



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, APRIL 10, 2019

7:00 P.M.

MINUTES

Present: Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Kulesa, Mr. Showers, Mr. Bourbonniere,
Mr. Foote, Mr. Elsaghir, Mrs. Kremmel and Mrs. Candrea-Florence

Absent: Mrs. Lucian

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

2019 APR 15 PM 1:51
PLYMOUTH, CT
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
RECEIVED FOR RECORD
Barbara K. Fortson
TOWN CLERK

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

Mrs. Johnson 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 adopt the agenda as presented. Motion Mr. Foote, seconded Mrs. Kremmel, all in favor, any abstentions, motion passes.

3. **Approval of Minutes**

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 13, 2019
Motion Mr. Foote, seconded Mrs. Kremmel, any discussion, all in favor, any abstentions
motion passes.

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of March 20, 2019. Motion Mr. Foote, seconded Mrs. Kremmel, any discussion, all in favor, any abstention, Mrs. Kulesa abstains, motion passes.

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of March 27, 2019. Motion Mr. Foote, seconded Mrs. Kremmel, any discussion, all in favor, any abstentions, motion passes.

4. Presentations

- Facilities Update – Mr. Mazon, Director of Facilities
- Accountability Index – Power Point Presentation by Mrs. Parsons & Dr. Semmel
- Introduction of New Principal of Plymouth Center School- Ms. Sherri Turner
- Introduction of Director of Pupil Personnel & Special Education Services – Ms. Lindsay Aronheim
- Introduction of Paraeducator of the Year – Ms. Faye Johnpierre

RECESS:

MOTION: To recess at 7:40 p.m. Motion, Mr. Foote, seconded, Mrs. Kremmel, all in favor, motion passes.

RESUME REGULAR SESSION:

MOTION: To Resume Regular Session at 7:53 p.m. Motion Mrs. Kremmel, seconded Mr. Foote, all in favor, motion passes.

5. Superintendent's Update

- Barring any unforeseen circumstances the last day of school is June 13, 2019.
- Mrs. Parsons addressed testing (SAT, Smarter Balance Assessment, CMT)
- Phone conversation with the State Department of Education, Chief Financial Officer on April 5th indicated that the Board of Education Budget for 2018 – 2019 was short \$413,000 in terms of meeting the minimum budget requirement. What we believed would be the minimum budget requirement for the Board of Education was \$266,000. The problem: a portion of the calculation needed is what the increase would be for ECS. That being said, the fault did not lie with either the Town or the Board because no one knew the ECS number. The figure finally came in at \$505,000 increase. If one puts that amount into the calculation, the new figure indicates that funds need to be added to the Board of Education budget. This information was shared with the Board of Finance Chair, Mr. Kilduff, the Mayor and the BOE Chair on Friday, April 5th. The 2019 – 2020 Board approved increase was \$578,874. Dr. Semmel's take away from the April 8th Board of Finance is strongly considering \$450,000 or up. The State indicates that Plymouth is not being funded by the Town enough, does not meet state statute, which is an important piece of information.

Mr. Bourbonniere – Comment – Some of the blame is due to the State of Connecticut.

April 11 – 21	Italy Trip
April 15 – 19	Town's Week of Kindness (THS – Student Council asking individuals to write notes to others in the school to be delivered; staff and students are asked to write something positive about the school or in general to be hung up; encouraging everyone to wear purple this Friday. (High school celebrating the week of April 8 th due to spring break.)
May 1	College decision day for seniors.
May 6 – 10	Teacher Appreciation Week.
* <u>Taylor Greenwood</u>	
April 13 – 14	Band & Chorus performing at Hershey Park
April 7	Easter Egg Hunt
April 9	Track Meet
May 2 – 3	Career Fair
May 6	Begins AP Testing in the cafeteria
May 6	Spring Concert
Spring Sports - Baseball and Softball - record 1 – 2	
* <u>Devin Girch</u>	
April 6	SAT's
April 11	College Representatives from UConn, Sacred Heart and Naugatuck Valley Community College spoke to juniors about finding a college that is the correct fit for them.
April 24	Student Climate Committee will be going to Lewis Mills for a Student Climate Committee Conference.
April 25	College Planning Night for students and parents at 5:30 p.m. in the THS auditorium.
April 26	Juniors - Thomaston High School v Terryville High School basketball game fundraiser

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

Dan Gentile, 269 Mt. Tobe Road – Is the entire Board going to be voting on what was discussed in executive session at the Finance/Operations Subcommittee?

