

**PENDING BOARD OF EDUCATION APPROVAL**  
**REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING OF THE PLAINVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**PLAINVILLE, CONNECTICUT**  
**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2025**

**Order of Business**  
**7:00 PM Regular Business Meeting of the Board of Education**

**I. Convene—Pledge of Allegiance**

Board Chair Becky Tyrrell convened the regular business meeting of the Plainville Board of Education to order at 7:05 PM. Rachel Buchanan led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Members Present:** Mesdames Buchanan, Clark, Lauria, St. Lawrence, Tyrrell, and Messrs. Bruzas, Wasley and White

**Also Present:** Brian S. Reas, Superintendent of Schools  
David Levenduski, Assistant Superintendent  
Sam Adlerstein, Director of Business and Operations  
Julian Steward, Student Representative  
Paige Weimer, Student Representative

**Absent:** Lori Consalvo, Board Member

**Late Arrivals:** None

**Early Departures:** None

**Returns:** None

**II. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

**A) INTRODUCTION OF NEW TEACHERS**

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**A) A MOTION WAS MADE BY FOSTER WHITE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE BOARD'S REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING OF JUNE 9, 2025 AS PRESENTED. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY CASSANDRA CLARK. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 8-0.**

**IV. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES REPORT**

Paige Weimer and Julian Steward reintroduced themselves to the Board. Paige has taken on the role of Student Council President this year and will step back from a few of her other activities. However, she is still on the swim team and is now the Captain of the Tennis team. This year, Julian Steward is focusing on the Jazz Band. He is also Co-President of Tri-M and he and Paige are both in any Honor Society they qualify for. During the given season, Julian will also be on the Cross Country team, both indoor and outdoor.

This year, Julian has been working with Jennifer DeLorenzo, PHS Principal and PHS Assistant Principals Kelly Hickey and Jon Coe to help freshmen get integrated into the High School. Over the summer everyone met and discussed the best way to introduce them to the High School. There are two different learning days along with other activities. Before school started, freshmen were given a tour by Juniors, Seniors,

Counselors and Administrators and were allowed to find their classrooms. They also learned how the school is formatted and what to expect during any given school day. They also had the opportunity to speak with each other, as freshmen year is usually awkward. The tour sessions were very beneficial and the students did well.

Paige stated that this year, those involved learned a lot, which made the orientation a lot more successful. She stated that the number of students was a lot larger than the past, and they seemed to get better acclimated to the school faster than those in other years. Julian stated that overall the orientation was a great success.

During this school year there are some policies that have been developing. This year the phone pouch policy has gone into effect. Former students weren't big fans of the policy but it does seem very beneficial that students are off their phones, and it has also been beneficial to the productivity of the classroom.

In addition, over the summer students were working hard at their sport. The football team has their first game this Friday, September 12<sup>th</sup> which will be very exciting. The Cross Country team ran their meets but lost to Southington. They also participated in an invite and almost brought home a trophy. Volleyball season has started very well. They have won all of their games so far. The girls' and boys' soccer teams have won every game thus far. The girls' swim team kicked off their season with their annual relay meet which is a great event. The energy in the room was amazing. Their season has also been good.

#### Activities:

All National Honor Societies have gotten their officers together to come up with plans for the year, as every Honor Society has its unique category, i.e., Spanish, English, History, etc. It's good that all of the officers are coming together to help the community and to provide services with their plans.

Chamber Choir members are continuing to plan fundraisers to help with their upcoming trip to Washington D.C. Mr. Helming is jumping for joy at the opportunity and is hoping to make the cost for the trip as little as possible for families.

A new Department that Mr. Steward has taken advantage of is Ms. Barbagallo's new role this year. Instead of a Counselor, she is the new College and Career Consultant. This is a very interesting role. Her role is to help all Seniors find a post High School job or plan for college or the military. She and Mrs. Bradley are willing to help in any way they can.

Ms. Weimer stated that every girl on the relay swim team won a medal. It was unexpected but such a great event.

Student Council has been hard at work. The Homecoming Football game is set for October 3<sup>rd</sup>. The Homecoming Dance is set for October 4<sup>th</sup>. It's almost a month earlier than usual.

The Robotics team is starting up again. They are looking for new members. Students are asked to check their emails.

Unified Sports is also starting their practices. This is the best way to get involved at PHS. They do so many good things. The team has gone very far in the State competitions.

The underclassmen are taking their school photos on September 11. The Seniors took theirs today.

