

MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of Plymouth Public Schools is to challenge, inspire, and prepare all students for success in an every-changing and complex world.

PLYMOUTH BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
TERRYVILLE HIGH SCHOOL CAFETRIA
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2015
7 P.M.

MINUTES

Present: Board of Education: Mr. Melchionna, Mr. Wetzel, Mrs. McCann, Mr. Gentile, Mr. Goodwin, Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Kulesa and Mr. Engle.

Excused Absence: Mr. Orsini

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 Flag

Mr. Engle 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. Motion Mr. Wetzel, seconded Mr. Gentile motion passes.

MOTION: To modify the agenda to add 9E Transfers. Motion Mr. Wetzel, seconded Mr. Gentile motion passes

3. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the regular meeting of September 9, 2015. Motion, Mr. Wetzel, seconded Mrs. McCann motion passes.

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

Halley King – Senior Activities

October 19 – November 2 Seniors selling Yankee Candles (profits to benefit senior activities)
October 17 Can & Bottle Drive @ Terryville Congregational Church from 9 a.m. to 12 noon

PLYMOUTH, CT
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
RECEIVED FOR RECORD
15 OCT 22 AM 8:07
Susan K. Spakwell
TOWN CLERK

Week of October 26

Student Council hosting Spirit Week

Monday – Decorate Hall & 80’s Day

Tuesday – Twin and Twin Parade Day

Wednesday – Dress as your dream job and game of telephone

Thursday – Class Colors Day & Bonfire. Music will be playing during passing and students will be donating money to the songs they do not want to hear with proceeds benefiting the Student Council and Bristol Homeless Shelter.

Friday- Block Party during flex and students will be wearing costumes.

Catherine Gullotta – Sports

All fall sports are now active. The Boy’s Soccer players are selling candy and both Girls’s Soccer and Volleyball players are selling cookie dough.

Nora Samih

October 16

Open House at THS for incoming 8th graders and the THS Band will be participating in the Berkshire League Music Festival at Wamogo.

October 24

UMASS Band Day. The THS Band will visit UMASS and watch a game at Gillette Stadium. They will also be performing with many other bands who are attending the event.

5. Presentation

A. Dr. Tenney presented a PowerPoint presentation on the Smarter Balance Assessment Consortium

6. Public Comment (limited to 3 minutes – Note: The Board does not comment on public comment.)

Chris Simo-Kinzer – 52 Old Farm Road

Commended the administration for the rapid work in keeping parents informed with respect to the incident at the middle school. He is interested to know what safeguards have been put in place regarding security on our websites.

7. Communications

Mr. Engle:

(a) CABC is urging all school board members to take advantage of the opportunity provided to help develop a State Board of Education Strategic Plan. Please refer to the link to complete the survey.

(b) Luncheon Workshop: Support for the budgetary process – October 27, 2015 from 12 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. Shuttle Meadow Country Club, 51 Randecker Lane, Kensington, CT. If interested in attending, please RSVP by October 22, 2015, via email to bcarney@cabe.org.

Dr. Semmel:

In each Board Member's Packet, there was a circular regarding monthly topical pieces for informational purposes.

8. Unfinished Business

None

9. New Business

A. Resignations/Retirement(s)

Mollie Moe, English Teacher, Terryville High School; **Laura Gagnon**, Science Teacher, Terryville High School; **Linda Farrington** (for the purpose of retirement), Physical Education Teacher and Athletic Director, Terryville High School and Athletic Director – effective October 31, 2015; and **Lynda Fox**, Recess Monitor, Harry S. Fisher Elementary School.

B. New Hires/Appointments

New Hires – **Sarah Johnson**, Special Education Teacher (STAR Program), Harry S. Fisher Elementary School; **Stephanie Tramontanis**, Part-Time Library Media Tutor, Harry S. Fisher Elementary School; **Erica Tsacoyeanes**, Science Teacher, Terryville High School and **Anita Bergoderi**, Science Department Coordinator at Terryville High School.

MOTION: To approve the new hires and appointment as recommended. Motion Mr. Gentile, seconded Mrs. McCann motion passes.

C. Childbearing/Childrearing Leaves

Cayla O'Connell, grade 2, Plymouth Center School, extension of childrearing leave until November 20, 2015 and **Jessica Hurd**,

Mathematics, Terryville High School, childbearing leave for on or about November 20, 2015.

