



Community Letter

Spring 2004

Promote a challenging environment creating an extraordinary community of learners

Q&A:

Message from the Board of Education

Q: When is the Town Budget Vote?

The Town budget vote will be held on Monday, May 3, 2004, at 7:00 PM in the Wood Gymnasium at Plainville High School.

Q: Who is eligible to vote?

You are eligible to vote if you are a U.S. citizen, 18 years or older and are a Plainville resident.

Individuals who own land in Plainville with an assessed value over \$1000 may also participate in the vote on the town budget. Personal identification, such as a driver's license is required.

Q: Can you vote by absentee ballot?

Absentee ballots are not allowed for the vote on the town's budget.

For more information you may call the Plainville Municipal Center at 793-0221.

The Board of Education would like to extend its sincere congratulations to the graduating class of 2004. We take great satisfaction in your accomplishments and know that these high school experiences will lay a strong foundation for future opportunities for success and happiness, as well as for the future of our community. We urge you to make the most of the next phase in your education. Whether you are going on to college, the service, or the work place we encourage you to continue to be inquisitive life-long learners. Bring your knowledge and experience back to Plainville to enrich us with the hope of a great tomorrow.

The Plainville Board of Education will continue to work to meet the educational needs of our students in Plainville now and in the future. Occasions such as graduation refuel our desire to work hard for the 2,628 students in our district. We are firmly dedicated to the goal of providing the very best for our students today and in the future so they might follow in the footsteps of the class of 2004.



Our areas of focus remain consistent. The district's strategic plan outlines three critical areas:

- High student achievement in English/Language Arts, Mathematics and Science
- High levels of community and parental involvement in the schools
- Strong co-curricular programs for students

The Board of Education acknowledges with admiration the hard work of these students, the dedication of the staff, and the supportive parents and friends that have helped our students through this educational journey. Together we make up a community which is filled with pride for your achievements.

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Remember the Town Vote on May 3

Linden Street School Project Update

Phase II of the plans and specifications for the Linden Street School project were submitted to the State School Facilities Unit on April 7th. The Linden Street Building Committee members expect that the first phase plans, which were submitted to the state in March, will be approved soon and that construction activity will begin this summer. Principal Suzanne Greenbacker recently met with Elizabeth Buttner, State Department of Education Science Consultant, to discuss design of the school to maximize scientific inquiry and best practices in science.

After the completion of the Linden Street School project more students may attend the school since there will be additional classroom space. The Plainville Schools' Steering Committee may use the original Linden Street School as swing space during a future renovation at the Louis Toffolon School as part of the long range plan. School administrators have opened discussions with Dattco, our student transportation company, in order to start exploring these possibilities. In addition, we will look into more efficient student bus assignments to the three elementary schools in Plainville. You will hear more information on this topic as our building projects develop.

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

Building Issues at Plainville High School

Plainville High School has recently experienced two building issues that have required immediate attention. A roof leak in the 1955 section of the high school caused water damage prompting Superintendent Kathleen Binkowski to move three classrooms to other sections of the building while the problem is being addressed.

Additionally, Dr. Binkowski closed the high school auditorium at the end of March due to the deterioration of asbestos-containing tiles. The Connecticut Department of Health contacted Dr. Binkowski and recommended that the auditorium at Plainville High School be closed while air quality and other tests were conducted on the original fifty-year-old floor tiles. They felt the safest course of action is to keep the auditorium closed until the asbestos containing materials can be removed over the summer. There are strict state and federal

regulations for the removal of asbestos, and no substantive work may be done to remove the materials while school is in session.

Dr. Binkowski invited representatives from the Connecticut Department of Health and TRC Environmental Consultants to meet with high school faculty and staff on April 13th to answer questions and provide information.

Activities that normally take place in the PHS auditorium have either been cancelled or relocated. For example, the Town-Wide Concert, which is part of the Town-Wide Art Show on April 29th, has been relocated to the Wood Gym. The gym will also be the site of the annual budget meeting on May 3rd. For specific information about school or community events that were scheduled to take place in the auditorium, please contact the sponsoring organization.

The Board of Education will seek State Department of Education grants that may fund up to 60% of the costs to resolve these issues.

Dr. Binkowski will continue to provide updates on the status of the high school roof and auditorium. Resolving both problems in a safe and timely manner is a priority for the Board of Education. We will not open the auditorium and classrooms until they are 100% safe for occupancy.



Joanne Curley 2005 Plainville Teacher of the Year

Joanne Curley, Instructional Leader for World Language, was selected as the 2005 Plainville Teacher of the Year. Since her arrival in Plainville 15 years ago she has worked to increase the number of students studying world language in the school district. She has seen these numbers rise at the high school from 48% to 69% of the student body. However, Joanne is not one to rest with the current enrollment. Joanne's goal is to move foreign language instruction to the lower grades, starting with adding French and Spanish to the grade 6 curriculum. Joanne also holds special after school programs for talented fifth and sixth grade students to pique their interest for different languages and cultures. The younger students respond enthusiastically to the opportunity to learn a new language. They meet for their special coursework in the high school's state of the art language lab which integrates technology into the instruction.



Joanne will be recognized by the Board of Education at the June meeting. She will represent the district as our candidate for the 2005 Connecticut Teacher of the Year.

The Board of Education

Kathleen Binkowski, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Board Members:

Patrick Ringrose, Chairperson
William Crowley, Secretary
Lorri Goldsmith
Susan McCarthy
Marliss Pavano
William Petit
Becky Tyrrell
Thomas Wazorko
Barbara Willard



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