

PLAINVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION Regular Meeting

December 8, 2025

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. Jered Bruzas led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board Members Present: Ms. Brittany Bouchard, Mr. Jered Bruzas, Ms. Roberta Lauria, Mr. Robert Michalik, Jr., Ms. Katherine Pugliese, 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

Absent: Ms. Crystal St. Lawrence

Late Arrivals: None

Early Departures: None

Returns: None

II. Special Presentations

Mr. Reas recognized Cassandra Clark for her years of service on the Board of Education highlighting that she both met and exceeded the expectations of a Board of Education member.

A) Members of the PHS Girls Swim Medley Relay team, Sara Sleszynski, Misha Kovac, Zuzanna Pyrc and Olivia Rossi were recognized by Mr. Reas for their many accomplishments this season, including the CCC South girls swim team conference championship and the medley relay CIAC Class S state championship.

B) PCS All-Stars, IRT/MRT team members Wendy Bender, Jessica Cochrane, Stacey Alemany, Susan Stoker, Ayme Gauthier, Michelle Steck, Lenore Butler, Meghan Ray, Lea Garduno, Amy Moreau and Ryan Glover were recognized by Mr. Reas for their student-first values, excellent teamwork and service to others. Specifically highlighted were the IRT's roll-out of the K-3 literacy program, ensuring teachers were engaged and ready and the MRT's continued work with the implementation of Illustrative Math.

III. Approval of Minutes

A) A MOTION WAS MADE BY JERED BRUZAS TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION'S REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING OF NOVEMBER 8, 2025 AS PRESENTED. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY ROBERT MICHALIK, JR. THERE WAS NO DISCUSSION. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 8-0.

B) A MOTION WAS MADE BY JERED BRUZAS TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION'S SPECIAL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 20, 2025 AS PRESENTED. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY KATHERINE PUGLIESE. THERE WAS NO DISCUSSION. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 8-0.

IV. Student Representative Report

Before Paige Weimer began, Mr. White spoke about her role as Swim Team captain and her contributions to the team. Paige gave an update on the football team's final game of the season and reported that winter sports began December 4, 2025. Spring sports are currently scheduling informational meetings for students interested in joining. Some highlights that Paige shared:

- November 19th was the Fall Sports Awards night where athletes were recognized
- November 25th was the PowderPuff football game. The Juniors beat the Seniors and they raised over \$2,000 for both classes
- November 26th was the Class Competition. The Seniors won, the Sophomores came in second, Juniors third, and the Freshmen last. The classes earn points in various ways leading up to the competition and new events were added to this year's competition
- National English Honors Society members hosted a literacy night on December 4th with our elementary students
- EdRising members hosted a Breakfast with Santa last Saturday, collecting toys for Plainville families in need and CCMC. Mr. Dunlap's Culinary students cooked

Julian Steward reported that the Math department recognized students Nery Arango-Cruz, Addison Valentine, and Elliana Rexinger-McConnell this month. The Career & Technical Education department recognized Sofia Corvello, Trey Daddabbo-Barger, and Brianna Carey. He also shared some upcoming events:

- The class of 2026 will be holding a Chipotle fundraiser on December 9th
- There will be an informational meeting for Mr. PHS on December 9th
- The PHS choirs and the MSP 8th grade choir have an upcoming concert on December 11th. There will be a hot chocolate fundraiser and an instrument collection drive during that event hosted by Tri-M. Donated instruments will be shared with Plainville students
- Student Council is hosting a holiday extravaganza December 12th from 5-8. Free entry.
- A pajama day to benefit CCMC will be held on December 12th
- Spanish Honor Society will be hosting a bake sale fundraiser at Gnazzo's on December 14th to fundraise for a trip to New York
- The chamber choir members will be going caroling at the Plainville Senior Center on December 16th
- The PHS band and the MSP 8th grade band will have their concert on December 17th. There will be a hot chocolate fundraiser and instrument collection drive during the event hosted by Tri-M
- Tri-M Music Honor Society will be hosting a music Bingo fundraiser. Students will play holiday themed Bingo at Square Peg Pizza on December 23rd
- The indoor track team will host a bottle/can drive on January 4th

V. **Citizen Comments - NONE**

VI. **Council Liaison - NO REPORT**

VII. **Superintendent's Report**

- A) Mr. Reas referenced the informational MSP renovation presentation from KBA and Downes Construction that occurred prior to tonight's meeting.
- B) Dr. Tawana Graham-Douglas presented the Curriculum Strategic update.
Curriculum's deeper purpose:
 - Design learning experiences for students to get them college and career ready
 - Engage in critical thinking activities

- Learn to apply knowledge in new ways

She shared what is happening across the district with regards to curriculum and the impact it's having on students.

