

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 MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8, 2014
TERRYVILLE HIGH SCHOOL
CAFETERIA
7:00 P.M.

MINUTES

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

Excused Absence: Dr. Wheeler

Others: Ms. Cruz, Superintendent, Mr. Parenti, Director of Pupil Personnel, Dr. Tenney, Director of Curriculum & Instruction, Mr. Santogatta, Business Manager and Mr. Trudeau, Director of Technology

1. Call to Order and Pledge to the Flag

Mr. Engle called the meeting to order at 7:03 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. Perugino, seconded Mr. Gentile, motion passed unanimously.

3. Approval of the following Minutes

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the Special Board Meeting of December 18, 2013. Motion Mr. Perugino seconded Mr. Orsini, motion passed unanimously.

4. Presentations

- Recognition of Past Board Members

Ms. Cruz, Superintendent and Mr. Engle, Board of Education Chair presented former Board Members a small token for their dedication to the students of Plymouth and for their service on the Board of Education. The following individuals were recognized: Mr. Berube, Mr. Santorso, Mr. Wetzel and Mr. Bourbonniere.

PLYMOUTH, CT
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
RECEIVED FOR RECORD
14 JAN 13 AM 8:41
Christine Kulesa

5. Communications

None

6. Unfinished Business

A. MOTION: To approve the Wellness Policy as submitted. Motion Mr. Gentile, seconded Mrs. Johnson. At this time, the chair called for a roll call vote: Mr. Melchionna, Mr. Perugino, Mrs. Johnson, Mr. Gentile, Mr. Orsini, Mr. Goodwin and Mrs. Kulesa all voted in favor of the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

B. Board of Education Retreat Date

The following date has been designated for the Board of Education Retreat, Tuesday, January 28, 2014 at 6 p.m. in the conference room at the Board of Education Offices.

C. MOTION: To approve the Guidelines for the Use of Board of Education – Issued Chrome Books. Motion Mrs. Johnson, seconded Mr. Gentile, motion passed unanimously.

7. New Business

A. Resignations/Retirement

Ms. Cruz informed the Board that she has accepted the resignation of **Maureen McCann** paraprofessional at Plymouth Center School effective at the end of the 2013-2014 school year.

B. Childbearing Leave

MOTION: To approve childbearing leave for **Mollie Moe**, grade 8 Language Arts Teacher at Eli Terry Jr. Middle School for on or about April 20, 2014 and for the remainder of the 2013 – 2014 school year. Motion Mr. Orsini, seconded Mrs. Johnson, motion passed unanimously.

C. Revision of the Memorandum of Agreement for Sick Leave Bank

MOTION: To revise the Memorandum of Agreement for Sick Leave Bank reducing the threshold from 75 days to 25 days, as presented. Motion Mrs. Johnson, seconded Mr. Melchionna, motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: To revise the Memorandum of Agreement for Sick Leave Bank for the PEA to include teachers who submit request(s) to use the sick bank for up to five (5) family illness days. Motion Mr. Orsini, seconded Mrs. Johnson, motion passed unanimously.

D. Change Regular Board Meeting Date in February

MOTION: To change the date of the Regular Board Meeting from February 12, 2014 to a Special Board Meeting to be held on February 19, 2014 due to a conflict. Motion Mrs. Johnson, seconded Mr. Orsini, motion passed unanimously.

E. Proposed Retirement Incentive

MOTION: To approve the Memorandum of Agreement with the teacher's union Regarding a Voluntary Early Retirement Incentive Plan. Motion Mr. Gentile, seconded Mr. Perugino.

Discussion: Mr. Perugino thanked the superintendent and Mr. Santogatta for all of the work they did in preparing the early retirement incentive.

Ms. Cruz highlighted some of the material contained in the document. The Board would pay to each early retirement participant the total sum of \$15,000, in 3 equal installments to be paid in accordance with the following schedule:

1. on or about July 15, 2014
2. on or about July 15, 2015
3. on or about July 15, 2016

Certain requirements listed are: the employee would have to work for the Plymouth Public Schools for at least 12 years and be eligible for retirement.

