

***PENDING BOARD OF EDUCATION APPROVAL***  
**PLAINVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION Regular Meeting**  
**January 12, 2026**  
**Order of Business**  
**7:00 PM**

**I. Convene - Pledge of Allegiance**

Chairperson Foster White convened the regular business meeting of the Plainville Board of Education at 7:00 PM. Robert Michalik, Jr. led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board Members Present: Ms. Brittany Bouchard, Ms. Roberta Lauria, Ms. Crystal St. Lawrence, Mr. Robert Michalik, Jr., Ms. Melissa Sweeney, Mr. Anthony Wasley, Mr. Foster White

Also Present: Mr. Brian Reas, Superintendent; Mr. David Levenduski, Assistant Superintendent; Mr. Sam Adlerstein, Director of Business and Operations; Julian Steward and Paige Weimer, Student Representatives

Present Virtually: Ms. Katherine Pugliese

Absent: Mr. Jered Bruzas

Late Arrivals: None

Early Departures: None

Returns: None

**II. Special Presentations**

Chairperson White shared the definition of our PCS All-Star Award program noting that the nominees have displayed the characteristics of our Portrait of the Graduate model in being communicative, collaborative, innovative, mindful and resilient.

Mr. Reas introduced January's PCS All-Star, Elexis Condon, a PreK paraeducator at Linden Street School. He highlighted some of her qualities:

- Aura of calm and confidence
- Jumps into any given task with a smile
- Effectively communicates with staff and students
- Amazing sense of humor and makes others feel welcome
- Amazing addition to our classroom, school and community

**III. Approval of Minutes**

- A) Chairperson White asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the December 8, 2025 Board of Education meeting.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY ROBERT MICHALIK, JR. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION'S REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING OF DECEMBER 8, 2025 AS PRESENTED. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MELISSA SWEENEY.**

Chairperson White asked if there was any discussion. Ms. Lauria asked that the minutes be amended to reflect her question regarding outside organizations and rental fees. Specifically, Ms. Lauria asked for clarification as to whether or not the Department of Transportation was charged for using the high school auditorium on November 20, 2025.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY ROBERT MICHALIK, JR. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION'S REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING OF DECEMBER 8, 2025 WITH THE ABOVE MODIFICATION. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MELISSA SWEENEY. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 8-0.**

- B) Chairperson White presented the Special Meeting Minutes from the December 18, 2025 joint meeting with the Town Council. He asked that the minutes be changed to reflect Chairperson White calling the meeting to order for the Board of Education.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY ROBERT MICHALIK, JR. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND TOWN COUNCIL OF DECEMBER 18, 2025 WITH THE ABOVE MODIFICATION. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY BRITTANY BOUCHARD. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 8-0.**

#### **IV. Student Representatives Report**

Chairperson White welcomed Student Representatives, Julian and Paige.

Julian Steward gave an update on winter sports:

- Wrestling team is 2-1 for Wednesday night duels and they've won two team tournaments
- Wrestling team ranked 6th in state
- Boys' swim team is currently 0-2 but several swimmers have met qualifying times
- Indoor track participated in 3 meets, with an upcoming meet 1/14 at Wesleyan
- Girls' basketball team has a 3-4 record. This week they have 3 away games.
- Boys' basketball team has a 2-5 record. Upcoming game 1/13 at EO Smith High School.
- Career & Technical Education department recognized students Addison Valentine in the Culinary Arts Department, Audra Pearson in the Business & Finance Department and Mario Zambrano in the Technology and Engineering Department

Paige Weimer gave an update on events:

- Tri-M Music National Honor Society hosted Music Bingo at Square Peg Pizzeria on 12/23. Funds raised will be re-invested into the music programs.
- The Manufacturing team from Goodwin University visited PHS and brought their motion trailer. Students learned about their E-Camp program, Early College Advanced Manufacturing pathway. Students can do a half-day program where they take half of their classes at PHS and then take a bus to Goodwin University and get certified in a trade.
- A select group from PHS choir went over to the Senior Center on January 7th to sing the National Anthem at a ceremony honoring veterans.
- Student Council hosted a holiday extravaganza and raised over \$600.
- PHS Winter Coffeehouse tomorrow night, 1/16 with a second one to be held 1/20.

