



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, FEBRUARY 12, 2020

7:00 P.M.

MINUTES

Erica Colby
TOWN CLERK

PLYMOUTH, CT
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
DESIGNED FOR RECORD

Present: Mr. Seaman, Chair, Mr. Showers, Mrs. Johnson, Mr. Foote,
Mr. Elsaghir, Mrs. Kremmel, Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani

Absent: Mrs. Kulesa and Mrs. Lucian

Others Present: Dr. Semmel, Superintendent, Mr. Hendrickson, Business Manager, Mrs. Parsons, Director of Curriculum & Instruction, Ms. Aronheim, Director of Pupil Personnel and Special Education Services and Mr. Trudeau, Director of Technology

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

Mr. Seaman, Chair 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 adopt the agenda as presented. Motion Mr. Foote, seconded Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani, any discussion, all in favor, any abstentions, motion carries.

3. **Approval of Minutes**

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 8, 2020. Motion Mr. Showers, seconded Mr. Foote, any discussion, all in favor, any abstentions, motion carries.

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of January 15, 2020. Motion Mr. Showers, seconded Mr. Foote, any discussion, all in favor, any abstentions, Mrs. Johnson and Mrs. Kremmel abstain, motion carries.

MOTION: Motion to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of January 22, 2020. Motion Mr. Foote, seconded Mr. Showers, any discussion, all in favor, any abstentions, Mrs. Johnson and Mrs. Kremmel abstain, motion carries.

- Out of State Field Trip to the Museum of Modern Art in New York City –
Ms. Erickson, presenter

MOTION: To approve the out-of-state field trip to the Museum of Modern Arts in New York City for Terryville High School World Language and Art students in grades 10 – 12 on March 31, 2020. Motion Mr. Foote, seconded Mrs. Johnson, any discussion, all in favor, any abstentions, motion carries.

5. **Superintendent's Update**

- * Terryville Kangaroos helping the Kangaroos in Australia. Ms. Hurd posted a very nice thank you letter to everyone on our Facebook page. A total of \$4,300 was raised to support the crisis that were occurring down in Australia.
- * Presentation in March regarding the accountability index. Basically, this is a report card from the State Department of Education on our district and on all of our schools. Eli Terry Jr. Middle School received a recognition from the State Department of Education because of the increase in their scores, which was specifically around English/Language/Arts and specifically to students who are in the high needs area. The State Department of Education was very impressed by the increase in the scores and the Chief Performance Officer is going to meet with the Eli Terry Team, myself, Mrs. Parsons to discuss some of the great things going on at Eli Terry Jr. Middle School and how we made some improvements in the scores. They want to see how this can be replicated in other middle schools around the state. It comes down to hard working teachers, using good curriculum and working with students who are also falling behind making sure anyone getting behind grade level that we are providing them with additional support.
- * Reminder: February 27 from 7 p.m. – 9 p.m. Public Hearing regarding Option #1 in the high school auditorium. Everyone will get a chance to give the Board their feedback regarding Option #1. The plan is to do a 10-minute presentation by the principals, myself, Mrs. Parsons. The Board will make a decision at the March Board Meeting as to what they would like to do.

Ms. Aronheim, Director of Pupil Personnel & Special Education Services

PreK Lottery opened on Friday, February 7. The application process is a little different this year. It is an on-line process for any new student who has not been previously enrolled in our Board of Education Pre-School Program. The program is for 3 and 4 year olds (birth years 2016 – 2017). The program is located in Plymouth Center School. Next year we will be welcoming our graduating class of 2036. When registering one needs to go to the main Plymouth Board of Education website, scroll down and you will see a blackboard “Preschool News” click on this icon. There is a link that says, “Please click here to submit the form”. This is the on-line application to be used for the lottery. All the fields are required. The lottery closes on March 6, 2020 at 4 p.m. Parents will be notified if their child has been accepted into our preschool program about mid-March.

Mr. Seaman – Question: – How many students can we accept in the lottery?

Ms. Aronheim: Answer – It depends on our special education numbers. This is something she will need to review with Mrs. Parsons once the applications are received. This is fully funded by the Special Education Department and those students are in there as typical peer models.

Mrs. Parsons – The Smart Start Classroom holds 18 students (full day) and there are 3 half day pre-k programs that can hold up to 18 students each but we try to keep this count around 15. The capacity tends to be around 60 – 75 pre-k students per year. Keeping in mind, no tuition fee is charged to residents of Plymouth/Terryville.

