



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, DECEMBER 8, 2021
7:00 P.M.
MINUTES

Erica DeLizia

DEC 14 PM 1:28

PLYMOUTH CT
CLERK'S OFFICE

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

Also 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; 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 adopt the agenda as presented by Mr. Showers; second Mr. Foote. Discussion: none and the vote unanimous. Motion passes.

3. **Approval of Minutes**

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Plymouth Board of Education and the Special Board of Education Meeting (Retreat) of November 10, 2021 by Mr. Showers; second Mr. Foote. Discussion: none and the vote unanimous. Motion passes.

4. Presentation(s)

- (a) Mid-year Energy Report – Mr. Sandshaw gave an update via a slide show presentation reviewing the mission and goal to reduce use by 25-30% noting changes and solar arrays with higher output than expected and making more energy for us; usage is down, reviewed; he participates in virtual training sessions including winter setback, boiler basics, ventilation and indoor air quality, district energy plan; program savings for 12 years around \$2.7 million. He thanked the Board for their support noting the district has had 2 significant lighting updates; outside lights are now LED; we are going in the right direction. Chairman Seaman thanked him for his passion and dedication over the years and he has done a great job. In summary Mr. Sandshaw stated solar arrays exceeding output by 13%; electric use down 29%; energy costs from base year around \$400,000; continual virtual training and program savings of \$2.7 million.

(b) Eli Terry Jr. Middle School – Ms. Suffridge, Principal. Students play a part in decisions on student culture at ETJMS. Three of the student leaders worked with her in preparing for the presentation tonight and they will give an overview of ETJMS events, activities and highlights. Drew Fowler, 8th grade student, recipient of the Superintendent award in 2018 and has the highest grade point average for 2.5 years; Gianna Botto, 8th grade, who last year was the Rotary Club student of the month, a 2 sport athlete, honor roll and involved in many activities; Lucas Rogers, 7th grade, last week received Rotary Club student of the month, consistent honor roll status. Drew Fowler stated he is in algebra and Spanish 1, ran cross country, student leadership, drama and participant with CT Association of Schools, involvement with Students on Site; morning announcer and master of ceremonies. Gianna Botto enjoys Spanish and algebra, involved with cross country, softball, Leo Club in which she helps with trunk or treat, spirit week, and ringing the bell for Salvation Army and currently raising money for CCMC; and on the student panel to interview job candidates. Lucas Rogers stated photography is his passion and on yearbook; involved with family fun day and participating with holiday activities, and enjoys track and field. A short video presentation on sports and activities at ETJMS was played. Chairman Seaman thanked the group for work they have done, enjoyed the Veteran's Day portion of the video as well a learning about Students on Site. What they are involved with is phenomenal and this work impacts school and town and country. Board members thanked the group of students and Ms. Suffridge.

5. **Student Representatives**

Matthew Elwell
Rebecca Dorsey
Zachary Oemcke

Matt Elwell thanked the ETJMS students for a good job and reported:
Rebecca and Zack will be back in January

*Seniors began voting on prom themes; NHS induction in February *Fall sports have ended; winter sports kicked off and number of participants looks stronger

*Blood Drive sponsored by Student Council is Dec 15th and have 33 donors and looking for 15 to reach goal

*THS concert is December 15 at 7:30

- *Drama Club play last weekend was successful and entertaining
- *This Friday is Pajama Day dress down for CCMC organized by the THS Pep Club and working with ETJMS
- *Ms. Erickson's thankful tree was in front of café

6. Superintendent's Update

Mr. Falcone reported:

