

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.

1. Call to Order & Pledge to the Flag – Mrs. Johnson called the Regular Meeting of the Plymouth Board of Education to order on Wednesday, October 11, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. in the Cafeteria of Terryville High School. Mrs. Johnson called on Mr. Orsini to lead the Pledge to the Flag.

Members in attendance: Mr. Bourbonniere, Mr. Goodwin, Mrs. Johnson, Ms. Kremmel, Ms. Kulesa, Mrs. Lucian, Mrs. McCann, Mr. Melchionna, Mr. Orsini.

Also present: Dr. Martin Semmel, Superintendent; Mr. Phillip Penn, Business Manager; Mrs. Barbara Trinks, Director of Special Education and Pupil Services; Mrs. Jennifer Parsons, Director of Curriculum and Instruction; Mr. Richard Trudeau, Director of Technology.

Terryville High School Student Representatives: Brianna Hanlon, Amy Ieronimo, Diana Ieronimo,

2. Adoption of the Agenda

MOTION: To adopt the agenda by Mr. Goodwin; second Mrs. Lucian and the motion passes.

3. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 13, 2017 by Mrs. McCann; seconded Ms. Kulesa and the motion passes.

4. Presentations

- Out-of-State Field Trip – Mr. Keane and Mr. Perkins – Dr. Semmel stated we will first hear from Mr. Keane on a music program out of state trip to Virginia. Mr. Keane stated the band, chorus and color guard will travel to Virginia April 12 – 15, 2018 with an anticipated cost of \$645-\$745 per student, fundraisers will be held and there are chaperone comps built into the trip cost resulting with no cost to the BOE. Discussion held with Board with further clarification by Julie Kozikowski, Destinations Unlimited, on the process of scheduling and funding this trip. At this time there are no para's involved, one on one aids or extra substitutes needed. It was stated that this Board has already talked about no funding for field trips on the BOE level. Mrs. Kozikowski stated a chaperone who does go is an EMT; discussion held on requirements of some states for a

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nurse if we had a student who required medication administered; missed school days. Mr. Keane stated he knows this is a very difficult year and appreciate the trip they were on which was very successful. If they need a nurse on the VA trip, they will get a nurse. Mr. Hults, in response to a Board question, stated the majority of Mr. Keane's case load is 2-3 periods and most of those students will be on that trip with the other small classes of 8-9 students will attend a study hall. Mrs. Kozikowski, in response to an unforeseen circumstance where this trip needs to be cancelled and we want parents not to have out of pocket costs, the school has up until February or 60 days before departure to cancel. Friends of Music has historically given up to \$5,000 for this trip.

MOTION: To approve an out-of-state field trip for approximately 60 students in grades 9-12 in the Music Department at Terryville High School to Virginia Beach, VA offered through "Destinations Unlimited" from April 12 - 15, 2018 by Ms. Kulesa; seconded Mr. Melchionna. Roll call vote: Mr. Melchionna, yes; Ms. Kremmel, yes; Mr. Orsini, yes; Ms. Lucian, yes; Mr. Goodwin, yes; Mr. Bourbonniere, yes; Ms. McCann, no; Ms. Kulesa, yes. Motion carries. Mr. Keane thanked the Board and stated this Friday night is the music festival at Terryville High School at 7:30 p.m.

Dr. Semmel introduced Mr. Perkins who gave an overview of the Drama Club trip to NYC in April to participate in two workshops, one for the crew with props and set design and the other for singing and dancing with the cast and music director from Aladdin; after which they will see the matinee performance. Drama Club members relayed their experience from attending these sessions in the past, what they learned and what areas of interest. Mr. Perkins reviewed cost of \$185 per student and they will also be fundraising to bring down the per student cost. Board members discussed any hidden costs, student (s) attending who may require assistance, missed day from school.

MOTION: To approve an out-of-state field trip for approximately 35 students in grades 9-12 in the Drama Club at Terryville High School to New York City, NY on Wednesday, April 11, 2018 from 5:45 am until approximately 8:45 p.m. by Ms. Kulesa; seconded Mr. Melchionna. Motion passes 6-2 with Ms. McCann and Mr. Bourbonniere opposed.

