

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
SPECIAL MEETING
TERRYVILLE HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY
33 NORTH HARWINTON AVENUE
TERRYVILLE, CT 06786

MONDAY, AUGUST 3, 2020

6 P.M.

MINUTES

Erica Colapinto
TOWN CLERK

2020 AUG 12 AM 11:56

PLYMOUTH, CT
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

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

Others Present: Dr. Semmel, Superintendent of Schools and Attorney Richard Mills of the law firm of Shipman & Goodwin.

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

Mr. Seaman called the meeting to order at 6 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. Showers, second Mr. Foote, any discussion, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion passes.

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

None

4. **New Business**

MOTION: To entertain a motion to amend the 2020 – 2021 school calendar as follows:

- (a) to change the student, start date to September 3, 2020 and
- (b) to add three (3) more Professional Development Days as allowed by the recent Executive Order by the Governor.

Motion Mrs. Kulesa, second Mrs. Kremmel, any discussion,

Dr. Semmel – The Governor's Executor Order allows school districts to go 177 days thus allowing for 3 more Professional Development Days at the beginning of the year. At this time, the last day of school remains at June 10.

Dr. Semmel indicated one item that may be brought to his attention by the Re-Opening Committee on Thursday is potentially having Thursday and Friday as half days. (Either bring ½ days or bring back ½ of the population back on Thursday or Friday to start bringing back people to protocol.)

Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani – Thinks this would be a good idea to go with the ½ days because it is going to be a lot for everyone to process the first couple of days getting use to masks, rules, etc.

Mr. Seaman rescinds the previous motion to amend the motion as follows:

Amendment: To make the motion previously with the addition of allowing the Superintendent of Schools to modify those days as half or full days as him and his committee deem necessary.

Motion Mrs. Kulesa, second Mr. Foote, any discussion, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion carries.

5. Board/Committee Reports

- (a) **Personnel Report** – Dr. Semmel reviewed the Personnel Report with the Board Members reviewing resignations both certified and non-certified, new hires, movement and postings. He indicated he was expecting a lot of human resource work coming up in the near future. Some work may require him to reach out to legal just to make certain the district takes the correct steps.

Question – Mr. Seaman – Mr. Seaman believes the Town of Plymouth has a part-time human resource person. Is this something the district may want to pursue or does the district want to hire its own part-time human resource person, on a per diem basis, that would come in just to get the district over the hump?

Response – Dr. Semmel – We could look into that but he thinks the human resource person at the Town is already pretty stretched thin. He thinks she only works a couple of days a week. He indicated that he has contacted her on some occasions but the district can certainly pursue that option.

Dr. Semmel asked if the Board would be interested in trying to find a part-time person that could potentially help?

Response – Mr. Seaman – Part-Time or per diem, he thinks would be a proper term. He feels the Board does not want to employ all year round if it is not necessary.

Response – Dr. Semmel – Suggested the Board can reach out to EdAdvance. They would often look for these types of individuals. If the Board would like him to reach out to Jeff Kitching to ask about a daily stipend and if he needs some work done what could he pass down to them.

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

None

7. Personnel-Related Matters (Executive Session Anticipated)

MOTION: To entertain a motion to enter into executive session at 6:07 p.m., to discuss the following Personnel-Related Matters inviting Dr. Semmel, Superintendent of Schools and Attorney Richard Mills of Shipman & Goodwin for portions of the executive session.

- a) Discussion regarding request for a sabbatical leave of absence
- b) Discussion of attorney-client privileged communication regarding Superintendent's resignation, appointment of Interim Superintendent and related personnel actions
- c) Discussion regarding Superintendent's resignation

Motion: Mrs. Lucian, second Mr. Foote, any discussion, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion carries.

8. **Resume Regular Session**

MOTION: To entertain a motion to resume regular session at 7:33 p.m. Motion Mr. Foote, second Mrs. Lucian, any discussion, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion passes.

9. **Possible action on Personnel-Related Matters**

MOTION: To entertain a motion to accept the Superintendent's resignation. Move that the Board accept the resignation of Dr. Martin Semmel, Superintendent of Schools effective September 11, 2020 and moved further that the Board waive the 90-day notice provision set forth in section C.e of Dr. Semmel's employment contract with respect to pro-rated payment for unused vacation.

Motion Mr. Foote, second Mr. Showers, any discussion on that motion, all in favor, any opposed, abstentions, motion passes

2. MOTION: To entertain a motion authorizing the Board Chair to initiate steps concerning personnel actions. Move that the Board authorize the Board Chair to engage in discussions with a potential candidate for the position of Interim Superintendent, being engaged in discussions with a potential candidate for Interim Administrator and see and engage in discussions with the Plymouth School Administrators' Association and the Plymouth Education Association regarding Memoranda of Agreement related to the appointment of potential candidates for the positions of Interim Superintendent and Interim Administrator provided that any proposed agreements arising out of such discussions shall be subject to approval of the Board.