- Midterms will be January 14th - 19th
- Musicians who auditioned for the regional band will be performing 1/17 at NBHS. Students from all over the state audition. There are four students from PHS performing at regionals.

## **V. Citizen Comments**

Julian Steward of 24 Sandstone Road spoke to our Board members, encouraging them to speak with CABE and CEA supporting a complete cellphone ban in grades K-12. He believes students should not use their phones at any point in the school day.

Some points he highlighted:

- Inconsistent enforcement of school cell phone policies creates a conflicting environment
- Teachers should not have to take on enforcement of cell phone policies
- When allowed to use phones at certain points in the school day, students miss out on connecting with others or working during study halls
- Other states have had positive results with cell phone bans in schools; Julian highlighted stats from New York
- Reiterated that a bell-to-bell cell phone ban should be advocated for to CABE and CEA

## **VI. Council Liaison - NO REPORT**

## **VII. Superintendent's Report**

Mr. Reas opened the Superintendent's Report; there will be four presentations this evening.

A) Enrollment Report: Mr. Levenduski presented the Class Size and Staffing report for the 26-27 school year

Elementary snapshot:

- Class size averages are manageable
- Presented current teacher summary
- 26-27 projected enrollment numbers are used to determine potential teacher shifts to keep class sizes smaller
- No change needed to number of teachers

Secondary snapshot:

- Shared MSP average class sizes for core subject areas; similar to past years
- Class sizes for Unified Art classes remain manageable
- Shared PHS average class sizes for core subject areas (intervention classes not factored in)
- Difference between number of students in Math compared to other areas due to Math being a year-long course and the others being semester courses
- Class size averages were shared by grade levels for PHS
- Grade 11 English classes have a noticeably higher class size average
- Secondary staffing numbers shared
  - Language Arts category contains the Multilingual Learner teacher
  - Asterisk on staff numbers on the slide presentation include the high school Art teacher who is dual-certified in CTE as well as PE teachers who also teach Health at elementary and high school levels

- Overall, only a slight decrease projected for student enrollment at PHS and MSP
- Numbers do not include potential Open Choice seats that may be offered for next school year

Shared Medium Enrollment Projections by grade level for 26-27 that had been developed a few years back for the MSP renovation project; our current enrollment projections are slightly lower

Shared Enrollment Projections by grade/school; MSP broken down by teams; potential Open Choice seats not included; Outplaced students not in numbers

Slide summarizing students we bring into district and those who are attending elsewhere

- Number of currently enrolled Open Choice students; expecting those students to remain next school year - does not include potential new Open Choice students
- Students have options to attend magnet schools; graphic shared with number of Plainville students currently enrolled in both Hartford and CREC magnet schools
- Students currently in Outplacements, Tech Schools, or Vocational Agriculture at SHS
- Number of Plainville students being homeschooled - large number of PCS homeschooled students are high school level
- Most of our student population for next year is known with the exception of PreK and Kindergarten

Organizational Considerations based on Enrollment:

- How to best utilize teaching staff
- How many Open Choice seats will be opened for next year and at which grade levels
- Active in recruitment of new Open Choice families
- High School science labs adjustment:
  - Consolidate labs for both Honors Biology and Honors Chemistry courses; no longer two separate teaching periods which allows for more scheduling flexibility
  - Dual Enrollment courses will remain as two separate teaching periods with a lab and a lecture block
- Principals look at how to maximize staff for students' social emotional needs as well as addressing large class sizes

Mr. Levenduski reiterated that families have choices for schooling and we need to continue to look at the needs so we can compete.