- High School Report – Mr. Hults reviewed his power point presentation for the high school on SAT scores from last year noting the average for reading and math have gone up; PSAT data from last year's junior class who later took SAT's and those numbers in reading and math from PSAT to SAT went up. A 5-year review of AP scores with an increase in students taking AP classes. College acceptances reviewed noting a dip in 2016 in terms of 4-year college students and in 2017, 70% of the class is attending a 4-year college and 19% a 2-year college.
- SEL Update – Mr. Vigliotti, Assistant Principal at THS and Ms. Parsons, Director of Curriculum & Instruction gave overview of Social Emotional Learning and work to date on a national movement in line with our district core values. Our recent teacher professional development was on the definition and relationship building for school connectedness including social awareness, responsible decision-making, self-management, self-awareness, relationship skills. New initiatives were explained including TROOP [smaller group of students connected with teacher, mixed grades and every week in flex the meet allowing to develop relationship with teacher and students.] Ms. Parsons gave overview on what each school is working on: ETJ – school connectedness, families, restorative practices; FES – Paw Pennies which is part of PBIS, parent newsletter; PCS – Bucket filling, trauma informed school – reading book club.

The SEL steering committee has created a 3-year plan to measure progress, review feedback and assessment results. Future updates will be in February and December. Chairman Johnson asked the Student Representatives for their input on: PSAT, Diana, who stated they were long but good and they have been exposed to them since the 9th grade and familiar. Overall on SEL, Amy, who responded they have a good committee, Pouch Patrol, a student committee consisting of 4 seniors, 4 juniors, 1 sophomore and this year will have 3 more sophomores and 1 freshman, who were involved with interviewing Mr. Vigliotti and overall about school climate, positive. "p" is for positive, "o" for outgoing, "u" for understanding, "c" for caring and "h" helpful. They are all involved in Troop, members of Fresh Start. Brianna stated Troop creates a friendship with freshmen. Diana stated in the classroom you can see the impact as teachers are more personal and connect with students more and you learn differently with more students having the ability to understand what they would not in a typical classroom setting.

5. Superintendent's Update – Dr. Semmel gave update on
 - a. Budget – hearing that the leadership on both sides have been meeting and looks like weeks away before a budget is passed. He continues to be in contact with our representatives.
 - b. Staff – as of this Friday there are 5 staff members that will be working their last day and they are good folks who are caught up in process of a Board who had tough decisions to make ahead of a bad situation. Some are working with students and will be replaced by more senior staff. Some students at Fisher and the middle school will have new teachers starting Monday and principals are making sure parents are aware of change. We are all doing our best to communicate to parents.
 - c. Mrs. Parsons gave update on professional development recently held which involved 3 mini sessions with teachers in different content areas coming together in one room by subject to talk about trends, how to align curriculum through grades; worked with grade level by content area; school based sessions working on SEL and trainings. Now planning for November 7th professional development.
 - d. Next Board meeting will be November 15th due to elections on November 7th.
 - e. Board of Education retreat will be held on November 8th.
 - f. Thank you to 3 Board members whose last meeting is tonight: Mr. Orsini, Mr. Goodwin and Mr. Melchionna. The public is not always aware of how many hours are put into this position and we appreciate all the time, open mindedness you bring, dedication to students and families in Plymouth. He wishes them nothing but the best of luck.

6. Student Representatives

- Amy Ieronimo
 - *NHS fundraiser to benefit hurricane relief in FL and Puerto Rico thru bracelet sales during lunch waves, \$2 each. Have sold 300 with another 150 to sell.
 - *Senior movie day was today featuring Fences with Denzel Washington
 - *Financial Aid Night for seniors and parents is October 12th in the auditorium at 6 pm
 - *Spirit Week is October 23-27; themes given, ending with a pep rally on Friday all sponsored by the PEP Club as well as speakers for drug prevention and awareness
 - *Berkshire League Music Festival is October 13 at 7:30 in the auditorium
 - *Band fundraiser is October 15 and 21 from 12-4 with items donated to Savers and a portion of per pound weight goes back in funds to the Band
- Brianna Hanlon
 - *Boys soccer is doing well and chance at states with 4-5 more wins
 - *Girls soccer having a rough season but continue to put in effort and not giving up; wearing pink socks at home games to support breast cancer awareness
 - *Volleyball doing well with need to win 3 more games to get into states

*Cross Country boys team has a great chance of winning Berkshire League with record of 7-1. Girls are putting up a good fight and setting personal best.