Dr. Semmel – Those are Agreements. Previously, they were done in Personnel Committee and when Finance/Operations took over all of those subcommittees it's done in the Finance/Operations.

Kelly Accetura, 490 North Street, Plymouth – The Board of Education was underfunded for the 2018 – 2019 year. Will we always be playing catch-up?

Dr. Semmel – He has no idea how all of this will work out. In the end, the Town Council votes as to how much money the entire town budget will be with the Board of Education's line item as part of it. They can make choices that can go multiple ways. In terms of the minimum budget requirements, we were short \$413,000 this year. It does not mean that the town owes the Board of Education this amount of money and next year it is the same pot of money so you need to add them together. What they are saying is that we were short this year by \$413,000 so imagine that we had that \$413,000 in our budget this year. Going into 19 – 20, after the process is over you can go back and do a calculation to find what the minimum budget requirement is and they take declining student enrollment and actual ECS increase and they go through a series of calculations. Theoretically, since our population is staying pretty steady from 18-19 to 19-20, which is a good thing, theoretically, if that \$34,000 from the governor's budget ends up being the agreed to number that's a lot smaller than last year's increase which was \$500,000 so it wouldn't be significant amount of money on top of the \$400,000 that is owed us. If we are caught up into next year's budget, we will meet the minimum budget requirement. Then the years 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 would have to be looked at. The difficult part is it seems that you cannot actually do the calculation until after the budget process has been completed. That puts us in a difficult spot because the ESC piece is unknown.

You would not see a double \$413,000 this year and \$413,000 next year.

Paul – Was told not to bother doing the MBR for next year because it is still in legislation.

Mrs. Accetura – Is there the possibility the Town Council would indicate that we owe it to you but we are not giving it to you. Is there a penalty involved?

Dr. Semmel – The letter states that it would be twice the amount that the State would hold back from the town.

8. **Consent Agenda** (See Schedule A attached hereto and made a part hereof as if fully stated herein.)

MOTION: To approve the consent agenda. Motion Mrs. Kulesa, seconded Mr. Foote, any discussion, all in favor, any opposed, Mr. Bourbonniere opposes, any abstentions, motion passes.

9. **Old Business**

* Tentative Agreement with EdAdvance

MOTION: To accept the EdAdvance Agreement as presented. Motion Mr. Foote, seconded Mrs. Kremmel, any discussion, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion passes.

10. **New Business**

- Proposed 2020 – 2021 School Year Calendar

MOTION: To approve the 2020 – 2021 School Year Calendar as presented. Motion Mr. Foote, seconded Mrs. Kremmel, any discussion, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion passes.

Point of Order

Mr. Elsaghir – Can a consent agenda pass if it is not unanimous?

Mrs. Johnson – Technically, it can pass if it is not unanimous and if we have some who indicates that they disagree or say “no” and nothing is discussed, we can go forward.

- Healthy Food Certification 2019 – 2020

All public school districts participating in the NSLP must submit the *Healthy Food Certification Statement – Addendum to Agreement for Child Nutrition Program (ED-099)* by July 1, 2019 to certify whether or not all food items sold to students will or will not meet Connecticut Nutritional Standards.

- **Healthy Food Option:** Pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-215f, the board of education or governing authority certifies that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools under its jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2020. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to, school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or by non-school organizations and groups.

MOTION: To implement the healthy food option. Motion Mrs. Kulesa, seconded Mr. Bourbonniere, any discussion, all in favor, any abstentions, Mr. Elsaghir opposes, motion passes.

If the board of education or governing authority votes “yes” for the healthy food option above, the board of education or governing authority **must also vote** on whether to allow food exemptions, as indicated below. ***NOTE:** If the board of education or governing authority votes “no” for the healthy food option above, a vote on whether to allow food exemptions is not required.*

- **Exemption for Food Items:** The board of education or governing authority will allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the food items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An “event” is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. For example, soccer games, school plays, and interscholastic debates are events but soccer practices, play rehearsals, and debate team meetings are not. The “regular school day” is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. “Location” means where the event is being held.

