

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  
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2014  
TERRYVILLE HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA

7:00 P.M.

MINUTES

Present: Board: Mr. Melchionna, Mr. Perugino, Mrs. McCann, Mr. Orsini, Mr. Goodwin, Mrs. Kulesa and Mr. Engle

Absent: Mr. Gentile

1. Call to Order and Pledge to the Flag

Mr. Engle called the meeting to order at 7:09 p.m. and the group joined in the Pledge to the Flag.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

MOTION: To adopt the agenda as presented: Motion Mr. Orsini, seconded Mr. Perugino, motion passes.

3. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the following meetings:  
Special Meeting, August 11, 2014  
Regular Meeting, August 13, 2014  
Special Meeting, August 26, 2014  
Special Meeting, September 4, 2014

Motion, Mr. Perugino, seconded Mr. Orsini, Mrs. Johnson abstains with respect to the Special Meetings of August 26 and September 4, 2014, motion passes.

4. Public Comment (limited to 3 minutes)

Chris Simo-Kinzer - 52 Old Farm Road - addressed the common core standards.

Brian Dunn - 19 Carriage Drive - addressed the common core standards.

Julie Kosikowski - Park Street - as a representative of the Friends of Music at Terryville High School she presented a petition to reinstate the music position at Eli Terry Jr. Middle School which was eliminated this school year. Questioned the status of that petition. She addressed the need for

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two music teachers at the high school and her concern about the class lists at Plymouth Center School and the need for tutors in the classrooms.

Jen Yeziarski – addressed the need for tutors in the classrooms.

Brenton Ridgeway – 70 Minor Road – addressed issue of revisiting the music position at the middle school and also the common core issue.

Victoria Petke-Nadolski – 94 North Main Street – requesting bringing tutors back into the elementary schools.

5. Presentation

a. Solar Project Update

MOTION: To approve the following Resolution Regarding Amended and Restated Solar Power Purchase and Sale Agreement

WHEREAS, the Town of Plymouth and the Plymouth Board of Education entered into a Solar Power Purchase and Sale Agreement with E J Terry Solar 1, LLC with an effective date of March 17, 2014;

WHEREAS, E J Terry Solar 1, LLC experienced difficulty in progressing with the project in accordance with the original development schedule;

WHEREAS, E J Terry Solar 1, LLC has requested that the parties enter into an Amended and Restated Solar Power Purchase and Sale Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the Plymouth Board of Education and the Town of Plymouth have negotiated certain concessions from E J Terry Solar 1, LLC in consideration for entering into the Amended and Restated Solar Power Purchase and Sale Agreement.

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the Chairman of the Plymouth Board of Education or his designee is authorized to enter into the Amended and Restated Solar Power Purchase and Sale Agreement with the Town of Plymouth and E J Terry Solar 1, LLC as it may finally be revised and approved by the attorney for the Plymouth Board of Education and the Town Attorney.

Motion Mr. Goodwin, seconded Mr. Melchionna. Roll Vote: Mr. Melchionna, Mr. Perugino, Mrs. McCann, Mr. Orsini, Mr. Goodwin, Mrs. Johnson and Mrs. Kulesa all voted in favor of the motion, motion passes unanimously.

6. Communications

None

7. Unfinished Business

a. Food Service Provider

MOTION: To approve Chartwell's Food Service to provide the food services operations for the Plymouth Public Schools beginning July 1, 2014. Motion Mr. Perugino, seconded Mr. Orsini, motion passes.

b. Request for Tutors for both Elementary Schools

MOTION: To approve the following request for tutors for both elementary schools due to the unexpected class sizes. Said tutors are to be allocated as follows by the principals of each school and administration as appropriate: (a) Harry S. Fisher Elementary, 4 tutors and (b) Plymouth Center School, 3 tutors. Motion Mr. Orsini, seconded Mrs. Johnson, Roll Vote Mr. Melchionna, Mr. Perugino, Mrs. McCann, Mr. Orsini, Mr. Goodwin, Mrs. Johnson and Mrs. Kulesa, motion passes unanimously.