At this time the Board Chair entertained a roll call vote:

Mr. Melchionna, Mr. Perugino, Mrs. Johnson, Mr. Gentile, Mr. Orsini, Mr. Goodwin and Mrs. Kulesa all voted in favor of the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

8. Board Member / Committee Reports

A. **Curriculum – (Mrs. Kulesa)** – No Report

B. **Facilities – (Mr. Engle)** The Facilities Subcommittee will meet on Thursday, January 30, 2014 @ 6:30 p.m. in the conference room at Central Office.

C. **Finance – (Mr. Melchionna)**

The Finance Subcommittee met on Monday, January 6, 2014 and reviewed the accounts by facilities report and will forward the same to the Town of Plymouth Board of Finance.

The committee discussed the following transfer and moved that it be brought to the full Board for their approval.

MOTION: To approve a transfer in the amount of \$170,000 from outplacements public account to the outplacement non-public account to cover Special Education out-of-district tuition.

Motion Mr. Melchionna, seconded Mr. Perugino, motion passed unanimously.

- D. **Negotiations – (Mr. Gentile)**
Mediation will be held on January 7, 2014 at 6 p.m. with Local UAW 376, secretaries and paraprofessionals. Since no agreement could be reached, the matter will be referred to arbitration.
- E. **Personnel – (Mr. Goodwin)** All items addressed under New Business
- F. **Policy - (Mr. Engle)** The Policy Subcommittee will meet on Monday, January 13, 2014 @ 6:30 p.m. in the conference room at Central Office.
- G. **Safety/Transportation – (Mr. Engle)** The Safety/Transportation Subcommittee will meet on Wednesday, January 15, 2014 @ 6 p.m. in the conference room at Central Office.
- H. **Education Connection – (Mrs. Kulesa)**
No Report
- I. **Student Representatives**

Alexandra Bellanger reported on the following:

January 16 - Terryville /Thomaston Basketball Game
JV Girls' to play at 3 p.m.
JV Boys' to play at 4:30 p.m.
Varsity Girls' at 6 p.m.
Varsity Boys' at 7:30 p.m.

All games are going to be played at home. There will be a Pep Rally next week for the game.

Winter sports have just begun and the coaches are looking forward to a successful season.

December 18, 2013 – Student Council Blood Drive - 33 pints were collected

Teens for Jeans – taking place from now through early February.

Sazan Dauti reported on the following:

January 14	8 th grade orientation at 10 a.m. 7 p.m. for parents
January 22	Mid-terms begin; Wednesday is a full day While January 23, 24, 27 are half days
January 15	Advisory, sophomores will hear from career speakers. A total of 26 individuals are scheduled to do presentations. Juniors will take part in mock job interviews by business partners.
January 26	College Bowl Sunday - @ Naugatuck Community College from 1:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. – Free financial advice is provided to students and parents.

Leo and Kids-In-The Middle are participating in food packaging to benefit Kids Against Hunger. Volunteers are need. This will take place on Thursday, January 9th after school in the cafeteria. Last year over 20,000 meals were packed.

February 8 Statewide Leo Leadership Conference

Mr. Mabasa, World Language Department Coordinator is currently working on making the arrangements for the Japan Trip during April break.

Scholarships are available in guidance for seniors. Deadlines are approaching.

Jonathan Zalaski - excused absence

9. Administrative Reports / Requests / Information

Dr. Tenney, Director of Curriculum & Instruction

Updated the Board on the following:
Curriculum Work; Curriculum Vetting Meeting; Curriculum Development Team Training on February 4th; Elementary Teachers to visit other schools to observe Writers Workshop (Colebrook & Middlebury); 3C Grant from PEA; starting to look at reading , writing and math plan in conjunction with the District Improvement Plan.

Mr. Trudeau, Director of Technology

Full crew tonight: Mr. Maslak, students and technology team.
Update: Moving forward with ordering chrome books (300 chrome books and 12 carts through the Connecticut Common Core Grant;

installation of new phone system has begun at Harry S. Fisher and Eli Terry Jr. Middle School; and on the Town Side – in the process of applying for the Regional Performance Grant through the Office of Policy & Management which will allow us to bring Town Hall a fiber connection, fast internet connection. Thank you to Vinnie Klimas who has been involved in helping with this grant.