MOTION: To approve the childbearing/and extension of childrearing leaves as presented. Motion Mr. Wetzel, seconded Mrs. Johnson motion passes.

D. Disposal of Text Books

MOTION: To dispose of the following textbooks provided they cannot be purchased and/or recycled:

- Harcourt Math 2007 Edition (Grades 3-5) – approximately 100/grade level

Motion Mr. Wetzel, seconded Mr. Goodwin, opposed Mr. Melchionna. Motion passes.

E. Transfers

MOTION: To approve the transfers as recommended by the Finance Subcommittee, Superintendent and Business Manager. Motion Mr. Wetzel seconded Mr. Melchionna. Roll Vote: Mr. Melchionna, Mr. Wetzel, Mrs. McCann, Mr. Gentile, Mr. Goodwin, Mrs. Johnson and Mrs. Kulesa all voted in favor of the motion. Motion passes.

10. Board Member / Committee Reports

- A. Curriculum – Mrs. Kulesa – The Curriculum Subcommittee met on September 20, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. in the conference room at the Board of Education and discussed the following: (a) AP Scores; (b) SBAC Update; (c) Summer School Follow-Up; and (d) K – 5 Literacy Update.
- B. Facilities – Mr. Goodwin – No Meeting
- C. Finance – Mr. Melchionna – The Finance Subcommittee met in the library at Terryville High School at 6 p.m. prior to the Board Meeting and reviewed the accounts-by-facilities report for the month of September and will forward the same to the Town of Plymouth Board of Finance.
- D. Negotiations – Mr. Gentile – No Report
- E. Personnel – Mr. Goodwin (All Items Were Addressed Under New Business)
- F. Policy – Mrs. Johnson – The Policy Subcommittee met on Tuesday, September 20, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. at the Board of Education and completed their review of Series 9000 – Bylaws of the Board. These will be sent to C.A.B.E. The 9000

Series will be brought to the full Board for a 1st read at the November meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 22, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. at which time the subcommittee will begin the First read of the 0000 Series, Mission-Goals-Objectives. Mrs. Trinks was invited to the meeting and will discuss Public Act 15-141 An Act Concerning Seclusion and Restraint in Schools.

G. Safety/Transportation – Mr. Orsini – Excused Absence

H. Education Connection – Mrs. Kulesa
The primary focus of the meeting was a search for an executive director.

11. Administrative Reports / Requests / Information

Dr. Tenney, Director of Curriculum & Instruction - Reminder of Parent/Teachers Conferences in October and early November.

Mr. Trudeau, Director of Technology - Students helping out tonight are Melissa, Tori, Hunter and Tony and from our technology department, Laura and Jason. Assistant Specialist, Laura McBaine, has seen that the process for the state collection went smoothly. Our Technology Support Team continues to service the Town of Plymouth, our school and the Board of Education Offices. Security is constantly being reviewed. Filters are in place that monitor the websites that are viewed and student e-mails (district issued e-mails). The process is always being reviewed.

Mrs. Trinks, Director of Pupil Personnel – thanked Laure McBaine for all of her help with the State Data; September's focus was with staff on legal updates and new to district and October focus will be transition planning at the high school level and reviewing IEP document with staff.

Mr. Penn, Business Manager – (a) The closing out of the entry modification at Harry S. Fisher has been completed; (b) solar project – in the process of doing interconnecting wiring. Plymouth Center and Harry S. Fisher to be completed by October 24th on the internet wiring and there is a 50% chance that Eli Terry Jr. Middle School wiring will be completed as well. The power should be on by Thanksgiving. The high school continues to progress; (c) the district will be getting more money back in the Excess Cost Grant than the town budgeted for; and (d) The closing out of the 2013 – 2014 audit should be done by Thanksgiving; in the process of closing out the 3 open building projects and Mr. Penn will share where we are in regards to the budget at the Town of Plymouth Board of Finance Meeting on October 15th.

