

*United In Our Commitment to Excellence in Education*

*The Plymouth Public Schools' mission is to ensure that all students learn to the best of their abilities. We support their growth into knowledgeable, skilled, and contributing citizens capable of succeeding in their work, personal, and family lives.*

*Plymouth Board of Education  
Regular Meeting  
Wednesday, APRIL 10, 2013  
Terryville High School Cafeteria*

**MINUTES**

*Present: Board: Mr. Raymond Engle, Mr. Anthony Orsini, Mr. Martin Wetzel, Mr. Gerard Bourbonniere, Mr. Daniel Santorso, Mr. Mark Berube, Mrs. Kulesa and Mr. Patrick Perugino*

*Excused Absence: Mr. Daniel Gentile*

*Administrators: Ms. Cruz, Superintendent, Dr. Tenney, Director of Curriculum & Instruction; Mr. Santogatta, Business Manager; and Mr. Parenti, Director of Pupil Personnel & Special Education*

*Excused Absence: Mr. Trudeau, Director of Technology*

**1. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE TO THE FLAG**

*Mr. Perugino called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. The group joined in the Pledge to the Flag.*

**2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

*MOTION: To adopt the agenda as presented. Motion **Mr. Engle**, seconded **Mr. Wetzel**, motion passed unanimously.*

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

*MOTION: To approve the following minutes:*

<i>Regular Meeting .....</i>	<i>March 13, 2013</i>
<i>Personnel Subcommittee Meeting .....</i>	<i>March 13, 2013</i>
<i>Finance Subcommittee Meeting .....</i>	<i>March 13, 2013</i>
<i>Curriculum Subcommittee Meeting .....</i>	<i>April 3, 2013</i>
<i>Special Board Meeting .....</i>	<i>April 4, 2013</i>

*Motion: **Mr. Wetzel**, seconded **Mr. Orsini**, motion passed unanimously.*

4. PRESENTATION

(a) Terryville High School "Tribute to Newtown"

(b) Eli Terry Jr. Middle School – This month's presentation featured the topic "e-Pals – our Russian pen pals. Mr. Bikakis and Ms. Badenhop presented a slide show and students spoke about what they learned about Russian politics, culture, geography, education and religion.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS

None

6. COMMUNICATIONS

None

7. OLD BUSINESS

None

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. Resignation(s)

Ms. Cruz informed the Board that she has accepted the following resignations for the purpose of retirement: **Brenda Purney**, grade one teacher and **Sylvia Squires**, grade five teacher both teaching at Plymouth Center School and **Sandra Horan**, English teacher at Terryville High School effective June 30, 2013. **Ms. Ashley Wagoner**, middle school Girl's Track Coach effective April 2, 2013. **Mr. Justin McDermott**, co-coach for JV Softball at Terryville High School.

B. Appointment(s)

MOTION: To approve the following appointments: **Miranda Boden** to the position of Part-Time Pre-K Teacher at Harry S. Fisher Elementary School effective April 11, 2013; **Laura Como** to the position of Part-Time Pre-K Paraprofessional at Harry S. Fisher Elementary School effective April 11, 2013; **Briana Daniele** to the position of Jr. Varsity Softball Coach at Terryville High School. (previously, Ms. Daniele was to share this coaching position with Justin McDermott); and **Justin McDermott** to the position of middle school Girls' Track Coach. Motion **Mr. Berube**, seconded **Mr. Bourbonniere** motion passed unanimously.

C. Out-of-State Field Trip(s)

MOTION: To approve the out-of-state field trip to Sturbridge Village, Massachusetts for grade 5 students at Harry S. Fisher Elementary School on May 16, 2013. Motion **Mr. Orsini**, seconded **Mr. Engle** motion passed unanimously.

D. Memorandum of Agreement

MOTION: To approve the Memorandum of Agreement between the Plymouth Board of Education and the Plymouth Education Association to create the position of Head Teacher at the elementary schools said agreement is in effect April 2, 2013 through June 30, 2015. Motion **Mr. Wetzel**, seconded **Mr. Santorso** motion passed unanimously.

E. Non-Renewal of Contract of Employment

MOTION: That the contract of employment for **Adam Machen**, not be renewed for the following year upon its expiration at the end of the 2012 – 2013 school year, and that the Superintendent of Schools is hereby directed to advise such person in writing of this action. Motion **Mr. Santorso**, seconded **Mr. Wetzel** motion passed unanimously.

