

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  
REGULAR MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2016  
TERRYVILLE HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA

MINUTES

Present: Board: Mr. Melchionna, Mrs. Kremmel, Mr. Goodwin, Mr. Orsini, Mrs. Lucian, Mr. Bourbonniere, Ms. McCann, Mrs. Kulesa and Mrs. Johnson

Others Present: Dr. Semmel, Superintendent, Mr. Penn, Business Manager, Dr. Tenney, Director of Curriculum & Instruction, Mrs. Trinks, Director of Pupil Personnel and Special Education and Mr. Trudeau, Director of Technology.

1. Call to Order and Pledge to the Flag

Mrs. Johnson called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. and the group joined in the Pledge to the Flag.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

MOTION: To amend the agenda to add a short recess after the approval of the minutes. Motion Mrs. Kulesa, seconded Ms. McCann, motion passes.

3. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 13, 2016. Motion Ms. McCann, seconded Mr. Goodwin, motion passes.

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of January 20, 2016. Motion Mr. Orsini, seconded Mr. Goodwin, motion passes.

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of January 27, 2016. Motion Mr. Goodwin, seconded Mrs. Lucian, abstentions Ms. McCann and Mr. Melchionna, motion passes.

MOTION: To recess at 7:03 p.m. to celebrate the Superintendent's birthday. Motion Mr. Orsini, seconded Ms. McCann, motion passes.

MOTION: To resume regular session at 7:08 p.m. Motion Ms. McCann, seconded Mrs. Kremmel, motion passes.

*Robert J. Johnson*  
TOWN CLERK

16 FEB 17 AM 8:31  
RECEIVED FOR RECORD  
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE  
PLYMOUTH, CT

4. Superintendent's Update

1. Solar Project – (a) commercial operation dates for 3 of the projects was February 1, 2016 (Plymouth Center, Harry S. Fisher and Eli Terry Jr. Middle School); the high school startup date is sometime in March and the training for 1<sup>st</sup> responders for the solar panels will be rescheduled.

2. On-line Math Competition (Sumdogs) Congratulations to students in Mrs. Morelli's class (1<sup>st</sup> place) and Mrs. Chasse's class (3<sup>rd</sup> place) who participated in the regional on-line Math competition.

3. Governor Malloy's Proposed Budget Changes for 2016 – 2017 which could potentially have a significant effect on our 2016 – 2017 budget going forward.

(a) reduce Vo-Ag Budget from \$11 million to Zero

(b) Local Transportation Grant (figures for Plymouth)

2014 – 2015 \$176,000

2015 – 2016 \$139,000

2016 – 2017 \$142,000 (possible increase)

(c) Breakfast Program cut from \$2.4 million to Zero

(d) Excess Cost Grant – Reduce by \$8 million dollars for the State which is approximately a 6% reduction.

(e) Mr. Martin's office was made aware that we would want the legislatures to stay away from education as much as possible. The total number of cuts Governor Malloy is sending to the legislators is \$172 million in cuts for education across the state.

5. Student Representatives – Halley King, Catherine Gullotta, and Nora Samih

Catherine Gullotta - Sports

February 12 Terryville vs Thomaston @ Thomaston (Boys' & Girls' Basketball

Track, Wrestling and Basketball are all going to States very soon.

Halley King

February 18 PTSA will be hosting a Paint Party from 7 p.m. – 9 p.m. In the art room. The cost is \$30 per person

February 26 – 28 Retail 101 (benefits PTSA)

Nora Samih

February 4 Financial Presentation for juniors from Thomaston Savings Bank

February 17 Second Presentation by Thomaston Savings Bank

February 9 Report Cards

February 25 National Honor Society inductions @ 8 a.m.

February 1 – 4 Mr. Perkins & Plymouth Local Prevention Council

traveled to Washington, D.C. to attend seminars in order to learn leadership skills and promote the awareness and prevention of substance abuse.

February 6

Leo's attended their Mid-Winter Conference

March 4

Student Council Blood Drive

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

Ann Petrin, 60 Cross Road – Ms. Petrin asked the Board to reconsider eliminating the middle school Family & Consumer Science position.

Chris Simo-Kinzer, 52 Old Farm Road – Be aware of contractual language. Plymouth is not a large enough town to offer extravagant packages. Urged everyone to contact their representative and Governor Malloy's office regarding education cuts.

Maureen Cappetto, 55 Heather Lane – Asked the Board to reconsider eliminating the middle school Family & Consumer Science position.

Students – Trevor Jones, David Betters, Allison Trudeau, Brogan Lee, Madison Saucier and Aaron Saindon asked the Board to approve the Budget.

Dan Gentile, 269 Mt Tobe Road, Plymouth – Commented on term limits and possibly consider sending out a survey to poll public opinion and to rescind unfunded mandates.