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

Discussion: Mrs. Kulesa, I think we should probably change b, to: engage in discussion with potential candidate.

AMENDMENT TO MOTION TO READ: Potential candidates instead of candidate in Article B, any discussion all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion carries.

Motion withdrawn.

MOTION: To entertain a motion to authorize the Board Chair to:

- a. engage in discussions with a potential candidate for the position of Interim Superintendent
- b. engage in discussions with potential candidates for an Interim Administrator position;
- c. Engage in discussions with the Plymouth School Administrators' Association and the Plymouth Education Association regarding Memoranda of Agreement related to the appointment of potential candidates for the positions of Interim Superintendent and Interim Administrator

provided that any proposed agreements arising out of such discussions shall be subject to approval by the Board. Motion Mrs. Johnson, second Mrs. Lucian, any discussion, all in favor, opposed, motion carries.

MOTION: To entertain a motion to approve the request for Sabbatical Leave of Absence as discussed in executive session. Motion Mr. Foote, seconded Mr. Showers, discussion on the motion, hearing none, all in favor, opposed, Mrs. Krenmel, abstentions, motion carries.

10. **Special Board of Education Meeting**

There will be a Special Meeting of the Plymouth Board of Education on Thursday, August 6, 2020 at 7 p.m. at Terryville High School.

11. **Adjournment**

MOTION: To entertain a motion to adjourn at 7:40 p.m. Motion Mrs. Kremmel, second Mr. Showers

Question: Mr. Showers, What about the motion on the By-Laws?

Answer: Mr. Seaman, we are not going to do that right now, we are going to wait until Thursday.
any discussion, all in favor, opposed, abstentions, motion carries.

Patricia Piskorski

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Recording Secretary
Plymouth Board of Education



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SPECIAL MEETING
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THURSDAY, AUGUST 6, 2020

7 P.M.

MINUTES

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

Also Present: Dr. Semmel, Superintendent of Schools

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

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

None

4. Personnel-Related Matters (Executive Session Anticipated)

MOTION: To entertain a motion to enter into executive session at 7:01 p.m., to discuss the following Personnel-Related Matters.

a) Interview of candidate for Interim Superintendent position and discussion concerning terms of appointment.

Motion Mrs. Johnson, second Mrs. Lucian, any discussion, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion passes.

Erica Calhoun
TOWN CLERK

2020 AUG 12 AM 11:56

PLYMOUTH, CT
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

5. **Resume Regular Session**

MOTION: To entertain a motion to resume regular session at 8:04 p.m. Motion Mr. Showers, second Mr. Foote, any discussion, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion passes.

6. **Possible action on Personnel-Related Matters**

MOTION: That the Board appoint Sherri Turner as Interim Superintendent of Schools, effective September 12, 2020 and continuing through June 30, 2021, subject to the approval of the Commissioner of Education in accordance with Section 10-157 of the Connecticut General Statutes AND MOVED FURTHER that the Board Chair be authorized to finalize and execute on behalf of the Board the proposed employment contract with Sherri Turner and the proposed Memorandum of Agreement with the Plymouth Administrators' Association related to this appointment.

Motion Mrs. Johnson, second Mr. Showers, any discussion, all in favor,

Roll Vote: Yes – Mr. Showers, Mrs. Johnson, Mr. Foote, Mrs. Kulesa, Mrs. Lucian
Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani, Mrs. Kremmel and Mr. Elsaghir

Vote: Unanimous, motion carries.

MOTION: In accordance with Board Bylaw 9314, to temporarily suspend Board Policy 2151 for the sole purpose of appointing an Interim Administrator for the 2020 – 2021 school year, in order to best serve the interests of the Plymouth Public Schools by ensuring continuity of leadership as the district implements the school reopening plan for 2020 – 2021 in connection with the COVID-19 pandemic.

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

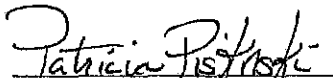
Discussion: Mrs. Johnson – Does this covering just Sherri or also when we go to interview the principal? Just want to make sure we are only doing this once.

Mr. Seaman – This is covering Sherri and the principal.

any more discussion on the motion? All in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion passes.

7. **Adjournment**

MOTION: To entertain a motion to adjourn at 8:07 p.m. Motion Mr. Foote, second Mrs. Kremmel all in favor, motion passes.



Patricia Piskorski

Recording Secretary

Plymouth Board of Education