



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

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 18, 2021

7:00P.M.

MINUTES

Present: Mr. Seaman, Mrs. Kulesa, Mrs. Lucian, Mr. Showers, Mrs. Johnson, Mr. Foote, Ms. Roth, and Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani

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

I. 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 Mr. Foote, second Mr. Showers, any discussion, all in favor, any opposed any abstentions, motion carries.

3. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of June 9, 2021 and July 6, 2021. Motion Mr. Showers, second Mr. Foote, any discussion, all in favor, any abstentions motion carries.

4. Superintendent's Update

* Welcome Board of Education Members to the 2021 -2022 school year.

* Faculty and Staff will be returning to work as follows:

- o Thursday, August 26 for Convocation and opening meeting
- o Friday, August 27 for Professional Day for faculty and staff members
- o August 30, first day of school for students

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- * Change of hours for Plymouth Center School due to reconfiguration. All other schools will remain the same.

- o Plymouth Center School 8:55a.m.-3:25p.m.

The hours for the rest of the schools stay the same and can be found on our website.

- * Due to the reconfiguration of the schools, we are going to have to allow the busses time to adjust to the new Plymouth Center School and Harry S. Fisher Elementary School schedules and routes. We will keep a watchful eye out for the amount of time the children are on the busses.

- * Administrative Retreat will be held at Terryville High School on August 19 and August 20. Discussions will include (a) specific protocol and procedures of how the district will operate; (b) focus on coherence and alignment within the district and (c) fragmentation due to COVID.

Mr. Tencza- Business Manager

- * Update on Facilities Summer Work

- o Terryville High School – The interior portion of the building is almost complete. The only remaining areas that require attention are the tile areas which are done before school begins.
- o Eli Terry Jr. Middle School-We are somewhat behind on our cleaning, due to the town's summer camp and summer feeding program. The only area that needs addressing is the cafeteria and this will be complete before the student return.
- o Harry S. Fisher Elementary School -Cleaning is almost complete with the custodial staff assisting new teachers. Due to the realignment, furniture and equipment need to be moved but this is under control.
- o Plymouth Center School -Although building use for the summer program caused some interruption, everything is on track even with a significant amount of classroom movement the school will be ready for students when they return.

- * Outdoor/Grounds - This year was challenging for the summer due to the weather conditions. Areas being addressed are: mowing, trimming, mulching and planters which will be filled with flowers to welcome students and staff on the first day of school.

- * Projects

- o Terryville High School! – (a) changing the gymnasium seat replacement to black. Shipping delays are causing this project to remain open; (b) the sundial has been renovated; (c) the gate leading to the barn has been replaced due to broken hinges; (d) Energy Management System upgrade is complete; and (e) the Kangaroo, hopefully, will be returned to its rightful place before the start of the new school year.
- o Eli Terry Jr. Middle School – (a) the new scoreboard for the gymnasium has been delayed due to the world wide chip shortage. Hopefully, it will arrive for the winter season; (b) conversion of a science room to a regular classroom is not yet complete. The countertop contractor is behind with work until October due to the inability to find laborers; (c) the conversion of the custodial office to a support staff office is complete with new tile and painting and is ready for occupancy; and (d) custodian office has been relocated to a new area.

- o Harry S. Fisher Elementary School-(a) new fencing was installed in front of the dugouts on the baseball field which addresses the safety issue that was brought to our attention in the spring, and (b) new carpet in the lower level has been completed.
- o Plymouth Center School – (a) the remaining wall by the playground is in the process of being replaced and is scheduled to be completed by the end of this week; (b) chimney repair has not yet begun due to the brick and mortar spalling (water causing the brickwork to deteriorate). The chimney will be covered similar to the work done at Harry S. Fisher Elementary School.
- o The Energy Management System has been updated and is now current as it relates to software support.
- o Cafeteria- Lunch will be free to all students in the 2021 – 2022 school year. Enhanced by A La Carte Sales this year.
- o Athletic Trainer – Select Physical Therapy will no longer be able to provide the district with an Athletic Trainer. Even though practice begins on August 26th, we have already begun working with Advanced Physical Therapy and if this does not work, we may need to go per diem – with that said, we will need to go to RFP. It will be ready for the September Board Meeting for the Board's approval.
- o Encumbrances are now down to approximately \$340,000.00.

Mrs. Mozak-Pezza- Director of Curriculum & Instruction

* Summary of Summer School- This year's summer school program was funded through ESSERS 2. The cost to run the programs was \$40,000.00 at all three levels, including the credit recovery program at Terryville High School.

- o Elementary Program- A total of 46 students participated in a three-week program held in the month of July. Students worked with one teacher for 90 minutes on ELA and 90 minutes on Mathematics.
- o Middle School Program- A total of 25 students participated in a three-week program held in July. Students worked for 60 minute blocks on Reading, Writing and Mathematics.
- o High School Program
 - * A total of 15 students participated in a three-week enrichment program that focused on career skills and personal finance.
 - * A total of 35 students participated in a six-week credit recovery program. This program was offered free of charge and the enrollment doubled over the average participation in years when students had to pay. The district is working to fully fund this in future years so more students will be able to participate.