8. New Business

a. Resignations

The following individuals have submitted their resignations:

**Harry S. Fisher Elementary School**

Kathryn Chiappetta	Elementary School Psychologist
Gerry Oquendo	Paraprofessional
Mary Lynn Currier	Part-Time Paraprofessional (APPLE)

**Eli Terry Jr. Middle School**

George Bikakis	Social Studies (grades 7 & 8)
Kathleen Turner	Mathematics (grade 7 & 8)
Sara McFarlin	Part-Time Paraprofessional (APPLE)
Jennifer Christiana	Paraprofessional (STAR)

**Terryville High School**

Justin McDermott	Spanish Teacher
Raymond Lapinski	Biology/General Science (retirement)
Dean Martin	Senior Class Advisor

b. New Hires/Appointments

MOTION: To recommend the following New Hires and Appointments:

**Harry S. Fisher**

Jessica Kowalski	Recess Monitor
Janet McFarlin	Recess Monitor

**Plymouth Center School**

Robin Giese	Secretary
Sarah Dyer	Planning & Placement Team Facilitator

**Eli Terry Jr. Middle School**

Christina Gundlach	Mathematics Teacher
Hailey Barnard	Planning & Placement Team Facilitator

**Eli Terry Jr. Middle School & Terryville High School**

Christine McGrath	Part-Time Speech/Language Pathologist
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**Terryville High School**

Lori Wallace

Michelle Zanauskas

Michelle Zanauskas/Stephanie Hudak Co-Advisor National Honor Society

Joseph Faitak

Secretary

Academic Bowl Advisor

Freshman Class Advisor & Mathematics Department Coordinator

Joyce Klapheke

David Merchesani

Andrew Audibert

Gabrielle McTighe

Family & Consumer Science

Technology Education

Mathematics

Freshman Class Advisor

Motion Mr. Goodwin, seconded Mrs. Johnson, motion passes.

MOTION: To table the position of Athletic Director to executive session to discuss a legal issue at the end of the regular meeting. Motion Mrs. Johnson, seconded Mr. Goodwin, motion passes.

c. Out-of-State Field Trips

MOTION: Recommendation to approve the following out-of-state field trips:

- To Agawam, MA for grade 9 – 12 students in the music department at Terryville High School to perform at the Big E on September 26, 2014.
- To Agawam, MA for grade 9 – 12 students in the special education department as a teacher incentive program on September 26, 2014.
- To Gillette Stadium in Foxborough, MA for grade 9 – 12 students in the music department to participate in UMass Band Day on Saturday, October 18, 2014.
- To Salem, MA for grade 7 ELA and Social Studies students at Eli Terry Jr. Middle School in October 2014 to visit historical sites and to learn more about early American authors.
- To New York City, Broadway for grade 9 – 12 students in the Drama Club, Music Appreciation Class and Chorus/Music students at Terryville High School on November 12, 2014 to see a professional production, tour the theater district and meet with a member of the cast and crew of the show “Matilda”.

MOTION: Motion Mr. Melchionna, seconded Mr. Orsini, motion passes.

d. UAW Local 376 Contract Paraprofessionals & Secretaries

MOTION: To approve the contract between the Plymouth Board of Education and UAW Local 376 Paraprofessionals and Secretaries as presented. Motion Mr. Perugino, seconded Mr. Melchionna. Roll Vote: Mr. Melchionna, Mr. Perugino, Mrs. McCann, Mr. Orsini, Mr. Goodwin, Mrs. Johnson and Mrs. Kulesa, motion passes unanimously.

e. State –Approved Plymouth Public Schools Teacher Evaluation Plan

MOTION: To approve the State-Approved Plymouth Public Schools Teacher Evaluation Plan as presented by Dr. Tenney. Motion Mrs. Johnson, seconded Mrs. Kulesa. Roll Vote: Mr. Melchionna, Mr. Perugino, Mrs. McCann, Mr. Orsini, Mr. Goodwin, Mrs. Johnson and Mrs. Kulesa, motion passes unanimously.

9. Board Member/Committee Reports

A. Curriculum – Mrs. Kulesa – the following items were discussed at the September 3, 2014 Special Curriculum Subcommittee Meeting: (a) District Improvement Plan; (b) Assessment Plan; (c) and the 2013-2014 Data/PowerPoint Presentation.

B. Facilities – Mr. Goodwin – The subcommittee discussed the Power Purchase Agreement and updated the capital improvements chart.

