



Message from the Board of Education

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It's the start of another great school year! A new school year is an exciting time for children, teachers, and parents. It means making new friends, taking part in new activities, learning new skills, and trying new things. So as we start this new year, the Board wants you to know about a few of the initiatives going on around the district:

- Full day Kindergarten in all of the elementary schools
- A new math program, Envision, in the K-6 grades
- Strategic Planning - development of the 5-year plan for the district which includes parents, community members, BOE members, teachers, administrators and municipal representatives
- Student Success Plans - MSP and PHS have begun to develop these plans for students in grades 6-12. They are designed to prepare students to be college and career ready by the time they graduate.

- Special Education Program Review - the Special Education Department has developed a committee to review the way these services are delivered to our school district.
- Teacher Evaluation - the committee met over the last school year to develop a plan for Plainville Community Schools that is in compliance with the new state mandates that go into effect at the start of the 2013-2014 school year.

If you have any questions about any of these items, please contact the Board of Education or the Superintendent via the Plainville Community Schools' website: www.plainvilleschools.org

Safety First

A major concern for all of us at home is safety. We worry about our cars, homes, and recreational equipment. We have smoke detectors, wear seatbelts, never text while driving, and service our vehicles regularly.

Likewise, safety for students is taken very seriously in Plainville schools. During the October Board of Education meeting, DATTCO Transportation Company did a presentation on its services within and outside of Plainville. Every day in Connecticut, DATTCO transports about 100,000 students to and from school. Here in Plainville, they have done so for the past 55 years.

It was interesting to hear the representatives speak so proudly about their company. They employ 120 mechanics to do routine service and safety checks. Each bus is checked daily by the drivers before they begin, and after their route. Should a concern be noted, the bus is checked by the mechanics and serviced.

The State of Connecticut does random safety checks and can 'pull' a bus from service in mid-route if they feel

that it is warranted. Fortunately in Plainville, we have a provider that avoids such a problem by being vigilant and proactive.

DATTCO proudly reports that they not only pass the state inspections, but also do their own 'road patrols' to assure that the operators are driving safely and within

the law. What does that mean for us?

Well, for one, the Plainville branch of DATTCO won the 2011-12 DATTCO award for the best safety record in the company.

Secondly, it means that we can be assured that our children are in good hands.

Plainville Community Schools will continue to consider safety our number one priority

for the years to come and we will continue to work with local safety officials to maintain this focus and commitment. Any member of the Plainville community should contact the school district business office with questions or concerns about safety in the schools.



For a full review of the presentation, please go to our website at: www.plainvilleschools.org



Andrew Laprise (front center) is a fourth grader at Frank T. Wheeler Elementary School. He enjoys cliff jumping, football, and collecting antiques. He recently interviewed three new classroom teachers at Wheeler. Miss Erica Kriscenski (right) and Mrs. Kirsten McKinney (left) are two new kindergarten teachers. Mr. Michael Turcotte, Jr. (center back row) is the new physical education teacher.

Where did you go to college?

Kriscenski: I attended Central Connecticut State University.

McKinney: I went to Quinnipiac University and the University of New Haven.

Turcotte: I attended Springfield College.

What inspired you to do this job?

Kriscenski: My second grade teacher, Mrs. Madigan, inspired me to learn and teach.

McKinney: My Mom was a teacher and this inspired me to teach.

Turcotte: My high school chorus teacher, Mr. Blanchette, inspired me to teach.

What do you like about teaching at Wheeler so far?

Kriscenski: I love the community that Wheeler School is.

McKinney: I love how friendly everyone is and how excited the students are to learn.

Turcotte: I like the students, the

staff, and my job in the gym.

What are some hobbies or things you do outside of the school?

Kriscenski: I like to exercise, go out to eat, and read.

McKinney: I like to run and hike.

Turcotte: I enjoy scuba diving, mountain biking, and I play the drums.

You went to Wheeler School when you were a student.

What are some of your memories of going to school here?

Kriscenski: My second grade teacher, Mrs. Madigan. I also remember the gym teacher Coach K. who let me play with the hoola hoops.

Turcotte: I remember helping to build the playscape, learning to use a computer in Mr. Centurelli's class, and playing with my friends at recess.

iPads in Education



At home, some students use and interact with technology everyday--with cell phones, computers and other devices. They use technology to solve problems look up information, and to communicate with friends.

In Plainville Community Schools, we use technology in all areas of learning whenever possible. Some Special Education students are already using iPads to help them communicate with others. Further, an iPad pilot will be launched by an eighth grade math teacher, to help reinforce geometry. In both situations, iPads will help students better use 21st Century Skills.

It is worthwhile to consider the benefits of what a 1 to 1 model can offer, where every student has their own device, changing the way we educate students. Textbooks would be available to students at all times and not just be pictures and words on a page, but contain videos, audio, and 3D animations to help explain the subject matter in a way we have never seen. Teachers can create a file or lessons that students can access immediately with no need for paper copies. Quizzes and tests could be taken digitally with results available instantaneously to the student and the teacher. This would free up time for the teacher to reinforce subject matter. The iPad could also help students with learning difficulties. For example, a student that has trouble reading could have access to the audio version of their textbooks or novels. The iPad is a tool that can help move education forward, expand, and enrich learning.

