

The Connecticut General Assembly

House Democrats



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Plainfield Discovery Bus at the Capitol

Rep. Christine Rosati Randall (D- Killingly, Plainfield) welcomed the Plainfield Discovery Bus to the State Capitol in Hartford. The Discovery Bus opened its doors to legislators to tour the mobile library and learn about its mission. Superintendent Ken DiPietro and Plainfield Board of Education member, Christi Haskell greeted lawmakers and shared information about the bus.

The Plainfield Board of Education had a vision of expanding community engagement, getting kids excited about reading and providing access to books for all children in the community. In an attempt to accomplish this goal and with some resourceful planning, they have created a mobile library called the Discovery bus to visit children in the community. Children may take a book when they visit and are asked to return books to the bus's designated "return" box when they visit again. There are no penalties for failure to return a borrowed book primarily because the end goal is to encourage reading and get books into the hands of children. The books included in the library contain interests for pre-readers, early readers, elementary level chapter books, and middle school level books.

The bus can be used for much more than just a library with the potential for community programming such as a place to host a visit from a visiting artist/children's musician/museum/etc. Currently the bus also visits schools for in-house field trips and recently brought the town historian to speak to students on Plainfield history.

"I was very excited and proud to share the Discovery Bus with my fellow lawmakers in Hartford. I am impressed with the resourcefulness of the Plainfield community and what they were able to accomplish with some creative planning," Rep. Randall said. "I've seen first-hand the excitement of the children who visit the bus. It's wonderful that children and their families have this valuable resource."

All books provided to the Discovery bus have been donated. Donations of gently used books may be dropped off at Plainfield Central Office, 651 Norwich Rd. A donation of more than 500 books was made by Cara Quinn from Nora's Light while the bus visited the Capitol.



Ken DiPietro, Rep. Paul Brycki, Sen. Mae Flexer, Christi Haskell, Sen Andy Maynard, Rep. Christine Randall on the Discovery Bus