

## **September, 2011**

As the final days of summer are upon us and Plainville students are back to school, I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the new Superintendent of Plainville Community Schools. The excitement and anticipation that I have felt since my appointment has made the summer pass quickly. I am grateful for the opportunity the Plainville Board of Education has given me, and I am proud to be a part of the Plainville school district.

Most of my 20 year career in education has been spent in Glastonbury, Connecticut. I began as a special education teacher, then served as a department head at the high school, an elementary school principal, and the assistant superintendent. My experiences have prepared me for this new role as Superintendent, but it was the opportunity to become part of the Plainville educational community that led me here. Since the beginning of the search process, everything I learned about the Plainville school district has impressed me. The commitment to school improvement, focus on instructional best practices, and attention to providing a safe learning environment clearly stood out. It has been evident to me from the start that I will have the privilege of leading a team of talented and dedicated educators.

Public education is in the midst of an interesting and somewhat difficult period, and most agree this will continue for some time going forward. As such, the economic and political landscape for school districts has never been more stressed. Pressures are brought to bear on educators from many different sources, and they can, if we let them, make our work more difficult. However, as educators we need to remain focused on three things; teaching, learning, and our students. There are many outstanding initiatives and tremendous efforts within our school district that are perfect examples of the required focus we need for improving learning, fortifying instruction, and enhancing the school environment for our students. These efforts are what make us accountable and successful as a school district.

As a community, we all must be accountable for providing the highest quality education to Plainville's youth. And beyond that, we should feel a real sense of urgency about that accountability. My job is to maintain that sense of urgency and accountability by ensuring that we keep the focus on teaching, learning, and our students. To truly maximize the educational

experience of our students, we cannot afford to spend time, effort and resources on issues and activities that are outside the reach of these three things. My commitment is to dedicate all of my efforts toward maintaining that sense of urgency as a community of learning.

There were many impressive accomplishments and successes in our schools last year that serve as a source of great pride and motivation for us as we begin the 2011-2012 school year. I am committed to strengthening our partnership with the Board of Education, administration, faculty, staff, students, parents and community members to continue the exceptional work that has led to these collaborative successes. While there will certainly be challenges to face in the coming years, working together, we will meet these challenges and continue on the path of educational excellence in Plainville. Next month I look forward to sharing with you my “first impressions” of our school district as I spend the next several weeks listening, learning, and getting to know Plainville Community Schools.