MOTION: To allow the food exemptions. Motion Mrs. Kulesa, seconded Mr. Foote, any discussion, all in favor, any abstentions, motion passes.

11. **Board Member/Committee Reports**

A. Finance/Operations - Mrs. Kulesa, Chair

1. The Finance/Operations Subcommittee met prior to the Board Meeting. The subcommittee reviewed:

* The Accounts-by-Facilities Report for the month of March 2019. This report will be forwarded to the Town of Plymouth Board of Finance.

B. Student Achievement – Mrs. Lucian, Chair

Mrs. Parsons, Director of Curriculum & Instruction - The Student Achievement Subcommittee Meeting met on Thursday, March 28, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. in the Conference Room at Central Office, 27 North Harwinton Avenue, Terryville, CT. The following items were discussed: Algebra Options, Health Update, Curriculum Review Cycle Update; Professional Learning Calendar 2019 – 2020; Proposed School Year Calendar 2020 – 2021 and Review of AP US History and Fire Science Textbooks.

The textbooks will be at Central Office for any Board Member who wishes to review them prior to the May Board Meeting.

A Motion will be brought before the full Board at their May meeting to approve the following textbooks: The American Pageant A.P. Edition and Firefighter's Handbook: Firefighting and Emergency Response, 3rd Edition. These textbooks will be available for viewing for the next 30 days at Central Office.

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

None

13. **Board Liaisons to Schools**

Mr. Showers
No Report

--

Harry S. Fisher Elementary School

Mr. Elsaghir/Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani --
No Report from Mr. Elsaghir

Plymouth Center School

Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani

April 12

Historical Society will be teaching the students about the "Leather Man"

May 23

Enrichment Program – Skate for Life (health, nutrition, living the life style and some day trips as well)

Looking to amend the bylaws, anyone is welcome to attend the meeting and participate. Seeking individuals to join the PTO as well as help for next year. A parent night to be schedule with an auction for the fall of next year. A fifth grade celebration is being planned for the end of the year. Teacher Appreciation week is also being planned with a breakfast.

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

Working on a quarter auction and are looking for donations. Getting ready for the end of the year balloon sale with school colors for high school and middle school. Preorders after spring break.

Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani -- Booster Club

First time selling flowers at graduation. Female athletes needed. Geese Waste System – fields are much cleaner. Summer Conditioning paid for by the Booster Club and is free to all athletes and includes eighth grade students who will be freshman and all of the high school students. Program runs for 6 or 8 weeks. Starts right after July 4th.

Mrs. Kulesa -- Terryville High School

No Report
More fundraisers coming up.
Flower Sale usually on the Plymouth Green

Mr. Foote/Mrs. Kremmel -- SEPTA

Mrs. Kremmel
April 4
April 25 Meeting
May 15 Meeting
Fit for Autism Workshop
Cancelled
9:30 a.m. Lucky Cup

Mr. Bourbonniere -- CABE

Teacher Pensions – Towns and cities would be on the books for giving a certain percentage of their monies in their budget the Teacher Pension System. But that bill failed in committee. According to the article in the Republican-American, the Governor is now going to speak with the legislature to see if he can but this into next year's budget. He is going to advocate for a percentage of money. If you are below the state standard, you will pay 85% of your budget, which was initially proposed. If you are above that, you will pay more money and if you are an affluent community, you will pay more money. It all depends on where the state standard is.

Mrs. Johnson -- EdAdvance

There was a meeting this past week. Regionalization was discussed and how most of it died in committee but the Governor's Bill change the wording to say not regionalization but shared services. The last day the legislatures meet is May 3rd.

CABE put together a communication plan and they have a templet that districts may use. CABE is currently using this template for recruitment. You may also go to CABE's website and view the video.

Our RESC received \$40,000 more to use within our district. CABA to figure out how to distribute the funds to all of the towns.

Main Street School was a huge topic.

14. **Board Comments**

Mrs. Kulesa – Food provided by the Food Service Class was delicious, especially the cake.

Mr. Bourbonniere – Congratulated the new hires, New Principal for Plymouth Center School and Director of Pupil Personnel and Special Education Services. Thanked the teachers at Plymouth Center School for a great job.

