



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, MAY 8, 2019

7:00 P.M.

MINUTES

2019 MAY 16 AM 9:35
PLYMOUTH, CT
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
RECEIVED FOR RECORD
TOWN CLERK

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

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

1. Call to Order & Pledge to the Flag

Mrs. Johnson called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. The group joined in the Pledge to the Flag.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

MOTION: To adopt the agenda as presented. Motion Mrs. Lucian, seconded Mrs. Kulesa, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion passes.

3. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 10, 2019
Motion Mr. Foote, seconded Mr. Showers, all in favor, Mrs. Lucian abstains. Point of Order by Mr. Elsaghir as to discussion. Correction to the Minutes with respect to #18 Roll Vote: To extend the Superintendent's Contract. Roll Vote should have read: Roll Vote: Yes - 6 No - 1.

4. **Presentations**

- Italy Trip Reflections – Mrs. Ritchie (PowerPoint)
- Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Update – Mrs. Parsons (PowerPoint)
- Recognition of 212° Recipients

Carol Giannini	Nurse	Plymouth Center School
Carol Sieracki	Paraprofessional	Eli Terry Jr. Middle School
Elise DeCarolis	Teacher	Terryville High School
Robert Nave	Teacher	Terryville High School

RECESS:

MOTION: To recess at 7:46 p.m. Motion Mrs. Kulesa, seconded, Mr. Showers, all in favor, motion passes.

RESUME REGULAR SESSION:

MOTION: To Resume Regular Session at 8 p.m. Motion Mr. Showers, seconded Mr. Foote, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion passes.

Point of Order: Mr. Bourbonniere – MOTION: To move the Enrollment Projection Presentation by Mr. Kennedy, #9 (New Business), to follow Item #6 Student Representatives. Motion Mr. Bourbonniere, seconded Mr. Foote, any discussion, comments, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion passes.

5. **Superintendent's Update**

Mr. Trudeau – Collection of Chrome Books
Terryville High School – June 7, 10, 11 and 12 (times to follow)
Eli Terry Jr. Middle School – June 10

Mr. Hendrickson – Information on Regular Bus Contract

“The District has been notified by All-Star Transportation of their intention to be acquired by Student Transportation of America (STA). Preliminary discussions with All-Star indicate that All-Star will operate as a wholly-owned subsidiary of STA and that there will be no changes in All-Star’s management, drivers, or equipment.”

“A representative of All-Star will be present at the Wednesday, June 5th Board of Education meeting to address any questions.”

Dr. Semmel – (a) Opportunity to win \$100,000 worth free musical instruments for our band as part of the “Manilow Music Project”. You may continually vote throughout the month of May (b) Graduation is on June 13 with a Board Meeting on June 12. The Board considered moving the meeting to June 5. However, due to a conflict of the Booster Sports Award in the auditorium and an Ice Cream Social in the Cafeteria on June 5 the meeting will remain on June 12 but will not be televised.

6. **Student Representatives**

* Diana Ieronimo reported on the following:

AP Testing

May 3 Annual Career Fair

Cheshire Leadership Conference

May 1 Celebrate Success - Students chalking up their parking spots indicating their choice of college

May 1 Daylong conference on industry position

* Taylor Greenwood reported on the following:

May 25 Band and Chorus Concert

May 8 Friendship

May 7 Mock DUI

May 11 Senior Prom

Several programs were held for Juniors including: College Knowledge Night; Annual Terryville v Thomaston basketball game; and Teacher Appreciation Week.

* Devin Girch reported on the following:

May 4 Leo's attended the Annual Mid-Spring Concert at the Red Lion Hotel in Cromwell

May 31 Seniors Annual Class Trip to Holiday Hill

May 20 Last Pep Rally of the year. Theme Neon

The spring sports teams struggled this year, which played a part in the outcome of their season. The week of Kindness was held the week before April break. Students wrote kind notes to each other and to put around the school.

Mrs. Lucian was excused from the remainder of the meeting.

9. **New Business**

* Enrollment Projection Presentation – Mr. John Kennedy – New England School Development Council (NESDEC) (PowerPoint) – Demographic Information and Enrollment Projections. Mr. Kennedy presented findings regarding the predicted enrollment for the Plymouth Public School District.

