



PLYMOUTH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

CENTRAL OFFICE
27 NORTH HARWINTON AVENUE
TERRYVILLE, CONNECTICUT 06786

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

IN PERSON MEETING WITH THE PUBLIC

MASKS ARE REQUIRED

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2022

7:00 P.M.

MINUTES

Present: Mr. Seaman, Mrs. Kulesa, Mrs. Lucian, Mr. Showers, Ms. 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 p.m. The group joined in the Pledge to the Flag.

2. **Adoption of the Agenda**

MOTION: To entertain a motion to adopt the agenda as presented. Motion Mrs. Lucian, second Mrs. Fusco, 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 Board of Education Meetings of January 12, 2022 (New Course Offerings at Terryville High School and Board of Education Workshop/Retreat) Motion Mr. Perugino, second Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani, any discussion, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion carries.

MOTION: To entertain a motion to approve the minutes of the Special Board Subcommittee Meeting of January 12, 2022 (Budget Workshop) Motion Mr. Perugino, second Mrs. Fusco, any discussion, all in favor, any opposed, motion carries

MOTION: To entertain a motion to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of the Plymouth Board of Education of January 26, 2022. Motion Mrs. Lucian, second Mr. Zbuska, any discussion, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions (MR. PERUGINO AND MRS. CANDREA-FLORENCIANI ABSTAINS), motion carries

4. Student Representatives

Matthew Elwell

- Boys are undefeated for Berkshire League and as of February 8, 2022 #1 in Class 1.
- Dominic Dao, Republican American Player of the Week after scoring 51 points against Gilbert
- Girls' Basketball gained a couple wins after a big rebuild of mainly underclass men.

Rebecca Dorsey

- The Prom Committee chose a casino theme.
- PTSA is doing fundraisers to support Aftergrad:
 - Crabby Al's In March
 - Nutmeg Spice
 - Mother's Day Flowers
 - Graduation Signs
 - Donation Letters mailed to local businesses
- Midterms went well this year.
- National Honor Society induction – quite a few new members.

Zachary Oemcke

- On January 4th and 11th, the 8th Graders toured the high school to shadow how to become a "Roo" for the day.
- Midterms for all grade levels, per students in the council, went very well. Students felt the tests were administered in a good fashion and grades came out to be better than expected.
- Fifteen Juniors were inducted to the National Honor Society on February 3rd. The National Honor Society is not only an achievement, but is a responsibility. Students were inducted because of their strong character, leadership, and strong academic performance both in and out of the school building.
- The first semester of the Terryville High School capstone course Project Learn, a requirement for Juniors this year, is just about wrapping up. Half of the Juniors presented their presentations to a handful of staff members throughout the past couple of weeks. The second half of Juniors are now entering the course for the last semester of the year.

5. Superintendent's Update

- Mask Mandate
State-Wide Mask Mandates in schools **could** be ending on February 28th. However, there is much misinformation out in the public. There is absolutely no confirmation that Superintendents have received any information on how districts should be moving forward. If this is true, it is possible that local Boards of Education will be determining what happens with masks in schools. As to his understanding, there would be two options available: Option 1: To accept the end of the mandates in school. If that is the District's decision, nothing further really needs to happen since the Board will be following the decision of the Governor. Masks in school would be optional for staff and students. Option 2 – For the Board to implement its own mandate that would be specific to the Plymouth Public Schools. If this is the case, the Board would need to create a policy and it would need to be voted on by the Board. But, based on the information we currently have, there is no action the District can take. There is nothing that can be done at this point. The District needs to wait for the State and Governor to make some decisions to direct us as to what we should or should not be doing for our school district.
- Children between the ages of 5 – 11, the vaccination rate is 17.4%; between the ages of 12 -17 the rate is 47.83%. As of February 7th, the positivity rate for the Town of Plymouth was 17%.
- Possibility of a Long Weekend In March
Possibility of a long weekend in March for staff and students to take a break and have some time off to recoup. A survey was put out and the results were: 51% were interested in the break; 49% were not interested in adding on to the end of the school year in June. Compromise: Add 2 half PD days to the schedule for faculty and staff to catch up on their work. These days will be communicated to parents at the end of this week so they will be able to make arrangement for their children to have those days covered.

