



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, NOVEMBER 11, 2020

7:00 P.M.

MINUTES

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

Absent: Mr. Foote

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

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 entertain a motion to adopt the agenda as presented. Motion Mr. Showers, second Mrs. Lucian, any discussion, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion passes.

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

3. **Approval of Minutes**

MOTION: To entertain a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 11, 2020 with the following corrections:

#11 – Board Liaison Reports – Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani

Eli Terry Jr. Middle School – PTA is seeking 25 members. A letter was also sent out asking for donations.

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

Motion Mrs. Lucian, second Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani, any discussion, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion passes.

4. **Presentation**

Power Point Presentation: Review of Energy Conservation Program – Mr. Sandshaw

Mr. Seaman – Summary: The district is ahead of the projected goals set by Mr. Sandshaw at the beginning and is looking to further save. The district is able to reduce its CO2 emissions by quite a bit through Mr. Sandshaw's efforts.

Mr. Sandshaw – The district was able to reach its goals through the help and cooperation of the entire Plymouth Public School staff.

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

Mrs. Turner, welcomed Mr. Tencza as the district's new official business manager. She also thanked Mr. Fiorillo, who continues to help the district as well as give support to Mr. Tencza.

* Grants (ESSER and CRF) have been approved by the State, however, we are not able to draw down funds yet.

* Smart Start Students, as of Monday, are now coming in on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday just as the K-8 students. The reason why these students were in the Hybrid Model was due to the small size of the classrooms. But this has been corrected and things are going well.

* Update on Winter Sports – The CIAC delayed the start of winter sports, which was to have taken place on November 21st, as they were waiting for guidelines from the Department of Public Health. These have since been put out. The CIAC will meet next week to review the guidelines and make recommendations as to winter sports.

* National Assessment of Educational Progress Testing – (nation's report card). The district was informed by the Commissioner of Education that Plymouth Center School fourth graders were selected to have this test administered which will occur at the end of January and the middle of March. A team will be sent to Plymouth Center School to administer the testing. All safeguards will be in place with respect to COVID. The assessments will be in Reading and Mathematics. She will notify the Board when the team will be arriving.

* Update on Remote Learning Plan – Work continues on the Plans with respect to weather related closures and COVID Closures. The structure includes more Synchronous Learning for all students. Our learning will look very different from what it was in March through June. The structure put out by the State is very detailed and requirements dictate what those remote days need to look like for

each grade level in order for them to be counted as school days. The District will need to follow those guidelines should we go full remote or if we should decide to use any weather related closure days as school days. The other option would be we would need to make up those weather related days. Once the plans are finalized, they will be shared with parents, placed on our website and share with the Board.

* COVID Update – The numbers in Plymouth continue to increase. Unfortunately, we have gone from “orange” to “red”. The district had to contact trace last week and Mrs. Turner reported the team was prepared and did a nice job. Just to clarify, closures in the State are largely due to a lack of staff when quarantine is needed. This being the reason for the high school closure. Five – six teachers need to be quarantined and the district did not have substitutes to cover for them. Mrs. Turner and others from the Litchfield Country Superintendents’ Association will be meeting via Google Meets on Friday and will be joined by the Commissioner, as the group continues to bring their concerns to the State Department and the Commissioner’s attention.

6. **Student Representatives**

- * Tyler Mendela – Spirit Week will be virtual this week. Virtual and Distance Learning going well, and good communication.
- * Lilyana Ricardo – Fall Sports have come to an end. Distance Learning smooth transition and doing well.
- * Gena Buckley – Tickets for the Terryville High School Booster Club Calendar Sale need to be purchased by November 23 and may be purchased from any athlete. Winners are chosen and contacted on a daily basis in the month of December.

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

None

8. **Unfinished Business**

MOTION: To entertain a motion to approve Policy – P4118.237(a)/4218.237/5141.8 Motion Mrs. Kulesa, second Mr. Showers, any discussion, all in favor, any opposed, Mrs. Kremmel and Mr. Elsaghir, any abstentions, motion passes.

9. **New Business**

A. ED-099 – Healthy Food Authorized Signatures Change Form

MOTION: To entertain a motion to authorize Mrs. Lucian, Board of Education Secretary, to execute the Authorized Signatures Change Form with Revisions pertaining to the ED-099 Agreement to the Child Nutrition Program. Motion Mrs. Johnson, second Mr. Showers any discussion, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion passes.

