



To provide rigorous and enriching experiences that prepare each student for success in a changing global society.

## Message from the Board of Education

### In this issue...

Message from the BOE .....	Page 1
Spotlight: Plainville High School .....	Page 1
Let's Chat With .....	Page 2
Technology Today .....	Page 2
Good News! .....	Page 3
Volunteer Winners Announced .....	Page 3
Read Across America .....	Page 4
Adult Education .....	Page 4

The Board of Education approved a new strategic plan at the February 11 meeting. This plan is a result of months of work by a committee comprised of Plainville Board of Education members, school administration, community members, and town officials. It is a five year plan that the district will use to guide our students forward, primarily focusing on the Common Core State Standards that Connecticut has adopted.

The district's mission statement has been revised along with our core belief statements. Three goals were developed with very specific action plans designed to lead us in the desired direction. Indicators of success will allow us to evaluate how well we are achieving each of these goals over the next few years.

This plan is focused on the district's responsibility to meet the state's expectations but also on how to help better prepare our students for their life and work beyond school. A copy of the strategic plan is available on the Plainville Community Schools website: <http://www.plainvilleschools.org>

### Reflections of Metamorphoses

Written by: Simon Yawin

*Simon Yawin is a senior. His interests include writing, reading, and acting, and he was a cast member of the school play, Metamorphoses. He has an intense love of computers, fashion, and all things book related.*

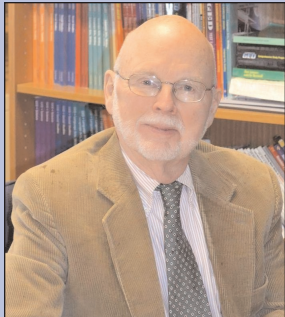
*"Bodies, I have in mind, and how they can change to assume new shapes..." I hear the opening line from my position behind the curtain, spoken with a nervous confidence--the kind that arises when familiar words are performed before a full house for the very first time. Backstage, the cast of Metamorphoses is just as silent as its audience. Some of us are waiting for our cues with restless fingers and shining eyes, others are perching on the seats that aren't occupied by props, costumes, or towels. I remember when the wooden deck was still a taped outline on the chorus room floor, when we staged our battles and sea voyages in oceans that existed only in our minds, and when we wept and laughed for audiences of empty*

*chairs. It seems extraordinary that in four months time this play has been transformed into a living, breathing production; to those of us in the cast the lines have become second-nature, and rehearsal a regular part of our day. The time has passed both with blinding speed and infinite slowness. My cue calls me back to the present. I gaze upwards at the wooden scaffolding we call "the god platform" now bathed in golden light, where I will be transformed into the sky god, Zeus. I hesitate, nearly freeze as I totter on the ladder, and then begin to climb.*



April Pavano and Richard Hanson in "Metamorphoses"

## Let's Chat With...Foster White, Plainville Board of Education



**What is your top priority as a board member?**

For me--work to the best of my ability to insure that all students in the Plainville Community Schools have the opportunity to receive an education that will enable them to succeed in a changing global society.

**What have you enjoyed most about being a board member so far?**

I have only been a board member for two months; in that short time I have truly enjoyed learning about the recent accomplishments within the Plainville school district. My personal learning process began when I was most fortunate to be a community member of the Strategic Planning Committee. I have truly enjoyed the acceptance and information shared with me by the teachers and administrators in our school district.

**What is the biggest challenge facing public education today?**

Unfortunately, there are many challenges facing public education in the 21st century. Among the greatest: keeping pace with technology, attracting and retaining professional educators of the highest quality, providing all students with a safe, secure, and positive learning environment, appropriately assessing each student's progress, equitably evaluating performance standards of teachers and professional administrators, and meeting these and other demands without placing economic hardship on the individual and commercial taxpayer.

**Why did you want to become a board member?**

I believe that Education is the primary responsibility of local government and am convinced that the essence of a community is measured by the quality of education it provides. My individual philosophy is: It is better to be a part of the decision making process than sit in the background and criticize.

**What is your vision for Plainville Community Schools?**

That Plainville Community Schools will proceed along its current positive growth path and forge ahead as a solid core of our community. Plainville Community Schools will accomplish and meet the standards established in its recently adopted mission statement *"to provide rigorous and enriching experiences that will prepare each student for success in a changing global society."*

**What do you feel will be your greatest contribution to the Plainville Board of Education?**

It is my desire that my passion for the Arts and learning will guide the decisions I will make as a member of the Plainville Board of Education. In addition, my over 40 of years experience as a professional in the Financial Services industry has well prepared me to provide sound economic advice during budget deliberations and related activities of the Board.

## Technology Today



The Board of Education's newly adopted mission statement calls for our school district *"to provide rigorous and enriching experiences that prepare each student for success in a changing global society."*

As a bold and innovative first step toward that mission, the Board has approved funding for a one-to-one Chromebook implementation for all students in grades 8-12, beginning in the fall of 2013, as part of their annual Technology Replacement Plan. Chromebooks are laptops that run Google's Chrome operating system and Chrome Web browser. Providing a total Web-based operating environment, all applications are downloaded from the Web, and although an Internet connection is needed, some applications may run offline as well. Chromebooks "boot up" in eight seconds and

require minimal configuration. Because they only run Web applications, it makes the device easy to update and maintain. Chromebooks are also one of the most secure devices available, so no antivirus software is needed, and applications from word processing and spreadsheets, to video editing are available online.

Aligned with each of the Board of Education's Strategic Plan goals, the Chromebook initiative will provide a strong foundation for developing the 21st century skills our students require for success in their future. With the vision provided by the Board of Education, extensive planning by the administration, and preparation for instruction from faculty, Plainville students will truly benefit from this distinct learning advantage.