- One innovative idea is to develop a Trades Academy at the high school - in planning stages right now. Ms. DeLorenzo will talk about this further later in the meeting
- Collaboration in the works with Tunxis Community College for students to earn a CNA outside of the regular school day
- These opportunities will allow students to stay in Plainville schools and earn a PHS diploma

Chairperson White asked about the change to Honors Biology and Honors Chemistry confirming that the two blocks will be combined. Mr. Levenduski explained that students currently lose two blocks for these courses and some will take the lower level class just to free up time in their schedule for other classes.

Ms. Lauria asked for the maximum number of students we accept from out of district. Mr. Levenduski stated that we try to keep that number to 5% of our student population or below.

She also asked about the CNA program and inquired if students will receive any high school credit for this program. Mr. Levenduski compared this program to the students who currently take classes at CCSU outside of the school day but still maintain their high school course load. These students get college credit for these courses, but they do not get high school credit.

Mr. Michalik asked for clarification about Enrollment projections regarding our Open Choice students.

- B) Innovative Career Pathway Program - Mr. Reas introduced Mrs. DeLorenzo, PHS Principal, who presented the possibility of creating a Trades Academy at PHS. She listed the team members who have been looking into this venture: Mr. Reas, Mr. Levenduski, Dr. Graham-Douglas, Ms. DeLorenzo, Mr. Gaignard, Mr. Chase, Ms. Lamont - PCS team, along with Marcie Addy, Director of Construction Education Center, and community member Brent Davenport

Summary of this program:

- This program will give an equal pathway for students interested in trades
- Increase opportunities for PCS students, aligning with workforce needs
- If we start this program, Plainville would be one of first comprehensive high schools in the state to offer National Center for Construction Education and Research credentials and Department of Labor apprenticeship hours to students
- Collaboration launched in partnership with Construction Education Center in Plainville and the manufacturing program offered by Goodwin University

Rationale:

- The demand for trades outpaces the supply in Construction, Electrical, HVAC, Plumbing & Advanced Manufacturing
- Over 50% of current tradeworkers are nearing retirement
- Average annual trade salaries in CT \$55,000-\$85,000
- The goal is to get all students college or career path ready by the time they graduate
- Looking at past PHS graduation data, 8-10 students pursued a trade; a cohort of about 40 students
- Looking at Plainville students who attend technical schools over the past four school years; average of 33 students
- Solid cohort of students for this program when putting those numbers together

Informal student interest survey was sent to current 8th graders and 9th-11th grade students; the highest interest was in 8th grade with 23 students. Students ranked their interest in Carpentry, Manufacturing, Electrical and Plumbing.

Benefits to PCS Students:

- Stay in Plainville schools and participate in traditional high school activities and events
- Explore trade pathway and stay on track with standard graduation requirements
- Opportunity to explore a variety of trade fields, not just one
- Students have access to PHS course offerings
- Counselors have worked out various scenarios for students entering the program in 9th, 10th, 11th, or 12th grades

Partnership with Construction Education Center in Plainville

- PHS staff will be certified as NCCER instructors
- Link to CT apprenticeship and licensing requirements

- Students registered in NCCER national registry

Phase 1 - hoping to start for 26-27 school year:

- Implement core curriculum including Basic Safety, Intro to Construction Math, Intro to Construction Drawings
- Offer Advanced Manufacturing through our Engineering courses and E-Camp program via Goodwin University
- Instruction delivered by CEC-NCCER certified PHS teacher
- At the end of year one, all students will have their Osha 10 certification

Phases 2&3 - Expansion Plans for following two school years include adding Carpentry, Electrical and HVAC for 27-28 and Plumbing and Welding for 28-29

Enrollment and Eligibility:

- Open to students from Plainville first
- Cohort of 10-20 for implementation year
- Application process with parent/guardian interviews, similar to trade schools
- Students graduate with PHS diploma and industry-ready skills

Staffing Needs to Implement:

- One full-time NCCER-certified instructor
- Modest upgrades to facility
- Certification fees and registration costs

Total estimated cost for program is \$104,500. Currently seeking grant funding.

