

MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of Plymouth Public Schools is to challenge, inspire, and prepare all students for success in an ever-changing and complex world.

PLYMOUTH BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
TERRYVILLE HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA
33 NORTH HARWINTON AVENUE
TERRYVILLE, CT 06786

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13, 2022

7:00 P.M.

MINUTES

Present: Mr. Seaman, Mrs. Kulesa, Mrs. Lucian, Mr. Showers, Mrs. Fusco, Mr. Foote, Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani, Mr. Perugino and Mr. Zbuska

Others Present: Mr. Falcone, Acting Superintendent, Mrs. Mozak-Pezza, Director of Curriculum & Instruction, Mrs. Melillo, Director of Pupil Personnel & Special Education Services, Mr. Tencza, Business Manager, and Mr. Trudeau, Director of Technology

1. Call to Order & Pledge to the Flag

Mr. Seaman called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. The group joined in the Pledge to the Flag.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

MOTION: To entertain a motion to add Item 11C, discuss a transfer from the Board of Education to the Town of Plymouth. Motion Mr. Foote, second Mr. Showers, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion carries.

MOTION: To entertain a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Motion Mr. Showers, second Mr. Foote, any discussion, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion carries.

3. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: To entertain a motion to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of the Plymouth Board of Education of March 15, 2022. Motion, Mr. Showers, second Mrs. Lucian, any discussion, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion carries.

4. Presentation

* Condensed Version of Project Lean by Students From Terryville High School – Mr. Hults, Principal & Katie Keegan, Student

* CAPSS/LCSA Superintendent Student Recognition Award Recipients

Edward Armbruster
Timothy Synott
Drew Fowler
Fallon Roth-Perreault
Dominick Dao
Rebecca Dorsey

Harry S. Fisher Elementary School
Plymouth Center School
Eli Terry Jr. Middle School
Eli Terry Jr. Middle School
Terryville High School
Terryville High School

Eric Collier
APR 13 2022 11:10:49
PLYMOUTH, CT
TOWN OF PLYMOUTH OFFICE

5. **Recess**

MOTION: To entertain a motion to recess at 7:26 p.m. in recognition LCSA Award Recipients
Motion Mr. Showers, second Mrs. Fusco, all in favor, motion carries.

6. **Resume Regular Session**

MOTION: To resume regular session at 7:42 p.m. Motion Mr. Perugino, second Mr. Zbuska, all in favor,
motion carries.

7. **Student Representatives**

Matthew Elwell

Softball, Baseball, Track & Field has begun
Track had their first invitational
Baseball and softball, first couple of games have started
LEO Harvest Pack – March 17, packaged about 15,000
NHS Dodgeball Tournament – March 31, raised about \$2,000 for CCMC
Costa Rica – Chili cook-off, students leaving Wednesday night
Casino Night for Greece, very successful, high turnout, raised almost \$1,600
Spring Play – Wizard of Oz, amazing
Spring Extravaganza – Friday, May 6

Rebecca Dorsey – Absent
Zachary Oemcke - Absent

8. **Public Comment** (limited to 3-minutes per speaker)

Nicole McWilliams, 34 Overlook Terrace, Terryville and Jonathan Zaleski, (former student) 72 Allen Street,
Terryville. Both individuals spoke with regards to the spring production of “The Wizard of Oz”.

9. **Superintendent's Update**

- Barring any unforeseen circumstances, the last day of school is Wednesday, June 15th. However, Terryville High School graduation date is set for Tuesday, June 14th. We are hoping to hold the event outside, as we did last year. There is a rain date scheduled for the morning of June 15th. If it rains on both the 14th and 15th of June, the ceremony will be moved into the auditorium.
- Adjustment in our early dismissal times with the 2022 – 2023 school year. Currently, our last bus run clears at about 2:15 in the afternoon. This is later than the high school students get out of school on a regular school day. Adjusting the schedule by 1 hour has two benefits: (a) It gets the younger students and teachers home prior to questionable road conditions and (b) It adds an hour to teacher professional development half days.

Schedule for next year on half days:

THS 10:40 a.m.
ETJMS 11:00 a.m.
HSFES 11:45 a.m.
PCS 12:00 noon

Note: Lunch will be served or bagged lunches will be provided in all schools.