7. Communications

Day on the Hill – March 2, 2016

The Bushnell

8:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. – Legislative Leadership & Issue Briefings

12 noon – Education Funding March

Tip-a-Cop – February 13, 2016 @ the Lucky Cup from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. proceeds benefit Special Olympics

8. Unfinished Business

(a) Policy 9000 (Bylaws)

MOTION: To approve Policy Series 9000 (Bylaws) without adding section 9110 which addresses term limits. Motion Ms. McCann, seconded Mrs. Kulesa.

MOTION: To amend the previous motion to approve Policy Series 9000 (Bylaws) and by also excluding section 9220 which also addresses term limits. Motion Ms. McCann.

Note: Coming from committee, motion does not require a second. 8 in favor with an abstention by Mr. Bourbonniere.

There is an implication that limiting term limits may go against the Charter. Therefore, individuals, not as Board Members, may voice their opinions to the Charter Revision Committee. Comment from Mr. Goodwin – It is best left up to the people to decide how they want the government to be run. So it's best to go before Charter Revision.

(b) Policy Series 0000 (Mission-Goals-Objectives)

MOTION: To approve Policy Series 9000. Motion Ms. McCann. Note: Coming from Committee, motion does not require a second. All in favor, motion passes.

(c) Public Act 15-141 An Act Concerning Seclusion and Restraint In Schools

MOTION: To approve Public Act 15-141 An Act Concerning Seclusion and Restraint in Schools. Motion Ms. McCann. Note: Coming from Committee, motion does not require a second. All in favor, motion passes.

(d) Lunch Charging Policy

MOTION: To approve the Revised Lunch Charging Policy. Motion Ms. McCann. Note: Coming from Committee, motion does not require a second. All in favor, motion passes.

(e) Food Sales Other Than National School Lunch Program

MOTION: To approve the Food Sales Other Than National School Lunch Program. Motion Ms. McCann. Note: Coming from Committee, motion does not required a second. All in favor, motion passes.

9. New Business

A. Board of Education Budget for 2016 – 2017

MOTION: To approve the Superintendent's proposed budget of \$24,551,340 for the 2016 – 2017 Budget.

Mr. Bourbonniere's concerns were cutting teachers and health care.

Motion Ms. Kulesa, seconded Mr. Goodwin. At this time the Chair called for a roll vote: Mr. Melchionna, Mrs. Kremmel, Mr. Goodwin, Mr. Orsini, Mrs. Lucian, Mr. Bourbonniere, Ms. McCann, Mrs. Kulesa and Mrs. Johnson all voted in favor of the motion. Motion passes unanimously.

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

Student, Emily Allensworth, spoke on behalf of the field trip.

MOTION: To approve an out-of-state field trip to the Great East Music Festival (Manchester High School & Six Flags) for grade 7 & 8 students in the music department at Eli Terry Jr. Middle School on May 20, 2016. Motion Mr. Orsini, seconded Ms. McCann, motion passes.

C. Resignation(s)

Dr. Semmel informed the Personnel Subcommittee of the following resignations: **Terri Birdsall**, Special Education Teacher @ Harry S. Fisher Elementary School at the end of the 2015 – 2016 school year for the purpose of retirement and **Mark Sconziano**, Girls' Softball Coach at Eli Terry Jr. Middle School effective immediately.

D. New Hires (Part-Time Hires/Long Term Substitutes)

The following individuals were hired as part-time employees by the Superintendent and were discussed at the Personnel Subcommittee Meeting. **Timothy O'Rourke**, Long Term Social Studies substitute at Eli Terry Jr. Middle School; **Shakilah Gaskins**, part-time paraprofessional and **Jaime Kanca**, part-time Tutor at Harry S. Fisher Elementary School; **Christine Cordani**, part-time paraprofessional and **Mark Dalla Valle**, part-time Fitness Room Supervisor at Terryville High School.

E. Childbearing Leave

MOTION: To approve a request for a childbearing leave for **Kathy Rossi**, Prek Special Education Teacher at Harry S. Fisher Elementary School for on or about May 11, 2016. Motion Mr. Orsini, seconded Mr. Goodwin, motion passes.

F. Physical Education (PE) – Health Curriculum and Grades 6 – 8 ELA (English Language Arts) Curriculum

Motion: To approve the Physical Education – Health Curriculum and Grades 6 – 8 English Language Arts Curriculum. Motion Mrs. Lucian. Note: Coming from Committee, motion does not need a second. All in favor, motion passes.

G. School Lunch Program

MOTION: To approve the School Lunch Program, Shared Services Agreement as presented. Motion Mrs. Kulesa, seconded Mr. Goodwin, motion passes.

10. Board Member / Committee Reports

A. Curriculum – Mrs. Lucian, Chair – Special Meeting, January 26, 2016 @ 5:30 p.m. The following items appeared on the agenda: PE-Health Curriculum Presentation and Question & Answer; PE – Health Curriculum Approval; grades 6 – 8 English Language Arts Approval; Unified Arts Curriculum Update; and SAT and SBAC Updates.

