

Mission Statement

The Mission of Plymouth Public Schools is to challenge, inspire, and prepare all students in an ever-changing and complex world.

SPECIAL MEETING
OF
THE PLYMOUTH BOARD OF EDUCATION
THURSDAY, JULY 24, 2014
CONFERENCE ROOM

MINUTES

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

Absent: Mrs. Kulesa and Mr. Gentile

Others Present: Ms. Cruz, Superintendent

1. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

Mr. Engle called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

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

3. & 4. EVALUATION OF THE SUPERINTENDENT AND REVIEW OF ACTUAL EVALUATION WITH SUPERINTENDENT (Note: Evaluation, Discussion and Review of Evaluation with Superintendent may take place in executive session.)

MOTION: To enter into executive session at 6:35 p.m. Motion Mr. Perugino, seconded Mr. Goodwin, motion passes unanimously.

MOTION: To enter back into regular session at 9:49 p.m. Motion Mr. Perugino, seconded Mr. Goodwin. Motion passes unanimously.

5. POSSIBLE ACTION ON EXECUTIVE SESSION MATTERS

No action taken, therefore, question removed.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chris Simo-Kinzer – To summarize, Mr. Simo-Kinzer suggests the Board consider placing Public Comment at the beginning of agendas for regular and special board meeting.

Patty Griffin, 94 Ridge Road – To summarize, M. Griffin expressed her personal experience with the superintendent and indicated Ms. Cruz goes out of her way to listen to parents and takes time to review issues.

Diane Reed, 5 Chidsey Terrace– To summarize, Ms. Reed expressed her concern regarding the allegations surrounding the superintendent in her former district.

Dawn Alarcon, 104 Mt. Tobe Road, Plymouth – To summarize, Ms. Alarcon stated she feels Ms. Cruz is moving the school system forward and she should be commended for what she is doing for our town and our children.

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Angie Suffridge, 25 Holt Street – To summarize, Ms. Suffridge, principal of Eli Terry Jr. Middle School, indicated her support for the superintendent and some of the programs Ms. Cruz has implemented this past school year, i.e. Research Intervention Programs in Reading and Mathematics and the School Improvement Plan which focuses on Instruction.

Cynthia Badenhop, 87 Maple Ridge Drive, Torrington – To summarize, this is the first time in her 28 years of teaching Plymouth has a superintendent that is an instructional leader.

Angela Dorsey, 18 Crestview Road – To summarize, as a parent Ms. Dorsey feels it frustrating to come to meetings and not get any answers from the Board. Possibly, there is a better way for the Board and the public to converse with one another. Also, when it comes to budget she feels the Board should look at each individual grade before making any decisions.

Mark Berube, 48 Ronald Road – To summarize, being a former Board Member and a longtime educator, Mr. Berube feels heartened by the changes at Harry S. Fisher and Eli Terry Jr. Middle School i.e. curriculum. Mr. Berube is a strong supporter of maintaining the changes that have been implemented in the schools. He also feels Public Comment should have been placed on the agenda prior to the Board entering into executive session.

Melanie Church, 328 Main Street – To summarize, Ms. Church was happy to see that the decision to select a high school principal was not made at the July 23rd Board Meeting; the Board is being objective not subjective; commented on the salary of various individuals and the steps they were being paid at, i.e. administrator and secretary for instance and not being "okayed" by the Board; commented on this being favoritism; addressed the number of individuals resigning and questions the actual reason for the resignations and suggested the Board review the expenditures to determine if additional monies are being paid to teachers, administrators and staff.

Cynthia Badenhop, 87 Maple Ridge Drive, Torrington – To summarize, everyone is here tonight because they have a vested interest in the community whether or not they agree with one another or not. Therefore, one should not base comments on 2nd or 3rd hand information.

Diane Reed, 5 Chidsey, Terryville – To summarize, is this Board willing to give the superintendent an extension on her contract without anything being settled?

Angela Dorsey, 18 Crestview Road – To summarize, commented on parents being welcomed into the school. She realizes the importance of security, but feels parents do not feel welcome and are unable to observe in the classroom.

Mr. Engle, Board Chair – The superintendent along with the Board Chair has established a Parent Advisory Council which meets on the second Friday of a month. The next meeting is scheduled for September 10th and is a 2 hour session. This meeting is open to the public to ask questions in order to establish honest and open commissions and discussions.

7. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: To adjourn at 10:09 p.m. Motion Mr. Goodwin, seconded Mr. Perugino, motion passes unanimously.

Respectfully submitted

Melissa Johnson
Secretary, Plymouth Board of Education

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SPECIAL MEETING
OF
THE PLMOUTH BOARD OF EDUCATION
MONDAY, JULY 28, 2014
CONFERENCE ROOM

MINUTES

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

Absent: Mr. Melchionna

Others Present: Ms. Cruz, Superintendent and Candidate for the Position of Principal of Terryville High School

1. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

Mr. Engle called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

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

3. INTERVIEW OF CANDIDATE FOR THE POSSIBLE APPOINTMENT TO THE POSITION OF TERRYVILLE HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL (Note: Interview and Discussion may take place in executive session)

MOTION: To enter into executive session at 6:33 p.m. Motion Mr. Perugino, seconded Mr. Orsini, motion passes unanimously. At this time, only Board Members were invited into executive session.

4. POSSIBLE ACTION ON EXECUTIVE SESSION MATTER

MOTION: To appoint Michael Hults to the position of Principal at Terryville High School. Motion Mr. Orsini, seconded Mrs. McCann, motion passes unanimously. At this time the chair called for a roll vote: Mr. Perugino, Mr. Orsini, Mr. Gentile, Mrs. McCann, Mr. Goodwin and Mrs. Johnson all voted "yes". Mrs. Kulesa abstained since did not have the opportunity to interview the other candidate. Motion passes, 6 yes, 1 abstention.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

Kim Cook, 11 Orchard Street – To summarize, Mrs. Cooks expressed her concerns regarding the following: i.e. changes in the school system; class size; no tutors; leveling of children, not replacing the Supervisor of Pupil Personnel; the resignation of Mr. Parenti, Director of Pupil Personnel & Special Education leaving the administrative assistant to run the special education department; why so many teachers and administrators have left the district and How does the Board plan on fixing a broken system?

Amanda Demayo, 3 Barry Road, Plymouth – To summarize, at the end of the school year her son was passing but should have failed; grades for testing were not entered in a timely manner which is unacceptable; the excuse given was common core; teachers

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were not prepared; what will be the approach to address common core other than teachers are not prepared? and What is the solution so this does not occur again?

Name & Address (inaudible) – To summarize, concerns about amount of staff leaving the district.

Jennie (last name and address inaudible) – To summarize, Board needs to better respond to the public and parents.

Name & Address (inaudible)– To summarize, would the Board consider a meeting of the Parent Advisory Council to possibly have some meetings in the evenings for those parents that work during the day and cannot attend the day meetings?

Mike Hults, Principal of Terryville High introduced himself to the Public and gave them a little background of his previous experiences.

Nicole McWilliams, 340 Overlook Terrace – To summarize, it is possible for someone to attend PTA Council Meetings in Ms. Cruz's absence?

6. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the following motion was made:

MOTION: Motion to adjourn. Motion Mr. Perugino, seconded Mr. Goodwin motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted

*Melissa Johnson
Secretary
Plymouth Board of Education*