9. BOARD MEMBER/COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Curriculum - Mrs. Kulesa, Chair

The Curriculum Subcommittee met on April 3, 2013. The following items were addressed: (1) Update on Smarter Balanced Pilot Testing –Feedback, students are having difficulty using the technology tools, therefore, teachers and students will need instruction on technology skills specific to Smarter Balanced testing. (2) Sample Smarter Balanced Test Items – Sample questions from the Smarter Balanced website were presented to subcommittee members. (3) Website Updates – Subcommittee members were presented with updates on the district website including curriculum, high school school-wide standards and Student Success Plans which included links to Navigation 101. Dr. Tenney is to contact the library media specialist to set up technology courses for adults. (4) Summer School Update – July 8<sup>th</sup> is the start of summer school which for most grades will consist of 5 weeks. Education Connection will host a free 2-week program for grades 3 – 5. Middle and high schools will be Odysseyware-based. (5) Common Core Workshops – Two Common Core workshops are scheduled for parents: April 24<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. at Harry S. Fisher Elementary School and May 14<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. at Plymouth Center School.

B. Facilities – Mr. Engle, Chair

Mr. Engle reported the following: Walk through with respect to the boilers at 10 a.m. on Thursday, April 12, 2013 and the compressor walk through on roof of the high school to take place on April 24<sup>th</sup>.

C. Finance – Mr. Bourbonniere, Chair

The Finance Subcommittee met prior to the Board Meeting and reviewed the accounts by facilities report for the month of March and will forward the same to the Town of Plymouth Board of Finance.

MOTION: To approve the transfers in the amount of \$36,000 due to extra ordinary expenses, legal and audit and the replacement of a 22 year old dishwasher at Harry S. Fisher Elementary School. Motion **Mr. Wetzel**, seconded **Mr. Santorso** motion passed unanimously.

D. Negotiations - Mr. Wetzel, Chair

The process has been initiated with members of Local 376 (non-certified staff) and negotiation subcommittee members will have a brief non-meeting to review dates as the process moves forward.

E. Personnel – Mr. Berube, Chair

All item(s) were addressed under New Business

F. Policy - Mr. Berube, Chair

No Report

G. Safety & Transportation - Mr. Orsini, Chair

The Emergency Handbook and Protocols Subcommittee met on April 4<sup>th</sup> at Harry S. Fisher Elementary School. In attendance were Mrs. Collins, Mrs. Worhunsky, Fire Marshal Charles Doback and Mr. Orsini, Board Member and Plymouth Emergency Management Director. At the meeting, the committee reviewed and held a discussion on the contents of the emergency procedure handbook. Some sections are being re-examined as to accuracy and ambiguities. The next Emergency Handbook and Protocols Subcommittee will be scheduled after the School Security Task Force meets on April 25<sup>th</sup> at central office at 9:30 a.m.

H. Education Connection - Mrs. Kulesa

No Report

I. Student Representatives

**Devyn Oakes** reported on the following: Senior Financial Reality Fair to be held at Torrington High School; freshman and juniors will be scheduling courses for next year; unified arts fair with a guest speaker addressing drugs and alcohol, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade scheduling begins after April break.

April 11 Terryville High School Band and Chorus leaving for Ocean City, Maryland

May 8 Beginning of AP exams

May 9 Mentor Picnic

**Tim King** reported on the following: School-wide Event Board has been completed and is located in the lobby.

March 17 Student Council Blood Drive (over 65 pints of blood donated)

April 5 Pasta Supper (very successful - \$1,000 raised)

April 26 Sophomore Class Ring Dance in celebration of receiving their new class rings

May 4 Student Innovation Expo 2013; CT Convention Center  
100 Columbus Boulevard, Hartford - doors open @ 8 a.m.

Opening Ceremony @ 9 a.m.

Leo's to visit Fidelco Guide Foundation (develops and breeds seeing eye dogs)

May 5 Annual Rotary 5k Walk and Run

May 18 Clean-up day at the fairgrounds

May 30 Scholarship Night

Guidance News – Several local scholarships are still available for seniors. Most scholarships are due on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. Both guidance counselors are meeting with juniors to discuss next year's schedule.

**Jonathan Zalaski** – reported on the following: The high school baseball and softball teams are both undefeated. Baseball – 5/0 and Softball 4/0

April 4, 5 & 6                      Drama presentation “Annie”

10. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS/REQUESTS/INFORMATION

Dr. Tenney, Director of Curriculum & Instruction

Dr. Tenney reported on the following: School play was great.

Common Core Workshops have been scheduled.

April 24                              Harry S. Fisher Elementary School

May 14                                Plymouth Center School (during PTA Meeting)

Mr. Trudeau, Director of Technology

Excused Absence

Mr. Parenti – Director of Pupil Personnel

Mr. Parenti reported on the following: Preparing for next year; 2<sup>nd</sup> prek section is in the beginning process; working with Dr. Tenney on summer school and extended school year; and a meeting took place with Wolcott regarding the unified sports program for next year. The program will have a soccer team and track team pairing our non-typical students will be with peers at the high school.