- Congratulations to Katie DeForest and Nick Fusco for being awarded the CIAC Scholar-Athletes for Terryville High School. Both of these students performed at high academic levels while excelling in Cross Country, Indoor Track and Outdoor Track. Both students will be honored at the CIAC banquet in May at the Aqua Turf.
- On Monday, March 28th, the Board of Education presented its budget to the Plymouth Board of Finance with an increase of 2.35%. The Plymouth Board of Finance Budget Presentation and Public Hearing will be held on April 14th at 6 p.m. in the Community Room at Town Hall. Following the presentation and public hearing, there will be a special Joint Meeting with the Plymouth Town Council, the Plymouth Board of Finance and the Board of Education.

Mrs. Melillo – Director of Pupil Personnel & Special Education Services

- Screenings for our Preschool Program
My team and myself decided on a screening process for the preschool program to help provide information on potential new students. It was held at Plymouth Center School. Students were asked to complete certain tasks that would help the staff get a snapshot of the child's skill sets. The screening took between 20 – 30 minutes depending on the child. Information was not used as the sole criteria for admission to preschool. Enrollment was based on demographics, class size, smart start criteria and the screening information. The team and Mrs. Melillo felt the screening was extremely valuable and also it was another method for the district to use.

Mrs. Mozak-Pezza – Director of Curriculum & Instruction

- Adoption of a Mathematics Textbook for Kindergarten through Grade 5 (Envision 2020)
MOTION: To entertain a motion to approve the purchase of Envision 2020 Mathematics Textbooks for grades K – 5, Publisher: Savvas Learning, as presented. Motion Mr. Showers, second Mr. Perugino, any discussion, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion carries.

Mr. Trudeau – Director of Technology

- New Website – Platform

10. **New Business**

(a) Revision of 2022 – 2023 School Year Calendar

MOTION: To entertain a motion to revise the 2022 – 2023 School Year Calendar as discussed. Motion: Mr. Showers, second Mrs. Lucian, any discussion, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion carries.

(b) Proposed 2023 – 2024 School Year Calendar

MOTION: To entertain a motion to approve the 2023 – 2024 School Year Calendar as presented. Motion Mrs. Lucian, second Mr. Perugino any discussion, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion carries.

(c) Change the Date of the Regular Plymouth Board of Education Meeting Date In June

MOTION: To entertain a motion to approve the date change of the Regular Meeting of the Plymouth Board of Education from Wednesday, June 1, 2022 to Wednesday, June 8, 2022 at which time this will be a Special Meeting. Motion Mr. Foote, second Mr. Showers, any discussion, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion carries.

(d) Discussion Regarding Various Board Committees

Finance Subcommittee: Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani, Chair
Mr. Perugino
Mr. Showers

Meeting Time: 6 p.m. prior to the Board of Education Meeting
Place: Terryville High School Library
First Meeting: Wednesday, May 11, 2022

Town-Wide Committee (School Fields/Park & Recreation Fields)

Committee Members: Mr. Showers, Mr. Perugino, Mr. Seaman, Members Plymouth Board of Education; Mr. Falcone, Acting Superintendent, Mr. Tencza, Business Manager, Mr. Mazon, Director of Facilities and Mr. Fowler, Athletic Director Plymouth Public Schools

From the town:
Councilmen Gentile and Green, Vincent Klimas, Grants, Mr. Richard Schnaars, Parks and Recreation, and Mr. James Kilduff, Town of Plymouth Board of Finance

11. **Board Member/Committee Reports**

A. **Finance/Operations** - Mr. Tencza, Business Manager

- Included in the packet are the following; Accounts by Facilities Report for March, 2022 and 5 different submissions; (1) Business Office Activity Report; (2) Board of Education Budget Summary through March, 2022 Report; (3) Cumulative Total Board of Education Budget % by Month; (4) Food Service Report; and (5) Capital Improvement Plan 2021 - 2030.

Mr. Tencza

- Comment on the Fields – From visiting softball teams, the opposing coach commented that this was the best the softball field has ever looked. Mr. Tencza indicated much work has been done and corrections have been made to the fields, i.e. pitcher's mound. Improvements have been made for better playing conditions.
- Last year's encumbrances are finally all closed.
- Issue with the score boards for both baseball and softball. Cost to replace both is approximately \$40,000. Figure does not include electrical work.
- All Star Transportation – Speaking with Wolcott and Thomaston business managers regarding the extension of a contract with All Star. Increases are running between 5% - 10% and this is on the low end of the scale for us which means an increase of \$100,000 in transportation for just regular transportation, does not include special education.
- Lunch Prices – Discussion regarding increasing lunch prices or for prices to remain the same. Mr. Tencza indicated that districts in our immediate vicinity are all looking to increase their lunch pricing by as much as 50 cents because of inflation, labor costs and the costs of the program.

