



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

FOR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS AND CENTRAL STAFF ONLY
TERRYVILLE HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA
33 NORTH HARWINTON AVENUE
TERRYVILLE, CT 06786

VIRTUAL MEETING

JOIN ZOOM MEETING: <https://zoom.us/j/5698829070>

PUBLIC PLEASE CALL: +1 929 205 6099 US

MEETING ID: 569 882 9070

PASSCODE: 443360

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2020

7:00 P.M.

MINUTES

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

Absent: Mr. Showers

Others Present: Mrs. Turner, Interim Superintendent, Mrs. Aronheim, Director of Pupil Personnel & Special Education Services, Mrs. Mozak-Pezza, Director of Curriculum & Instruction, Mr. Trudeau, Director of Technology and Mr. Fiorillo, Interim Business Manager

PHONE: (860) 314-4783 | FAX: (860) 314-2766 | plymouth.k12.ct.us

Plymouth Board of Education is an Equal Opportunity Employer and Provider.

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

Mr. Seaman called the meeting to order at 7:04 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 Mrs. Lucian, any discussion, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion passes.

3. **Approval of Minutes**

MOTION: To entertain a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 9, 2020. Motion Mrs. Johnson, second Mr. Foote, any discussion, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, (Mrs. Lucian abstains) motion passes.

MOTION: To entertain a motion to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of September 21, 2020 correcting the spelling of Mrs. Kremmel's name. Motion Mr. Foote, second Mrs. Kremmel, any discussion, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions (Mr. Elsaghir abstains) motion passes.

4. **Superintendent's Update - Mrs. Turner, Interim Superintendent**

Review of Update sent on Friday, October 9, 2020

* Monday, October 19, 2020 full in person learning for K – 8 students on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Wednesdays will be remote learning which allows for the continuation to address the needs of the remote learners and to allow teachers time to plan across the district for Google Classrooms that the remote learners are using. High school remain hybrid.

* Survey results – 86% of respondents indicated they would send their children, K – 8, full in person. Approximately 14% full remote learners. This number was approximately 250 and is now down to approximately 208. Some students who were previously homeschooled are returning to the classroom.

There were quite a few parents who did not respond to the survey. However, principals have been reaching out to these individuals.

Plymouth Center School – An additional section of Kindergarten, Grade 1 and 3 have been added because of the numbers. Harry S. Fisher Elementary School class sizes remain fine.

Thank you to Jim Mazon and the custodial staff for working on Saturday to reconfigure the classrooms at Plymouth Center School. For those classrooms where there were not enough desks, tables were placed in areas with plexiglass shield in between so the students would be separated safely. Mrs. Turner indicated she makes weekly visits to all of the schools to check to see how things are progressing.

PSAT's and SAT's were administered today, October 14, 2020 at the high school.

Reorganization meetings have begun again for the reconfiguration of Plymouth Center School into a PreK – grade 2 school and Harry S. Fisher Elementary School to a grade 3 – 5 school. One meeting has already taken place with just the administrators reviewing where we left off last year. Plans to continue during the summer were interrupted due to the reopening plans for the schools in the fall. However, there is a plan to meet again with administrators in the next week or so after which parents, teachers and board members will be invited to be a part of a larger committee to begin to look at reorganizing the schools, etc.

Finally, congratulations to Mrs. Johnson and Mrs. Kremmel who earned CAFE's Certificated Board of Education Member Designation.

Mrs. Mozak-Pezza – Director of Curriculum & Instruction

Update on Grants

- * Title Grant Allocation down a little from last year - \$9,000 + less than the previous year. However, with all the staffing changes that have occurred, the district should be fine. This Grant covers Reading Intervention at Harry S. Fisher Elementary School and Dean of Students.
- * Title II is a little bit lower than last year – approximately \$5,600 less. This covers a Math Intervention Coach, but again because of the domino effect of position changes the district is fine.
- * Title III – This grant takes care of our ELL Students. This year the district received a little less but this is not a very large grant. It is approximately \$2,600. This is usually used for professional development (for our ELL Program).
- * Title IV – This grant came in a little higher. The district received \$2,200 more than last year and this will pay for some SEL in the district, professional development and supporting our Ruler Program and also will provide some support for the computer science and coding program. We are attempting to expand this at the elementary school level.
- * Smart Start Grant – The same as last year. This grant funds one of the PreK classes at Plymouth Center School.