Outcomes:

- Establish PHS as leader in integrated trade education
- Increase student access to high-earning career pathways
- Support CT's economic growth

Next Steps:

- Meet with Main Street Foundation to discuss possible grant support
- Perkins Advisory Industry Council Meeting - how can our academy support their needs
- Sign articulation agreement with Construction Education Center

Chairperson White commented that this would be an exciting opportunity for our students.

#### C) 2026-27 Budget Overview

Mr. Reas began by appreciating Mrs. DeLorenzo's presentation and these exciting opportunities for students. He then shared an overview of our budget presentation. On Thursday, the proposed budget will be reviewed line by line.

Budget Process:

Building requests come in and Principals and department heads work those to manageable requests and bring to Mr. Reas, Mr. Levenduski and Mr. Adlerstein. They consolidate details and bring the budget to the Board.

A budget needs to be approved at February Board meeting

Budget questions can be submitted and information is archived on webpage:

<https://sites.google.com/plainvilleschools.org/pcs-budget-information/>

Mr. Reas reported that we are strategically aligned as a district to our Strategic Plan, which includes:

- Mastery
- Social Emotional Learning
- Community Connections
- Systems & Operations

Community Connections:

- Expanded social media
- Strategic Plan to be displayed in classrooms
- Rolling out new parent communication system
- 14 communication awards for last year's presentations
- Expanding opportunities for students to have partnerships

Social Emotional Learning:

- Fine tune Marzano High-Reliability Schools, Level 1
- State helped revamp school climate policy and plans
- Variety of Tier 1 instruction in SEL
- Programs for all students - RULER, PBIS, No Place for Hate, Blue Devil Academy (Freshman Orientation)

Systems:

- Security personnel consistently covers district
- Implement new database with real-time instructional data
- Updated our payroll system

Mastery:

- Revitalizing our Italian program
- Implementation of K-3 Language Arts program, which is already showing positive results
- Work through NASOT teaching models
- PK-12: prioritize what standards are important to align curriculum
- Online curriculum allowing us to run reports and access new information
- Elementary math program - teachers have support and continue to improve opportunities for students
- Expansion of multilingual program - amazing results with many students exiting the program

Budget Hurdles:

- Health Insurance - Anthem is looking at 11% increase; sometimes that percentage changes when Anthem gets better numbers; new projections are not usually received in time to make adjustments to budget proposal
- Salary Increases - average 3% increase
- Losing \$100,000 in rental income from Oak Hill during MSP renovation project
- Loss of grant funding - slight decrease in Open Choice students resulting in lower grant funds

#### Outplacement Students:

- We have not seen a sizeable increase in number of students who are outplaced, but there are cost changes

#### Overall:

- Longitudinally over last 7 years, steady rise in salary increases
- Steady rise in benefits
- Professional services - steady
- Repairs - steady
- Transportation has minor increases
- Utilities - steady
- Equipment - steady. Most equipment requests go through capital funding.
- Looking at salaries and benefits over the years – benefits are rising at a faster rate than salaries
- Staff remaining at current levels
- Supplies change minimally

Budget percentage increase overall of 5.76% (same services, same staffing levels)

Increase in benefits really has an impact on our budget

Chairperson White confirmed that budget books will be given out at Thursday's meeting and budget workshop dates are 1/15, 1/20, 1/22, and 1/27.

Mr. Michalik asked if the potential trade academy program cost of \$100,000 is included in the budget. Mr. Reas replied that it is not included in the budget - seeking grant funding.

Ms. Lauria asked for the dollar amount of lost grant money. Mr. Adlerstein responded that it's approximately \$120,000 less. The reimbursement amount per student has not changed significantly, but our costs have increased. At the budget meeting, there will be a chart with all grants, how much they absorb, and how it compares to this current year.

#### D) District Update

Mr. Reas clarified that the budget workshop meetings will start at 7 PM.

The joint Board of Education and Town Council meeting on December 18th was productive, talking about the town's collective capital needs.