- Diana Ieronimo
 - *October 21 in collaboration with the Lions Club, Leo's are hosting annual Halloween Happening.
 - *Leo's are hosting a Homecoming Dance in November and money raised goes to support K9 Magnum. Magnum and a few officers always chaperone the dance.
 - *October 27 & 28 is the Drama Club fall performance of Scared Silly. Students going to Spain and France will hold a bake sale during the play dates
 - *FBLA with the Rotary Club will hold a bake sale on Election Day at THS
 - *PSAT's for grade 9 were held today and everything went smoothly; this is a great preparation for SAT's.

7. Public Comment (limited to 3 minutes per speaker)
- a. Chris Simo-Kinzer, 52 Old Farm Road – Thank you to the BOE members for your service and time on Board and bet of luck Chris, Tony and Mike.
 - b. Roxanne McCann – read comment from Facebook Live.

8. Unfinished Business

- 2nd. Read of Policy Series 5000 Students

MOTION: To accept the Policy Series 5000 by Mrs. McCann. Chairman Johnson stated a second is not needed as coming from subcommittee. Motion passes unanimously.

9. Consent Agenda

A. Appointments

B. Resignations

MOTION: Move to approve the consent agenda by Ms. Kulesa; seconded Mr. Goodwin and the motion passes unanimously.

10. New Business

- Healthy Food Certification – Mr. Penn gave update on language used during previous acceptance was incorrect and motion tonight needs to be taken individually for Consideration #1 and Consideration #2 as presented.

MOTION: I move that we adopt Consideration #1 regarding Healthy Food Certification as presented in the agenda.

Consideration 1 – Healthy Food Option: Pursuant to Section 10-215f of the C.G.S., the board of education or governing authority certifies that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools under its jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2017, through June 30, 2018. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to, school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or by non-school organizations and groups.

Motion by Ms. Kulesa; seconded Mrs. McCann and the motion passes unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we adopt Consideration #2 regarding Healthy Food Certification as presented in the agenda.

Consideration 2 – Exemption for Food Items: The board of education or governing authority will allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the food items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An “event” is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. For example, soccer games, school plays, and interscholastic debates are events but soccer practices, play rehearsals, and debate team meetings are not. The “regular school day” is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. “Location” means where the event is being held.

Motion by Ms. Kulesa; seconded Mr. Orsini and the motion passes unanimously.

- Return Main Street School to Town – Mr. Penn reviewed the formal process in CT to turn a school building back to the Town and the recommendation from Counsel was presented.

MOTION: That the Plymouth Board of Education relinquish to the Town of Plymouth control over all of the buildings, land, apparatus and other property located at the former site of the Main Street School, located at 77 Main Street, Terryville, Connecticut, effective October 11, 2017, in accordance with Section 10-220 of the Connecticut General Statutes, as such property is no longer being used for school purposes.

Motion by Ms. Kulesa; seconded Mrs. McCann and the motion passes unanimously.

Chairman Johnson excused the Student Representatives.

11. Board Member/Committee Reports

A. Curriculum Mrs. Lucian, Chair

The Curriculum Subcommittee met on September 19, 2017 and discussed the following: (1) Foundations, (2) Elementary Social Studies, (3) Professional Learning Plan and (4) Middle School Assessments.

B. Facilities Mr. Orsini, Chair

No Meeting

C. Finance Mrs. Kulesa, Chair

The Finance Subcommittee met prior to the Board Meeting and reviewed the accounts-by-facilities report for the month of September. The accounts-by-facilities report will be forwarded to the Town of Plymouth Board of Finance.

MOTION: That the Accounts by Facilities report for the month of September will be forwarded to the Town of Plymouth Board of Finance by Ms. Kulesa and the motion passes unanimously.