In addition to ESSER, the district now has the CRF Grant, Coronavirus Relief Fund. The ESSER grant is a 2-year grant. The Coronavirus Relief Fund money must be spent by December 30, 2020. The district needs to spend this money on items already purchased or it needs to spend it on items it will purchase between now and December 30, 2020. \$87,000 was to be used for staffing, however, most of our staff positions do not end on December 30, 2020. They end in June. Therefore, the district needs to revise the ESSER Grant because it will end up having to take the positions that we originally had in the ESSER grant and split them in half, such that ½ of them gets funded through the Coronavirus Relief Fund money that needs to be spent by December 30, 2020 and the other ½ ends up in the ESSER grant because that carries into the spring and into next year. We are in the process of figuring out how to balance the two grants so the district is able to obtain the fullest use from both.

5. **Student Representatives**

* Tyler Mendela

Painted parking spots (seniors personalized); Student Council has waived the fee this year for a parking spot; video submission showing support regarding Suicide Prevention; and mock voting during the week of October 25 – 30 with results announced on Monday, November 2.

* Lilyana Ricardo – Update on Sports

October 14	JV Girls' Volleyball Varsity Boys' Soccer Varsity Girls' Soccer Varsity Girls' Volleyball	Terryville v Nonnewaug (home) Terryville @ Gilbert (away) Terryville v Gilbert (home) Terryville v Nonnewaug (home)
October 16	Cross Country Meet Boys' Soccer	Terryville/Housatonic (home) Terryville v Nonnewaug (home)

Family spectators for outdoor sports must wear masks and need to follow distance requirements. Indoor sports still remain spectatorless.

* Gena Buckley – Spoke about election day, students helping to check in voters and direct traffic; and senior class, September 29 – popcorn fundraiser; and focusing on class elections.

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

None

7. **Unfinished Business**

MOTION: To entertain a motion to approve the Board of Education Meeting Dates for 2021. Motion Mrs. Johnson, second Mrs. Lucian, any discussion, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion passes.

8. **New Business**

(a) MOTION: To entertain a motion to approve the appointment of Kelly Boggio to represent Terryville on the Agricultural Education Advisory Committee for a full three-year term.

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

(b) First Ready of Policy – P4118.237(a)/4218.237/5141.8
Each Board Member received a copy of this policy in their packet.

9. **Board Member/Committee Reports**

- A. Finance/Operations - Mrs. Turner, Interim Superintendent/David Fiorillo, Interim School Business Manager

Mr. Seaman thanked Mr. Fiorillo for filling in when the district needed it. Great work, much appreciated.

- Review of Accounts by Facilities Report for the month of September, 2020.

Mr. Fiorillo summarized the facilities report by location by compiling a chart which showed: adopted budget; actual expenses September 1, 2020; actual expenses October 1, 2020 and difference budget to actual. There is almost \$1,000,000.00 of encumbered. These are resources allocated although not used yet. The district is trending below for a first quarter. It is in pretty good shape to start the year. Additional funding is coming in as previously reported. These are one time grants of a little over \$300,000 which will take a little of the burden off of the costs within the budget for items that were unexpected, i.e. technology, computers, webcam, etc.

In summary, Mr. Fiorillo can bring back a report monthly, whatever pleases the Board and it will show where the Board is year to date and give general guidance. Lastly, payroll projections were looked at for the entire year. Currently, the district is \$150,000 to the good. With that said, it is known that there is some additional hiring coming along. But, there is some additional funding coming out of grants as well.

Mrs. Johnson – Would like something that shows the trend from last year to this year to see the difference.

- Transfer

MOTION: To entertain a motion to transfer the amount of \$85,000 from the Instructional Coach Account to the Terryville High School Mathematics Account due to an error in the overfunding of the Instructional Coach Account and an underfunding of the Terryville High School Mathematics Account. Motion Mrs. Johnson, second Mr. Foote, all in favor, any discussion, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion passes.

- Personnel Report – Mrs. Turner, Interim Superintendent

Review of Personnel Report: (a) resignations (b) childrearing leave; (c) new hires/transfers/coaches; and (d) open postings.

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

None

11. **Board Liaison Reports**

Mr. Seaman -- Harry S. Fisher Elementary School

October 13, 2020 Meeting
October 13 – November 4 (on-line) Charleston Wrap Fundraiser
Donation of over \$1,000 worth of books to teachers – money used from last years'
Scholastic Book Fair
November 10 @ 7 p.m. Next Meeting

Mr. Elsaghir -- Plymouth Center School

Fall Fundraiser Charleston Wrap has been extended an extra week
Fall Scholastic Book Fair – 10/25 – 11/06 (all virtual)
Halloween Door Decorating Contest (replaces Trunk or Treat)
Fall Pictures –sign up on-line; specific date for remote learners
Discussion regarding PTA Budget (various events to be eliminated due to COVID-19)
Mrs. Holleran, Interim Principal indicated the children are handling changes very well

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

Looking at adjusting senior night (possibly hold earlier in the season)

Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani -- Booster Club

Face Mask Fundraiser; putting together the December calendar fundraiser; on-line payment options set up for membership and for any fundraisers.
November 2, 2020 @ 6:30 p.m. – Next Meeting

Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani/
Mrs. Kulesa -- Terryville High School(PTSA)

Chubby Chico Bag Fundraiser

Mr. Foote -- SEPTA

No Report

Mrs. Kremmel -- CABE

No Report

Mrs. Johnson -- EdAdvance

No Report

Mr. Showers -- District Safety Committee

Absent

12. **Board Comments**

Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani – Her children have been coming home with no complaints about wearing masks or the work load. Everything has been going pretty well.