The Athletic Backers are holding a meeting tomorrow evening. The Backers didn't have very much participation last year and it reflected on the students. Some people were upset because the Sports Awards Night was combined with the Night of Excellence. This reflects on the participation of the parents. Without participation, the Backers can no longer do what they need to do throughout the year for students. If you are interested, please participate. The PHS PAC is also looking for new members. PAC will be holding their meeting on Wednesday, September 10 at 7 PM in the PHS Colab.

Experience PHS Family Open House will take place on September 24 from 6-8 PM at the High School. Ms. Weimer stated that she has always enjoyed this event, as it gets to showcase what the students are doing.

There will be a Financial Planning Night on Tuesday, September 30 at 6 PM. This is very beneficial to parents who have a child starting college.

There will be a Career Gallery event on October 3. This showcases all of the career options available to students.

**V. CITIZEN COMMENTS—There were no Citizens' Comments**

**RESPONSE TO CITIZEN COMMENTS—No Responses**

**VI. COUNCIL LIAISON—No Report**

**VII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Mr. Reas stated that last year teachers asked that when a student entered their classroom, they placed their cell phone in a pocket located in back of the door and are picked up after their class. This years' change is to be consistent with the process.

At the end of the school year, the Board and Town discussed a referendum passing in terms of some Capital projects. Over the summer, administrators have been trying to get the following projects moving along: 1) The PHS generator (PHS is the emergency shelter for the Town and the generator needs to be replaced), 2) The Press Box (it has some significant needs), 3) PHS Pool Heater, 4) The PHS Tennis Courts (hopes the students can play on them in the Spring), 5) Finish the PHS Walk-in freezer project.

The MSP Renovations is moving forward. The Town's Capital Projects Building Committee (CPBC) is receiving bids for a Commissioning Agent (this person oversees all aspects of the project and makes sure things are running smoothly). The CPBC, Downes Construction and the Architects have met throughout the Summer to try to keep the project running on its timeline. The optimistic plan is to start converting the MSP storage area around April break over to a temporary classroom. The project would then commence in June.

Open Houses are on the way, MSP has their Open House next Wednesday, September 17, 2025 and the elementary and high school will hold their Open House's on the 24<sup>th</sup>. We encourage parents to attend.

The Annual Career Fair will take place on October 3<sup>rd</sup>. This event is amazing. The amount of people who come out for our students and the engagement they have with our students regarding their jobs and careers is impressive.

Summer was about hiring and all positions are now covered. Thirteen teachers were hired over the summer, seven paraeducators, two tutors and two security officers. We have been doing our exit surveys. When asked, why are you leaving, the primary response was to leave the profession (retiring) and the other was compensation. We also asked them how they felt about their benefit package. Approximately 75% said good or excellent and some didn't actually take the benefit package because they said it didn't matter. We also asked if the evaluation process was fair. They all said somewhat or strongly agreed. Asked if they would recommend the district to a friend, 100% said they would agree or strongly agreed.

Apart of the hiring, he and Mr. Levenduski spent six days throughout the summer focused on retreat time and getting everyone ready for the school year. They also discussed collective efficacies, how to make students more successful and how to make the Marzano strategies and curriculum renewal process move forward. He commented that the team did a great job.

We are ready to move forward with our Continuous Improvement Plan. Further, School Improvement Plans are aligned to the Strategic Plan, which continues to grow with some momentum.

We have our survey schedule ready this year and we are trying to be very strategic to not over-survey folks. Some of the Marzano work has surveys in it, and there are also climate surveys. We're trying to make sure that people feel like it is just an occasional survey that is important and meaningful as opposed to hitting people with survey's left and right.

Convocation has a positive feedback. We enjoyed hearing from this year's Teacher of the Year Steve Michaud. He did a great job talking about a broadened perspective, having experienced outside the classroom and coming back into the classroom having different insights. Mr. Reas stated that he spoke about making the most of the moments on the first day of school and its importance. Overall, Convocation was a very nice session.

Negotiations with Plainville's teachers has begun. We will be wrapping things up by October. The Board may be asked to ratify the contract at their next meeting. The certified negotiations are held to timelines for the State Arbitration Board, so they essentially have to be done by October, otherwise they will go to mediation or arbitration.

It has been a very busy summer with a lot of momentum and now the school year is upon us.

Mr. Reas then introduced Mr. Levenduski, Assistant Superintendent of Schools who will give a brief presentation on the district's student achievement.