B. Facilities – The Facilities Subcommittee did not meet on Tuesday, February 9, 2016 due to a lack of business.

C. Finance – Mrs. Kulesa, Chair - The Finance Subcommittee met prior to the Board Meeting.

MOTION: To approve transfers in the amount of \$35,000 as discussed at the Finance Subcommittee Meeting. Motion Mrs. Kulesa, Note: Coming from Committee, motion does not need a second. All in favor, motion passes.

The group also reviewed the Accounts-by-Facilities Report for the month of January and will forward the same to the Town of Plymouth Board of Finance.

- D. Negotiations – No Meeting Due to a Lack of Business
- E. Personnel – Mr. Goodwin, Chair - All items were addressed under New Business.
- F. Policy – Ms. McCann - Meeting, January 19 @ 6:30 p.m. - The group continued reviewing the Policy Series 1000. The group also revisited the following policies: Policy Series 9000 – Bylaws of the Board, in particular, terms of office; and made revisions to the Food Service Charging Policy. Next meeting is scheduled for February 16<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 p.m.
- G Safety/Transportation – Mr. Orsini, Chair - No Meeting Due to a Lack of Business

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

Mr. Gentile – (a) changes regarding nutrition; (b) Attorney Hamzy and term limits – if the Board chooses to include term limits in its policy the Board may be challenged at one point in time; and numerous changes and additions were made to the 9000 series. The focus was not solely on term limits; and consider the Town and the Board joining together on insurance.

Chris Simo-Kinzer, 52 Old Farm Road – Chartwells – was not impressed by their glorified sales pitch; be cautious of language in an agreement, no unions, food service director sounds like a good idea; Unfunded Mandates – warrants conversation, study mandates, explore the costs and put suggestions to a vote and explore the costs; good comments from Chris and Gerry regarding the budget; and the 2016 – 2017 is pretty good all together, but feels it will be a hard sell.

12. Board Liaisons to Schools

Harry S. Fisher Elementary School

Mr. Bourbonniere

Meeting 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of January

- Successful McDonald's Night
- Mention of the Budget and what the State contributes to the education system.
- Get out and vote

Plymouth Center School

Mr. Melchionna

Meeting February 9

- 2/15 – Family Bingo Night Discussion (success – 75 people in attendance – 7 bags of food to be donated to the food bank.

- 2/10 – Pasta Fundraiser – hoping to raise \$1,000
- 2/15 – Family Feast @ Eagle’s Nest Restaurant 6 a.m. – 2 p.m. – 15% of all sales to PTO
- 2/19 – Family Kick Boxing Night @PCS – 6:30 p.m.
- 2/29 – 3/4 - Book Fair
- Security Lock Down Drills (required by State to have 3 drills during the school year)
- 3/8 – Next Meeting

Eli Terry Jr. Middle School

Mrs. McCann

Meeting 1/26

- Family Program – Each student placed in a group consisting of all grades. Students charting, grafting scores, setting goals for themselves and family members; winter concert; decorate doors; pj movie day; middle school is working on reducing attendance issues; spring fundraiser discussion.
- Next Meeting 2/23 @7:30p.m. ETJMS Library

Terryville High School

Mrs. Kulesa

Meeting 2/9

- Fundraising for After Grad party
- Retail 101 @ THS from 2/26 – 2/28 – volunteers needed to oversee operations and question arose as how to advertise event
- Paint Night – 02/18
- Possible bus trip to the casino on 3/12
- Local Business Donations
- Future Fundraising – Jack’s Wayback Burger Night; Flower Sale for Mother’s Day, Annual Car Show and Pasta Dinner

SEPTA (Special Education PTA)

Mrs. Kremmel

Meeting 2/18

- Transition 101 Workshop

Education Connection

Mrs. Lucian

Meeting 4/16

- 4/16 – New Director of Education Connection to begin and the current Director will remain on the job until June to help during the transition.

WAMOGO

Mr. Goodwin

No Report – No Meeting

CABE

VACANT

13. Board Comments

Mr. Bourbonniere – On February 6 the Leo's attended a mid-winter event and was joined by 8<sup>th</sup> grade middle school students. Berlin Lions were impressed by the professionalism of our students.

Mrs. Kulesa – Appreciates, encourages and welcomes public comment. Reminded the public, that after the budget vote has occurred and the budget is in place, any concern the public has is too late. Reminder, keep yourself informed and bring your concerns to the Board while they still can be resolved.

14. Next Regular Board Meeting – March 9, 2016

15. Executive Session (To discuss a Personnel Matter: Superintendent's Annual Mid-Year Review)

MOTION: To move into executive session at 8:45 p.m. to discuss a personnel matter: Superintendent's annual Mid-Year Review. Motion Mrs. Kulesa, seconded Mr. Goodwin, motion passes. The Full Board and the Superintendent went into executive session.

MOTION: To resume regular session at 9:25 p.m. Motion: Mrs. Kulesa, seconded Mr. Goodwin, motion passes.

16. Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn at 9:26 p.m. Motion Mrs. Kulesa, seconded Mr. Goodwin, motion passes.

Respectfully submitted,



Patricia Piskorski

Recording Secretary