B. Donor Gift

MOTION: To entertain a motion to accept the gift of a Roland Large Format Vinyl Inkjet, Printer, Cutter donated by Lauretano Sign in accordance with Board of Education Policy P3280/R3280 and that the Board authorize the Interim Superintendent of Schools to send a letter of appreciation to the donor. Motion Mrs. Johnson, second Mrs. Kremmel any discussion, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion passes.

Mrs. Turner – maintenance and/or repairs on the equipment is very minimal. The district is very grateful to Lauretano Sign for their donation.

10. **Board Member/Committee Reports**

A. Finance/Operations - David Fiorillo, Interim School Business Manager and
Matthew Tencza, School Business Manager

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

The Accounts by Facilities Report will be forwarded to the Town of Plymouth Board of Finance.

Mr. Tencza distributed and reviewed the Board of Education Summary for October which included the October expenditures. Currently, everything looks good, however, moving forward we will be cautious and conservative.

- Personnel Report – Mrs. Turner, Interim Superintendent

Mrs. Turner reviewed resignations, new hires, transfers and open positions.

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

None

12. **Board Liaison Reports**

Mr. Seaman -- Harry S. Fisher Elementary School

Charleston Wraps Fundraiser has been extended one more week and it will end this Friday. Goal of \$2,000 was set and met. Spiritwear Fundraiser – dates to be determined dependent upon COVID 19 situation and how fast vender is able to ship the items. No December meeting. G & B did school pictures. The results were great. Retakes are in December. There is a new yearbook company, Tree Ring and they plant a tree for every yearbook sold which is quite unique. Everyone is looking forward to the 2021 and hoping to be able to run the school store the second half of the year.

Mr. Elsaghir -- Plymouth Center School

Halloween Door Decorating Contest went very well. First, second and third places received prizes. Fall pictures went great. Scholastic Book Fair – 100% on-line was successful, especially considering it was virtual. Looking forward to Spiritwear (exploring shirts and masks)

On another note, Mr. Elsaghir inquired how school was going? Especially, intergrading new students with all the restrictions, i.e. change in recess, lunch, distancing. We're new students welcomed by their peers. He was informed that Plymouth Center School was terrific, zero complaints about intergradation, kids doing well, parents love it and kids are happy to be back to school.

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

First part inaudible.

Up to 20 PTA members. Donations letters were sent out last week and quite a few were received, continuing with that. Calendar Fundraiser – Looking for donations. Calendars to be sold in December, tickets are \$5 each and giveaways will be for January. Any gift certificates or items to donate – the dollar amount \$25 - \$50.

Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani -- Booster Club

Booster Club is having a Face Mask Fundraiser. They are also having a Calendar Give Away the same as the middle school, \$5.00 a ticket, however, their calendars are on sale now. Giveaways, i.e. Christmas Trees, cash are for the month of December. If you have not yet become a member of the Booster Club, please join. In order to be eligible to apply for scholarships you must be a member so now is the time to join. Membership is only \$3.00, and one needs to be a member for 3 years so please join now.

Mrs. Kulesa -- Terryville High School

The group discussed fundraisers and how to be successful with them on-line. Pie and Bread Fundraiser has begun and will run to the middle of December in order to deliver for Christmas. In February, there will be a multi-product fundraiser. Please look for those on-line to help support our Seniors for a possible gathering at the end of the year. Whatever they end up being able to do the PTSA would like the Seniors to be able to have the funds for that. The PTSA is also promoting that both students and parents join the organization in order to be eligible to apply for a PTSA Scholarship. One must be a member. Also, involvement is important as well. She urges, on behalf of the PTSA, to please support our Seniors in order for us to give them any kind of celebration that is possible at the end of this year.

Mr. Foote -- SEPTA

Absent

Mrs. Kremmel -- CABE

CABE is offering a series of webinars in November and December. The webinars are being recorded so attendance is not necessary at the time they are originally being held. December 2, Board's Role in the Budget Process. December 7, Board's Role in Advocacy.

Mrs. Johnson -- EdAdvance

Head Start Non-Federal Share Waiver was approved; helped with COVID coverage with their partnership; most likely there will not be a meeting in December; January, 2021 will still be Zoom and during that meeting they will be reevaluating going Hybrid (there is appropriate technology to have some live and some hybrid. By-laws will be updated to address such a case); membership is still 75 cents per pupil plus a base of \$250 yearly – Plymouth's Current- 2020 – 2021 - \$2,572.00; 2021 – 2022 - \$2,526.00 projected – approximately \$45 less because of the declining number of students.

