

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, September 12, 2012
TERRYVILLE HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA*

MINUTES

Present: Board: Raymond Engle, Patrick Perugino, Karen Kulesa, Martin Wetzel, Gerard Bourbonniere, Mark Berube, Anthony Orsini, Daniel Santorso and Daniel Gentile

Administrators: Dr. Distasio, Superintendent of Schools, Robert Parenti, Director of Pupil Personnel & Special Education, Dr. Jodiann Tenney, Director of Curriculum & Instruction, Michael Santogatta, Business Manager and Richard Trudeau, Director of Technology

1. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

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

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

*MOTION: To adopt the agenda as presented. Motion **Martin Wetzel**, seconded **Gerard Bourbonniere** motion passed unanimously.*

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

*MOTION: To approve the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of June 13, 2012. Motion **Raymond Engle**, seconded **Martin Wetzel** motion passed unanimously.*

*MOTION: To approve the minutes of the Special Board Meeting of August 16, 2012. Motion **Anthony Orsini**, seconded **Raymond Engle** motion passed unanimously.*

*MOTION: To approve the minutes of the Special Board Meeting of August 28, 2012. Motion, **Gerard Bourbonniere**, seconded **Martin Wetzel** motion passed unanimously.*

4. PRESENTATIONS

Dr. Distasio introduced the following new certified staff to the Plymouth Board of Education:

Terryville High School

***Jessica Hurd** – Mathematics
Timothy Hoffman - Social Studies
Michelle Zanauskas – English
Susan Cohen – Family & Consumer Science*

Eli Terry Jr. Middle School

***Damian Coggshall** – Computer Technology
Amanda Curtiss – Mathematics (Excused Absence)*

Plymouth Center School

***Carolyn Celentano** – Grade 4*

New Superintendent of Schools

Ms. Eleanor Cruz

*At this time, **Mr. Perugino** entertained the following Motion:*

*MOTION: To recess at 7:03 p.m. in order for the Board Members to meet the new certified staff members. Motion **Daniel Gentile**, seconded **Raymond Engle** motion passed unanimously.*

***Mr. Perugino** entertained the following Motion:*

*MOTION: To resume regular session at 7:12 p.m. Motion **Raymond Engle** seconded **Martin Wetzel** motion passed unanimously.*

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS

None

6. COMMUNICATIONS

Letter written by Dr. Distasio to Senator Welch concerning magnet school busing.

A Certificate of Occupancy has been issued for Plymouth Center School.

Mr. Perugino read a letter from Dr. Judith Palmer, Superintendent of Regional School District 7.

7. OLD BUSINESS

None

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. Contract for the new Superintendent of Schools

MOTION: To approve the contract for the new Superintendent of Schools, Ms. Eleanor Cruz, with a salary of \$144,000. Contract from December 17, 2012 through June 30, 2015. Motion **Gerard Bourbonniere**, seconded **Raymond Engle** motion passed unanimously.

B. Appointments

A list of summer hires & a resignation were included in the Board Packet for Board Members. Summer hiring of staff was done by the Superintendent and Chair of the Personnel Subcommittee, Mr. Berube, which was allowed by the Board.

C. Board of Education Meeting Dates for Calendar Year 2013

MOTION: To approve the Board of Education Meeting Dates for the Calendar Year 2013. Motion **Martin Wetzel**, seconded **Anthony Orsini** motion passed unanimously.

D. Out of State Field Trips

*MOTION: To approve an out-of-state field trip to West Springfield, Massachusetts for grade 9 – 12 band students at Terryville High School to perform at the Big “E” parade on September 21, 2012. Motion **Martin Wetzel**, seconded **Daniel Gentile** motion passed unanimously.*

*MOTION: To approve an out-of-state field trip to Caver, Massachusetts for grade 12 students at Terryville High School to attend the King Richard’s Renaissance Festival on October 13, 2012. Motion **Daniel Santorso**, seconded **Anthony Orsini** motion passed unanimously.*

*MOTION: To approve an out-of-state field trip to New York City for grades 9 – 12 Drama Club students at Terryville High School for Saturday, November 17, 2012. Motion **Martin Wetzel**, seconded **Daniel Santorso** motion passed unanimously.*

E. Organizational Chart

*MOTION: To approve the Organizational Chart for the Plymouth Board of Education. Motion **Martin Wetzel**, seconded **Daniel Gentile** motion passed unanimously.*

