

## 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.

Present: Board of Education Members: Mr. Bourbonniere, Mr. Goodwin, Ms. Johnson, Ms. Kulesa, Ms. Lucian, Ms. McCann, Mr. Melchionna, Mr. Orsini. Absent: Mrs. Kremmel.

Administrators: Ms. Parsons, Director of Curriculum and Instruction; Mr. Penn, Business Manager; Dr. Semmel, Superintendent; Ms. Trinks, Director of Special Education and Pupil Services; Mr. Trudeau, Director of Technology

1. Call to Order & Pledge to the Flag – Chairman Johnson called the Regular Meeting of the Plymouth Board of Education to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Cafeteria at Terryville High School and led the Pledge to the Flag. *September 13, 2017*

2. Adoption of the Agenda

**MOTION:** To adopt the Agenda by Mr. Goodwin; seconded Mr. Melchionna and the vote unanimous.

3. Approval of Minutes

**MOTION:** To approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 9, 2017 by Mr. Orsini; seconded Ms. McCann and the Motion passes with Mr. Goodwin and Ms. Kulesa abstaining.

4. Presentation

- Smarter Balance Assessment Presentation – Ms. Parsons delivered a brief presentation on the results of the SBAC and an overview of the legal requirements to give the test. Dr. Semmel stated we do have quite a bit to be proud of and as most districts, we do have work to do, and we can see the efforts are paying dividends.
- Out of State Band Trips – Mr. Keane gave a brief presentation on out of state Band trips.

**MOTION:** To approve the Terryville High School Marching Band, Majorettes and Color Guard out of state trip to march in the Columbus Day Parade in New York City on Monday, October 9, 2017. Motion Ms. Kulesa; Seconded Ms. McCann and the motion passes unanimously.

**MOTION:** To approve the Terryville High School Marching Band, Majorettes and Color Guard out of state trip to march in the Eastern States Exposition (Big E) on Friday, September 29, 2017. Motion Ms. Kulesa; Seconded Ms. McCann and the motion passes unanimously.

PLYMOUTH, CT  
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE  
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TOWN CLERK  
*Barbara A. Pappalardo*



- DDT meeting will be held on Thursday with Ms. Parsons reviewing data shared tonight as well as other data used, state assessments, AP scores and attendance of students.
- Facebook – we are on Facebook live and do have over 1000 people who like us. The Districts’ Facebook page won a social media award through C.A.B.E.

6. Student Representatives

- Amy Ieronimo – First few weeks of school went smoothly with Open House and good turnout of parents. College Knowledge Planning night was held for seniors and parents which was very helpful and a Financial Aid night will be held October 12<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. Seniors are excited for the school year as they are Mr. Hults’ first graduating class having been with them for four years. “Troop” is new this year during second period Flex and students and teachers play games and get to know more people. Fresh Start goes along with “Troop” and consists of 3 seniors working with 10 freshmen to get acquainted to the high school, teachers and to become comfortable.
- Brianna Hanlon – Updated fall sports although only a few games have been held. Mr. Distasio is the new JV Volleyball coach; Boys Soccer will have a game Thursday vs Lewis Mills and Friday night under the lights at Gilbert. Terryville vs Thomaston game is September 29<sup>th</sup> and same for Girls who will be away. On October 20<sup>th</sup> there will be a double header at Northwest. Cross Country meet was at Nonnewaug resulted with Jordan Conklin taking 8<sup>th</sup> and Cory Picard 1<sup>st</sup> and with a first solo record.
- Diana Ieronimo - the Band has many trips coming up as learned about earlier tonight to participate in the Columbus Day Parade in October and at the Big E September 29<sup>th</sup>. Terryville will host the Berkshire League Festival October 13<sup>th</sup> at 8 p.m. with general admission of \$10 with 20 students this year from band and chorus participating. Terryville Lions Country Fair was in August and the Leo Club had a lot of volunteers working with the Lions, Knights of Columbus and in our own THS booths. October 5<sup>th</sup> there will be a major Leo social event held at Thomaston Opera House with other area Leo Clubs.

7. Public Comment – no public comments.

8. Consent Agenda (See Attached Schedule A & B)

A. Appointments (See Attached Schedule A)

B. Resignations (See Attached Schedule A)

**MOTION:** Ms. Kulesa motioned to approve the consent agenda; Mr. Orsini seconded the motion and motion passes unanimously.

9. New Business

A. Board of Education Meeting Dates – Dr. Semmel reviewed meeting dates for 2018.

**MOTION:** To approve the meeting dates of the Board of Education for 2018 by Ms. Kulesa; Seconded Ms. McCann and the motion passes unanimously.

- B. District Goals – Dr. Semmel stated District Goals were in packets and the last page was missing one bullet item; update distributed with a brief review held noting goals are very solid and the school improvement plans connect to these Goals

**MOTION:** To approve the District Goals for 2017 – 2018 by Ms. McCann; Seconded Ms. Kulesa and the motion passes unanimously.

- C. 1<sup>st</sup> Read of Policy 5000 Series – Ms. McCann stated there are no major changes and with no questions, she will bring Policy 5000 Series back for a second read at the October meeting.
- D. 2017 – 2018 Potential Budget Cuts – Dr. Semmel and Mr. Penn distributed proposed Tier 2 cuts which have been reviewed by the Administrative team which have the least impact to students. Tier 1 did not affect students as much and with no state budget, towns are working in the dark. The list of Tier 2 presented is prioritized from the Admin teams' perspective and were reviewed item by item with discussions held on band trips approved tonight which would be cancelled if the October 1<sup>st</sup> date is initiated with Mr. Keane being aware this is a possibility. A furlough day would be held on a professional development day and not one of the 180 school days for students; with projected date for district wide furlough of November 7<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Penn reviewed savings of Tier 1 of \$360,00 and Tier 2 is \$322,000 and if need to go to Tier 3 he estimates that will be \$300,000 and will be staff and direct impact to students.