C. Finance – Mr. Melchionna- The Finance Subcommittee met prior to the Board Meeting, reviewed the Accounts by Facilities report and will forward the same to the Town of Plymouth Board of Finance

D. Negotiations – Mr. Gentile, absent. Mr. Engle reported the contract was approved that was ratified by the paraprofessionals and secretaries. Negotiations will begin sometime in the month of September or October with the Plymouth Education Association (PEA).

E. Personnel – Mr. Goodwin – All items were addressed under New Business.

F. Policy – Mrs. Johnson – In the process of scheduling a meeting.

G. Safety/Transportation – Mr. Orsini – The subcommittee will be scheduling a meeting to explore 2 items. The opening day of school and the days after went very, very smoothly.

H. Education Connection – Mrs. Kulesa – No Report

I. Student Representatives – George Andrews, Halley King and Allison Smith

George Andrews – sports

September 9	All sports began
September 13	Bottle Drive & Car Wash at Advanced Auto Parts to support the cheerleading team and the Drama Club
October 5	Booster Club – 5K Road Race

Halley King – school activities

September 12	School pictures for freshman, sophomores & juniors
September 16	Leo Club Reception for Interim Superintendent – THS 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. cafeteria
September 18	Open House at 6:30 p.m.
September 21	Auditions for the fall
September 26	Band going to the Big E
September 28	Band participating in the Mum Parade
October 4	Bake Sale & Car Wash at Advanced Auto to support Friends of Music

Allison Smith – Senior Activities

Students, teachers and parents commented on how smooth the opening of school went and the transition with the new principal took place with almost no problems.

September 12	Class Officers Speeches
September 15	Election of Class Officers
September 15	Last day of Senior Class pictures 8 a.m. – 12 noon in the auditorium of Terryville High School

10. Administrative Reports/Requests/Information

Dr. Tenney, Director of Curriculum & Instruction

Dr. Tenney addressed the following: (a) opening day and professional development; (b) Administrator Evaluation Plan; and (c) Data Team and identification of students.

Mr. Trudeau, Director of Technology

Mr. Trudeau addressed the following: (a) Working towards a paperless environment; (b) urged parents to use PowerSchool/parent portal to update information and to enroll new students; (c) parents need only to complete either electronic or paper registration form not both; (d) one-to-one chrome books (details: permission form to parents explaining the basic program and procedures; optional protection plan, acceptable use policy which every student and parent would sign off on).

MOTION: To process the chrome books for the time being until an acceptable use policy is created and to move forward with a \$25 yearly non-refundable mandatory protection coverage fee for parents.

Modified motion: MOTION: To process the chrome books for the time being until an acceptable use policy is created and to move forward with a \$25 yearly non-refundable mandatory protection coverage fee for parents with a cap set at 3 students (\$75.00); free and reduced lunch  $\frac{1}{2}$  (\$12.50); and free lunch students free protection coverage. Motion Mr. Perugino, seconded Mrs. Johnson, motion passes.

Mr. Santogatta, Business Manager/Interim Superintendent – Mr. Santogatta met with the Finance Subcommittee prior to the Board Meeting and reviewed the August Accounts-by-Facilities Report with the subcommittee members; Mr. Perugino, Mrs. Johnson and Mr. Orsini accompanied him on opening day to tour the schools; and regarding food service – there is a breakfast program in all four schools.

11. Public Comment (limited to 3 minutes)

Chris Simo-Kinzer – 52 Old Farm Road – willing to speak with any board member regarding his concerns on common core.

Julie Kosikowski – 4 Park Street – commented on checking with legal counsel regarding an insurance fee with respect to chrome books.

James Murdock – 44 Minor Road – questione regarding the Solar Project. Mr. Engle informed him that the modification with respect to the project needs to go before the Town Council before anything is final.

Kathy Kosak – 201 Harwinton Avenue – charging for chrome books negates free education.

Melanie Church – 328 Main Street – the Board needs to add Possible Action taken for executive session.

12. Board Liaisons

Harry S. Fisher Elementary School - **Mr. Perugino** – No Report

Plymouth Center School - **Mr. Melchionna**

9/12	It was reported at the meeting that there were 9 new members.
9/15	PTSA Council will be meeting at Thomaston Savings Bank @ 6 p.m.
9/26	Family Move Night at 6:30 p.m.
10/17	Science, Technology, Energy & Math (STEM) presentation has been postponed and no date has been set to reschedule.