Mr. Santogatta, Business Manager

Thank you to the technology crew for the night’s broadcast. On the finance side, we are beginning to balance out this year. On the facilities side, going out to bid, walk through of the boilers and burners to see what a project like this would cost. The two bids that will appear in the newspaper are: One, for asbestos removal (only encapsulated in the lower level of the boiler room downstairs at Eli Terry Jr. Middle School) and two, for the compressor at the high school.

Ms. Cruz, Superintendent

Ms. Cruz reported the following:

(a) The Academic Bowl was held on Saturday, March 16, 2013 and was hosted by Lewis S. Mills High School in Burlington. Thank you to coaches, Mr. Perkins, Ms. Ritchie, Mr. Keane and Mr. Nave.

(b) Just to reiterate, The Town of Plymouth Board of Finance will conduct a presentation on the Town's Budget on Tuesday, April 23, 2013 at 7 p.m. in the Community Room at Town Hall. Following the presentation, there will be a joint meeting with the Town of Plymouth Board of Finance, the Town Council and the Plymouth Board of Education to set the budget for referendum.

(c) Ms. Cruz will be participating in the Rotary Run on May 5<sup>th</sup> and put out a challenge to any board member, administrator and/or student that would like to help her hobble through the 3.1 mile race that may be sympathetic to her slow pace.

(d) Barring any unforeseen circumstances, the last day of school is Friday, June 21, 2013.

(e) Mr. Falcone indicated the Terryville High School Quiz Bowl placed 3 out of 5 participating schools.

11. Public Comments Regarding Agenda or Non-Agenda Items

None

12. Board of Education Liaisons

Mr. Perugino – Harry S. Fisher Elementary School

April 9            PTA Meeting  
April 27          PTA Craft Fair

May 2            Walk to School – Begins at Baldwin Park (rain or shine)  
May 10          Family Folk Dance – 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. @ Plymouth Center School

Mr. Engle – Plymouth Center School

- April 23 Reflections Ceremony at 6 p.m. @ Terryville High School  
Spring School Pictures
- April 24 School Pictures
- April 25 CT PTSA Annual Meeting Awards Dinner @ 7 p.m. Cascade  
Banquet Hall
- April 25 Staff Appreciation Week
- May 5 Ganem Run
- May 8 Kindergarten Screening

Mr. Berube – SEPTA

- March 21 Meeting at Eli Terry Jr. Middle School  
Transition Workshop – Sponsored by the Arc Foundation  
and Star Foundation – topic – After the cap and gown how to  
start planning the future for your child with developmental  
abilities? Some questions: i.e. What happens when your  
child with developmental disabilities turns 21? What  
questions should you be asking? What kind of plans should  
you be making and where do you go to find the answers?  
Parents may obtain more information by contacting the Arc of  
Connecticut and the Star Foundation.
- April 11 Next Meeting at Eli Terry Jr. Middle School at 6:30 p.m.

Mr. Bourbonniere - Terryville High School After Grad

Pink Flamingos have arrived. After grad-party, will take place on a Saturday in Shelton. A dance and/or pizza party on the night of graduation is being discussed. Bingo took place on Friday, April 5<sup>th</sup>. The car show is June 2, 2013 at Terryville High School. Next Meeting is April 11, 2013 @ 7 p.m. in the cafeteria at Terryville High School. Eagle's Nest – April 18<sup>th</sup> from 7 a.m. – 11 a.m. – a breakfast will be held for \$7 – to benefit the scholarship committee for after grad.

Mr. Orsini – Eli Terry Jr. Middle School

- March 27 Meeting
- April 3 Grade 6, Group 1 students went to White Memorial
- April 4 Grade 6, Group 2 students went to White Memorial
- April 9 McDonald's Night on Tuesday, April 9<sup>th</sup> from 4 – 7 p.m.
- April 15 – 19 Spring Break
- April 29 Grade 6, Group A students going to Pratt Nature Center



Some of the highlights from Mr. Travers report were: (1) the PBIS Welcome Walkthrough activity was held on February 28<sup>th</sup> and went well. Mr. Travers is awaiting a report from the committee; (2) Mr. Travers reviewed the "Hall" Behavioral Lesson Plan; (3) CMT testing went very well; (4) The Math Smarter Balanced Assessments for grade 8 students will be given on April 1<sup>st</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>; (5) On February 21<sup>st</sup> the Board's budget for 2013 – 2014 was presented to the Board of Finance by Mr. Santogatta. The proposed budget calls for a .53% increase; (6) The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Career Fair Day was held on April 5<sup>th</sup> from 9 a.m. – 10 a.m. in the middle school gym. This was a tremendous opportunity for the 8<sup>th</sup> graders to learn more about career choices. Following his report there was a Career Fair Day power point presentation.