- *Matthew - great job and he still has a soccer game 10:15 tonight
 - *Thanked Ms. Suffridge, Drew, Gianna and Lucas and all the kids in video who did phenomenal job
 - *Thanked Mr. Sandshaw for his report and it is fascinating with savings in 12 years of almost \$2.7 million
 - *Thanked Dick, Marty and the Lions Club as it came to his attention on the state of the art vision screening equipment being used for students
 - *PCS update – officially hired a teacher to replace Mr. Eschert with experience in 2nd grade and will start on December 20th; hired a new school counselor as based on reconfiguration there is a need for additional support for students, teachers and administration; faculty and staff not in the school, there is no update at this time
 - *Winter – will make weather-related phone call and will notify parents and students around 5:30 am via phone, emails and on tv, Facebook, Plymouth 16 and our web site
 - *Budget – working with admin team on the 2022-2023 budget which will be presented at the January 12th meeting; budget workshops will be held January 19th and 26th if necessary, from 6 – 8:30 pm in the THS library. The purpose is to answer questions and discussion on modification (s) to presentation. This is a public meeting and public comment is on Agenda. Will send budget workshop information to the Board of Finance, Town Council and Mayor. Final budget review February 9th at the Regular BOE meeting and to be submitted to the town mid-February per charter.
 - *Covid 19 – CIAC revised their mask policy and all players and coaches must wear masks until December 23; guidelines reviewed
 - *Plymouth Volunteer Ambulance Corps is hosting a Covid vaccination clinic this Saturday, 12/11, at Fisher Elementary from 9 am -12; walk in clinic available for anyone for Pfizer booster and first and second doses
- Chairman Seaman – reviewed how the budget process works and stating once the budget is prepared and presented to the Board, it becomes the Board's budget.

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

- a. Randy Picard, 140 Old Waterbury Road, Terryville – gave update on events happening now at the Terryville Public Library and wished everyone a safe and warm holiday season and Happy New Year.

8. New Business

Mrs. Melillo reviewed the Screen & Stay policy; stating the purpose is to allow unvaccinated students to stay in school depending on exposure, reviewed guidelines and noted as a school district, she is not sure we can provide this; school nurse union agrees this is not a policy they want to implement. Mr. Falcone gave an example that his daughter was a close contact and he got phone call as Cheshire does Screen & Stay but the school nurse did not recommend us moving forward due to regulations and what kids can and cannot participate and it has created a number of concerns in Cheshire and the rules continue to change. He stated our nurses had similar input. Chairman Seaman stated it seems this

would tie our hands as guidelines change. Chairman Seaman stated he would entertain a Motion to approve the Screen & Stay.

With no Motion coming forward, this item is not moving forward.

9. **Board Member/Committee Reports**

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

*Food service financial performance distributed for board review on year to date summary, thanking Alicia and staff for getting meals to students, managing inventory; we are in the black. Will provide this monthly and currently profitable by \$85,000 and have committed money to update equipment which is in need.

*Landscaping and Maintenance – received one response and will have motion; Wygant Construction Company from Bristol is recipient of the contract and they also do athletic fields and grounds at Wesleyan University and all references were positive stating responsible, responsive and easy to work with. Bid is 2 years at \$155,000 per year for all of our grounds and athletic fields; saves the district about \$20,000 -\$25,000 per year in payroll and benefits. Contract is being developed by Shipman and Goodwin. In RFP includes mulching weed wacking, all encompassing, fertilization, weeding leaf pickup, field care (infield dirt due to holes) striping of fields, number of mows per season as minimum. Chairman Seaman stated this will not solve the problem but will help.

- Included in the packet are the following; Accounts by Facilities Report for October, 2021 and 3 different submissions; (1) Business Office Activity Report;
(2) Board of Education Budget Summary through November, 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

MOTION: To authorize the Acting Superintendent and/or the Business Manager to approve a contract Between the Plymouth Board of Education and Wygant Construction/Maintenance Services of Bristol, Connecticut for Grounds Maintenance for a period of 2 years beginning January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2023. Motion by Mr. Showers, second by Mr. Foote. Discussion: Mr. Perugino asked if it saves \$25,000 per year; Mr. Tencza responded approximately. Mr. Perugino stated he asked to review the contract and was told it is with the lawyer. At this point he knows they did a lot of work but does not feel comfortable until the contract is in his hand and can read and will abstain. Mr. Falcone stated that is o.k. and can be in January as we have time to hold as not much going on. Mr. Perugino stated if we had subcommittees, this is where we would sit with vendor and ask/answer questions. Chairman Seaman called for a roll call vote: Mr. Showers, yes; Ms. Fusco, yes; Mr. Foote, yes; Mr. Zbuska, yes; Mr. Perugino, abstain; Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani, yes; Mrs. Kulesa, yes. Motion passes.

