



Message from the Board of Education

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Who serves on a Board of Education? Typically, our Board consists of active parents and community members looking to make a difference in the education of Plainville's students. While our ideologies and opinions may differ, we share a desire to serve our community. We are not educators and we do not spend our days in a classroom. As volunteers we are dependent upon presentations, attendance at school functions and PTO meetings, as well as tours and classroom visits, to give us a window into Plainville schools. Serving on the Board of Education is not easy. It is complicated and time consuming, and the learning process never ends. It can also be highly rewarding as we see the difference we make in the lives of the students in Plainville. We

work hard to leave politics and egos at the door. Our job requires that we focus our energy on students and what is best for their future. It is inherent that as an elected body we have detractors who are distrustful and doubtful of what we do. Not surprisingly, doubt and distrust have become the focus of the media as well. While these occurrences are a distraction, the Board remains focused on performing the task we were elected for, creating the best school system for Plainville students with the resources available.

Let's Chat With... Jeffrey C. Kitching



**Jeffrey C. Kitching,
Superintendent**

What is your vision for Plainville Community Schools?

My vision is for schools that develop the talents, interests, and knowledge of each individual student, providing them with the necessary 21st century skills and leading them to productive and fulfilling adult lives. Our schools must be a true community partnership, where the work required to develop and maintain this type of educational environment is valued by all.

What are the key issues facing public education today?

In a word, funding. The economic downturn of the past few years has had an impact on nearly everything, and education is no exception. Communities are struggling to balance the needs of the people they serve and the cost of quality education, in the face of diminishing resources from the State and Federal governments. It is in times such as these that public education is most vulnerable, yet most necessary.

During tough times it can become too easy to cut funding for education programs that serve our students and prepare them for successful futures. The focus must be kept on preparing our students, and by doing so, we ultimately make the community stronger.

What do you enjoy most about being Superintendent?

Working with students and teachers. Educators share a common bond, the love of teaching and working with students. Being around people with a passion for this work is very enjoyable. Add to that the chance to watch students learn and grow as individuals and this really is a great job!

Budget News

On October 4, Board members Charlotte Koskoff, Barbara Willard, and Patrick Ringrose met to discuss the formation of a Finance Sub-Committee of the Board of Education. Also present were Board Chair Becky Tyrrell, Superintendent Jeff Kitching and Director of Finance and Operations Rich Carmelich. At that meeting, the Board members discussed the roles and responsibilities of such a committee and the topics that would be discussed at regularly held meetings.

The role of the sub-committee was based on the premise that the development of the Plainville Community Schools' budget is a collaborative process between the full Board of Education, the Superintendent, and the administrative staff. It was noted that Connecticut State Statute places responsibility on the Board of Education for approving an annual

budget and for the allocation of the funds ultimately approved by the Town of Plainville for that budget. Therefore, it was decided that this committee would not be charged with responsibilities that overlap that budget development process. Instead, the committee will provide a vehicle for sharing and reviewing information on the status of the school system's current and projected expenditures at specific points in the fiscal year. In addition, the committee will report this information to the full Board and make recommendations when necessary. This standing sub-committee of the Board will convene three regular meetings each fiscal year, in October, January, and May. Additional meetings of the committee may be held if deemed necessary by the full Board. The purpose of each regular committee meeting will be as follows:

October: Review of previous

fiscal year closeout, including a review of budgeted versus actual expenditures; status update on current year budget, including adjusted expenditure projections for the current fiscal year.

January: Review of projections for the current fiscal year and discussion of potential budget impact, and discussion of potential deficits/realized savings in specific accounts.

May: Discussion of realized savings projections and / or projected deficit recommendations to full Board for adjustments.

Membership on the Finance Sub-Committee will include: three (3) Board of Education members; the Board of Education Chair (ex-officio); the Superintendent of Schools; and the Director of Finance and Operations.

The Board formally approved the sub-committee formation at its meeting on October 11.

Alumni News



Melanie Norton '08, began her fourth year at Northeastern University, majoring in Health Science and will apply to medical school in the spring. She works as a newborn hearing screener at Brigham and Women's Hospital. Norton is the president of the Northeastern University Club Swim Team and spends time with her "little sister" as a part of the Big Brothers / Big Sisters program in Boston.

Class of '86 25th Reunion: November 26 at the VFW in Plainville. Please Contact: debstohl@yahoo.com

Class of '91 20th Reunion: November 26 at the Tunxis Plantation. Please Contact: Lynn.diaz@comcast.net

Please send YOUR alumni news to:
davisl@plainvilleschools.org

Student Spotlight By Zack Gelf

Toffolon Students Model the Election Process

At the wonderful Toffolon Elementary School the fifth graders have been studying the United States government and how it works. One way they have been studying the United States government is by holding Student Council elections throughout the fifth grade. There is a President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary.

There are also three representatives from each fifth grade classroom, who were elected in a class Primary Election. Fifth grade candidates campaigned for their offices. Posters and flair flooded Toffolon School, with students eager to participate in the campaigns. All the fifth graders voted in October to elect the Student Council officers. Fifth graders truly learned a lot about how our Federal Government works through this simulation experience.



LINDEN STREET SCHOOL

The Linden Street School community welcomes new principal **Paula Eshoo**, who began on October 24. Eshoo formerly served as principal of Smith Elementary School in New Britain, Connecticut. She replaces Linden Principal **Suzanne Greenbacker**, who retired in June and served as interim principal at Linden prior to Eshoo's start.

