

Plainville Citizen Op-Ed, April, 2018

With the passing of the Board's budget on April 24th, we have come to a very positive outcome of a very long journey. In developing Plainville's budget this year, we had to address reduced funding from the State and extraordinarily large claims to our self-insured health fund. Those two budgeting challenges created a larger than usual increase of 5.13%. The actual spending on the School budget is a 1.39% increase with the rest being the result of significant health insurance increases. Averaging that with the budget increase of the past seven years is an annualized increase of 1.06%. We continue to work hard, through careful reductions, to sustain the well regarded schools and the investment in our students.

The 2018-2019 school budget is aligned to our vision statement: ***To inspire and prepare lifelong learners to follow their passion, engage in their communities, and positively impact our global society.*** Plainville's class of 2017 is a reflection of this vision. The class completed 4,962 hours of community service while also earning 1,131 Early College Experience (ECE) college credits (worth \$1.1 million in savings to parents). 65 graduates took one or more Advanced Placement courses and \$195,000 in local scholarships were received. 84% of our students are pursuing higher education. 99% of our students left high school with a clear post-secondary plan. 72% were accepted into their first choice college or trade preparation program. This success comes through your continued support.

As we look forward, we anticipate stable enrollment Prek-12. We look to maintain our after school program, despite the loss of a grant. We look to maintain our investment in technology, which makes instruction more engaging and effective. We are

focusing on culturally responsive teaching practices. Our recent expansion of the preschool program is already impacting student readiness entering Kindergarten. We will also increase our safety and security with the addition of a School Resource Officer at Plainville High School.

Our schools are a reflection of our community, and we believe that we all have much to be proud of. Thank you for supporting the budget!