

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, JANUARY 13, 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

Administrators: Dr. Semmel, Superintendent, Dr. Tenney, Director of Curriculum & Instruction, Mrs. Trinks, Director of Pupil Personnel & Special Education, Mr. Penn, Business Manager 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 adopt the agenda as presented. Motion Mr. Orsini, seconded Mr. Goodwin, motion passes.

3. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 9, 2015. Motion Ms. McCann, seconded Mr. Goodwin, abstentions, Mrs. Kremmel and Mr. Bourbonniere, motion passes.

4. Superintendent's Update

- Welcome to Mr. Bourbonniere
- Our Plymouth Connecticut Article in January described the process for developing the Board of Education Budget. Budget Information for 2016 – 2017 can be found on the website.
- Reported on the Fire Prevention Poster Contest which involved 4th and 5th graders. Art Teachers, principals, students and their families were commended for the great work that was done to make individuals understand the importance of fire safety. Board Member, Mr. Tony Orsini, was also at the event.

PLYMOUTH, CT
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
RECEIVED FOR RECORD
16 JAN 20 AM 8:34

- Appreciations went out to the student representatives and those that helped with the live broadcast of the evening's Board Meeting.
 - Mr. Penn, Business Manager updated the Board with respect to the Solar Power Project. At 1:56 p.m., Eversource gave the final go ahead of all 3 of the roof based solar projects to energize the systems. A conference call between Mr. Penn and Safari Energy will take place soon as we proceed to the next step. The high school project is moving ahead faster than anticipated.
 -
5. Student Representatives – Halley King, Catherine Gullotta, and Nora Samih

Catherine Gullotta

January 15 First Terryville/Thomaston Game
 Student Council will be handing out T-Shirts to the audience to represent our Terryville High School Student Council; THS Drama Club is working on a spring play entitled, "Little Shop of Horrors"; the sophomore class will be conducting a Yankee Candle Mother's Day Fundraiser from January 7th and continuing into May.

Halley King

December 21 Blood Drive collected 41 pints of blood which is a record for Student Council
 March 4 Blood Drive
 Early May Town to hold a Blood Drive in order for THS seniors to receive an honor cord which will represent students who donated blood 3 times. This will be received for graduation.
 January 29 Pep Rally for the game against Wamogo
 February 6 Leos travel to the Crowne Plaza in Cromwell for the mid-winter conference.

Nora Samih

Beginning of report was inaudible.
 January 18 Martin Luther King Day (No School)
 25 Class Ring presentation for sophomores
 February 13 Class Ring Family Night Event with sophomores from 6 p.m. – 7 p.m. in the foyer
 February 4 Financial Literacy for juniors presented by a representative from Thomaston Savings Bank
 In mid-February the juniors will be meeting with their guidance counselors regarding future scheduling and preparation for college; contests to encourage reading and on December 14th the chorus and band presented a Christmas Concert.

6. Presentations

- (a) Special Education Report – Mrs. Trinks, Director of Pupil Personnel
 The presentation addressed some of the following: goals; state data; reading data, grade 3; staff; steps as we move forward; and 3 year goal.
- (b) Initial Power Point Presentation of the 2016 – 2017 Budget

The Power Point Presentation addressed the estimate of expenses for the 2016 – 2017 school year. Items included in the presentation were: Recent Accomplishments; Challenges Faced by the District; Historical Enrollment; Projected Enrollment Percentage; Percentage of Students Receiving Free or Reduced Lunch; Attendance: % of Students Missing 18 days of School; Budget Process; Budget +Priorities; Notable Budget Items; How our Schools are Funded; How does our spending compare with other districts?; Risks to Financial Sustainability; Expenditures by Area; Primary Budget Drivers; Historical Increases; Overall Budget Change; Summary; and Budget Timeline.

In Summary: Overall Budget Change

- 2015 – 2016 Budget \$23,752,791
- 2016 – 2017 Budget (proposed) \$24,650,640
- Difference: \$ 897,849
- % Increase 3.78%

Budget Timeline

- Budget Workshops (January 20, January 27, and if needed, February 3) All workshops will take place at 6:30 p.m. at the Board of Education, Central Office conference room.
- BOE Meeting to adopt the budget (February 10)
- Board of Finance Presentation (March 17)
- Town Referendum (May)

Mr. Goodwin: Is it possible to provide a list itemized for the items that did not make the final cut from the 1.5 that was originally proposed by the administrators so that the Board has an idea of what the administrators thought process was so that the Board can look at that as well?