**MOTION:** That the Superintendent and Business Manager be authorized to take actions outlined as Tier II, with the exception to the band trip on September 29<sup>th</sup> to the Big E, if a) no state budget has been enacted into law by October 1, 2017 or b) a state budget enacted into law includes a reduction in education aid to the Town of Plymouth in excess of \$360,000 compared to the Town's adopted 2017-18 budget. The total amount of actions taken in Tier I and Tier II combined will not exceed the projected shortfall in state education aid. Motion by Ms. Kulesa; Seconded Mr. Melchionna. Roll call vote: Mr. Orsini, yes; Ms. Lucian, yes; Mr. Bourbonniere no; Ms. McCann, yes; Ms. Kulesa, yes; Mr. Melchionna, yes; Mr. Goodwin, no. Chairman Johnson stated the Motion carries.

10. Board Member/Committee Reports

- A. Curriculum Mrs. Lucian, Chair

The Curriculum Subcommittee met on August 15, 2017 and discussed the following: (a) summer curriculum update; (b) vetting; (c) workplan; and (d) potential topics for 2017 – 2018.

- B. Facilities Mr. Orsini, Chair  
No Meeting due to lack of business.

- C. Finance Mrs. Kulesa, Chair  
Met prior to this meeting tonight and will forward the Accounts by Facilities Report to the Town of Plymouth Board of Finance.

**MOTION:** To approve the Transfers by Ms. Kulesa and the motion carries.

- D. Negotiations Ms. McCann, Chair

No Meeting due to lack of business.

E. Personnel Mr. Goodwin, Chair

Met prior to this meeting tonight and all items were addressed in the Consent Agenda.

F. Policy Ms. McCann, Chair

The Policy Subcommittee had a Special Meeting on August 10, 2017 and a Regular Meeting on August 15, 2017. The subcommittee completed reviewing Policy Series 5000 with the 1<sup>st</sup> read tonight by the full Board of Education. A 2<sup>nd</sup> read will be done at the October meeting.

G. Safety/Transportation Mr. Orsini, Chair

The Safety/Transportation Subcommittee had a meeting on September 12, 2017 regarding a bus stop matter and will meet again September 20<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. to resolve the issue.

11. Public Comment

a. Brian Dunn, 19 Carriage Drive – relayed a personal experience with transportation logistical nightmare and TLC helped with bus transportation and suggested the district contact them for reduced pricing for field trips.

b. Gary Belanger, 256 Main Street – asked for clarification on combining our elementary schools and if the savings would be \$250,000 as brought up at a Town Board of Finance meeting. Dr. Semmel responded he did not believe it is \$250,000. Mr. Penn stated potential savings could be a conversation around consolidation and a different conversation to have one school PreK to grade 2 or 3 and 3-5 in the other school and that could be a savings of around \$200,000. You would need to begin planning at least a year out in order to work out bussing, staffing, etc.

12. Board Liaisons to Schools

Mrs. Johnson -- Harry S. Fisher Elementary School – First meeting is next Tuesday and there is a book fair going on now.

Mr. Melchionna -- Plymouth Center School - Sept. 14 was open house and curriculum night; September 19<sup>th</sup> is their fundraiser kickoff, September 12<sup>st</sup> is Family Feast Night at Fresh Worx and family movie night; October 11 is picture day and October 10<sup>th</sup> is their next PTA meeting.

Ms. McCann -- Eli Terry Jr. Middle School – unable to attend meeting.

Mrs. Kulesa -- Terryville High School – was not able to attend meeting.

Mrs. Kremmel -- SEPTA – Mrs. Johnson gave report of first meeting next Wednesday, 9:30 a.m. at Lucky Cup and the next night is a workshop at Eli Terry.

Mrs. Lucian -- Ed Advance – not able to attend meeting.

Mr. Goodwin -- WAMOGO – unable to attend.

Mr. Bourbonniere -- CAFE – meeting is September 14<sup>th</sup>.

13. Board Comments

a. Mr. Bourbonniere – the state with no budget has put us in a hard place and hopefully individuals in town get in contact with state representatives and voice concerns.

b. Mr. Orsini – October 8-14 is National Fire Prevention Week with elementary programs scheduled and community fire drill set for October 12<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. Community Fire Safety Day at IGA is Saturday, October 7<sup>th</sup> from 10 am – 2 pm.

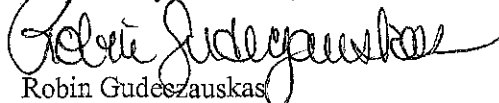
c. Ms. Johnson – thank you to Ms. Parsons for her presentation; thank you to Amy, Brianna and Diana who did a great job at their first official meeting; welcome back to everyone; convocation was wonderful, presentation amazing from a Sandy Hook mom; first day of school did visits to all schools and thanked administrators for making her feel so welcomed and kids' faces were amazing. Thank you to collective Board as tough conversations tonight and appreciate work you are doing.

14. Next Board Meeting – The next Regular Board of Education Meeting will take place on Wednesday, October 11, 2017 at 7 p.m. in the cafeteria at Terryville High School.

15. Adjournment

**MOTION:** Motion to adjourn at 9:17 p.m. by Ms. McCann; seconded Mr. Goodwin and the motion passes.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Robin Gudczauskas  
Recording Secretary