Dr. Semmel (comment) – Making sure the potential scenarios are made public. There will be multiple opportunities for the Board and the public to have conversations and comments. The Board is not looking to do something in the near future or quickly. The goal is to see there is advanced planning and backwards mapping and to look forward into the future. To make good decisions now in order to move education in an efficient manner. The Board is hoping to have as much public comment as possible, so people have an opportunity to present their input to the Board.

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

The following students and parent advocated for an Honors English Class for Seniors at Terryville High School: Jacob Zappone; Madison Maske; Jamison Kulesa; Taylor Greenwood and Julia Langeway and Mrs. Becky Zappone.

Taylor Greenwood and Jacob Zappone will attend a meeting on Tuesday, May 14, 2019 at 10:30 a.m. in the Superintendent's Office. In attendance will be Dr. Semmel, the Department Chair and other individuals who will better understand the issues brought forth by the students.

Ms. Stacey Lallier advocated on behalf of Mr. Keene, Music/Band Teacher at Terryville High School

Student Representatives excused for the meeting.

The following individuals advocated for additional teachers at Plymouth Center School: Ms. Kelly Accetura; Ms. Rachel Marlak; Ms. Beradett D.

Walt Seaman, 360 Preston Road, Terryville – Advocated to adding two teachers to Plymouth Center School.

8. **Old Business**

* 2019 – 2020 Budget

MOTION: To approve the 2019 – 2020 Budget with adjustments as presented.
Motion Mrs. Kulesa, seconded Mr. Foote, any discussion.

Dr. Semmel – Town Council approved a budget which requires the Board to reduce the adopted budget by \$128,000.

The following are recommended cuts:

Electricity	\$ 10,000
Savings on Salary	50,000
Saving on Benefits	45,000
Reduction in Supplies	<u>23,000</u>
Total	\$128,000

Mrs. Kulesa (clarification) – If the Board were to take the \$128,000 from the items mentioned (electricity, savings on salary and benefits and reduction in supplies) they would not need to reduce staff? If agreeable to everyone, this would mean that the district would have the additional half-time music teacher at the middle school, leaving Mr. Keane at the high school full-time. An additional teacher to the moving up grade 3 at Plymouth Center School would be added.

Dr. Semmel – The budget that was passed included the teacher at Plymouth Center School.

Mrs. Kulesa – That is not being taken away?

Dr. Semmel – Correct. He feels it is important to keep a track on the class sizes up until the August Board Meeting. Dr. Semmel shared with the Board the current class sizes are for this year and what they would be next year based on our recommendation for the cuts to be made tonight. The grade 3 classroom mentioned for next year reduces to classes of 13 students in each class. Recommendation to have an additional 3rd grade class and 3 second grade classrooms.

Mr. Elsaghir – Was one of the public commentors made regarding the proposal does not include the teacher?

Mrs. Johnson – The individual may have had a previous document and not a current one.

Dr. Semmel – If the individual was reading the Potential Budget Reduction, he may have misread it.

Walt Seaman – Just for clarification. Your proposal – 3 teachers at the 2nd grade for Plymouth Center and 2 teachers at the 3rd grade?

Mrs. Kulesa – That is what we have in the budget.

Mr. Bourbonniere – Questioned to Mr. Hendrickson and Dr. Semmel regarding the Accounts-by-Facilities Report especially the section on the cost of the copiers and the amount of money not spent on the copiers. Mr. Hendrickson to look into this matter.

Mr. Foote – move the question.

ROLL VOTE: Mrs. Kulesa - yes Mr. Foote - yes Mrs. Kremmel - yes
Mrs. Lucian – excused earlier from meeting
Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani - yes
Mr. Bourbonniere - yes Mr. Showers - yes Mr. Elsaghir - No

Yes - 6 No - 1 Abstentions - 0 motion passes.

RECESS

MOTION: To recess at 10:07 p.m. Motion Mrs. Kremmel, seconded Mr. Showers, all in favor, motion passes.

RESUME Regular Session

MOTION: To resume regular session at 10:13 p.m. Motion Mr. Showers, seconded Mrs. Kremmel, all in favor, any opposes, motion passes.

