



## 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, JUNE 12, 2019

7:00 P.M.

### MINUTES

PLYMOUTH, CT  
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE  
RECEIVED FOR RECORD  
2019 JUN 21 AM 11:26  
*Barbara K. Fookun*  
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 7:01 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. Showers, seconded Mrs. Lucian, any discussion, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion passes.

#### 3. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 8, 2019  
Motion Mrs. Lucian, seconded Mrs. Kulesa, any discussion, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion passes.

#### 4. Presentations

- Food Service Update – Mr. Hendrickson, Business Manager

The District's new Food Service Director is Ms. Alicia Daponte. Ms. Daponte has 3 years' experience in the District along with 15 years prior experience in commercial establishments.

The Healthy Food Certification was submitted to the State on June 3, 2019 but has not yet been approved.

The finance portion of the school lunch program has been profitable throughout the year. The District has applied for an equipment grant offered by the State for Food Service Equipment. The maximum amount of the grant is \$15,000. The district has applied for approximately \$13,000 to cover the cost of a warming cabinet at Harry S. Fisher Elementary School and a Steamer at Eli Terry Jr. Middle School.

- All-Star – Mr. John DuFour, President and Ms. Leslie Sheldon, Operations Manager

Mr. Hendrickson, Business Manager – All-Star acquisition by Student Transportation of America. Student (STA). STA is proposing an acquisition of All Star. The All-Star contract required that Plymouth, as well as the other signees to the contract, and Thomaston approve the acquisition. Operations will not change. All Star will operate as a wholly owned subsidiary of STA. Existing All-Star management, personnel and drivers will remain the same. There will be no change in equipment.

A brief overview of Student Transportation of America: This is a privately owned company with 15,000 employees, over 13,000 vehicles, services 23 U.S. States and 2 Canadian provinces and serves over 300 school districts. All references contacted were overwhelming positive.

Mr. Bourbonniere – With the sale of the company to STA, All Star buses currently have the name "All-Star Transportation" is that going to continue on the buses?

Mr. DuFour – Yes, the corporation is going to stay in tact, it has become wholly owned subsidiary. The buses will still say All-Star.

Mr. Bourbonniere – Usually when companies are bought out by other companies, there is usually a transaction period where the individual who is selling to the other company will stay on board for a certain amount of years and then after than they say thank you very much. Is that part of your contract?

Mr. DuFour – Yes, it is part of our deal. He is signed up for 5 years and Ms. Sheldon is signed up for 3 years. The district will not see any changes in operation whatsoever. All-Star is the largest company STA has ever purchased. STA wants the company to operate as it has in the past. STA will let All Star do what they have done in the past.

RESOLUTION: Acknowledgement of Transfer of Membership Interest of Transportation Contract.

RESOLUTION from Dr. Martin Semmel, Superintendent of Schools, to the Board of Education of the Town of Plymouth, making recommendation.

That the Board of Education acknowledges the proposed sale of more than twenty percent (20%) of the ownership interest of the Board's current transportation Contractor, All-Star Transportation, to Student Transportation of America, Inc.; and consents to the assignment of the performance of the requirements of its 2018 – 2019 contract with All-Star Transportation to Student Transportation of America, Inc.

MOTION: To accept the Resolution as presented. Motion Mr. Foote, seconded, Mr. Showers, any discussion.

Dr. Semmel: Questioned the number of years 2018 – 2019, should be 2018 – 2023.

MOTION: To amend the dates of the requirements from 2018 - 2019 to 2018 - 2023. Motion Mrs. Kulesa, seconded Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani, any discussion.

Mr. Bourbonniere: Everyone needs to understand as you listened to Mr. DuFour, he is only going to be with All-Star as a whole subsidiary for 5 years and his sister for 3 so the next contract that comes up will not be from All-Star but from STA. There could also be other bidders.

Mrs. Johnson: On the Amendment, is there any more discussion on the Amendment of the date? All in favor, any opposed, any abstentions. Amendment passes.

Mrs. Johnson: Is there any more discussion on the original Motion? There being none, a roll vote was taken:

ROLL VOTE: Mrs. Kulesa – yes Mr. Foote - yes Mrs. Kremmel – yes

Mrs. Lucian – yes Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani - yes

Mr. Bourbonniere – yes Mr. Showers – yes Mr. Elsaghir – yes

motion passes and the Resolution is adopted: 8 yes / 0 no

- Recognition of Graduating Student Representatives

Diana Ieronimo  
Devon Girch

- Recognition of Retirees

Mrs. Collins, Principal Plymouth Center School  
Mrs. Trinks, Director of Pupil Personnel & Special Education Services



- Teacher of the Year, Ms. Joyce Kelley – Mrs. Parsons, Director of Curriculum Instruction

## RECESS

MOTION: To recess at 7:30 p.m. Motion Mr. Showers, seconded Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani, all in favor, motion passes.

