

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

SPECIAL  
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

BOARD OF EDUCATION OFFICES  
CENTRAL OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM  
77 MAIN STREET  
TERRYVILLE, CT 06786

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18, 2017

MINUTES

Present: Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Kremmel, Mr. Goodwin, Mrs., Lucian, Mr. Bourbonniere, Mrs. Kulesa and Ms. McCann

Absent: Mr. Orsini and Mr. Melchionna

Others Present: Dr. Semmel, Superintendent, Mr. Penn, Business Manager, Mrs. Collins, Principal, Plymouth Center School, Ms. Suffridge, Principal Eli Terry Jr. Middle School, Mr. Hedrick, Assistant Principal Eli Terry Jr. Middle School, Mr. Hulst, Principal Terryville High School, Mrs. Parsons, Director of Curriculum & Instruction.

1. Call To Order

Mrs. Johnson Called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

MOTION: To adopt the agenda. Motion Ms. McCann, second Mrs. Kulesa, motion passes.

3. Budget Workshop I for 2017 – 2018 Budget

At this time, Mrs. Johnson turned the meeting over to Dr. Semmel, Superintendent. On January 11, 2017, an overall of the 2017 – 2018 Superintendent has budged made to the Board. At the first budget meeting, the Board and public heard from the elementary, middle and high school principals Mr. Penn, Business Manager and Mrs. Parsons, Director of Curriculum & Instruction.

TOWN CLERK



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Mr. Penn addressed the following:

- \$82,000 added to the budget for health care. Original estimate \$612,000 but has been increased to \$694,000. This would increase the 2017 – 2018 budget to 2.83%
- Possibility of offering a Retirement Incentive to teachers within the district.

Harry S. Fisher Elementary School & Plymouth Center School – Mrs. Collins

- Continue to support the implementation of the Curriculum Revision (Go Math Resources and Readers Workshop)
- Foundation Words Study Program (grades K – 2)
- Increase Technology Skills (beginning with the implementation of keyboarding)
- Additional monies need for Language Arts due to the need to have as many level texts in the classroom library as possible
- Plymouth Center School – requests level staffing, if possible, because of increased student needs
- District Level – requests associated with potential additional funding needs associated with the Smart Start Grant for PreK
- District Level – requests associated with the proposed addition of the Foundations Program to grade 3
- Harry S. Fisher – additional funds for tutor
- Harry S. Fisher – additional Math Coach

Mr. Bourbonniere – Good work Mrs. Collins.

Eli Terry Jr. Middle School – Ms. Suffridge

- Continue to restructure schedule
- Added at the end of the summer, Woodshop and IT has been moved to Technology Education to implement and embed some STEM activities (focus on presentation skills, coding and digital citizenship)
- Restructure schedule to move to grade level team in order for teachers to be able to meet not only as grade level but also in departments
- After School Math Academy
- Journey added to grade 6
- Two Intervention Teachers (Math and Reading)
- Readers Workshop (continue the work that was done at the elementary level)

Mrs. McCann – Commented on the After School Math Program

Mr. Bourbonniere – Questioned student enrollment and the elimination of 3 teachers last year.

Dr. Semmel – Brought up a parent inquiry regarding middle school uniforms.

Terryville High School – Mr. Hults

- \$94,00 increase in salaries
- Part-Time Custodian
- Supply Line Items: subscriptions; membership opportunity, technology

- Wrestling and Baseball Uniforms
- Implementing a Unified Sports Program
- .60 Spanish Teacher

Mr. Bourbonniere – Good Job. Comment regarding administrative salaries savings of \$1,200.00.

Mrs. Parsons – Director of Curriculum & Instruction

- Library Budget (salary)
- Curriculum – Support student achievement, align curriculum & support all learners – continue the implementation of what is working and to continue to build our programs.
- Materials – elementary text book savings; intervention materials, building classroom libraries
- High School & Middle School – core changes in Math and bringing the Teacher’s College into grades 6 & 7. Building up the library. Rewrite of Foreign Language Curriculum. Provide textbooks and training for AP English Language which would be an additional AP offering for juniors.
- Increase PSAT materials
- Software (consolidating all purchases centrally)
- \$4,000 curriculum software platform – all curriculum can be written electronically. This figure includes training
- Consultant Services (Mr. Penn)  
\$25,000 for Facilities Review – should the district go down to three schools. This would be within a 5-year horizon and \$25,000 for an Energy Conservation Consultant (opportunity to hire energy companies who specialize in obtaining additional savings out of the infrastructure that we currently possess.

Mrs. McCann – Comment – facilities review is not a curriculum issue.

Dr. Semmel – Comment - looking at an increase of \$21,000.

Mr. Bourbonniere – Comment - Phil, great job on the consultant services and trying to save us money.

Mrs. Trinks – Director of Pupil Personnel and Special Education Services

Budget focuses on school initiatives, district initiatives, department initiatives and state regulations, legal requirements for state department of education requirements.

- Special Education Salary – Increase of \$114,000, \$70,000 of which is to hire a BCBA (Board Certified Behavioral Analyst)
- Student Services – outplacement numbers/students placed by DCF/out of district placement numbers
- Diagnostic Services – decrease due to BCBA being moved from being something we are paying externally through Diagnostic Services to be an internal person
- PreK Smart Start Grant – Personnel changes that caused a decrease this year

The above are the big areas that are driving the changes.

Mr. Bourbonniere – Commented on a Supreme Court Case “What actually is minimal?

Mrs. Trinks – Depends on what the justices rule as to who this could affect the budget.

4. Public Comment (limited to 3 minutes per speaker)

Vicky Carey, 66 Greystone Road

She will be leaving most of her questions when the Board presents its budget to the Board of Finance. Mrs. Carey commented on level staffing and keeping small class sizes.

- What are the class sizes?
- What is considered small?
- Is there a policy throughout the school system as to class sizes in each individual school?

Dr. Semmel – Small class sizes in grades PreK – 2 have between 18 – 20 students. In grades 3 – 5 the number is higher, 22 – 25 students.

Mrs. Collins stated she would like to return to 3 sections in grade 5 due to students that are identified with needs in the current 4<sup>th</sup> grade. To this this, she would she would need level staffing.

Lori Theriault, 304 Harwinton Avenue, Plymouth

Comment – The number of the student population requiring special education, does the district see an increase, trending up or holding steady, which would lead to salary increases. Early Retirement – would there be any special education teachers eligible and would this bring the costs down.

Mr. Penn's comment – if we have a need for a staff member, we will continue to have that need. An early retirement incentive gives a potential of a salary savings.

Pattie DeHuff – Commented on the CAFE dues and feels it is an unnecessary expenditure. Board should be questioning what is good for the children.

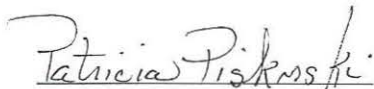
Speaker – Inaudible – Commented on the importance of PreK

Mr. Gentile, Mr. Bourbonniere and Dr. Semmel – All commented on CAFE from policies to information regarding legislation that has to do with education.

5. Adjournment

MOTION: Motion to adjourn at 8:13 p.m. Motion Ms. McCann, seconded Mr. Goodwin, motion passes.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Patricia Piskorski  
Recording Secretary