- B. **Personnel Report** – Mr. Falcone, Acting Superintendent –Mrs. Kulesa stated she did not receive this in her packet. Mr. Falcone apologized and the report will be sent to members.

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

a. Randy Picard, 140 Old Waterbury Road – FES PTA meeting was held before election and will report this month: Charleston Wrap successful with over \$1000 profit; book fair this week and profit has books going back into classrooms; holiday school store next Friday; Thursday, Firehouse Subs in Bristol will deliver boxed lunches for teachers as teacher conference week. No December meeting; 31 paid members currently and looking for more; reviewing grants for teachers on what they would like for classrooms that PTA provides but teachers need to be PTA members; Student Council – shout out on coats and glove collection and giving to charity and raised \$.25 feather event and raised \$600 to food pantry.

11. **Board Liaison Reports**

Mr. Perugino -- Harry S. Fisher Elementary School.

Met with principal yesterday to introduce himself and will attend PTA tomorrow night and be at the book fair. His heart is with HS Fisher. Will be very involved.

Mr. Zbuska -- Plymouth Center School
No report and will contact the PTA president

Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani -- Eli Terry Jr. Middle School

Having IGA roundup week of January 9th; calendar fundraiser, collecting donations i.e. restaurant gift card, tangible item etc.; Texas Roadhouse fundraiser done and pretty good; 8th grade committee had a few meetings and looking for parents to join; Krispy Creme fundraiser coming up.

Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani -- Booster Club
Calendar giveaway announced daily; IGA roundup complete; building the scholarship committee; planning a spring car wash; have magnet, seat cushions and masks available for sale.

Mrs. Kulesa -- Terryville High School
After grad party fundraising committee for senior; upcoming fundraisers include Nutmeg Spice and bingo and information will be coming home soon; next meeting 12/16 and welcome new members

VACANT -- CABE
Mr. Perugino volunteered to be a member of the CABE committee

VACANT -- EdAdvance
Mrs. Fusco has volunteered to be liaison

Mr. Showers --- District Safety Committee
Next meeting is April

12. **Board Comments**

Mr. Zbuska – no comment

Mr. Perugino – glad to be back and will be more active

Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani – attended the THS play and was a lot of fun, kids did good job; town ceremony where kids sang was great; happy holidays

Mrs. Kulesa – thank you to presenters and nice to hear indepth on schools

Mr. Showers – Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Mrs. Fusco – enjoyed kids presenting and great for us and them to know the town cares about what they are doing

Mr. Foote – learned old Wilcox house was condemned and Lions will see what they can do and get other organization on possible restoration for purpose of the library. Chairman Seaman stated there is discussion going on at other town meetings and options being explored

Chairman Seaman – also enjoyed presentation of students; in packet we get info on schools and very informative; happy holiday, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

13. **Next Board Meeting** –The next Regular Meeting of the Plymouth Board of Education is on Wednesday, January 12, 2022 at 7 p.m. in the cafeteria at Terryville High School.

14. **Executive Session**

MOTION: To enter into executive session at 8:10 p.m. to discuss a personnel matter, Memorandums of Understanding inviting Mr. Falcone, Acting Superintendent and Mr. Tencza, Business Manager into executive session by Mr. Showers; second by Mr. Perugino and the vote unanimous. Motion passes.

15. **Resume Regular Session**

MOTION: To resume regular session at 8:38 p.m. by Mr. Showers, second Mr. Foote and the vote unanimous. Motion passes.

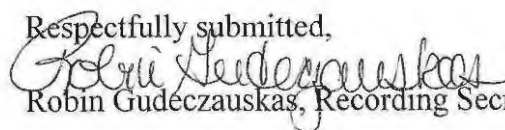
16. **Possible Action From Executive Session**

MOTION: To approve the Memorandums of Understanding as discussed in executive session including retroactive on one MOU by Mr. Showers; second Mr. Foote. Discussion: none and the vote unanimous. Motion passes.

17. **Adjournment**

MOTION: To adjourn at 8:38 p.m. by Mr. Showers; second Mr. Perugino and the vote unanimous. Motion passes.

Respectfully submitted,


Robin Gudczauskas, Recording Secretary