Mr. Seaman indicated he would like to see an evaluation as to where we would be without going into a deficit. He is not a fan of increasing the cost of lunch for the families in the district.

Mr. Tencza indicated the board has the ability to set the meal prices as they see fit. In theory, the price could change throughout the year. Typically, the Board sets the price for the year. But, they can change the price mid-year. Usually, the reason for the price to be fixed for the year is so the parents can budget this amount.

Board members expressed that lunch prices remain the same, no increase, possible modest increase or possibly to reach a happy medium.

- The Accounts by Facilities Reports will be forwarded to the Town of Plymouth Board of Finance

Mr. Seaman indicated the Board of Finance would like to request the Board of Education attend their meetings on a quarterly basis to fill them in on where the Board is. The Board attended these meetings in the past.

B. **Personnel Report** – Mr. Falcone, Acting Superintendent

Mr. Falcone informed the Board of the retirement of 4 teachers. Three of those teachers, are: Jane Rossi, Candace Clukey and Deborah Groszof. The fourth individual did not want her name released until the June Board Meeting.

Teacher's Retirement Incentive – Mr. Falcone indicated since we did not reach the maximum of 8 retirements, he is asking the Board to extend the deadline to June 1st. Since there is going to be movement in the district next year, i.e. assignment changes, there may be individuals who may not like their new placement and may choose to retire.

MOTION: To entertain a motion to extend the cutoff date for the Retirement Incentive for Teachers from April 1st to June 1st. Motion Mrs. Kulesa, second Mr. Perugino, any discussion, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion carries.

11A. **Unspent Encumbrances** (\$171,651.88)

Mr. Seaman to The Board: In speaking with the Mayor and others, we attended a meeting today, Mr. Tencza, Mr. Falcone, the Mayor, the Business Manager for the Town, the Town Auditor and myself. We are trying to find a way to utilize these funds to replace the sidewalks in front of Terryville High School.

We need to approve to turn the money back to the town to their Capital Budget.

Mr. Tencza – A transfer from the Board of Education Operating Budget to the Town Capital Improvement Budget for the fiscal year 2020 – 2021. Last year's unspent encumbrances.

Mr. Seaman – Tomorrow night at the Board of Finance Meeting, they will approve putting these funds into their Capital Budget. The money is going back to the town either way. It is either going into our operating budget or in their Capital Budget. Per the auditor, if the funds are placed in the Capital Budget, it does not affect the operating budget. Then we can (the Board) get our sidewalks replaced. These are the funds that will be utilized to replace the sidewalks.

Mr. Seaman made the following motion:

MOTION: To entertain a motion to conduct a budget transfer from the Plymouth Board of Education Operating Budget fiscal year 2020 – 2021 to the Town of Plymouth Capital Budget in the amount of \$171,651.88. Motion Mr. Showers, second Mr. Foote, any discussion

Mrs. Kulesa – Is this in writing?

Mr. Seaman – No. It is not our money to keep. It has to go back to the town.

Mr. Tencza – Either way, it goes back to the town. What happened in the past, the Business Manager simply calls the Finance Director and says all of the Board's purchase orders are closed, this is the amount of the outstanding encumbrances and it goes to the General Fund.

Mr. Seaman – The relationship with the Town and the Board of Education has improved tremendously in the past few years. Mr. Falcone and Mr. Tencza have worked hard to make things as transparent as possible to the Town.

Mr. Perugino – Asked for an estimate. Was given a figure of \$150,000 - \$175,000.

Mr. Seaman- The Mayor and the Town Council are in agreement. He takes the Mayor's word.

all in favor of the motion, any opposed, any abstentions, motion carries unanimously.

12. **Public Comment** (limited to 3-minutes per speaker)

None

13. **Board Liaison Reports**

Mr. Perugino

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Harry S. Fisher Elementary School

PTA Meeting – Tuesday, April 12th

5th grade picnic and field day are in the process, just waiting until the end of April break to set dates.

School Store – opened Thursday, April 14th from 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Book Fair – May 31st – June 3rd – hours to be posted but will take place in the evening.

PJ Day – May 6th - \$1.00 to participate and this money goes toward books.

New Slate of officers to be voted on at the next meeting on May 17th

Mr. Zbuska

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Plymouth Center School

Meeting cancelled due to distribution of fundraiser.

Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani

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Eli Terry Jr. Middle School

Craft Fair – great turn out. Extra signs placed around town to help promote the event. PTA was asked by vendors to do the event next year.

Chris (inaudible) – coming up which is all sold out. Charlene and Linda putting on this event and are preparing the finishing touches and purse shopping.

Field Trips for grades 6,7 and 8 are all paid for.

May 3rd Teacher Appreciation – all week event and includes all staff.

The PTA is in desperate need of new members. Elections are next month. Any new members are welcome.

Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani

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Booster Club

Car Wash, May 15th from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. at the Snow White Car Wash.

Magnets, seat cushions and masks are still for sale which help to support the Booster Club.

May 31st Sports Awards – 6 p.m.

This group is in desperate need of new Board Members.

Terryville Fair coming up and there will be a Lemonade Booth again this year. August 26th – 28th. Volunteers are needed.

Mrs. Kulesa

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Terryville High School

Upcoming fundraisers for the After grad Party.

Flower Sale for Mother's Day.

Yard Sign Sales for Senior Parents.

Mr. Perugino

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CABE

Day on the Hill took place on March 10th and was virtual. Individuals are able to speak with their state representative and state senator. In the past, he has attended and spoke about getting more funding for Magnet School transportation.

CABE Convention – November 18th and 19th in Mystic.

Interested individuals interested in serving on the Convention Committee you are more than welcome. Please contact CABE.

Mrs. Fusco

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EdAdvance

No Report – April meeting was cancelled not enough personnel in attendance to discuss budget. May meeting will be in person.

Mr. Showers

District Safety Committee

Meeting – April 13th

THS, ETJMS, PCS and HSFES – all fire drills have been completed.

Lock Down Drill for PCS still needs to be done.

Fishing and individuals using the track when school is in session is not permitted. Possibility of individuals being arrested for trespassing, if the Board wants to pursue that avenue.

Dogs and vehicles on the track are not permitted.

Possibility of putting up signs which may be a solution.

Possibility of updating Board of Education Policy regarding dogs.

14.

Board Comments

Mr. Showers – Happy to see the sidewalks are finally going to get done. They are getting hazardous. The previous job was not done properly.

Mrs. Fusco – Commended all the students who attended the Board Meeting. What was mentioned about Drew and how he can make you feel that he is listening to you and what you are saying is the most important thing in the world. That is an attribute that is very admirable because she thinks that is one of the biggest things wrong with society right now because people (inaudible). Someone that young to have this ability to have that effect on someone is outstanding. She wishes he were still in attendance so he could hear her comments.

Mr. Foote – No Comment

Mrs. Kulesa – Congratulations to all the students and the individuals who supported them who were present tonight.

Mrs. Lucian – Excited to see the smiles on the students faces. They were so excited to receive their award.

Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani – Play and participants did a really go job. Congratulations to the students who were recognized tonight.

Mr. Perugino – The students that were honored tonight did a great job. He especially liked seeing their principals were present at the meeting. With regards to the PTA, he feels that individuals do not understand what the PTA's do. All the work and so few members. He reached out to the dads to tell them that this is their opportunity to get involved for their children. Join the PTA.

Mr. Zbuska – Impressed with what was said about each of the students. This is something everyone should be proud of.

Mr. Seaman – Congratulations to all the award recipients. The play was phenomenal. It was nice to see former students come out to help and support the production. We are a community and this is just one avenue that shows that. Drama Club turns into a career for some individuals like the young man that attended tonight's Board Meeting.

15. **Next Board Meeting** –The next Regular Meeting of the Plymouth Board of Education is on Wednesday, May 11, 2022 at 7 p.m. in the cafeteria at Terryville High School.

16. **Executive Session**

MOTION: To entertain a motion to enter into Executive Session at 8:57 p.m. to discuss the following:

(a) Administrative Personnel Discussion

Inviting Mr. Falcone, Acting Superintendent into Executive Session. Motion Mr. Showers, second Mrs. Lucian, any discussion, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion carries.

17. **Resume Regular Session**

MOTION: To entertain a motion to resume regular session at 10:02 p.m. Motion Mr. Perugino, second Mr. Foote, all in favor, motion carries.

18. **Possible Action From Executive Session**

None Being Heard

19. **Adjournment**

MOTION: To entertain a motion to adjourn at 10:02 p.m. Motion Mrs. Lucian, second, Mr. Zbuska all in favor, motion carries.

Patricia Piskorski
Patricia Piskorski
Recording Secretary
Plymouth Board of Education