## RESUME REGULAR SESSION:

MOTION: To Resume Regular Session at 7:44 p.m. Motion Mr. Showers, seconded Mrs. Kremmel, all in favor, motion passes.

POINT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE – MOTION: To allow Barbara Trinks to leave the meeting early tonight. Motion Mr. Showers, seconded Mr. Foote, any discussion, any opposed, motion passes.

## 5. Superintendent's Update

- \* Promotional Ceremony at Eli Terry Jr. Middle School will begin at 10 a.m. and Board Members are welcome to attend. Please let Pat know if you will be attending so that she may notify Ms. Suffridge.
- \* Terryville High School Graduation Ceremony for the class of 2019 will begin at 7 p.m.
- \* Tonight's meeting is not being video taped as the technology department is setting up for the promotion ceremony at middle school for tomorrow morning.
- \* Ms. Aronheim – update on grants:
  - (a) Stipend for Assisting Districts with Improving Outcomes for Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities (\$6,000);
  - (b) Stipend for Assisting Districts with Increasing the Quality of Programs in which Young Students Ages 3, 4, & 5 with IEP's are Served (\$6,000).
- \* Mr. Hendrickson – update
  - (a) Security Grants approved for \$50,000 from the State.

## 6. Student Representatives

- \* Diana Ieronimo reported on the following:

May 11	Senior Prom
May 31	seniors went to Holiday Hill
May 23	Scholarship Night
June 13	Grad Parade at the Elementary Schools
Other events, Senior Night and Senior Dinner	

Thank you to the Board of Education

- \* Taylor Greenwood reported on the following:

Student Representatives for 2019 – 2020

Taylor Greenwood  
Julia Zaniewski  
Tyler Mendela

Memorial Day Parade and the Awards Ceremony

Thank you to the Board of Education

- \* Devin Girch reported on the following:

Reported on the end of the year sports.

Thank you to the Board.

Mr. Bourbonniere: The Boy's Baseball Team advanced to the semi's. They lost to Holy Cross in extra innings 6 – 5. Congratulations to the Boys' Baseball Team.

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

Chris Simo-Kinzer – 52 Old Farm Road (reported on some of the following topics)

- \* Recommended individuals go to Whit Betts' Facebook page as to some of the following issues: (a) questioned if there was any language that prevented any local boards from not doing what they deemed inappropriate; (if the General Assembly is going to dictate curriculum what is the point and function of the local boards of education. (Mr. Simo-Kinzer feels the State is overstepping their boundaries; (b) Common Core – this never went to the legislature, yet it was adopted. Now studies indicate extremely poor results after 7 – 8 years; (c) climate Change in the classroom (no place being part of the curriculum); and (d) Black, Puerto Rican and Latin History by 2022.

8. **New Business**

(a) Review Cost of School Lunch Programs

Recommendations from the Finance/Operations Subcommittee:

MOTION: To move to the full Board the recommendation from the Finance/Operations Subcommittee to increase the school lunches in each school by ten cents. Motion Mrs. Kulesa. Mrs. Johnson, coming out of committee this does not need a second. Discussion.

Mr. Bourbonniere: Shouldn't the motion state, as I had stated in committee, that the elementary school lunch will go from \$2.80 to \$2.90, etc.?

AMENDMENT: That the elementary lunch will go from \$2.80 to \$2.90, the middle school lunch will go from \$3.00 to \$3.10; the specialty lunch from \$3.15 to \$3.25 and the high school lunch will also go from \$3.00 to \$3.10 and the specialty lunch as well going from \$3.15 to \$3.25 which all represents a ten cent increase. Motion Mrs. Kulesa, seconded, Mr. Bourbonniere, all in favor of the amendment, any discussion, any opposed, amendment passes.

Mrs. Johnson, any discussion with respect to the Motion?

Mr. Elsaghir: Why is there an increase in the lunch program and not the breakfast? What is the difference, what is the logic?

Mr. Hendrickson: There is no real legal or regulatory requirement to adjust breakfast prices. However, each year the USDA requires us to use a paid lunch equity tool, which calculates the weighted average of our lunch prices for the previous October for the upcoming year. Our weighted average is \$2.91. However, for the upcoming year, by mandate the FDA says lunches should be at \$3.00. If our lunch program is making a profit and our price is less than \$3, we can request an exemption from the State and leave lunch prices along. This is only for one year. Not knowing what next year would bring, to be on the safe side, lunches were increased by ten cents.