#### **A) Achievement Report**

Mr. Levenduski reported on the following:

- Student Demographics from 2010 to 2025
- Smarter Balanced Assessment (ELA and Math)
- Next Generation Science Standards Assessment
- CT School Day SAT

- LAS Links Assessment Multilingual Learners (MLs)
- Advanced Placement (AP) Success
- Preliminary Accountability Index Results
  - In 2025-26, U.S. News Best High Schools has ranked Plainville High School in the top 30% nationally for student data and academic opportunities offered.

**VIII. BOARD SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

- A. Facilities and Finance Subcommittee Report**  
With all the work going on at MSP, Mr. White hopes to meet prior to the next Board meeting.
- B. Policy Subcommittee Report—No Report**
- C. Curriculum Subcommittee Report—No Report**
- D. Outreach Subcommittee Report—No Report**
- E. PAC Liaison--Plainville High School Report**  
Mr. White stated that the PHS PAC will meet on September 10 at 7 PM in the PHS ColLab.  
▶ At last glance in June, the PAC's fund balance was at approximately \$1,500. However, it may have decreased after giving out three scholarships in June.
- F. PTO Liaison--Toffolon Elementary School Report—No Report**
- G. PTO Liaison--Linden Street Elementary School Report**  
Mr. Bruzas reported on the following:  
The Linden PTO kick-off meeting for 2025-26 is Wednesday, September 10 at 6 PM in the Linden Library.
- H. PTC Liaison--Middle School of Plainville Report**  
Mrs. St. Lawrence reported on the following items:  
The MSP PTC meeting will take place tomorrow evening (09/09/25) at 7 PM in the MSP Library/Media Center.
- I. PTO Liaison--Wheeler Elementary School Report—No Report**  
Mrs. Buchanan reported on the following dates and reminders:  
--Tuesday, September 16 is Wheeler's Mum Fundraiser pick-up from 5-6 PM.  
--Thursday, September 18 is the first PTO meeting of the school year. The meeting will take place at 6 PM in the Wheeler Library.  
--Wednesday, September 24 Wheeler Open House at 5 PM at Wheeler.  
--Thursday, October 16 second PTO meeting of the school year. The meeting will take place at 6 PM in the Wheeler Library.  
--October 22, 23, 24 Parent/Teacher Conferences will begin at 5 PM.  
--Friday, October 24 Trunk or Treat at 6 PM.
- J. CREC Council Report—No Report**  
The CREC Council has not yet met.
- K. Chairperson's Report**  
Mrs. Tyrrell thanked everyone for being here this evening. She commented that the summer went by very quickly. She thanked administrators and staff for their

work over the Summer. She stated that she appreciates everyone's efforts and wished everyone a Happy New Year!

**IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS--None**

**X. NEW BUSINESS**

**A) Board Open Forum**

Rachel Buchanan stated that she loved what the student liaisons had to say as it was a nice variety of information and gives members of the Board a pulse of the school. She stated that she liked the way they tapped into best practices and their experiencing the roles in both their junior and senior years, and the differences they became made aware of. She also thanked them for stepping up and becoming leaders of their school. She stated that as an alumni of the school system she enjoyed hearing about the relationships between the Seniors and the freshmen. It is important and everlasting and it was touched upon so well with regard to the transition. She hopes that the classes coming up behind them can continue those best practices and pass them along throughout the years.

Jered Bruzas gave a shout out to all new teachers. He stated that we really have a great young crew this year. On a personal note, his daughter Ella is raving about a teacher who is brand new this year. He stated that it's amazing to see what one teacher could do and the impact she has, especially within the first two weeks of teaching, which is pretty powerful. He stated that we are very fortunate and have a great vetting process. Administrators have been working very hard in getting the best of the best. It's evident through the remarks we are getting at home through our kids, that we are getting the best of the best. He stated that he is very grateful for the work being done to hire some of the best teachers. Hopefully this young crew we have here will be around 30+ years.

Mrs. Buchanan also pointed out that there are some alumni in that group.

**XI. CONSENT AGENDA—Board Approval**

(A) Budget Object Summary

(B) Food Service Report

(C) Check Registers

(D) HR Report (Informational Item)

(E) Private Donation for the months of June, July and August.

► There were no private donations during the months of June, July or August, 2025.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY FOSTER WHITE TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED. JERED BRUZAS SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 8-0.**

**XII. Anticipated Executive Session**

--Bello Discussion

--Ratification of Collective Bargaining Agreement: AFSCME Local 1303-053 and Council 4 (Office Professionals and Clerks)

--Ratification of Collective Bargaining Agreement: AFSCME Local 1303-023 and Council 4 (Custodians and Maintainers)

**A MOTION WAS MADE AT 8:10 PM BY FOSTER WHITE TO INVITE THE SUPERINTENDENT BRIAN REAS, ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT DAVID LEVENDUSKI, AND LEGAL COUNSEL (TOWN ATTORNEY) MORRIS BOREA INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION. ROBERTA LAURIA SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 8-0.**

The Board was given an update on the Bello case.