Waiting for SDE approval for the enabling phase of the MSP renovation project. It should be coming in the next few days. That will allow us to go out to bid and take the next step of converting storage at MSP to temporary classrooms. Plan to start moving things out of storage in March.

Budget meeting dates: 1/15, 1/20, 1/22, and 1/27 - will go through budget line by line at these meetings and make some decisions before February meeting

Check website for calendar -

- Tuesday night is first CoffeeHouse at PHS
- Capital Building Project is Wednesday night at MSP
- Budget workshop on Thursday night

## **VII. Board Subcommittee Reports**

- A) There was no report for Facilities/Finance Subcommittee
- B) There was no report for Policy Subcommittee Report - Mrs. St. Lawrence reminded members there are two policies on agenda for second reading
- C) Curriculum Subcommittee - Mr. Wasley reported an upcoming meeting on 1/21
- D) There was no report for Outreach Subcommittee
- E) Chairperson White reported the next PHS PAC meeting is Wednesday at 7 pm in Learning Commons
- F) Melissa Sweeney reported no December PTO meeting at Toffolon, but they did a great job at winter fest
- G) There was no report for Linden St. School PTO
- H) Mrs. St. Lawrence reported that MSP PTC did not meet in December. There is a meeting tomorrow night in the MSP Library Media Center
- I) Ms. Bouchard reported an upcoming Wheeler PTO meeting on 1/15 at 6PM
- J) No CREC Council Report
- K) Mr. Michalik reported that the CPBC met 12/10 and approved the drawing specs and budget for submission to the Department of Administrative Services for Phase 1 of the MSP project. Hopefully it will start in the spring.
- L) Mr. White spoke about the next three school year calendars on the agenda for later in the meeting. There are longer summer vacations to allow for additional construction time at MSP. Early graduation date for 26/27 and later start date for 27/28. Enabling phase at MSP scheduled to start - significant step to repair existing storage space and small gym to get ready for temporary classrooms. Work done will be reused in the final project.

## **IX. Appreciations and Affirmations**

Mr. Michalik would like to commend Ayo Ayodele, a PHS senior who was recognized as a QuestBridge National College Match Scholar which includes a full ride to Boston College. He'd like to commend her on her hard work to achieve that honor.

## **X. Unfinished Business**

Chairperson White presented Policy 4321 Personnel: Social Media and Policy 6130 Instruction: Parental Access to Instructional Material for second readings.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. ROBERT MICHALIK TO ADOPT POLICY 4321 AND POLICY 6130. MELISSA SWEENEY SECONDED THE MOTION. NO DISCUSSION. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 8-0.**

**XI. New Business**

A) 2026-27 School Calendar, 2027-28 School Calendar, 2028-29 School Calendar

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY MELISSA SWEENEY TO ACCEPT THE 26-27, 27-28, AND 28-29 SCHOOL CALENDARS. MS. LAURIA SECONDED THE MOTION. THERE WAS NO DISCUSSION. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 8-0.**

B) Quarterly Special Education Cost Report

Mr. Adlerstein referenced the budget report in the Consent Agenda. The costs are reflected on this report, but revenue is not reflected until received, which accounts for the large over-budget number in the report. We forecast that we will be back to zero, but there's a difference in timing of revenue versus expenses. We get a percentage of the revenue in February and the remainder in May.

**XII. Consent Agenda**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY ROBERT MICHALIK, JR. TO ACCEPT THE CONSENT AGENDA. MR. WASLEY SECONDED THE MOTION. THERE WAS NO DISCUSSION. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 8-0.**

**XIII. Adjournment**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY ROBERT MICHALIK, JR. TO ADJOURN. MR. WASLEY SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 8-0. The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,



Recorder of Minutes

*The minutes presented within the document provide a summary of the discussion that took place at the Board of Education meeting. For the complete discussion of the agenda items, please view the video of the Board meeting on our website at <https://www.plainvilleschools.org>. These minutes are considered a draft until approved at the following regular Board of Education meeting.*