6. Student Representatives

* Taylor Greenwood

February 14 Terryville vs Thomaston Basketball Game.
Spirit Day
Pep Rally

February 22 Friends of Music Annual Mattress Fundraiser in the
cafeteria at Terryville High school from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

February 28 Blood Drive, anyone interested may contact Mr. Nave.

* Julia Zaniewski

February 4 National Honor Society Induction Ceremony welcoming
a group of new juniors.

February 14 Terryville vs Thomaston Basketball Game at THS.

March 13 Annual Chili Cook-off Fundraiser for students traveling
to other countries with the school to raise money to
cover the costs of their trip.

* Tyler Mendela

February 29 The Annual Boy Scout and THS Leo Club pasta supper
from 4 p.m. – 7 p.m. at the Lyceum. The Vocational Foods
class is preparing hundreds of homemade meatballs along
with homemade sauce. Tickets are available from any
Leo member.

March 5, 6 & 7 Drama Club Spring Musical, “Sympathy Jones” a Spy
Musical. Tickets may be purchased from any Drama
Member or at THS.booktix.com

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

None

8. **Unfinished Business**

* 2020- 2021 Budget

Mr. Seaman – The Board has worked very diligently on this budget. Principals and Administrators took a second look and have done their due diligence to be fiscally responsible. Seventy (70%) percent of the increase is contractual for teachers who went many years without a step increase. This was negotiated prior to this year.

MOTION: To entertain a motion to approve the Budget for 2020-2021 in the amount of \$25,221,972, an increase of \$734,182 which equates to 2.998%. Motion Mr. Foote, seconded Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani, any discussion.

Mr. Elsaghir – He actually hates to vote “no” on the budget over and over again. He does not want it to seem like he thinks these are bad budgets, given in bad faith by any means, He thinks that everyone that put these budgets together is putting together what they believe they could possible put together for this school district. He has spoken with individuals on a one on one basis, i.e. principals. But the personal issue is that he has always thought we cannot as a town afford any more spending increases. This provides about a 3% increase and he does not think we can afford to do that. As a Board, it is our job to give these students the best education we can possibly afford to give. He is just not sure we can afford it. Therefore, he will be voting against this proposed budget.

Mr. Seaman – I sympathize with you Josiah, but when we did the presentation, some things were cut. I believe we are third from the bottom in our DRG for spending per pupil. With that said, currently all the cuts that have been made, and the Board has made cuts, if the Board of Finance or the Town Council brings this budget back and the Board needs to go back to the drawing board, we are going to have to look at teachers and those position. We need to keep that in mind when we vote.

Mr. Foote – We are third from the bottom of towns of our size in spending and he feels we have done very well. So, any little bit that we add is to the good. It is his opinion that it is the Board’s job to present the budget that it thinks is best. In our best interest, we should support the budget.

Mr. Seaman – Any other discussion? With none being heard, we will do a ROLL CALL VOTE:

Josiah – No

Mr. Foote – yes

Melissa Kremmel – yes

Melissa Johnson – Absolutely

Cindy – yes

Mr. Showers – yes.

Motion carries 5 to 1

9. **New Business**

* First Reading of the following Policies and Regulation

- (a) Policy P5141.214(a) – Student Sunscreen Use
- (b) Regulation R4112.4/4212.4 – Health Examination/Practice and Procedures

Mr. Seaman – What does not appear under New Business is the policy that was decided needed more research which has to do with teachers being able to take away recess. It is state statute that they cannot but we do have to follow it but as a Board, my position that we do not have to accept it if we do not agree with it. We have to follow it but we do not have to accept it. We are researching to see if that is the case or not. This is the reason why it was left off; however, it will be brought to the Board for a First Read in March.

Any questions – Mr. Elsaghir – What was that.

Mr. Seaman – There was a policy that teachers cannot take away recess from a child for behavior.

Mr. Seaman – Any more questions regarding the omitted policy?

Response: None

10. **Board Member/Committee Reports**

A. Finance/Operations - Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani, Chair

1. The Finance/Operations Subcommittee met prior to the Board of Education Meeting and reviewed the following: accounts by facilities report and will forward the same to the Town of Plymouth Board of Finance.
2. The subcommittee also reviewed the Personnel Report.