**A MOTION WAS MADE AT 9:25 PM BY JERED BRUZAS TO LEAVE EXECUTIVE SESSION AND TO ENTER INTO PUBLIC SESSION. FOSTER WHITE SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 8-0.**

The Board was given a brief synopsis of the changes made to the recently negotiated contracts for the Office Professionals and Clerks and Custodians and Maintainers.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY JERED BRUZAS TO RATIFY THE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT OF AFSCME LOCAL 1303-023 AND COUNCIL 4 (CUSTODIANS AND MAINTAINERS) FOR THE TERM OF 2025-2029 (Retroactive to July 1, 2025) AS PRESENTED. FOSTER WHITE SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED 7-1 VOTES. MRS. LAURIA RECUSED HERSELF FROM VOTING.**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY ROBERTA LAURIA TO RATIFY THE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT OF AFSCME LOCAL 1303-053 AND COUNCIL 4 (OFFICE PROFESSIONALS AND CLERKS) FOR THE TERM OF 2025-2028 (Retroactive to July 1, 2025) AS PRESENTED. FOSTER WHITE SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 8-0.**

**XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY JERED BRUZAS TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. CASSANDRA CLARK SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 8-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:36 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,



Joan Calistro  
Recorder of Minutes

*The minutes presented within this 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 [www.plainvilleschools.org](http://www.plainvilleschools.org). These minutes are considered a draft until approved at the following regular Board of Education Business meeting.*

**REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING OF THE PLAINVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
PLAINVILLE, CONNECTICUT  
SUMMARY OF MOTIONS  
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2025**

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- 2654. A) A MOTION WAS MADE BY FOSTER WHITE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE BOARD'S REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING OF JUNE 9, 2025 AS PRESENTED. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY CASSANDRA CLARK. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 8-0.**

**XI. CONSENT AGENDA—Board Approval**

- 2655. (A) Budget Object Summary  
(B) Food Service Report  
(C) Check Registers  
(D) HR Report (Informational Item)  
(E) Private Donation for the months of June, July and August.  
▶ There were no private donations during the months of June, July or August, 2025.**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY FOSTER WHITE TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED. JERED BRUZAS SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 8-0.**

**XII. Anticipated Executive Session**

**--Bello Discussion**

**--Ratification of Collective Bargaining Agreement: AFSCME Local 1303-053 and Council 4 (Office Professionals and Clerks)**

**--Ratification of Collective Bargaining Agreement: AFSCME Local 1303-023 and Council 4 (Custodians and Maintainers)**

- 2656. A MOTION WAS MADE AT 8:10 PM BY FOSTER WHITE TO INVITE THE SUPERINTENDENT BRIAN REAS, ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT DAVID LEVENDUSKI, AND LEGAL COUNSEL (TOWN ATTORNEY) MORRIS BOREA INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION. ROBERTA LAURIA SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 8-0.**

The Board was given an update on the Bello case.

- 2657. A MOTION WAS MADE AT 9:25 PM BY JERED BRUZAS TO LEAVE EXECUTIVE SESSION AND TO ENTER INTO PUBLIC SESSION. FOSTER WHITE SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 8-0.**

The Board was given a brief synopsis of the changes made to the recently negotiated contracts for the Office Professionals and Clerks and Custodians and Maintainers.

- 2658. A MOTION WAS MADE BY JERED BRUZAS TO RATIFY THE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT OF AFSCME LOCAL 1303-023 AND COUNCIL 4 (CUSTODIANS AND MAINTAINERS) FOR THE TERM OF 2025-2029 (Retroactive to July 1, 2025) AS PRESENTED. FOSTER WHITE SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED 7-1 VOTES. MRS. LAURIA RECUSED HERSELF FROM VOTING.**

2659. A MOTION WAS MADE BY ROBERTA LAURIA TO RATIFY THE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT OF AFSCME LOCAL 1303-053 AND COUNCIL 4 (OFFICE PROFESSIONALS AND CLERKS) FOR THE TERM OF 2025-2028 (Retroactive to July 1, 2025) AS PRESENTED. FOSTER WHITE SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 8-0.

**XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

2660. A MOTION WAS MADE BY JERED BRUZAS TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. CASSANDRA CLARK SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 8-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:36 PM.