F. Administrator Contract

*MOTION: To approve the Plymouth School Administrators Association Contract from July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2016 as follows: 0% salary increase for the 2013 – 2014 school year; 2.7% salary increase for the 2014 - 2015 school year; and 2.6% salary increase for the 2015 – 2016 school year with adjustments in the percentage of the cost share of insurance premiums from 16%, 16.5% and 17% respectively. Motion **Martin Wetzel**, seconded **Anthony Orsini** motion passed unanimously.*

G. Resignations

*Dr. Distasio has accepted the resignation of **Amanda Newland**, Library-Media Specialist at Terryville High School, effective July 17, 2012.*

*Dr. Distasio has accepted the resignation of **Sandra Macinaus**, English Teacher at Terryville High School effective August 23, 2012.*

9. BOARD MEMBER/COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Curriculum – Mrs. Kulesa

The Curriculum Subcommittee met on September 5, 2012 and discussed the following: (a) Common Core State Standards Instructional Shifts: major shifts of the Common Core State Standards in English Language Arts and Mathematics; (b & c) Connecticut No Child Left Behind Waiver & Connecticut's New Accountability System – explanation of Connecticut's new accountability system can be found at <http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/cwp/view.asp?a=2683&Q=334346>. The subcommittee examined Plymouth's District Performance Indicators (DPIs) and each school's School Performance indicators (SPIs) and targets for 2012 – 2013.

B. Facilities – Mr. Engle

No Meeting – However, in looking at the schools, many upgrades have been done from windows to boys' and girls' lavatories to lockers. An item which will require replacement in the spring will be a compressor.

C. Finance – Mr. Bourbonniere

The Finance Subcommittee met prior to the Board Meeting and agreed to forward the following to the Town of Plymouth Board of Finance: (a) the Final Accounts by Facilities Report for the end of the year 2011 – 2012 and (b) the Accounts by Facilities Report for the month of August.

The Board gave the Town of Plymouth \$100,000; \$119,000 was placed in a sinking fund and \$12,000 was used to fill the Town's oil tanks.

The following transfers were discussed at the Finance Subcommittee and are being brought to the full Board for their approval.

MOTION: To approve the transfer of \$2,200 and \$30,000 as discussed at the Finance Subcommittee Meeting. Motion **Martin Wetzel** seconded **Daniel Gentile** motion passed unanimously.

D. Negotiations – Mr. Wetzel

All items were addressed under new business.

E. Personnel – Mr. Berube

All items were addressed under new business.

F. Policy – Mr. Berube

No New Business

G. Safety/Transportation – Mr. Orsini

The new school year has started off moving smoothly and safely and hopefully will continue for the balance of the year.

H. Education Connection – Mrs. Kulesa

Education Connection met on September 6th. The group discussed the following: (a) grants that have been received over the past school year of which Plymouth takes part; and (b) Overview of the Head Start Program and its requirements. Mrs. Kulesa was elected President of Education Connection.

I. Student Representatives

Tim King

<i>September 10</i>	<i>Drama Club Meeting</i>
<i>September 11</i>	<i>Last day for senior pictures for the yearbook</i>
<i>September 15</i>	<i>Training for Fresh Start Mentors</i>
<i>September 17</i>	<i>Student Council Meeting</i>
<i>September 18</i>	<i>Picture Day for Freshmen, Sophomore & Juniors</i>
<i>September 19</i>	<i>Advisor Day (formerly Mentor Day)</i>
	<i>Leo Meeting</i>
<i>September 21</i>	<i>Band participates in the Big E</i>
	<i>Progress Reports</i>
<i>September 23</i>	<i>Band participates in the Mum Parade</i>

School store to be open on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Thank you to Mr. Santogatta and Mr. Parenti for helping to get the school store up and running.

Devyn Oakes

<i>August 27</i>	<i>First day of school</i>
<i>September 16</i>	<i>College Information Night & Open House</i>
<i>September 22</i>	<i>Touch-a-Truck Fundraiser from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.</i>
<i>October 4, 5, & 6</i>	<i>Parent Conferences</i>
<i>October 12</i>	<i>PTSA Bingo Night</i>

Jonathan Zalaski

<i>Fall Coaches:</i>	<i>Mr. Smith</i>	<i>Boys Soccer</i>
	<i>Mr. McDermott</i>	<i>JV Boys Soccer</i>
	<i>Ms. Sherwood</i>	<i>Varsity Girls Soccer</i>
	<i>Mr. Perkins</i>	<i>JV Girls Soccer</i>
	<i>Mrs. Farrington</i>	<i>Varsity Volleyball</i>
	<i>Mr. Coggshall</i>	<i>JV Girls Volleyball</i>
	<i>Ms. Konopaske</i>	<i>Boys & Girls Cross Country</i>

Terryville & Thomaston have formed a girls' co-op soccer team. Thirty (30) girls have enrolled in the program. The cross country team has many participants and the running course is now complete. The boys' soccer team is in the rebuilding stage. Mrs. Farrington celebrated her 300th volleyball win.

10. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS/REQUESTS/INFORMATION

Dr. Tenney – Director of Curriculum & Instruction

(a) Education Connection, Plymouth Schools win grant for fitness – the Plymouth middle and high schools together with the Litchfield Education Connection received one of 56 national grants to be put toward fitness and nutrition. The grant, the Carroll M. White Grant, is in the amount of approximately \$300,000 a year and is for three years. It began on August 3rd. The purpose of the grant is to help students meet the state goals for fitness. (b) Grants from Thomaston Savings Bank for books for the elementary schools and Nooks for the middle school. (c) The high school and middle school began their advisories and the student success plans. And (d) CMT and CAPT scores have been sent home.

Mr. Parenti – Director of Pupil Personnel

(1) focusing on developing IEP's that would stand up in due process; focusing on data to drive the IEP development; PD coming up on how to use data efficiently and effectively; Leadership Conference – School Personnel Development Grant – 3 year grant through Connecticut SERC which will help to implement SRBI in the middle school and will begin with PBIS in the fall and then will work on literacy. A complete analysis will be done of what the district has and what it does not have; and the new high school transition program wherein local businesses supply vocational experiences to students between the ages of 18 – 21. A presentation on the transition program will be given to the Board at its October meeting.

Mr. Trudeau – Director of Technology

It's been a busy summer. (a) maintained updates to some of the computer labs in the district; (b) installation of interactive white boards down through kindergarten; (c) laptop carts, and (d) wireless is up and running. Thank you to: Matt, Jason and Mr. Maslak for tonight's broadcast on Plymouth 16.

Mr. Perugino indicated that he has received many positive comments on Mr. Trudeau's work at the Town Hall.

Mr. Santogatta – Business Manager

The Finance Subcommittee met prior to the Board Meeting. Some of the items discussed were: \$100,000 was returned to the Town and \$119,000 was placed in a sinking fund; a number of summer projects (a) windows and doors at the middle school; (b) boilers at Harry S. Fisher Elementary School; (c) repair chimney, lavatories; (d) review of energy program (compared to August of 2009 to August of 2012 there was 51% less of kilowatt usage in 2012.)

Dr. Distasio – Superintendent

*Dr. Distasio addressed the following: (a) "thank you" **administrators, principals and staff** for a well-organized and smooth school opening; to **Mr. Santogatta, Mr. Dennis** and the custodial staff "thank you" for doing such a great job in preparing our buildings; (b) the opening day meeting for staff was held on August 22 in the Terryville High School auditorium and **Mrs. DiVenere** was introduced as Teacher of the Year; **Mrs. Jobbagy** presented an opening speech on behalf of the PTA Council; **Dr. Tenney** presented an overview of the new Common Core and organized the professional development session for the teachers; **Mr. Parenti** outlined the Scientific Research Based Intervention and developed the workshops for our paraprofessionals; 18 new staff members had perfect attendance last year; "thank you" to **Mrs. Aiudi, Mrs. Basile** and **Mrs. Borda** for helping to plan the events for the opening day meeting; (c) "thank you" to **Mrs. Aiudi** for organizing our students who worked at the Terryville Fair; (d) parents are encouraged to discuss the important issue of bicycle safety with the children and drivers were asked to drive carefully and to be cognizant of children riding their bicycles; and (e) as he looks forward to the next and last 4 months in the district he is looking forward to helping **Ms. Cruz** make her transition to the Plymouth School District a very seamless and smooth process.*

11. PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING AGENDA OR NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None

12. BOARD LIAISONS TO SCHOOLS

Harry S. Fisher Elementary School – Mr. Perugino

September 7	PTA Welcome Back Picnic – 6 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Currently PTA has 64 members
September 26	Picture Day
October 26	Halloween Party
November 6	Bake Sale (for Election Day)

The Enrichment Committee is working on specific programs that will be worthwhile to the children.

Bricks for the courtyard are on sale for \$25 each.