10. 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 following items:

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

* Personnel Report

* Transfers

MOTION: To approve a transfer in the amount of \$301,456.00 from the Special Ed Outplacement Account to Special Ed Salary Line. Motion Mrs. Kulesa, any discussion, all in favor, opposed, Mr. Bourbonniere, abstentions. Motion passes.

MOTION: To approve a transfer in the amount of \$50,000 from Health Insurance and Consultant Services to our legal fees account. Motion Mrs. Kulesa, any discussion,

Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani - \$50,000 worth of equipment listed for next year. If there is extra money, she feels it should be put towards education or supplies that is needed for the schools. It is in our budget for next year that this account will be getting money in the budget.

Dr. Semmel – We are confident that we will have some additional bills above and beyond what we budgeted for legal for next year. Rather than putting us in the red, we would have that money. If for some reason we do not use this money, the Board may transfer it at that time to another line.

Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani – If we had \$60,000 left over, we cannot carry it over to next year. So, if we put \$50,000 into legal fees how would we be able to have that next year?

Dr. Semmel – We are allowed especially when we have expected legal fees, to send Shipman & Goodwin a retainer. Therefore, it will not be in our budget any more.

all in favor, opposed, Mr. Bourbonniere, any abstentions. Motion passes.

B. **Student Achievement** – Mrs. Lucian, Chair

The final meeting of the Student Achievement Subcommittee for the 2018 – 2019 school year will be held on Thursday, May 23, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. in the conference room at Central Office, 27 North Harwinton Avenue, Terryville.

MOTION: To forward to the full Board for their approval the following textbooks discussed at the March 28, 2019 Student Achievement Subcommittee Meeting.

- * The American Pageant A.P. Edition
- * Firefighter's Handbook: Firefighting and Emergency Response, 3rd Edition

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

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

None

12. **Board Liaisons to Schools**

Mr. Showers -- Harry S. Fisher Elementary School

May 17 First Dance which was suggested by 5th graders.

Arbor Day was very successful. Thanks you go out to Marty Sandshaw for his coordination of the event, Conservation Commission, the Mayor, and the Superintendent for spending time with the students to celebrate the day and provide seedlings to the 4th graders.

SBAC testing has begun for grades 3 – 5. The PTA is providing daily incentives to students to help keep them motivated during the testing.

There will be an Art and Music Concert. This will be the first year the 3rd graders will be a part of the spring show with their recorders.

Thanks to Cory Mazon and with the PTA's support Author Suzy Kline will be visiting the school. Students have been reading her books and are very excited for her visit.

Mr. Elsaghir -- Plymouth Center School

Report given by Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani

SBAC testing taking place. Every grade levels are participating on field trips. Last week to purchase Yearbooks. Teacher Appreciation Week, May 6 – 10. The end of the year 5th grade party is approaching.

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

Field Trips are taking place. The Quarter Auction was a success. Balloon Sales begin the week of May 13. Eighth Grades may purchase a balloon for \$5.00. The night before promotion, the balloons will be delivered around town. Teacher Appreciation Week. Eighth Graders went to the high school for Career Day.

Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani -- Booster Club

Graduation Flowers to be sold by the Booster Club. Bouquets - \$20.00, presale. There will be bouquets available on the day of the ceremony. Female Athletes needed. Re-election of officers has taken place. The same individuals will hold office. Scholarships are under review and will be awarded at the end of the year. Summer Conditioning is free to whomever would like to attend. This is paid for by the Booster Club. Any sport (eighth graders through seniors.)

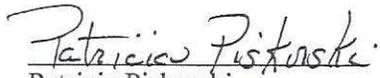
June 5 Sports Awards at 6 p.m. in the Auditorium at Terryville High School followed by an Ice Cream Social

14. **Next Board Meeting** –The next regular meeting of the Board of Education is scheduled for Wednesday, June 12, 2019 at 7 p.m. in the cafeteria at Terryville High School.

15. **Adjournment**

MOTION: Motion to adjourn at 10:35 p.m. Motion Mrs. Kulesa, seconded, Mr. Showers, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion passes.

Respectfully Submitted



Patricia Piskorski

Recording Secretary

Plymouth Board of Education