



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
SPECIAL MEETING
TERRYVILLE HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY
33 NORTH HARWINTON AVENUE
TERRYVILLE, CT 06786
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22, 2020

Erica Calhoun
TOWN CLERK

PLYMOUTH, CT
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
JAN 21 11 14 AM '20

MINUTES

Present: Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani, Mr. Elsaghir, Mr. Foote, Mrs. Kulesa, Mrs. Lucian, Mr. Seaman, Mr. Showers

Absent: Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Kremmel

Also Present: Dr. Semmel, Superintendent, Mrs. Parsons, Director of Curriculum & Instruction, Ms. Aronheim, Director of Pupil Personnel & Special Education Services, Mr. Trudeau, Director of Technology, Mr. Hendrickson, Business Manager, Mr. Hults, Principal THS, Ms. Suffridge, Principal EJTMS, Mrs. Turner, Principal PCS, Mrs. Loveland, Principal FES

1. **Call to Order & Pledge to the Flag**

Chair Seaman called the meeting to order at 6:05 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. Foote; seconded Mr. Showers and the vote unanimous.

3. **Budget workshop #2 for 2020-2021 Budget**

Chair Seaman stated over the past week we have had passionate discussions as the Board and with the Superintendent and want the teachers, principals and parents to know you have a Board that backs all of you. We see what you do and appreciate what you do. Each Board member was to offer suggestions to Dr. Semmel and he got back to us with a plan.

Mr. Hendrickson distributed an updated budget stating the prior budget was \$25,239,850 with an increase of \$752,060 or 3.071%; the adjusted budget is \$25,221,972 or an increase of \$734,182 or

2.998% increase. Adjustments made: Contingency increased from \$55,000 to \$113,000 for anticipated raises; Transportation decrease of \$41,400; decrease in non-public outplacement of \$34,478. Budget map/pie chart was distributed and reviewed stating if we were to go for 0% increase, we would need to cut "Everything Else" portion (art, music, science, athletic sport supplies and athletic trainer and textbooks); custodial and maintenance supplies, paper towels, cleaning supplies, refuse are also in "Everything Else". Review of the latest pension report noticed BOE pension fund is 65% funded; estimated funding level should be above 80%; good news is we are twice as funded as the town. Actual assumptions reviewed noting we are falling behind and need to contribute more.

Dr. Semmel stated he received a number of questions and responded to the Board. If there are other pieces we should cut, that is for the Board to decide. Within the CAFE line item is also Litchfield County Association (cost to attend banquet with students) and can cut \$14,000; staff development can be reduced to \$15,000; if we do get cut significantly by the Town, you are not going to be able to do without cutting staff; Insurance, what we have is the best estimate of cost and not known until later (hopefully February or March) and the State of CT has not set rates for 20-21.

Board:

Chairman Seaman stated savings with professional development? Dr Semmel stated he can reduce to \$15,000 from \$19,159; CAFE, you can participate ala carte and pay non member fees but can still attend things which is \$14,000.

Ms. Suffridge stated she depends on staff developers to come in and work with teachers and have 3 very new teachers to workshop; Dr. Semmel stated they would work around most important and align to district.

Mrs. Kulesa asked if, from the meeting before this meeting, was there anything to share. Dr. Semmel stated not a public meeting.

Mr. Elsaghir questioned (1) how much more do we spend on students at FES than PCS if at all; Mrs. Parsons stated have done staffing charts and every school and look at certified staff per student and falls in range around 10 students per staff member and look at staff per student in building it is equitable. And we do not spend more supplies at one elementary school than another. (2) add another math coach and tutor and not adding to PCS. Mrs. Parsons stated from the staffing chart you can see numbers out of every 3 students, 2 attend PCS and 3 attend FES. Overall when add reading and math tutor, 3 at PCS and 4 at FES but not same ratio and we are looking at 3 PCS and 5 FES for number students per building. (3) has the district tried to put more resources at FES than PCS due to struggles: Dr. Semmel stated, yes, as that is where we use Title 1 funds, explained. Mrs. Parsons stated we have to spend Title 1 on things not normally part of budget, explained.

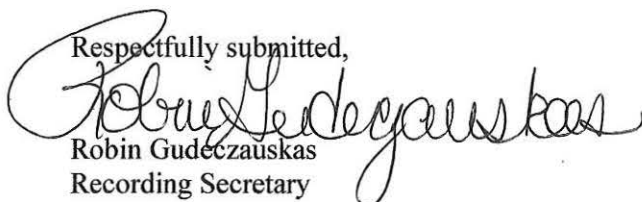
Dr. Semmel stated we brought a responsible budget, took input received and able to cut being responsive to board questions and comfortable with number going forward with 2.998% which does not include reduction of CAFE and professional development. 2.998% includes math coach and social worker.

4. Public Comment (3-minute limit per speaker) – no comments

5. Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn at 6:28 p.m. by Mr. Showers; seconded Mr. Foote. Discussion: none and the vote unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,



Robin Gudczauskas
Recording Secretary