Mr. Parenti, Director of Pupil Personnel

Welcome back everyone and Happy New Year to the Board. He thanked his entire departmental staff for their efforts since the beginning of the school year. Special Education is working on the budget. Participants in the Special Education Department have been working with Dr. Tenney and her committee in updating the curriculum.

Mr. Santogatta, Business Manager

Finance Subcommittee met on Monday, January 6 and discussed some of the following issues: out of district tuition transfer; working on next year's budget; and on Building & Grounds – buildings are performing well during the cold weather. Document prepared on Solar Project. A joint meeting needs to be scheduled as soon as possible with the Town Council and the Board of Education. Currently, there are no regulations with respect to solar, so a zoning policy needs to be done.

Ms. Cruz, Superintendent of Schools

Commended the staff, administrators and teachers with respect to their commitment to the School Improvement Plan. Trying to development a relationship with Thomaston and Wolcott in coordinating and sharing services in order to save money. She thanked the Town Crews, Mike Santogatta, Rich Trudeau, Jim Schultz and Tony Lorenzetti during this winter period. Calls go out at around 5:15 a.m. for staff and about 6:10 a.m. for parents.

10. Public Comments Regarding Agenda or Non-Agenda Items

Pattie DeHuff, 20 Lynn Avenue, Terryville – spoke on transparency as addressed in Connecticut General Statute 10 – 184.

Diane Reed, 5 Chidsey Terrace, Terryville – spoke regarding the rudeness of some board members reading and or talking when someone is speaking.

11. Reports of Board Liaisons to Schools

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

Plymouth Center School – **Mr. Melchionna**

No Report

Eli Terry Jr. Middle School – **Dr. Wheeler**

Excused Absence

Terryville High School – **Mr. Goodwin**

Mr. Goodwin had the opportunity to have an informational tour of the high school before winter break.

Special Education PTA – **Mrs. Johnson**

No Report – Meeting is scheduled for January 9, 2014

PTA Council – **Ms. Cruz, Superintendent**

No Report – Meeting is scheduled for January 16, 2014

CABE – **Mr. Gentile**

No Report

12. To discuss and take possible action on the appointment of a principal at Eli Terry Jr. Middle School. (NOTE: The discussion regarding these items may occur in executive session).

Mr. Goodwin, Chair of the Personnel Subcommittee met prior to the Board Meeting and voted to select Angela Suffridge as their nominee for the position of Principal for Eli Terry Jr. Middle School.

MOTION: To bring the name of Angela Suffridge forth as nominee for the position of principal of Eli Terry Jr. Middle School. Motion Mrs. Kulesa, seconded Mr. Orsini. At this time, the chair called for a roll call vote: Mr. Melchionna, Mr. Perugino, Mrs. Johnson, Mr. Gentile, Mr. Goodwin, Mr. Orsini, Mrs. Kulesa. All votes yes. Motion passes unanimously.

Ms. Suffridge thanked all of the Board, teachers, colleagues, administrators and Ms. Cruz for their support. We will continue to work hard to improve our school.

13. Final Board Comments (If necessary)

Mr. Gentile – commented on the Board defending themselves after individuals speak at the podium. Also, addressed the issue of transparency.

Mr. Orsini – congratulated Ms. Suffridge, outstanding choice, wishing you the best of luck, and congratulations to Marty, Mark, Danny and Gerry not only to your dedication to the Board of Education and the Town of Plymouth but especially to the children of the district.

Mr. Engle – thanked Mark, Marty, Danny and Gerry for attending tonight's Board of Education Meeting.

14. Special Board Meeting – February 19, 2014

15. Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn at 7:55 p.m. Motion Mr. Orsini, seconded Mr. Gentile, motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Engle, BOE Chair for
Dr. Wheeler
Secretary
Plymouth Board of Education