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

None

12. **Board Liaison Reports**

Mr. Elsaghir

Plymouth Center School

In January, there was a Family Feast at Tony's Coffee Shop
Pasta Heaven Fundraiser – pick up on March 4, from 4 p.m. – 8 p.m.
Book Fair – March 9 – March 13
The group voted to approve their By-Laws

Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani

Eli Terry Jr. Middle School

Skate Night was a success with 205 skaters

March 20 – Comedy Night (adults only), at Nuchie’s, cost \$25 doors open at 6 p.m. with the show beginning at 7 p.m.

The PTA is looking to build up the 8th grade committee for the end of this year’s ceremony

February 25 – 8th grade parents are invited to attend to join the committee

PTA is seeking raffle items for comedy night

Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani

Booster Club

March 26

Staff (vs) Student Game (fee t-shirts given out at games)

February 12

Cross Country Berkshire jackets were distributed to students

February 14

Valentine’s Day – come and watch the students play basketball all day

March 2

Next Meeting

Concessions available at wrestling and basketball games.

Mrs. Johnson

EdAdvance

January 9 Meeting – Jeff Kitching, Executive Director spoke about all of the RESC having to submit their RFP for their birth to 3 program providers. Patrice McCarthy from CABE reviewed the legislative priorities, especially considering it is a short session this year. Regionalization is off the table by the Governor, however, regionalized shared services is still on the table, especially for Special Education. Prime example, the Partnership School in Plymouth is being used as a model, which is exciting. SEL is a huge push legislatively this year. Religious exemption for immunizations one of the main legislation. She was also handed the EdAdvance Plymouth Data Report. Each town in a RESC, all the programs that were offered through EdAdvance are in the data report.

January 6, 2020 meeting. No significant findings in the audit. The president of EdAdvance Board resigned so there was a need for a special election of officers to fill his position until the regular elections in June 2020. Mr. Kitching reported that the chief grant writer for EdAdvance has retired. Action was taken and approved – the Healthy Food Certification – Healthy Food Option for the National Lunch Program, same as all districts. Action was also taken and approved: the Healthy Food Certification: Food and Beverage Exemptions. Mr. Kitching also reported, we are moving part of the Access Program in Danbury to a new location for K – 8 students. Jonathan Costa – thanked Plymouth for hosting him and working as a Committee to do the startup work for the Portrait of a Graduate Mrs. Johnson shared her personal thoughts: Being on the committee was so enlightening and she learned so much and would like to thank Dr. Semmel for inviting her to be a part of it.

Mrs. Kremmel

CABE

February 19

Vaccination Legislation Hearing

February 28

Webinar offered by CABE “What Board Members Need to Know about Next Generation Accountability System and Connecticut Report Cards”.

Mrs. Kremmel

SEPTA

2/12 a.m. Meeting

SEPTA has partnered with Terryville Public Library to bring in more presentations and hopefully, some new and exciting things.

2/19

Ms. Aronheim is scheduled to speak before the group regarding Tier Intervention and Special Education

Mr. Showers

District Safety Committee

Next Meeting is May 13, 2020

13. **Board Comments**

None being heard

14. **Next Board Meeting**

The next Regular Meeting of the Board of Education is scheduled for Wednesday, March 11, 2020 at 7 p.m. in the cafeteria at Terryville High School.

15. **Executive Session - Collective Bargaining Issue regarding UAW, Local 376**

MOTION: To entertain a motion to go into Executive Session at 7:30 p.m. for the purpose of discussing a Collective Bargaining Issue regarding the UAW, Local 376 inviting Dr. Semmel, Superintendent of Schools. Motion Mr. Showers, seconded Mr. Foote, any discussion, all in favor, any opposed. Motion passes.

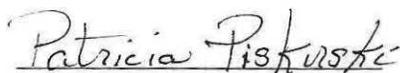
MOTION: To entertain a motion to come out of executive session at 7:43 p.m. Motion Mr. Showers, seconded Mrs. Johnson, all in favor, opposed. Motion passes.

16. **Possible Action From Executive Session**

MOTION: To entertain a motion to accept the document that was presented in executive session. Motion Mrs. Johnson, seconded Mr. Showers, all in favor, opposed, abstentions. So moved. Motion passes.

17. **Adjournment**

MOTION: To adjourn at 7:43 p.m. Motion Mrs. Johnson, seconded Mr. Showers, all in favor, any opposed, motion passes.



Patricia Piskorski
Recording Secretary
Plymouth Board of Education



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CORRECTION TO THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION DATED FEBRUARY 12, 2020

The following was mistakenly omitted when typing the minutes.

4. **Presentation**