- Out of the Country Field Trips

A meeting took place between Mr. Hults and Mr. Falcone. They spoke to the chaperones of both Greece and Costa Rica trips. Both groups still plan on attending these trips and traveling. It was made very clear to the chaperones that the District needs to have the parents have an understanding of when the last day would be to get their money back from those trips, what the protocol and procedures would be if their child were to contract COVID on the trip. Something will be put in writing for the parents to sign off on. They will need to make these decisions. Meetings will be scheduled if they still plan on traveling.

- On a final note, Congratulations are in order to Russ Fuller, the Districts Technology Education Teacher at the Terryville High School. Mr. Fuller was named the Connecticut Technology and Engineering Association Teacher of the month in January.

6. Unfinished Business

- 2022 – 2023 Budget

MOTION: To entertain a motion to approve the Budget for 2022 – 2023 in the amount of \$25,420,623.00, an increase of \$576,973.00 which represents an increase of 2.35% over last year's budget.
Motion Mr. Showers, second Mr. Foote, any discussion

Discussion on the Motion: At this time Mr. Seaman addressed that an item was brought forward at the Budget Workshop of the possibility of hiring an Assistant Principal at the middle school v. a Dean of Students.

Mr. Seaman – Is the position of Assistant Principal calculated in the amount presented in the Budget figures?

Mr. Falcone – Yes, What would be done to offset the cost difference between placing an Assistant Principal, if this is the path the Board chooses, the cost would be built into the ESSER Funds and our ESSER Grant for the year. Then we would budget the amount in the operating budget the following year. The amount would not have an increase on the 2.35%.

The Board Members were emailed two items:

- Differences Between a Dean of Students and an Assistant Principal which indicated their roles and responsibilities; and
- Adding A Middle School Assistant Principal – Cost difference between the two positions.

Paper copies were also placed at each Board Members seat for their review.

Questions: #1 Would these two positions be union position and if so, what unions are involved?
#2 What is the per diem rate for the Dean of Students?

Mr. Falcone (Response)

Question #1 – Both positions are with unions. The Dean of Students would fall under the Teachers Union. The Assistant Principal would fall under the Administrative Union. If you look on both sheets at the responsibilities, it aligns to each of these unions.

Question #2 – The per diem rate is not on the chart. However, it would be the salary of that Dean of Students divided by 184 days (which is the number of days they work). That would be the per diem rate. If the individual were on the top step, for example 6th year/teacher, the amount would be approximately \$92,000 a year divided by 184 days. Again, this does not mean this individual would be at top step. Whatever the step may be, this individual would be on would be divided by 184 days.

Mr. Seaman – Went around the table to see if Board Members had any additional questions about the budget or the position of Assistant Principal. Having been none, Mr. Seaman called for a Roll Vote.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Yes = As to the Budget as presented and the position of Assistant Principal.

No – Against

Mr. Showers: Yes

Mrs. Fusco: Yes

Mr. Foote: Yes

Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani: Yes

Mr. Perugino: Yes

Mr. Zbuska: Yes

Mrs. Lucian: Yes

Mrs. Kulesa: Yes

8 votes were cast

8 yes

Motion passes.

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

None

8. **New Business**

- Out-of-State Field Trip

MOTION: To entertain a motion to approve the out-of-state field trip to Six Flags in New Jersey, Trills n Thrills Music Festival for students in grades 9 – 12 in the Music Department at Terryville High School on May 20, 2022. Motion Mr. Foote, second Mrs. Lucian, any discussion, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion passes.

9. **Board Member/Committee Reports**

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

- Included in the packet are the following; Accounts by Facilities Report for January, 2022 and 3 different submissions; (1) Business Office Activity Report; (2) Board of Education Budget Summary through January, 2022 Report; and (3) Cumulative Total Board of Education Budget % by Month.