COVID Update: The agency has been reviewing each department, how they work and the Budget. If there is another shutdown, there may be furloughs and/or layoffs

School/Program Services – During the RESC Curriculum Meeting the information was given by direction of the State Department of Education that the teacher evaluations will be flexible this year and may continue thereafter.

The Curriculum Development Company, Nuzella, is looking at the curriculum. The agency has developed and is trying to mirror it, because we have separate units to offer.

Food Service Update – There was a push for the district to require to provide meals on snow days. There has been a push back, so now the State Department revise and now just would like the districts to offer meals on snow days but is not required. If districts do provide, they will be reimbursed. Some districts are considering if a snow day gets called early – try to provide meals before the students leave and again would be reimbursed.

In Technology – New Hire Ian Rodriguez and the department are working on upgrading the software and the financial software.

Under Facilities – Just watching what the governor is planning

Development Department – Working on Human Resources best practices training for districts

Mr. Showers -- District Safety Committee

No Report

13. **Board Comments**

Mrs. Lucian – Thank you to Mrs. Turner and her team for doing contact tracing correctly and securing the health of the students and teachers and everyone in the school system.

Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani – She welcomed Matt to the team. Election Day – It was nice to see student participation. The day went smooth. No Lines. Staff e-mailing – She was not able to get onto the conference all emailing list on time for tonight and next week. However, she did email the teachers. They are amazing. Teachers are emailing at 9 p.m. which is not required they answer parent emails at all hours of the night. It was nice that the teachers were able to add her in. Everyone is doing a really good job.

Mrs. Johnson – Thank you to Dave for all of his hard work. It is really appreciated. Welcome Matt. Thank you for all of our hard work and for answering all of my questions from the previous meeting. It was very much appreciated.

Mr. Seaman – Thank you everyone again for all of your hard work during these difficult times. From the students, to the staff, to the custodians, the entire staff, the parents at home, sometimes it is not easy for us so again, thank you and hopefully this will be all over shortly.

Not forgetting the Veterans Day, he thanked all of the Veterans for their service. He wanted to assure them that the school system did not forget about them. The elementary schools were doing presentations virtually. In the past, Veterans were invited to the schools to speak. When it is again safe, the district will be looking to bring that back as well. He wanted to assure the Veterans they were definitely were not and will not be forgotten.

14. **Next Board Meeting** –The next Regular Meeting of the Plymouth Board of Education is on Wednesday, December 9, 2020 at 7 p.m. in the cafeteria at Terryville High School. Mr. Seaman note the December Board Meeting may be a Zoom Meeting. More information to follow.

15. **Executive Session** (to discuss a personnel matter: Addendum to the Facilities Director's Agreement per AD HOC Meeting) (Note: The discussion regarding this item will occur in Executive Session)

MOTION: To entertain a motion to enter into executive session at 7:43 p.m. to discuss the Addendum to the Facilities Director's Agreement as discussed at AD HOC Subcommittee Meeting inviting Mrs. Turner, Interim Superintendent, Mr. Fiorillo, Interim Business Manager and Mr. Tencza, Business Manager. Motion, Mr. Showers, second Mrs. Johnson, any discussion, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion passes.

16. **Resume Regular Session**

MOTION: To entertain a motion to resume regular session at 8:11 p.m. Motion Mrs. Kremmel, Mr. Showers, motion passes.

17. **Possible Action From Executive Session**

MOTION: To entertain a motion to approve the Addendum to the Facilities Director's Agreement as discussed in executive session. Motion Mrs. Johnson, second Mrs. Lucian, any discussion,

ROLL VOTE: Mr. Elsaghir, Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani, Mrs. Lucian, Mrs. Kulesa, Mrs. Johnson and Mr. Showers, all voted in favor of the motion. Mrs. Lucian voted "No". Motion passes 6 – 1.

18. **Adjournment – MOTION ITEM**

MOTION: To entertain a motion to adjourn at 8:12 p.m. Motion Mrs. Lucian, second, Mrs. Kremmel, all in favor, motion passes.



Patricia Piskorski
Recording Secretary
Plymouth Board of Education