Dr. Semmel –Superintendent

- Congratulations to Mrs. Kulesa, Mr. Orsini and Mr. Engle on achieving the level of Certificated Board of Education Member in the CABA Board Member Academy for the 2015 – 2016 school year. These Board Members were among 15 members to be recognized for this award.
- Thomaston Savings Bank Grants – Thomaston Savings Bank continuously every year puts forth a lot of money in terms of grants not only to our schools but across the region. Some items that the grant will help with are: Literacy and Math Resources; e-writers, sensory stools, and a soccer rebound kick board for the high school. Many thanks to those individuals who took the time to write the grants.
- At the November Board Meeting, we will be honoring the CABA/CAPSS Student Award Winners. The students and their parents will be honored at a dinner.
- Mr. Hults will be presenting at the November Board of Education meeting. In general, he will be discussing AP, SAT, graduation rate, SAT scores, etc.
- Thank you to Mr. Wetzel and Mr. Gentile for all of the work they have done throughout their years on the Board

12. Public Comment (limited to 3 minutes Note: The Board does not comment on public comment)

Chris Simo-Kinzer – 52 Old Farm Road – Is not in agreement with the disposal of textbooks. Thanked Mr. Trudeau for his response to his earlier question.

13. Board Liaisons to Schools

Mr. Wetzel -- Harry S. Fisher Elementary School
The meeting took place on September 20th. Topics of discussion were the review of the budget, fundraisers and the current membership is 37. Next meeting is on October 20th 2 6:30 p.m. in the library.

Mr. Melchionna -- Plymouth Center School
PTO meeting took place on October 13th. The group discussed various fundraisers, i.e. soccer snack sale; Book Fair (October 20 – 23); Family Feast at Chute Gates on October 23rd from 5 p.m. – 8 p.m. with 10% of the proceeds benefiting the PTO; and a Halloween Trunk or Treat on October 30th from 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. in the parking lot at Plymouth Center School. The PTO now has a monthly column in the Plymouth Connection. The group is urging parents to join their electronic backpack system.

- Mrs. Johnson** -- SEPTA (Special Education PTA)
- Greenery Fundraiser – contact Lisa Aiudi for a flyer
 - Speaker on Thursday, October 15th will be Sara Reed of ASRC – 7 p.m. Eli Terry Jr. Middle School Upper Library
 - Last month's meeting was at the Lucky Cup @ 9:30 a.m. and the speaker was Susan Graham, Family Engagement Specialist from Connect Connecticut Network of Care Transformation. A Training Workshop for parents and caregivers will take place after the first of the year.

- Mr. Goodwin** -- Terryville High School
- 80% of the senior class has not paid their dues. (dues are \$50 per year.)
 - Meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. (but this may vary). Urging individuals to attend in order that they may share ideas for fundraisers. Any students who gets involved and attends meeting, this will counts towards their volunteer portion for contributing to the senior class.

Mrs. McCann -- Eli Terry Jr. Middle School
Meeting is scheduled for October 27th at 7 p.m. in the upper library at Eli Terry Jr. Middle School.

Mr. Gentile -- CABE
CABE is still in need of a liaison and an Area 1 Director.

14. Final Board Comments

Mr. Melchionna – Congratulations to the 3 Board Members on the CABE award.

Mr. Wetzel – Thanked the Board for welcoming him back and it was a pleasure to have work with all of them.

Mrs. McCann – Thank you to Mr. Trudeau for the PowerSchool App and to Marty and Danny, thank you and best in your future endeavors as it has been a pleasure working with the both of you.

Mr. Goodwin – Pleasure working with all of the board members and to our friends and colleagues who are moving on to other things, best wishes.

Mrs. Johnson – Danny it's been fun; Marty thank you for returning to the Board and congratulations and good luck on your future endeavors.

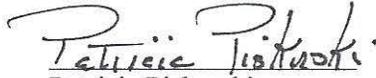
Mr. Gentile – He has been part of the education system for 22 years. In those years, the Board of Education has always been non-political. The Board has done whatever they thought to be in the best interest of the children and wanted nor asked for anything in return.

Mr. Engle – The Board faced both good and bad years. One never knows what tomorrow may bring. What the Board does is for the children. The Board is not here for a private agenda or to benefit themselves. The Board has three functions: To hire and/or fire the superintendent; to set a budget and to set Board policy.

15. Next Regular Board Meeting – Due to Veterans Day on Wednesday, November 11, 2015 the next Board of Education Meeting will be held on Thursday, November 12, 2015 at 7 p.m. at Terryville High School
16. Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn at 8:13 p.m. Motion Mr. Wetzel, seconded Mr. Goodwin, motion passes.

Respectfully submitted,


Patricia Piskorski
Recording Secretary