Dr. Graham-Douglas presented the student triangle:

At the core is student achievement and success. We work with three systems in Curriculum department:

- Assessment
- Instruction
- Curriculum alignment

Research around what a curriculum department can do to support student achievement:

- Focus on teaching and learning
- Ensure curriculum alignment
- Ensure common assessments are used to inform teaching and learning and educators use similar assessments
- Focus on Student Ownership - focus on priority standards and development of proficiency scales. This is shared with students so they can gauge their own success and progress
- Family and Community engagement - two way communication with families and members of the community

Definition of curriculum terms used:

- Atlas - our curriculum platform
- Priority Standards - focusing on essential content and skills students need
- NASOT - New Art & Science of Teaching is our instructional model and framework - what we agree high quality instruction looks like
- CFAs - Common Formative Assessments - designed for immediate feedback
- Proficiency Scales - tool used to show progress towards mastery - not only do teachers use it, but it empowers students
- PLC - Professional Learning Community - collaborative team of educators sharing expertise designed to improve practice and focused on student outcomes

Atlas system:

- Provides easy access to curriculum and promotes transparency
- Where priority standards are selected
- State and national standards are uploaded into the platform and teachers go through and select essential standards
- Links to common assessments
- Easy to use and access, facilitates teacher planning

Common Assessments:

- Provides a consistent, fair way to measure student learning
- Scale for students to determine if they are 1, 2, or 3 star
- Allows students to grow - even if they are a 1 star, the proficiency scale guides them on how to become a 2 or 3 star. Students are clear on what they are supposed to learn, how they can grow, and focuses on growth-mindset.

Our Instructional Model - New Art and Science of Teaching (NASOT):

- Framework for effective teaching
- Common language used to define high quality instruction
- Focus on student engagement

- Student ownership of learning

During last spring's presentation, Dr. Graham-Douglas explained about the 10 design areas and 43 elements and the strategies associated with them. This year every teacher has identified an element and the strategies associated with it and they are trying out those strategies and sharing results with other teachers.

Academic success is the most important, but there is also a focus of social emotional learning and student well-being. This teacher used RULER - a tool used to identify where someone is on the mood meter. The teacher used this in relation to character traits in the historical fiction text the class was reading.

Part of the curriculum includes the portrait of the graduate tenets - creativity, innovation, resilience, mindfulness, collaboration and communication.

Collaborative Teams/PLC's:

- Educators engage in collaborative problem solving
- Data informed instruction
- Focus on continuous improvement
- Share best practices with one another
- Improved student achievement

Expanding opportunities:

- Culinary Arts - partnership with Naugatuck Valley Community College beginning fall of 2026. Students will be able to earn ServSafe certification
- Exploring addition to health care pathway with Tunxis Community College allowing students to earn their CNA

Next steps:

- Continue working on curriculum alignment
- Identification of priority standards
- Development and revision of common formative assessments
- Develop proficiency scales for each priority standard
- Provide tools to facilitate data collection and analysis

A clear curriculum and strong teachers lead to confident learners.

C) Mr. Reas gave a district update

- Upcoming choir/band concerts 12/11/25 and 12/17/25
- Upcoming Capital budget meeting 12/18/25 where Board members and Town Council go through 5-10 year list of capital projects in effort to collaborate, sort and financially plan for projects
- 1/12/26 Board of Education meeting will include budget and 3 year calendar, including a long summer in 2027 to support MSP construction project
- 1/15/26, 1/20/26, 1/22/26, 1/27/26 - Budget work sessions
- Excited about work in Curriculum Council - tonight was a highlight
- Board received a CAFE Board Leadership Level 1 Award - focuses on board leadership, board member professional development, board focus on policy, board participation in CAFE leadership program