[www.plainvilleschools.org](http://www.plainvilleschools.org)

### PLAINVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

PHS hosted the second annual Connecticut Technology Education and Engineering Association Sea Perch competition featuring two pool events and student teams from 19 schools across CT...The first annual Career Fair was held featuring a panel of speakers including Lisa Dauten and Chelsea Goodwin, University of Connecticut (Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources), Gerard Arrotti, ESPN, (Arts, Audio, Visual), Daniel Reynolds, General Electric (Business/Management), Nancy Gennett (Health Services), Nicholas Sebetta, Liberty Bank (Law, Public Safety and Corrections), Mary Pat Bigley, Central Connecticut State University (Education), and Debra R. Vasquez, WISH, Inc., (Science, Technology, Engineering).

### MIDDLE SCHOOL OF PLAINVILLE

**26 students** participated in the Northern Region Music Festival sponsored by the Connecticut Music Education Association...Faculty and staff served burgers and fries during the "McTeacher Night" fundraiser at McDonald's Restaurant in Plainville raising \$580 for the Parent Teacher Club...Faculty member **Camille Westfall** was selected as the *2013 Outstanding Alumnus* for the School of Engineering and Technology at Central Connecticut State University.

### LINDEN STREET ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Food Services Director **Jim Bondi** hosted the first "Chefs Move To Schools" event, bringing the innovativeness of local chefs to school. Chef Peter Lemnotis from Confetti Restaurant in Plainville prepared a healthy Chicken Fiesta Wrap for Linden students to purchase and sample for lunch...**The Preschool Program** hosted "Bubble-ology" for preschoolers and their families where representatives from the CT Science Center provided an overview of the "science" behind bubbles.

### FRANK T. WHEELER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

**Fourth graders** competed in the 12th annual Wheeler School Invention Convention where students presented their inventions in a science fair format. Several students were selected to represent the school at the state-wide invention convention at UCONN including **Daniel Emmendorfer, Nanci Gutierrez, Jacen Dupree, Olivia Unwin, Elijah Freschette, and Anthony Lestini**...**Fourth graders** recently explored the world of electricity with scientists from the High Touch High Tech Program. They learned how to make current electricity by creating circuits with batteries, wires, switches, bells, and light bulbs. They experienced what static electricity is and how it is created, and put together their own electroscopes.

### LOUIS TOFFOLON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Music teacher **Gregory Wilfrid** was invited to sit on a panel for the 2013 NAFME (National Association for Music Education) Eastern Division Conference in Hartford on April 4...17 members of the **Student Council and Safety Patrol Captains** attended the Connecticut Association of Schools Leadership Conference.

### DISTRICT

Plainville Community Schools welcomed new Plainville Board of Education member **Foster White**...District volunteers **Robert and Susan Varano** were honored by the Connecticut Association of Schools (CAS) at the annual CAS Volunteer Banquet recognizing their outstanding volunteer contributions to Plainville schools over the years...Food Services Director **Jim Bondi** has been named the State's *2013 Director of the Year* by the School Nutrition Association of Connecticut...**Joan Deegan** in memoriam was inducted into the Memorial Wall of Honor for her dedicated volunteer service to the educational community.

## Volunteer Program Award Winners Announced

**Foster White** is the recipient of the *2012-2013 Dick Ronalter Mentor of the Year Award*. Foster joined the Plainville Community Schools Mentor Program four years ago and has mentored at the Middle School of Plainville. One staff member shares, "Foster is a great asset to our Mentor Program and our community. He is always kind and energetic." Foster is newly elected to the Plainville Board of Education, and is a long time member of the Plainville Choral Society. **Susan and Robert Varano** are the recipients of the *2012-2013 Plainville Community Schools Volunteer of the Year Award*. Susan and Robert have volunteered to run the high school concession stand for every sport, and have been involved with the Athletic Backers for the past 13 years. One staff member shares, "They are the most modest, humble couple I know. At every event, they give service with a smile." Awards will be presented at the annual Volunteer Recognition Program on May 7, 2013.



Superintendent Kitching reads to students at Frank T. Wheeler Elementary School

The National Education Association's Read Across America program honoring the birthday of Theodore Seuss Geisel (Dr. Seuss) was celebrated across the Plainville school district on March 2, 2013.

A number of guest readers visited students and classrooms sharing books and the love of reading with eager listeners!

## ADULT EDUCATION

Beginning in 2014, there will be a new, *computerized* GED® test. The current version will expire at the end of 2013. If you don't finish and pass the test by then, your scores will expire too.

Plainville Adult Education offers cost-free **GED Preparation classes** mornings (with childcare) and evenings. Please call to register: **(860) 793-3209**

Plainville Board of Education  
Plainville Community Schools  
c/o 1 Central Square  
Plainville, CT 06062  
Phone: 860.793.3200  
Fax: 860.747.6790  
www.plainvilleschools.org

NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT # 416  
FARMINGTON, CT  
06032

### PLAINVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Jeffrey C. Kitching  
*Superintendent of Schools*

Lisa Buckley  
Brent Davenport  
Michael Giuliano  
Deborah Hardy  
Cheryl Provost  
Andrea Saunders  
Becky Tyrrell  
Foster White  
Barbara Willard



## Belief Statements...*We believe:*

- Our public school system is the core of the community and has a fundamental responsibility to develop productive educated citizens in a democracy.
- Optimal achievement for each learner is a responsibility shared by students, home, school, and community.
- We must provide each student with a comprehensive curriculum and effective instruction to ensure meaningful engagement in the learning process.
- A safe, caring learning environment promotes the academic growth, health, and emotional wellbeing of each student.
- Communication and collaboration foster knowledge, trust, and respect and are the responsibility of everyone in the community.