LINDEN STREET SCHOOL

Linden fourth graders assisted by custodian **Denise Ciano** designed and decorated "lights off save energy" light switch covers for the school's classrooms and office as part of the district energy conservation efforts...**Attorney Erin O'Neil-Baker** from the law office of Erin O'Neil-Baker, LLC in Hartford, recently visited third graders to talk about the Constitution, in honor of Constitution Day.

PLAINVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

Plainville High School hosted its second annual college fair on October 26, where students were able to visit higher education representatives from more than 100 institutions...PHS senior **Sarah Wiszniak** was invited to participate as a youth speaker in The Connecticut Forum's State of Women 2012 program exploring rights, roles, politics and power at the Bushnell Theater.

MIDDLE SCHOOL OF PLAINVILLE

Nutmeg nominated author **Jordan Sonnenblick** visited the Middle School on October 3, presenting at three assemblies and hosting a writer's workshop for a group of middle school students...The Middle School of Plainville recently held a "Step-Up" Assembly for **sixth graders** presented by the Anti-Defamation League. The program was held as part of the school's continued efforts to maintain a positive climate and address the topic of bullying...**Middle School faculty and staff members** participated in a "jeans" fundraiser, collecting over \$2,400 for the Plainville Community Food Pantry.

WHEELER

PGA Golf Professional **Jack McConachie** presented a golf clinic at Wheeler as part of the school's Positive Behavior Intervention Support efforts. McConachie's clinic introduced a group of Wheeler students to a variety of golf techniques including the grip, putting and swing...the **Extra Innings After School Program** received a generous donation from the **Manafort Family Foundation** to support the Mad Science enrichment program at Wheeler.

TOFFOLON

On September 26, **Toffolon staff** members raised \$600 as they served family, friends and neighbors at the **CT Commons McDonalds**. The event was sponsored by the **Toffolon PTO**...**Toffolon faculty and staff** once again supported the United Way of West Central Connecticut's Adopt-A-Child Back to School initiative, collecting and donating school supplies and clothing for local students.

DISTRICT

Plainville Community Schools kicked off the district's strategic planning process in September...Research conducted by **Superintendent of Schools Jeffrey Kitching** as part of the doctoral program at Central Connecticut State University that he is participating in, has been accepted for presentation at the National School Boards Association 2013 National Conference...Plainville Community Schools welcomed **Edward Hoyt** who began as Director of Business and Operations in July 2012.

Higher Education News: PHS Class of 2012 Higher Education Destinations

DID YOU KNOW?

The Plainville High School Class of 2012 received more than **\$170,500** in local scholarships!

American International College
Bentley University
Boston University
Central Connecticut State University
Coastal Carolina University
Connecticut College
Eastern Connecticut State University
Emmanuel College
George Washington University
Goodwin College
Gordon College
Hofstra University

International Institute of Cosmetology
Johnson & Wales University
Lackawanna College
Lincoln College of New England
Lincoln Technical Institute
Manchester Community College
Marist College
Middlesex Community College
Mitchell College
Naugatuck Valley Community College
New England Culinary Institute
New England Institute of Art
Newbury College
Oregon State University
Paul Mitchell Beauty School
Porter & Chester Institute
Post University
Quinnipiac University
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Saint Joseph College

Salve Regina University
Soulwest Mission School (AZ)
Southern Connecticut State University
Southern New Hampshire University
Springfield College
The Hartt School, University of Hartford
Tunxis Community College
University of Bridgeport
University of Connecticut
University of East London
University of Hartford
University of Massachusetts - Lowell
University of New Haven
University of Scranton
University of Southern Maine
Wentworth Institute of Technology
Western Connecticut State University
Western New England University
Yale University
York University (Toronto Canada)

Let's Chat With...Edward Hoyt, Director of Business and Operations



What are your primary responsibilities as Director of Business and Operations?

Basically, the position covers fiscal management and oversight, facilities operations oversight, and budgetary management.

What attracted you to this position?

Plainville has been noted as a solid school district for as long as I can remember. When I started my career in education many years ago, I was hired at Plainville High School as a teacher for the alternative education program (now special education). When I saw that the position of Director of Business and Operations was open, I jumped at the opportunity to

once again be part of the Plainville Community Schools.

What do you see as your most difficult challenge?

The Board of Education and the Town are seeking to find opportunities to collaborate and consolidate some of their operations. The challenge will be to identify those areas, assure that no services are lost, and that there is gain either financially or operationally all while maintaining morale.

What is your top priority?

Assuring that there are solid 'internal controls.' All funds and operations should have procedures to protect taxpayers' funds and assure that funds are used properly. Everything should be open and transparent.

Describe your leadership style.

My preference is to 'walk about' and participate with staff. I find that by being a partner, I am able to teach staff, learn from staff, and together, accomplish what needs to be done.

PLAINVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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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