VIII. Board Subcommittee Reports

- A) Mr. Michalik reported that Facilities & Finance met on December 1st and discussed the FY27 Board Capital budget, which will be reviewed later in the meeting. The subcommittee also went through the long-range capital improvement plan FY27-FY31. Discussed the fee schedule for school facility usage.
- B) Ms. St. Lawrence was not at the meeting so cannot update on the December 1st subcommittee meeting. Mr. White spoke about the three policy items under New Business.
- C) There was no report for Curriculum Subcommittee
- D) Mr. Bruzas reported that there is an Outreach planning meeting set for Monday, December 22nd to start the process and will report next month.
- E) Mr. White reported that the PAC met November 12th. They made about \$300 on cookie dough fundraiser and \$450 on bottle/can drive. They have enough for two scholarships. Planning another can/bottle drive. The next meeting is January 7th.
- F) Ms. Sweeney reported that the next meeting is December 17th. Winterfest is coming up on December 11th.
- G) Mr. Bruzas reported that Butterbraids are being distributed. Holiday shopping for students will be 12/16-12/18. Wolfpack game coming up January 2nd. Ms. Velez will be giving up a part of her vacation to be at the game to lead students. Next meeting is December 10th with lots of wrapping planned for the upcoming holiday shop.
- H) Mr. White reported that the PAC canceled their December 11th meeting.
- I) Ms. Bouchard met with Wheeler PTO on December 3rd at their winter celebration. Fifth grade parents are inquiring about the DARE program and when it will get started.
- J) No BOE member currently on CREC council.
- K) Mr. Michalik did not have a report. He will attend his first CPBC meeting on Wednesday, December 10th.
- L) Mr. White explained that as the Chairperson, he should not vote on measures. He will only cast a vote to break a tie or create a tie to defeat a motion. Mr. White explained that under this evening's New Business is the proposed capital budget plan 26/27. This is the Board's recommendation of capital items needed to be presented to the Town Manager. Mr. White also added that Thursday's PHS choir concert will also include our 8th grade.

IX. Appreciations and Affirmations

Ms. Pugliese once again thanked Cassandra Clark for her service and dedication to the Board of Education, highlighting that Ms. Clark took her job seriously and enjoyed her time on the Board. Ms. Pugliese wanted to thank her for her time and dedication to Plainville schools.

X. Unfinished Business - NONE

XI. New Business

- A) Mr. Adlerstein referred to the proposed capital budget shared with the Board and reiterated that the Board is not being asked to approve spending, but to approve sending the proposed capital budget to the Town Manager for further consideration. This will be the focus of the upcoming joint meeting with the Board of Education and Town Council. The proposed capital budget for FY27 totals \$828,845 in potential spending including the Technology rotation, the rotational plan for radios, and potential Facilities projects. Mr. Adlerstein went over the purpose of the facility study to prioritize long-term needs. Mr. Adlerstein is asking for approval to submit the FY27-FY31 capital plan to the Town Manager.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY ROBERT MICHALIK, JR. TO SUBMIT THE CAPITAL BUDGET PLAN AS PRESENTED TO THE TOWN MANAGER. MELISSA SWEENEY SECONDED THE MOTION. MS. PUGLIESE ASKED FOR CLARIFICATION ON THE TOTAL AMOUNT. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 8-0.

B) Mr. Adlerstein reported that school facilities are available for rent. Many organizations use the facilities, as the schedule permits, free of charge. Sometimes there is a small charge to cover custodian fees. Rental fees are charged to outside organizations. Associated costs are being updated from last year, based on contractual increases, but the rental fees will remain the same. The proposed fee schedule was discussed at the Facilities & Finance Subcommittee meeting.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY JERED BRUZAS TO ADOPT THE REVISED FEE SCHEDULE. ROBERT MICHALIK, JR. SECONDED THE MOTION. MS. LAURIA ASKED FOR CLARIFICATION AS TO WHETHER OR NOT THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION WAS CHARGED FOR USING THE HIGH SCHOOL FACILITIES ON NOVEMBER 20, 2025. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 8-0.

C) Mr. White discussed the elimination of Policy 1114 Community Relations: District-Sponsored Social Media, which he explained was discussed at the recent Policy Subcommittee meeting.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY KATHERINE PUGLIESE TO ELIMINATE POLICY 1114. JERED BRUZAS SECONDED THE MOTION. THERE WAS NO DISCUSSION. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 8-0.

D & E) Mr. White introduced the first reading of the revisions of both Policy 4321 Personnel: Social Media and Policy 6130 Instruction: Parental Access to Instructional Material.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY JERED BRUZAS TO ACCEPT THE FIRST READING OF POLICY 4321 AND POLICY 6130. KATHERINE PUGLIESE SECONDED THE MOTION. THERE WAS NO DISCUSSION. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 8-0. The policies will be submitted for a second reading.

XII. Consent Agenda

A MOTION WAS MADE BY ROBERT MICHALIK, JR. TO ACCEPT THE CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED. JERED BRUZAS SECONDED THE MOTION. THERE WAS NO DISCUSSION. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 8-0.

XIII. Discussion of Legal Opinion and Litigation Update

A MOTION WAS MADE BY JERED BRUZAS AT 8:30 PM TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION. KATHERINE PUGLIESE SECONDED THE MOTION. SUPERINTENDENT BRIAN REAS AND ATTORNEY WEINSTOCK WERE INVITED. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 8-0.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY KATHERINE PUGLIESE TO COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION. ROBERT MICHALIK, JR. SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 8-0. The executive session ended at 9:23 PM.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY JERED BRUZAS TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. ROBERT MICHALIK, JR. SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 8-0. The meeting was adjourned at 9:24 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan McGough

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.