Dr. Semmel: We can put that list together and it was from 1.245.

Mr. Melchionna: Clarification, the projected savings from energy, utilities, did that factor in projected solar savings or it does not factor in?

Mr. Penn: It does not.

Mr. Bourbonniere: In looking at decreasing student enrollment and administrative costs remaining the same, (principals and assistant principals) how can you justify getting rid of 3 teachers but not looking at the administrative costs?

Dr. Semmel: At this time, given where we are, a reduction would not be appropriate. However, during budget workshops a far greater conversation may be had.

Michelle Lucian: She had the opportunity, with Dr. Tenney, to visit Plymouth Center School and observed 2 classrooms with the Reader/Writer Workshop and it was excellent as was the Tier I instruction.

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

Chris Simo-Kinzer, 52 Old Farm Road

- Recognized Mr. Trudeau for addressing his request of last month regarding the minutes and agendas.
- Regarding the Budget, if history tells us anything, it's going to be a hard sell.

8. Communications

None

9. Unfinished Business

(a) Policy 9000 (ByLaws)

MOTION: To postpone voting on the Policy 9000 Series (ByLaws) until the next Board Meeting. Motion Ms. McCann, seconded Mr. Goodwin, motion passes.

10. New Business

A. Resignation(s)

The following resignations were accepted: **Mark Fowler**, Assistant Athletic Director; **Kirstin Ondrush**, Family & Consumer Science Teacher at Eli Terry Jr. Middle School effective at the end of the 2015 – 2016 school year and **Diane King**, Special Education Paraprofessional at Harry S. Fisher Elementary School for the purpose of retirement effective at the end of the 2015 – 2016 school year.

B. New Hires/Appointments

MOTION: To appoint the following new hires as discussed in Personnel Subcommittee: **Elizabeth Anderson**, Cheerleading Coach for the winter season at Terryville High School, effective December 22, 2015; and **Stephanie Konopaske**, Assistant Athletic Director at Eli Terry Jr. Middle School for the remainder of the 2015-2016 school year. Motion Mr. Goodwin, seconded Ms. McCann, motion passes.

C. Policy Series 0000 (Mission-Goals-Objectives)

Each Board Member was provided a copy of the Policy Series 0000 (Mission-Goals-Objectives) for a 1st read.

D. Public Act 15-141 An Act Concerning Seclusion and Restraint in Schools –

Each Board Member was provided a copy of Public Act 15 – 141 An Act concerning Seclusion and Restraint in Schools in their packet for a 1st read.

E. Lunch Charging Policy

Each Board Member was provided a copy of this policy in their packet for a 1st read.

Discussion:

Mr. Goodwin: Lunch Charge Policy regarding “negative balance incurred”. Concerned about negative publicity. Would like this reviewed again and come up with something before the 2nd read as an alternative. Would like a policy that is effective but does not make shocked headlines.

Mr. Penn: This policy was modeled from other districts. There are different steps of intervention that are designed to be preventative to the headline issue. However, at the same time, we need to address for example there are 4 students who owe over \$100, so at what point do we pursue this?

Mr. Bourbonniere: Students who cannot afford to pay for lunch should be on free/reduced lunch and their parents need to be completing the necessary paperwork. We, as a school district, cannot afford to pay for individuals who are not able to pay for lunch. Therefore, we need to have some type of policy.

Mrs. Johnson: Concerned about listing a dollar amount because if the price of a meal should change, the policy would need to be updated. This needs to be addressed.

Ms. McCann: When paperwork goes out at the beginning of the year for free/reduced lunch, it would be nice to have a disclaimer for the parent indicating that no one knows who is on free/reduced lunch when they walk through the lunch line. It is important for a parent to understand that their child is not targeted because they are on free/reduced lunch.

F. Food Sales Other Than National School Lunch Program

Each Board Member was provided a copy of this policy in their packet for a 1st read.

G. Proposed 2016 – 2017 School Calendar

Each Board Member was provided a copy of the proposed 2016 – 2017 School Calendar in their packet

MOTION: To approve the proposed the 2016 – 2017 School Calendar. Motion Ms. McCann, seconded Mr. Orsini, motion passes.