MOTION: To accept the Transfers as indicated in the Board packet by Ms. Kulesa and the motion passes unanimously.

Chairman Johnson stated coming from Committee these do not need a second.

D. Negotiations Ms. McCann, Chair

No Meeting

E. Personnel Mr. Goodwin, Chair

The Personnel Subcommittee met prior to the Board Meeting and all items were addressed under the consent agenda.

F. Policy Ms. McCann, Chair

The Policy Subcommittee did not meet.

G. Safety/Transportation Mr. Orsini, Chair

The Safety/Transportation Subcommittee had a Special Meeting on September 20, 2017 and discussed/finalized a parent request to review a bus stop on Allentown Road.

12. Public Comment (limited to 3 minutes per speaker)

13. Board Liaisons to Schools

Mrs. Johnson -- Harry S. Fisher Elementary School – Conferences are next week; PTA meets next week

Mr. Melchionna -- Plymouth Center School – Unable to attend

Ms. McCann -- Eli Terry Jr. Middle School – PTA met 9/26 and discussed fundraising ideas and please contact PTA if you own a business and would like to advertise on t-shirts. Membership drive is ongoing and they would like to grow the membership base. Open House was well attended.

Mrs. Kulesa -- Terryville High School – PTSA met October 4 and this group is also the After Grad party committee and discussed fundraising, approvals from Board and paperwork. They are brainstorming on how to raise money for the seniors and after grad; can always use more help and invite junior parents especially to be involved and learn process. They will meet the first Wednesday of the month at THS.

Mrs. Kremmel -- SEPTA – Next meeting is October 19, 7 pm at Eli Terry library.

Mrs. Lucian -- Ed Advance – Reviewed 2017 Budget.

Mr. Goodwin -- WAMOGO – No report; did not attend meeting. There should be information coming out on Open House the first week in November.

Mr. Bourbonniere -- CABA – Did not meet.

14. Board Comments

A. Tony Orsini requested point of personal privilege to talk about Terryville Fire Department which he has been a member for 42 years, currently Health & Safety Officer. Gave history of, update and

slide presentation on Fire Prevention Week. He stated it has been a pleasure to be on the Board of Education for 8 years.

B. Chris Goodwin – Expressed his thanks for a few groups and voters in town as when he ran for office he was 20 years old and elected. He thanked the administrative team, everyone he served with on the Board and they had to make tough decisions and thanked them for the support system. Last he thanked Pat Piskorski who for 4 years, called, texted, emailed reminders on meetings and was so helpful to him as a board member trying to balance work and the board.

C. Mike Melchionna – Privilege and honor to serve on the Board of Education with a dedicated Board and administrators. He learned a lot and wished good luck to new Board members.

D. Roxanne McCann – Stated every 2 years a good portion has changed over and what you will see at the next meeting is 2 familiar faces, 3 faces will not be here and 4 faces may or may not be here. For sure if you are sitting in seats there is a lot of work ahead. This Board has come a long way as a team and always room for improvement and good luck to everyone. She reviewed work of Policy subcommittee as they Chair giving them a shout out for the hard work and accomplishments.

E. Gerry Bourbonniere – Commented on Facebook input and how it affects students and work of the Board in decision making process.

F. Karen Kulesa – Privilege working with everyone on the Board and a pleasure having worked with and getting to know other members who will be missed.

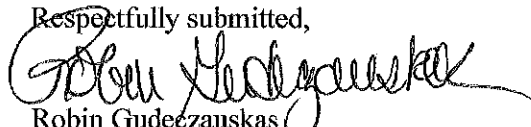
F. Melissa Johnson – Happy retirement to Tony who will be missed and it was a honor and privilege to be with him on this team; Roxanne did a fantastic job with Policy; Chris, best of luck and thank you; Mike, happy retirement. You will be missed and are appreciated.

15. Next Board Meeting – The next Regular Board of Education Meeting will take place on Wednesday, November 15, 2017 at 7 p.m. in the cafeteria at Terryville High School.

16. Adjournment

MOTION: Motion to adjourn at 8:36 p.m. by Mr. Goodwin; seconded Mrs. McCann and the motion passes unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Robin Gudeczauskas
Recording Secretary