All in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion passes.

(b) End of the Year Transfers

MOTION: To authorize the Superintendent of Schools to work with the Business Manager in order to make the necessary transfers and expenditures to close the books as of June 30, 2019 and to expend funds for the fiscal year 2018 – 2019. Motion Mrs. Kulesa, seconded Mr. Foote, any discussion, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion passes.

Mr. Bourbonniere: As mentioned in committee, he mentioned that if for any reason there was any type of overage that we utilize some of that money to pay for some of next years expenses, i.e. supplies (\$20,000 - \$30,000 range), place money into the Sinking Fund but mostly to take care of whatever cuts we had this year.

All in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion passes.

9. **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 May 2019. This report will be forwarded to the Town of Plymouth Board of Finance.

\* Review of Personnel Report



B. Student Achievement – Mrs. Lucian, Chair

The final meeting of the Student Achievement Subcommittee for the 2018 – 2019 school year was a Special Meeting, which took place on Wednesday, June 12, 2019 at 6:15p.m. The following items were discussed:

- Terryville High School English
- Curriculum Review Cycle
- End of the Year Data Review
- Curriculum Updates – Summer Work

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

None

11. **Board Liaisons to Schools**

Mr. Showers -- Harry S. Fisher Elementary School

Discussion regarding update of By-Laws; Yearbook distribution on June 13; spirit Wear and 5<sup>th</sup> grade picnic; officers chosen; and celebration of a member who has been on their Board for 15 years.

Mr. Elsaghir -- Plymouth Center School

Field Day was on June 12; Ice Cream Social; Treasurer's Report - \$9,576.24 was raised during the 2018 – 2019 school year; grant from Thomaston Savings Bank to reimburse those teachers for what they spent on supplies; and currently working on events for next year.

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

Balloons to be hung on mailboxes this evening for middle school and high school graduates; Seeking more parents to get involved; and the first three days of school – Back-to-School Dance and Ice Cream Social.

Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani -- Booster Club

Selling flowers for graduation; Summer Conditioning for incoming freshman – senior (free summer program); and Soccer Under the Lights being planned for next year.

Mrs. Kulesa -- Terryville High School

Focused on a safe AfterGrad Party for the seniors and Officers have been chosen for next year.

Mr. Foote/Mrs. Kremmel

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SEPTA

Regarding AfterGrad – The Lions Club voted to give \$500 as in the past. Hoping to connect with Ms. Aronheim and parents at the beginning of the school year; and a Paint Fundraiser planned for mid-September (for more information, please go to their Facebook page).

Mr. Bourbonniere

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CABE

No Report

Mrs. Johnson

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EdAdvance

Head Start Director is retiring after 37 years; 1,200 standards approved for Birth – 5; Main Street School Building officially sold on June 7; Dr. Kennedy (national scheduling) and Skills 21.

12. **Board Comments**

Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani – Important for parents and individuals alike to attend Board of Education Meetings and express their concerns. It could make a difference.

Mr. Bourbonniere – Expressed his disappointment that the Consent Agenda is no longer on the Agenda for the Regular Board of Education Meeting.

Mrs. Johnson – This Consent Agenda may be discussed at the Retreat regarding its purpose, etc.

Mr. Bourbonniere – Just stating his disappointment.

Mrs. Johnson – Duly Noted

13. **Next Board Meeting** – There will not be a July Board Meeting. Therefore, the next regular meeting of the Board of Education is scheduled for Wednesday, August 14, 2019 at 7 p.m. in the cafeteria at Terryville High School.

14. **Executive Session** (to discuss a personnel matter: Superintendent's Annual Review)

MOTION: To enter into executive session at 8:20 p.m. to discuss the Superintendent's Annual Review. Along with the full Board, Dr. Semmel, Superintendent is invited into executive session. Motion Mrs. Kulesa, seconded Mrs. Kremmel, all in favor, motion passes.



**RESUME Regular Session**

MOTION: To resume regular session at 8:50 p.m. Motion Mrs. Kremmel, seconded Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani, all in favor, motion passes.

**15. Possible Action from Executive Session**

None

**16. Adjournment**

MOTION: Motion to adjourn at 8:50 p.m. Motion Mrs. Kremmel, seconded, Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani, all in favor, any opposed, any abstention, motion passes.

Respectfully Submitted



Patricia Piskorski

Recording Secretary

Plymouth Board of Education