Mr. Falcone – Acting Superintendent

* Regarding COVID – 19

- o The district plans to operate as business as usual in all of our schools.
- o Everyone will be back to school for in-person learning.
- o There will no longer be the option for students to participate in the remote learning model, at this time.
- o Elementary school students will be going to their specials, eating in the cafeteria and tables and other furniture will be returned to the classrooms.
- o Middle School will no longer be cohorting groups.
- o High School will not be following a hybrid schedule.

The district's number one goal is to provide safe in-person learning. Our building principals have drafted COVID safety protocols specific for each of our buildings. However our COVID safety return to school plans will not be sent out until the end of this week or early next week.

- o Working with DPH, the district was able to schedule two COVID Vaccination Clinics.
 - * One for Terryville High School and one for Eli Terry Jr. Middle School for students 12 years and over. These clinics will take place in these schools during the school day from 12 noon to 4 p.m.

- * Vaccination Clinic at Terryville High School is scheduled for September 8th (first shot) and September 29th (second shot).

- * Vaccination Clinic at Eli Terry Jr. Middle School is scheduled for September 9th (first shot) and September 30th (second shot).

Any student being vaccinated during the school day will need a waiver signed by their parents. The after school hours are set for parents who want to be with their children when they receive the vaccination.

5. Mask Mandates for the Beginning of the 2021 -2022 School Year-

Mr. Seaman, Board of Education Chair – As a follow-up to the superintendent's report. The district is here to provide a safe learning environment. But they also have responsibilities. Wearing a mask is not to protect one's self but to protect other individuals. The local board is given their authority by the State of Connecticut so it does not have the right to disobey the governor's executive order. Currently the governor's order states masks will be worn in schools until September 30th. This is the decision. If and when there comes a time when this Board needs to make a decision, it will be made at that time based on facts, science and the best information provided to them. Mr. Seaman indicated he was confident, when the time comes the Board will come to an agreement. However, the Board is aware that whatever decision is made, if it comes time to make a decision in some eyes it will be the wrong decision. But, we all took this on when we chose to be on this Board. He indicated he does appreciate people's viewpoints. However, he is not fond of some of the disrespect he has viewed at other meetings in other districts. However Terryville is not that type of community.

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

Victoria Nadolski-94 North Main Street, Terryville
Advocated for children not wearing masks in school.

7. New Business

- * First Read of Policy Series 3000 Business-Business/Non-Instructional Operations- Relations with Vendors- P3313 & R3313
- * First Read of Policy Series 5000 Students-Students - Electronic Devices – P5131.81(a)

Each Board Member received a copy of the policies in their packet. There will be a second read and a motion to approve and/or not approve at the September Board of Education Meeting.

*Memorandum of Understanding-Middle and High School Leo Club Stipends

No Action Taken

8. **Board Member/Committee Reports**

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

- Included in the packet are the following; Accounts by Facilities Report for The fiscal year-end June 30, 2021 and the Accounts by Facilities Report for the month of July 2021 and 3 different submissions: (1) Business Office Activity Report; (2) Board of Education Budget Summary through June, 2021 Report; and (3) Cumulative Total Board of Education Budget% by Month.
- The Accounts by Facilities Reports will be forwarded to the Town of Plymouth Board of Finance
- Year-End Surplus and Sinking Fund Contribution

MOTION: To entertain a motion that the year-end surplus of \$495,511.00 be transferred to the Sinking Fund which would increase the balance of the Sinking Fund to \$887,808.00.

Motion Mr. Showers, second, Mrs. Johnson, any discussion

Mrs. Johnson-So, this is even after we had to use some of that money for other things which is literally the balance right now which is 887?

Mr. Tencza-Business Manager-It is 887. When we were done with the budget process and I knew that is where we were going to head, I worked diligently to get the money put aside first before we did any other projects. I moved that money into the contingency account line so when you look at that report that is where that resides and then we encumbered that so it showed up as encumbered.

ROLL VOTE: Mr. Showers - **m** Mrs. Johnson - Mr. Foote - **m**

Ms. Roth - 's__ Mrs. Candice-Florenciani-'s__ Mrs. **Lucian**-Mrs. **Kulesa**-

Yes - **I** No - **Q** Opposed - **Q** Abstentions - **Q** Motion carries

MOTION: To entertain a motion that the amount of \$5,127.00 be returned to the Town of Plymouth. Motion Mr. Showers, second Mr. Foote any discussion,

Mr. Tencza-Business Manager-Requested that the dollar amount be amended to read \$5,127.02.

Mr. Seaman-Board Chair-Motion rescinded.