Eli Terry Jr. Middle School - **Mrs. McCann** – No Report

Terryville High School - **Mr. Goodwin** – No Report

SEPTA - **Mrs. Johnson** – SEPTA morning meetings will be held at the Lucky Cup and the evening meetings will be held in the library at Eli Terry Jr. Middle School (a) SEPTA selling holiday greenery from Winterberry Gardens as a fundraiser. Order will be taken by October 1<sup>st</sup> and delivery will be before Thanksgiving. Order forms will be available at central office and with Mrs. Aiudi, school-to-career at Terryville High School; (b) children's activities – summer bowling league at Thomaston Bowling alley which was a full multi week activity for SEPTA members children; (c) gymnastic open gym with a pizza party to take place on Columbus Day; (d) October 11 @ 11 a.m. at Dynamites Academy of Gymnastics in Waterbury which is a free activity for member's children, RSVP to Mrs. Johnson; (e) SEPTA exploring a workshop on transitions; (f) PTSA Council News for Reflections – theme "The world would be a better place if..." - information sent home with elementary and middle school summer homework packets. More applications will be brought to all of the schools soon, including the high school.

CABE - Mr. Gentile – No Report – Absent

PTSA Council - Mr. Santogatta – attended the first meeting along with Mr. Gentile and Mrs. Johnson; the group entered into discussions and asked some frank questions and Mr. Santogatta was provided with some good feedback.

13. Final Board Comments

Mr. Perugino – Welcomed student representatives and new teachers; thanked Mr. Santogatta (Mike) and Mrs. Piskorski (Pat) for all their help during a difficult period; urged the public to follow the proper protocol with any concerns they may have by contacting the teacher, principal, superintendent prior to the Board; and to afford the Board some time to work on concerns brought before the Board.

Mrs. McCann – Welcomed everyone back; focus on the positive; and appreciates feedback and supports more parents taking an active interest in the school system.

Mr. Orsini – Welcomed student representatives; community news – Fire Prevention week, October 5 – 11, 2014; October 9, community fire drill; October 4 – Fire Department and IGA – Community Safety Day; and October 17 – Operation “Save a Life”.

Mr. Goodwin – Urges individuals to attend the subcommittee meetings. If there is an issue, public comment is on the agenda.

Mrs. Johnson – Welcomed student representatives and toured the schools opening day with Mr. Orsini and Mr. Santogatta (Pat Perugino)

Mrs. Kulesa – Commented on the capability of teachers with large class sizes; urged the public to become active in the budget process and asked that the public support what is needed by the Board; welcomed student representatives and asked they come to the Board not only with their reports but with questions and concerns they may have.

Mr. Engle - Welcomed student representatives, thanked Mike, Pat and Robin for all their help during a difficult situation; thank you to Jodi, Rich and all the administrators, staff, and teachers for a fantastic job during these tough times. There will be a Meet and Greet on Tuesday, September 16 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the cafeteria at Terryville High School for Interim Superintendent, Mark Winzler. All are welcome to attend.

MOTION: To modify the Agenda to enter into executive session at 8:50 p.m. with a possible action or no action as a result of executive session regard the AD. Motion Mr. Perugino, seconded Mrs. McCann, motion passes.

MOTION: To resume regular session at 9:57 p.m. Motion Mr. Melchionna, seconded Mr. Goodwin, motion passes.

MOTION: To reappoint Linda Farrington as Athletic Director. Motion Mr. Melchionna, seconded Mrs. Kulesa. Roll Vote: Mr. Melchionna, Mrs. McCann, Mr. Goodwin, Mrs. Johnson and Mrs. Kulesa all voted in favor of the motion; Mr. Perugino voted against the motion; Mr. Orsini abstained. 5 yes/1 no/ and 1 abstention, motion passes.

14. Next Regular Board Meeting – Wednesday, October 8, 2014

15. Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn at 10:02 p.m. Motion Mr. Perugino, seconded Mr. Orsini, motion passes.

Respectfully submitted,

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Mrs. Johnson  
Secretary  
Plymouth Board of Education