LOUIS TOFFOLON SCHOOL

Toffolon School faculty and staff once again supported the United Way of West Central Connecticut's annual Adopt-A-Child backpack initiative. Back to school supplies, clothing, and backpacks were collected for two Plainville children in need.

FRANK T. WHEELER SCHOOL

On September 21, the **Wheeler School** community received an unexpected "gift" when representatives from Bob's Discount Furniture stopped by to present Principal **Catherine Frayler** with a donation of \$1,000 for the school. Wheeler was one of five Connecticut schools to receive a donation from Bob's, which periodically makes charitable donations to schools.

MIDDLE SCHOOL OF PLAINVILLE

Charles R. Smith, author, poet, photographer, and recipient of the Coretta Scott King award, visited the

Middle School of Plainville on October 12, thanks to funding provided in part by the middle school's **Parent Teacher Club (PTC)** and the Plainville Community Fund. Students in the middle school's **Military Mailroom** and **Kids in the Middle Program** collected and shipped three boxes of food, gifts and more than 60 handmade cards to **Lance Corporal Ryan Wells, PHS Class of '02**, who is currently stationed with the United States Marines in Afghanistan.

PLAINVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

Plainville High School DECA members recently participated in the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF) walk at Rentschler Field in East Hartford, to fund juvenile diabetes research efforts, raising approximately \$1,100 for JDRF. **172 Plainville High School students** received 200 awards at the first annual Plainville High School Academic Recognition Ceremony held on September 15. Awards were presented for academic excellence, outstanding achievement and special recognition. **The PHS School Counseling Department** held a college fair on October 21, featuring more than 80 colleges and universities. Plainville residents recently received a brochure in the mail created by the **PHS Environmental Club** in collaboration with the **Plainville Clean Energy Task Force**. The high school club has been working closely with the Plainville Clean Energy Task Force to promote awareness of alternative clean energy.

Teacher of the Year

Plainville Community Schools has named Frank T. Wheeler Elementary School fifth grade teacher Jennifer Murrhly *2011-2012 Teacher of the Year*. Murrhly has been an educator for eight years, serving as a fifth grade teacher at Wheeler for the past five years. She is the founding faculty advisor of the Wheeler School Green Team, which plans a week long Earth Week celebration, serves as faculty advisor for the Wheeler School Drama Club, and has participated on a number of school district committees. She has also served as a presenter at the Connecticut Computer Educators Conference, and was awarded a National Endowment for the Humanities grant for professional development. When asked about her philosophy of teaching, Murrhly noted, "Effective teaching has three components: passion for learning, community building, and collaboration. My philosophy is to incorporate these three elements to create an environment where students feel valued, excited and safe to explore what really motivates them to learn."



Jennifer Murrhly and her fifth grade students at Frank T. Wheeler Elementary School

Thank you.

As a result of parent and community feedback provided as part of the school district's communication program evaluation project, the Plainville Board of Education's Community Letter newsletter has been updated. We continue to welcome your thoughts and comments relative to the newsletter and district communications.

Higher Education News: PHS Class of 2011 Higher Education Destinations

Albertus Magnus College	Keene State College	Texas A & M University (Galveston)
Berkshire Community College	Kings College	Tunxis Community College
Bowdoin College	Lincoln College of New England	University of Connecticut
Brandeis University	Lincoln Technical Institute	University of Hartford
Bryant University	Manchester Community College	University of Mass (Amherst)
Casnovia College	Marymount University	University of New Haven
Central Connecticut State University	Massachusetts Maritime Academy	University of Rhode Island
Coastal Carolina University	Messiah College	University of South Florida
Colorado Christian University	Middlebury College	University of Vermont
Eastern Connecticut State University	Naugatuck Community College	Vassar College
Eastern Nazarene College	Plymouth State University	Western Connecticut State University
Emmanuel College	Porter & Chester Institute	Western New England College
Endicott College	Poznan University of Medical Science (Poland)	Wheaton College
Fitchburg State University	Queens University of Charlotte	
Florida International University	Quinnipiac University	
Goodwin College	Rhode Island College	
Griffith College (Ireland)	Saint Joseph College	
Hartford Technical College	Salve Regina University	
Hofstra University	Southern Connecticut State University	
Husson University	Springfield College	
International Institute of Cosmetology	Suffolk University	
Johnson & Wales University		

DID YOU KNOW?
 The Plainville High School Class of 2011 received more than **\$148,550** in scholarships!

PLAINVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Jeffrey C. Kitching
Superintendent of Schools

Jesse Gnazzo
 Anthony Goldberg
 Lorri Goldsmith
 Charlotte Koskoff
 Cheryl Provost
 Patrick Ringrose
 Andrea Saunders
 Becky Tyrrell
 Barbara Willard



Belief Statements... We believe:

- that a quality school system is the core of our community and increases the quality of our lives
- in a safe, caring learning environment that respects individual difference and rejects discrimination of any form
- that optimal achievement for all learners is a responsibility shared by home, school and community
- that all students, faculty, staff, and parents are accountable to participate and maintain a positive learning environment throughout the district
- a high quality curriculum emphasizes the arts and sciences, with a focus on literacy, mathematics and technology
- effective communication and collaboration builds trust and respect