Plymouth Center School – Mr. Engle

August 30	PTA Ice Cream Social
September 12	Picture Day
September 14	Bus Evacuation Day
September 21	Cookie Dough Campaign
September 22	Touch-a-Truck at Terryville High School
November 9	Enrichment Program

Two-Hour Power will let individuals know more about the PTA; new landscape has been installed and kindergarten teachers indicate the all-day kindergarten program is doing well.

Eli Terry Jr. Middle School – Mr. Orsini

August 30	Meeting
September 4	Membership Drive; Open House
September 4 – 7	Bench Mark Assessments

September 7	Fall fundraiser – Grandma’s Pies
September 14	Grade 6 Back to School Party
September 26	PTA Meeting @ 7 p.m.– Mr. Travers & Ms. Suffridge to Discuss “Who do the CMT scores mean?”
September 28	School Dance: Grade 6 2:30 – 4:30 p.m. Grade 7 & 8 – 6:30 – 9:00 p.m.

Eli Terry Jr. Middle School List of Officers for 2012 – 2013

Becky Theriault	President
Brandi Greene	Vice-President
Stacy Correia	Second Vice-President
Kristi Colasanto	Secretary
Darlene Oakes	Treasurer
Patty Griffin	Correspondence Secretary

Some of the highlights from Mr. Travers report are: (a) smooth opening day; (b) building upgrades: new cafeteria windows, new blinds in some parts of the building; new lockers in the grade 6 area; new security cameras installed throughout the building; (c) student success plan in place; (d) teachers using data to drive instruction; and (e) review of Project Poetry.

Terryville High School – Mr. Bourbonniere

September 13	PTSA Aftergrad Meeting 7 p.m.
September 22	Touch-a-Truck sponsored by the PTSA Aftergrad

SEPTA (Special Education PTA) – Mr. Berube

No Report - Date of October meeting has not yet been determined.

PTA Council – Dr. Distasio

No Report – Next meeting is October 19 and the new superintendent was invited by the membership to attend any of the meetings within the next several months.

CABE – Mr. Santorso

No Report – Next meeting is scheduled for September 15. Mr. Santorso is looking forward to attending the CABE Convention. He also indicated he was interested in becoming the Area 1 Director.

Board Liaison – Mr. Ferreira

A Town Council Meeting took place on September 11, 2012. The members commended the Board of Education for a wonderful stewardship effort that the Board did with the budget in giving back money to the Town. The Board's efforts have been greatly noticed throughout the Town and even more so by the Town Council. On behalf of the Town Council, Mr. Ferreira "thanked" the Board Members for all of their hard work.

Mr. Perugino indicated the Board has a great working relationship with the Town and the Board would like to maintain that relationship.

13. **Final Board Comments (if necessary)**

Mr. Gentile - Congratulations and "thank you" to all of the teachers and staff members who had a perfect attendance record. Mrs. Macinaus will be deeply missed. Many "thanks" to the individuals who served on the interview committee to hire the new superintendent.

Mr. Santorso – Welcome back to our teachers, and new teachers. Welcome to our student representatives and Ms. Eleanor Cruz.

Mr. Bourbonniere – Congratulations to those individuals who had perfect attendance. Congratulations on the retirement of Mrs. Macinaus. Awesome job on the Financial Report.

Mrs. Kulesa – Welcome Back everyone. Best of Luck to all returning staff and new staff.

Mr. Berube – Thank you to all the administrators for a fantastic opening. Great team of individuals and it shows.

Mr. Engle – Plymouth has a fantastic administration. Cooperation between everyone is great. Welcome to all educators, students and staff. Wishing for a prosperous and good year.

Mr. Orsini – Great smooth opening. It was even a super opening for the high school, you could hear a pin drop it was so quiet. Welcome to Ms. Cruz. Reminder, Fire Prevention Week begins on October 7 and runs through October 13. On October 11 there will be a Community Fire Drill (Operation Edith). Here's hoping for a very uneventful winter season.

Mr. Perugino – To Mr. Santogatta and Mr. Dennis, the schools looked outstanding. It's great to see the kids back and enthusiastic, welcome to all of our new teachers and thank you for choosing Plymouth and to Ms. Cruz, Welcome Aboard. Lastly, "thank you" to everyone for what you do for our school system.

14. NEXT REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Mr. Perugino announced that the next regular Board of Education Meeting will take place on Wednesday, October 10, 2012 at 7 p.m. at Terryville High School.

15. ADJOURNMENT

*MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 8 p.m. Motion **Raymond Engle**, seconded **Martin Wetzel** motion passed unanimously.*

Respectfully submitted,

*Gerard Bourbonniere
Secretary*