Mr. Foote – He was disappointed at the comment made at the Board of Finance Meeting on Monday, April 8, 2019 which was addressed to Dr. Semmel and Mr. Hendrickson regarding student enrollment and if included any illegal aliens.

15. **Next Board Meeting** –The next Regular Meeting of the Board of Education is scheduled for Wednesday May 8, 2019 at 7 p.m. in the cafeteria at Terryville High School.

16. **Executive Session:** (a) To discuss a legal matter: Discussion regarding strategy and negotiations concerning pending litigation (Worhunsky Transportation LLC v. Plymouth Board of Education and All Star Transportation, Inc., Superior Court Action) and (b) Personnel Matters: Update on the Business Manager's Contract and Extension of the Contract for the Superintendent of Schools.

MOTION: To move into executive session at 9 p.m. to: (a) discuss a legal matter: Discussion regarding strategy and negotiations concerning pending litigation (Worhunsky Transportation LLC v. Plymouth Board of Education and All Star Transportation, Inc., Superior Court Action) and (b) Personnel Matters: Update on the Business Manager's Contract and Extension of the Contract for the Superintendent of Schools inviting Dr. Semmel into executive session. Motion Mrs. Kulesa, second Mrs. Kremmel, all in favor, motion passes.

MOTION: To rescind the motion. Motion Mr. Bourbonniere, seconded Mrs. Kulesa, all in favor, motion passes.

AMENDED MOTION: Motion to amend the original motion to add Mr. Hendrickson, Business Manager to attend executive session. Motion Mrs. Kulesa, seconded Mrs. Kremmel, motion passes.

17. **Resume Regular Session**

MOTION: To resume regular session at 10:37 p.m. Motion Mrs. Kulesa, seconded Mr. Showers, all in favor, motion passes.

18. **Possible Action from Executive Session**

MOTION: To approve the update on the Business Manager's Contract as discussed in executive session. Motion Mrs. Kulesa, seconded Mrs. Kremmel

ROLL VOTE:

Mrs. Kulesa - yes Mr. Foote - yes Mrs. Kremmel - yes
Mrs. Lucian - absent Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani - yes Mr. Bourbonniere - yes
Mr. Showers - yes Mr. Elsaghir - no
Yes - 6 No - 1 Abstentions - 0 motion passes

MOTION: To extend the Superintendent's contract as submitted during executive session.
Motion Mrs. Kulesa, seconded Mrs. Kremmel

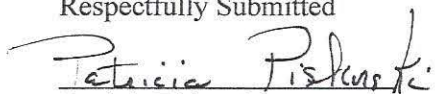
ROLL VOTE:

Mrs. Kulesa - yes Mr. Foote - yes Mrs. Kremmel - yes
Mrs. Lucian - absent Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani - yes Mr. Bourbonniere - yes
Mr. Showers - yes Mr. Elsaghir - no
Yes - 6 No - No Abstentions - 0 motion passes

19. **Adjournment**

MOTION: Motion to adjourn at 10:39 p.m. Motion Mrs. Kulesa, seconded, Mrs. Kremmel
all in favor, motion passes.

Respectfully Submitted


Patricia Piskorski
Recording Secretary
Plymouth Board of Education

SCHEDULE A
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
April 10, 2019

NEW HIRES				
Lindsey DeLorenzo	29.5 hr. per week Special Education Paraprofessional	Plymouth Center School		
Emilee Morey	29.5 hr. per week Special Education Paraprofessional	Plymouth Center School		
Lindsay Aronheim	Director of Pupil Personnel & Special Education Services	District		
Sherri Turner	Principal	Plymouth Center School		
SUMMER POSITION(S)				
Katherine Avcollie	2019 High School Summer School Program Coordinator/Teacher	District		
RESIGNATIONS				
Christina Lorancaitis	29.5 hr. per week Special Education Paraprofessional	Plymouth Center School		
Lindsay Aronheim	School Psychologist	Terryville High School		
Sara Kovack	Language Arts Teacher – Grade 8	Eli Terry Jr. Middle School		
Michael Sadej	Journalism/Reading Teacher – Grade 6 - 8	Eli Terry Jr. Middle School		