Mr. Bourbonniere: Questioned if the state was looking for continuity for school districts to schools on a certain date.

Dr. Semmel: In this round of calendars that is being accepted, the State gave some flexibility. August 31st would be the start date, only within the Education Connection Group; with the flexibility that the start dates could be change either 3 days before or 3 days after. Dr. Semmel did request from Education Connection about preparing calendars for the next 2 school years.

Mrs. Johnson: Indicated that WAMS calendar was similar to the one being submitted to the Board of approval.

H. Solar Photovoltaic Lease Agreement for Terryville High School

Mr. Penn: The rooftop leases were approved at the last Town Council Meeting. Each Board Member received a copy of the lease agreement in their packet.

MOTION: To accept the lease as is. Motion Mr. Melchionna, seconded Mr. Goodwin, motion passes.

Mr. Melchionna – If the town gets a check cut from the solar company are any of those funds going to be remitted to the Board?

Mr. Penn – Not known at this time.

Lease Agreement is good for 20 years after which time we own the system. Twenty years with an additional five years.

I. Transfers

MOTION: To approve the transfers in the amount of \$122,000 as discussed at the Finance Subcommittee. Motion Mrs. Kulesa, seconded Ms. McCann, motion passes.

11. Board Member / Committee Reports

- A. Curriculum – Mrs. Lucian, Chair - Meeting, December 15, 2015 @ 5:30 p.m. The group chose Mrs. Lucian as Chair and Mrs. McCann was elected Vice-Chair of the Curriculum Subcommittee. Each subcommittee member was given a curriculum policy to review and also all of the professional development this year will be directed toward the implementation of the reading and writing workshop and for the next meeting the physical education and health teachers will be invited to attend to answer any of the about the upcoming curriculum that we may have.
- B. Facilities – Meeting cancelled.
- 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 December and will forward the same to the Town of Plymouth Board of Finance.
- D. Negotiations – No Meeting
- E. Personnel – Mr. Goodwin, Chair - All items were addressed under New Business.
- F. Policy – Ms. McCann - Meeting, December 15, 2015 @ 6:30 p.m. - The group began reviewing the Policy Series 1000. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 19th at 6:30 p.m. in the conference room at the Board of Education Offices where the group will continue reviewing the 1000 series.
- G. Safety/Transportation – Mr. Orsini, Chair - No Meeting due to lack of business

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

None

13. Board Liaisons to Schools

Harry S. Fisher Elementary School Mr. Bourbonniere

Plymouth Center School Mr. Melchionna

No Meeting

Eli Terry Jr. Middle School Mrs. McCann

No December meeting, however, the next meeting is scheduled for January 26 @ the middle school library @ 7 p.m.

Terryville High School Mrs. Kulesa

Cancelled

SEPTA (Special Education PTA) Mrs. Kremmel

Working in conjunction with the Early Childhood Council to provide a transformation workshop to be held January 23 and January 30. For more information, please contact Donna Koser at the Early Childhood Council. Next meeting is Wednesday, January 20 @ 9:30 a.m. at the Lucky Cup.

Education Connection Mrs. Lucian

No January Meeting

Next Meeting – February 2

WAMOGO Mr. Goodwin

No Meeting between December and January

CABE VACANT

14. Board Comments

Mr. Melchionna – Welcomed Gerry to the Board

Ms. McCann – Congratulated the parent groups which were comprised of approximately 20 parents in the district, moms and dads. Forty-one hours of class time has now been completed. Thank you to the Plymouth Early Childhood Council for putting this program together. Recognized the LPC students and Mr. Perkins who will be leaving for their D.C. Trip in a couple of weeks. Safe traveling and hope you have a fun, educational experience and look forward to their presentation upon their return.

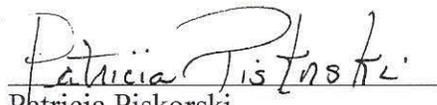
Mrs. Johnson – Welcomed Gerry. She will be attending WAMS meetings and will keep the Board updated.

15. Next Regular Board Meeting – February 10, 2016

16. Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn at 9 p.m. Motion Ms. McCann, seconded Mr. Goodwin, motion passes.

Respectfully Submitted,


Patricia Piskorski
Recording Secretary