Mr. Elsaghir – Round of applause for Mrs. Johnson and Mrs. Kremmel.

Mr. Seaman – Congratulations to Mrs. Johnson & Mrs. Kremmel for all of their hard work and dedication. Mrs. Turner has been doing an excellent job. He has heard nothing but great things and positive feedback. Thank you. Thank you to all the teachers, and school staff, nurses, custodians and everyone. The beginning of the year was a difficult one and now the district is moving to open full-time. This was not an easy task to put together and we do not know from week to week if there will be any changes. He would like everyone to know this Board stands behind you. Thank you.

13. **Next Board Meeting** –The next Regular Meeting of the Plymouth Board of Education is on Wednesday, November 11, 2020 at 7 p.m. in the cafeteria at Terryville High School.

14. **Executive Session Matters**

- (a) Interview of candidate for the possible appointment to the position of School Business Manager
- (b) Request for a Leave of Absence
- (c) Proposed Contract for the Plymouth Education Association
- (d) Memorandum of Agreement Regarding Transfer for the Purpose of the Reconfiguration of Schools 2021 – 2022 School Year

MOTION: To entertain a motion to enter into executive session at 7:39 p.m., for the purpose of: (a) conducting interview of candidate for the position of School Business Manager for the Plymouth Public School System, inviting the candidate and Mrs. Sherri Turner, Interim Superintendent and to discuss the possibility of a proposed employment contract and (b) to discuss a request for a leave of absence; (c) to discuss the proposed contract for the Plymouth Education Association and (d) Memorandum of Agreement Regarding Transfers for the Purpose of the Reconfiguration of Schools 2021 – 2022 School Year.

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

15. **Resume Regular Session**

MOTION: To entertain a motion to resume regular session at 8:22 p.m.

Motion Mr. Foote, second Mrs. Kremmel, any discussion, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion passes.

16. **Possible action from Executive Session Matters**

1. MOTION: That the Board of Education appoint the candidate to the position of School Business Manager for the Plymouth Public Schools as discussed in executive session, and **MOVED FURTHER**, that the Board of Education authorize the Interim Superintendent of Schools to negotiate and finalize a contract on the Board's behalf as discussed in executive session. Motion Mrs. Johnson, second Mr. Foote

ROLL VOTE: Mr. Showers - absent Mrs. Johnson- yes Mr. Foote - yes

Mr. Elsaghir - yes Mrs. Kremmel - yes Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani - yes

Mrs. Kulesa - yes Mrs. Lucian - yes

YES - 7 NO- 0 OPPOSED - 0 ABSTENTIONS - 1 Motion passes

2. MOTION: To entertain a motion to approve the request for a Leave of Absence as discussed in executive session. Motion Mrs. Johnson, second Mr. Foote, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion passes.
3. MOTION: To entertain a motion to approve the one-year contract for the Plymouth Education Association from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022 as presented in executive session.

Motion: Mrs. Kremmel, second Mrs. Lucian

ROLL VOTE: Mr. Showers - absent Mrs. Johnson - yes Mr. Foote - yes

Mr. Elsaghir - yes Mrs. Kremmel - yes Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani - yes

Mrs. Lucian - yes Mrs. Kulesa - yes

YES - 7 NO - 0 OPPOSED - 0 ABSTENTIONS - 1

Motion passes

4. MOTION: To entertain a motion to approve the Memorandum of Agreement Regarding Transfers for the Purpose of the Reconfiguration of Schools 2021 - 2022 School Year as presented in executive session.

Motion: Mrs. Kremmel, second Mrs. Lucian

ROLL VOTE: Mr. Showers - absent Mrs. Johnson - yes Mr. Foote - yes

Mr. Elsaghir - yes Mrs. Kremmel - yes Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani - yes

Mrs. Lucian - yes Mrs. Kulesa - yes

YES - 7 NO - 0 OPPOSED - 0 ABSTENTIONS - 1

Motion passes.

17. **Adjournment**

MOTION: To entertain a motion to adjourn at 8:26 p.m. Motion Mrs. Kremmel,
second, Mrs. Lucian, all in favor, motion passes.

Patricia Piskorski

Patricia Piskorski
Recording Secretary
Plymouth Board of Education