Mr. Orsini shared a little information about the "Career Fair". School-to-Career along with the Eli Terry Jr. Middle School Guidance Department developed the Career Fair for Grade 8 students, in conjunction with the Advisory Program. The Grade 8 teachers worked with their students to explore career interests and the steps required to attain those careers. Forty-five careers were represented at the fair, including an engineer, an architect, a banker, a builder, a chemist, a conservation officer, an electrician, firefighters, a forester, a lawyer, a newspaper reporter, an optician, police officers, a pharmacist, a plumber, a pilot, a registered nurse, a teacher, a veterinarian technician to mention a few. In all, it was a very enlightening and beneficial program. Mr. Orsini observed students asking the career representatives questions and the students appeared to be engaged with the program for the entire hour. Mr. Orsini thanked Pat Borda, Lisa Aiudi, Margrit Morley and Silvana Licata for organizing the career fair and making it all come together.

April 24

Next Meeting at 7 p.m. at Eli Terry Jr. Middle School

Mr. Santorso – CABE

Some of the highlights of the CABE meeting were: State-wide policies were discussed involving the schools, school security, awareness of the evaluation requirements from state and the flexibility the state allows with the requirements that the state put forward. CABE was specifically helpful to the Town of Newtown in dealing with the tragedy and an interim superintendent. A new polished vision for CABE was presented which some of the members were very proud of. The vision reads: CABE is passionate about strengthening public education through high performing, transformative local school board and superintendent leadership teams that inspire success for each child.

April 25

Next meeting 5 p.m. in the Wethersfield Office

Ms. Cruz – PTSA Council

April 22

Next Meeting

13. Final Board Comments

Mr. Berube – moved by Terryville High School “Tribute to Newtown”; is going to use the e-pals idea in his classroom; the middle school career day was pretty neat; and congratulations to Mrs. Aiudi who received an award from the Plymouth Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Engle – concurred with Mr. Berube on both presentations.

Mr. Orsinj – Terryville “Tribute to Newtown” excellent presentation. Mr. Bikakis and Mrs. Badenhop excellent e-pal presentation. Pleasure to observe our students so highly motivated and engaged in such a meaningful experience. Congratulations to all parties involved in the Career Fair. Attended Plymouth Chamber of Commerce Night at Nuchie’s on April 2. Congratulations to Mrs. Aiudi. She received the Chamber’s Leadership Award. Mrs. Aiudi does a lot for the community and it was a much deserved award.

Mr. Santorso – Publically stated the following: Once again, Welcome Back Ellie, who came back to active duty on Monday. Hebron is not Plymouth. We have much more confidence in our Board, in our policies and procedures and the finance committee and our business manager. We had a review of our finances that all of our recent expenditures were in compliance with our policies and procedures and those issues in my view won’t happen here. Ellie you’ve had a broad and passionate support from our teachers, our administrators and our board members and we know you can continue to listen and to lead on behalf of our student’s success. I thank you for that.

Mr. Wetzel – Both presentations were fantastic. Students were unbelievably enthusiastic. The Career Fair was great; perhaps the fair can be set up earlier to give students an opportunity if they were interested in attending a trade school. Ellie, Welcome Back

Mr. Bourbonniere – Congratulations to both presenters this evening. Many hearts were touched this evening. Ms. Cruz, Welcome Back. Mr. Falcone and Mrs. Aiudi thank you for the gifts tonight, but I do what I do for the kids in the community. The students are outstanding. The students in the Leo Club give money back to the community, i.e. Garden Club, Plymouth Fuel Bank, Heather’s Teddy Bears, and Plymouth Food Pantry.

Mrs. Kulesa – Wonderful presentations tonight. Noted she was not the only one who was emotional this evening.

Mr. Perugino – Both presentations were great. Walt Disney was correct “It’s a Small World After All” with these computers. Congratulations to Mrs. Aiudi. Also, mentors are needed. Please contact Mrs. Aiudi and become a mentor.

14. Next Regular Board Meeting

Mr. Perugino stated that the next regular Board of Education Meeting will be held on May 8, 2013 at 7 p.m. at Terryville High School.

15. Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m. Motion **Mr. Engle**, seconded **Mr. Orsini**, motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

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Gerard Bourbonniere  
Secretary