop Smoking with Hypnosis. Special seasonal classes will be offered as well, including Creating Holiday Cards and Weight Management Through The Holidays with Hypnosis. Those hoping to acquire computer skills can still register for All the Basics--a class created for (but not restricted to) the senior population. Vocational training opportunities exist with a Certified Nurse's Assistant Training Program and Voice Acting. **For further information, please call: 793-3209.**



The Board of Education

Kathleen Binkowski, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools

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We Believe:

Effective communication and collaboration build trust and respect

A safe, caring, learning environment embraces diversity and upholds individual accountability

A high quality curriculum gives serious consideration to the arts, literacy and technology

In a shared responsibility in establishing high learning expectations