MOTION: To entertain a motion that the amount of \$5,127.02 be returned to the Town of Plymouth. Motion Mr. Showers, second Mr. Foot, any discussion

ROLL VOTE: Mr. Showers - Mrs. **Johnson**- Mr. **Foote**- Ms. Roth - **m**

Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani - **m** Mrs. Lucien- **m** Mrs. Kulesa - **m**

Yes - **I** No-**Q** Opposed-**Q** Abstentions-**Q** Motion carries

- Budget Transfers

MOTION: To entertain a motion to grant the Business Manager the authority with the approval of the Superintendent to make budget transfers regarding personnel in the 2021 – 2022 Budget. This authority will remain in effect until October 13, 2021. Motion Mrs. Johnson, second Mr. Showers any discussion,

ROLL VOTE: Mr. Showers-yes Mrs. **Johnson-** Mr. **Foote-** Ms. **Roth-**

Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani-yes Mrs. **Lucian-** Mrs. Kulesa -

Yes - **1** No - **0** Opposed - **0** Abstentions - **0** Motion carries

B. Personnel Report-Mr. Falcone, Acting Superintendent

Each Board Member was provided a copy of the Personnel Report in their packet.

Mr. Falcone shared the resignation for the purpose of retirement of Jan Basoli, Administrative Assistant to the Director of Pupil Personnel and Special Education Services. Jan has been with the district for 46 years and is a remarkable individual. Mr. Falcone thanked her on behalf of the entire district for her service to the district, for all of her work behind the scenes with the children she has come to know and service through her many years and her work with the many Special Education Directors that have crossed her path. He thanked her on behalf of the entire district.

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

None

10. Board Comments

Mrs. **Roth-** Wished everyone luck with the upcoming school year. (rest of comment inaudible).

Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani-Excited about the new school year. Send the kids back.

Mrs. **Lucian** – Wished the teachers and staff and children good luck in the new school year. Hopefully, everything will run smoothly and we can return to learning.

Mrs. **Kulesa-**This is a very exciting time of year. This is our new year. It's not January. It's a great time of year and we are all very excited and we know it's going to be a great year regardless of what happens.

Mr. **Showers-**Looking forward to a nice smooth transition at the schools and a nice school year with no problems.

Mrs. **Johnson** – hocked with the announcement of the retirement of Jan Basoli. She is truly one of the best people the district has ever had. She personally has worked with Jan for 25 years and she knows more about special education than all of her friends and all of the professionals she knows. It is a huge loss to the district. he wished Jan luck. We know her retirement was coming. Mrs. Johnson wants to wish Jan luck.

Mr. **Foote-**Have a Good Year.

Mr. Eaman – He is excited we are getting back to normal. The kids will be back in the classrooms, although his not up to everyone's expectations starting off. He is glad to see things are getting back to normal and wishes everyone success this year and he thinks it's long overdue.

II. Personnel-Related Matter (Executive Session Anticipated)

MOTION: To entertain a motion to enter into executive session at 7:37p.m. to discuss a personnel-related matter inviting Mr. Falcone, Acting Superintendent and Matthew Tencza, Business Manager. Motion Mr. Showers, second Mrs. Lucian any discussion, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion carries.

12. Resume Regular Session

MOTION: To entertain a motion to resume regular session at 8:36p.m. Motion Mr. Showers, second Mr. Foote any discussion, all in favor any abstentions, any opposed, motion carries.

13. Possible Action on Personnel-Related Matter

MOTION: To entertain a motion to grant the Acting Superintendent and the Business Manager the authority to formulate an agreement regarding the curricular staff as discussed in executive session. MOVED FURTHER grant the Chairman to sign and execute such agreement on behalf of the Board. Motion Mr. Showers, second Mr. Foote any discussion, hearing non, all in favor, any opposed any abstentions, motion carries.

MOTION: To entertain a motion to grant the Business Manager and the Acting Superintendent to release an RFP and execute a contract for the maintenance of grounds as discussed in executive session. Motion Mrs. Johnson, second Mr. Showers, any discussion on the motion, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion carries.

MOTION: To entertain a motion to grant the Board Chair to sign and execute the MOA as discussed in executive session regarding the Leo Organization. Motion Mrs. Lucian, second Mr. Foote, any discussion all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions motion carries.

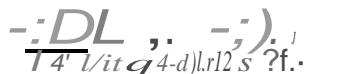
MOTION: To entertain a motion to grant the Board Chair to sign and execute the MOA on the Board's behalf regarding the Curriculum and Instructional Coordinator and Special Education and Pupil Personnel Coordinator as discussed in executive session. Motion Mrs. Johnson, second Mr. Showers, any discussion, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion carries.

14. Next Board Meeting –The next Regular Meeting of the Plymouth Board of Education is on Wednesday, September 8, 2021 at 7 p.m. in the cafeteria at Terryville High School.

15. Adjournment

MOTION: To entertain a motion to adjourn at 8:39p.m. Motion Mr. Showers, second, Mr. Foote, all in favor, motion carries.

Respectfully Submitted,


Patricia Piskorski
Recording Secretary
Plymouth Board of Education