The Board Members also receive at their seat for their review: The Food Service Financial Performance – Year to Date (July 1, 2021 thru January 31, 2022, the Capital Improvement Plan and a draft of the Service Provider Agreement.

Some items reviewed by Mr. Tencza.

- Food Service Performance – Health Inspections at all schools passed with grades of 98% or better. TV in the cafeteria lists breakfasts and lunches on the screen with nutritional values. Hoping in the future to take photos of food, etc. to go along with the menu.
- Draft of Capital Improvement Plan – This is continuously being changed. This is a ten-year plan which began last year. This report will be included monthly in the Board packet, if no changes are made, you will see the same document two months in a row.

Mr. Seaman – Question: Was this forwarded to the Town or did the Town's Capital Improvement Committee receive a copy of this draft?

Mr. Tencza – Response: It has not. The Board is seeing this chart for the first time.

Mr. Seaman – Question: So this chart Mr. Perugino and myself will bring with them to the meeting. As amendments occur, Mr. Seaman will get Mr. Tencza the email of the Chairman of that committee and he can forward it over to him. Mr. Seaman feels we need to begin that dialogue.

- Draft of Service Provider Agreement – Mr. Tencza explained that he just received this agreement today. He also indicated that on the second to the last page there was an error. The figure typed was \$50,00.00 for the 01/01/2002 to 12/31/2022 and should have read \$50,000.00 for this period. Mr. Tencza indicated he will reach out to the vendor to correct this error before the Final Agreement is ready to sign.

- Budget Reports – Lines with deficits are due to the fact that we are continuously cleaning up the Budget so that it is more transparent for all of the Board. Moving expenses in some cases to individual lines, i. e. page 9 for example – Interventionist (large deficit) but the offset was this was pulled from other salary lines. This way the Board is able to see exactly where the expenses are falling. Another example, Administration at Plymouth Center School due to an administrator on leave and paying the Interim Principal at the same time and it is coming out of that line. Therefore, we are paying two administrators out of the same line. The Budget is being monitored on a daily basis to see where we are and he is very confident we will be fine. However, if at any time you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mr. Tencza.

Mr. Falcone – Comment

* Capital Plan – We realize there are items missing. We are trying to gather the information to make certain it is as accurate as it can be as we move forward, looking at our furnaces, boilers, whatever needs to be looked at from top to bottom to make certain items get on the Capital Improvement Plan. We are still in the process of gathering information. However, it was felt that it was important for the Board to see where we are in that process to start communication with the Town.

* Deficits – There have been many business managers over a short period of time who do things their own way. We are trying to clean this up a little bit and made it as transparent so the Board is able to see exactly where the money is budgeted and exactly how much is being spent in certain places.

Mr. Perugino – Question: Has the Budget been frozen this year?

Mr. Tencza – Response: The Budget is currently frozen.

Mr. Seaman – Question: So, you're telling the Board at the end of the year we will be balanced?

Mr. Tencza – Response: Yes

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

B. Personnel Report – Mr. Falcone, Acting Superintendent

* Two items addressed by Mr. Falcone that appear on the Personnel Report:

(1) The addition of a Head Teacher position at Plymouth Center School. Currently, the district has a Head Teacher, however, that individual is not currently in district. Therefore, there was a need to replace this individual with a stipend position to have someone in charge of the building, if and when, Mrs. Worhunsy is not in the building.

(2) .20 Technology Education Teacher at the high school. This position offers students at the high school an additional elective due to the fact that we are not replacing the Family & Consumer Science Teacher for the remainder of the year.

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

None

11. Board Liaison Reports

Mr. Perugino -- Harry S. Fisher Elementary School

No Report

Mr. Zbuska -- Plymouth Center School

No Report

Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani

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Eli Terry Jr. Middle School

- Round-Up was at the beginning of January at IGA and did very well.
- Upcoming Fundraisers: Bingo, Craft Fair, 8th grade – Crispy Crème Donuts – 1 dozen glaze donuts @ \$10 per dozen; and Calendar Fundraiser (great fundraiser).

Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani

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Booster Club

- Boys' Basketball is doing amazing. Next event, Tuesday, February 5th – special guest invited.
- Selling masks, magnets and seat cushions.
- Reminder to seniors, Scholarship Time – Reach out to your guidance counselor. If you are an athlete and have been a Booster Club Member, you may apply for scholarships.

Mrs. Kulesa

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Terryville High School

- Next PTSA Meeting is on February 17th.
- PTSA hopes to host a benefit night at Crabby Al's sometime in March.
- Fundraising efforts continue. If anyone is looking to donate so the seniors will have a safe After grad, it would be greatly appreciated.

Mr. Perugino

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CABE

No Report

Mrs. Fusco

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EdAdvance

No Report – Audit Meeting was postponed

Mr. Showers

District Safety Committee

Next Meeting tentatively scheduled for some time in April. This committee meets quarterly.

12.

Board Comments

Mr. Foote – A complaint was received from an individual who resides on Charles Street about parking in that area. Individuals are driving fast at the end of the school day. The driveway of this individual is blocked.

Mr. Falcone – Response – After the meeting, he will gather the information Mr. Foote has and look into the matter.

Mrs. Kulesa – It is nice to see the student representatives back.

Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani – Comment on the TV's. - She feels it is important to have them as they contain nutritional facts and additional information especially if a child uses insulin. This child would need to go to the nurse and calculate what they are able to eat, i.e. pizza v. hamburger. It will be nice for a child to look up at the screen and is handy for the children to have this information.

The Wizard of Oz play is coming up in April. This is another great opportunity in town that is offered to every child. It is a lot of fun to watch the beginning, when no one knows what they are going to be doing to the end. There is singing and dancing and performances on stage before an audience. It would be great if we supported the children and staff who put a lot of work into this play.

Mr. Perugino – It was a pleasure to read in this morning's Waterbury Republican on the front page the positive picture of our students cheering on our basketball team rather than negative articles that appear on the front page.

Mr. Zbuska – Congratulations to the Basketball Team. Great job this year.

Mr. Seaman – Echoed Mr. Perugino and Mr. Zbuska's comments on the Basketball team. All the hard work of the players and the cheerleaders as well.

Regarding the end of the Statewide Mask Mandate – Since, at this time, no one knows where this mandate is headed, he would ask that Board Members think about this over the next week or so as to where each of them stands on the issues and their thoughts on the Mask Mandates. Depending on the decision, the Board may possibly need to schedule a Special Board Meeting to address the issue. Take into consideration there is a lot of misinformation out in the public. As Board Members, we need to make informed decisions to Mask or Unmask our kids. However, he does not expect not to have any accurate information until February 28th.

Mrs. Kulesa – Important if our Administrators get some opinions from their staff. Hear their point of view. Maybe possibly put out a survey.

Mrs. Fusco – Request opinions from the community as well, even though this would be voted on as a Board. Will the community have any input on how they feel or is this something that will be (inaudible)

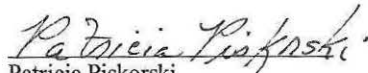
Mrs. Kulesa – Community would be a little more difficult.

Mr. Seaman – Mr. Hults has put this out to his academic family and also the teachers. Although, Mr. Seaman indicated he has not yet seen the survey, he feels they usually come back about 50/50. To Mrs. Fusco: Maybe this is something we can look into. Asked Mr. Falcone to let the Board know if this is possible.

13. **Next Board Meeting** – The next Regular Meeting of the Plymouth Board of Education is on Wednesday, March 9, 2022 at 7 p.m. in the cafeteria at Terryville High School.

14. **Adjournment**

MOTION: To entertain a motion to adjourn at 7:37 p.m. Motion Mr. Showers, second Mr. Foote, all in favor, motion passes unanimously.


Patricia Piskorski
Recording Secretary
Plymouth Board of Education