

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, September 9, 2015
Terryville High School Cafeteria

MINUTES

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

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

Robert A. Potkany
TOWN CLERK

15 SEP 18 AM 8:45

PLYMOUTH, CT.
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
RECEIVED FOR RECORD

AGENDA

1. Call to Order and Pledge to Flag

Mr. Engle called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. The group joined in the Pledge to the Flag.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

MOTION: To adopt the agenda as presented. Motion Mr. Melchionna, seconded Mrs. McCann, motion passes.

3. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the regular meeting of August 12, 2015. Motion, Mr. Goodwin, seconded Mr. Orsini, abstention Mrs. Kulesa, motion passes.

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

Halley King – Senior Activities

- September 10 Open House
- September 10 College Workshop for seniors @ 5 p.m. in the auditorium
- September 14 Senior Portraits

Recycling – Two large bins are located on every floor and at least one small bin in classrooms. Thank you to the Apple students who empty the small bins. Recycling has a potential to save thousands of dollars which the students hope to achieve.

Catherine Gullotta – Sports

The season for both soccer teams and the volleyball team begins on Friday, September 11th; and the Cross Country season begins on Tuesday, September 15th

September 18 The Harlem Wizards vs the Terryville Twisters. This event benefits the Fisher Elementary School PTA

- Eli Terry Jr. Middle School
- Doors Open at 5:30 p.m.
- Game starts at 6:30 p.m.
- Tickets will be on sale at: Beacon Pharmacy and the Terryville Library
- Tickets purchased in advanced: \$10 for students & \$12 for general admission
- Tickets purchased at the door: \$12 for students & \$14 for general admission

Nora Samih – General Student Activities

Terryville Fair – Eighty-five (85) Leos worked 8 hours or more along with students from Band, Chorus and other clubs; The Band will be performing in the Big E Parade on September 25th and at the Mum Festival on September 27th. Yearbook portraits will be taken for freshmen, sophomores and juniors on September 10 from 6 a.m. – noon in the auditorium at Terryville High School.

5. Presentation

A. Introduction of New Certified Staff:

Harry S. Fisher Elementary School

Jessica St. Pierre	School Psychologist
Emily Salvatore	Kindergarten
Nicoleta Stana	Special Education

Plymouth Center School

Shana Hagan	School Psychologist
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Eli Terry Jr. Middle School

Katherine Turner	Mathematics
Stephanie Colella	Literacy
Leonard Fredericks	Science

Terryville High School

Alicia Robinson	English
Katherine Avcollie	English (not in attendance)
Jeffrey Gerent	English
James DiStasio	Business
Shannon Erickson	Spanish
Lydia Johnson	Spanish
Bruce Mitchell	French (not in attendance)
Kevin Schumann	Social Studies

MOTION: To recess at 7:14 p.m. for the new staff to introduce themselves to the Board Members. Motion Mr. Melchionna, seconded Mr. Gentile, motion passes.

Resume Regular Session

MOTION: To resume regular session at 7:31 p.m. Motion Mr. Orsini, seconded Mr. Wetzel, motion passes

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 Board and all individuals involved regarding out-of-district busing. Re-emphasized exploring interdistrict busing and consolidation.

7. **Communications**

Information from Shipman & Goodwin: Employment Law Letter; Education Legislation Summary “Statutory Changes Affecting Students and Employment Legislation Summary “2015 Session Connecticut General Assembly”.

8. **Unfinished Business**

None

9. **New Business**

A. **Resignations**

John Haviland, Special Education Teacher, Terryville High School; **Mary Baldyga**, Mathematics, Terryville High School; **Eleanor Riker**, Spanish Teacher, Eli Terry Jr. Middle School; **Tanya Aldi**, Tutor Star Program at Eli Terry Jr. Middle School; **Sheila Santopietro**, part-time paraprofessional at Harry S. Fisher Elementary School and **Molly Senior**, Library Media Tutor, Harry S. Fisher Elementary School.

B. **New Hires/Appointments**

New Hires - Nicoleta Stana, Special Education Teacher, Harry S. Fisher Elementary School; **Leonard Fredericks**, Science Teacher, Eli Terry Jr. Middle School and **Jodi Witham**, part-time paraprofessional to full time paraprofessional at Harry S. Fisher Elementary School.

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

Appointments – Tracey Malootian, Majorettes Advisor, **Donald Jarvie**, Ecology Advisor, Terryville High School, **Alicia Robinson**, Yearbook Advisor, Terryville High School; **Jessica Hurd**, Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) Advisor, Terryville High School; **Patrick Norton**, **Alicia Robinson** and **Soraya Potter Jr.** Class Advisors, Terryville High School; **Shannon Erickson** and **Jeffrey Gerent** Sophomore Class

Advisors at Terryville High School and **Lindsey Aronheim**, Planning & Placement Team Facilitator, Terryville High School.

MOTION: To approve the appointments as recommended. Motion Mrs. Johnson, seconded Mr. Orsini, motion passes.

C. Out-of-State Field Trips - MOTION ITEM

Mr. Keane, Music Teacher at Terryville High School and Mr. Chris Perkins of Terryville High School gave a brief description of their field trips to the Board.

MOTION: To approve the following field trips:

- To approve an out-of-state field trip for students in the band, color guard and majorettes at Terryville High School to attend the Eastern State Exposition in West Springfield, Massachusetts on September 25, 2015.
- To approve an out-of-state field trip for students in the band, color guard and majorettes at Terryville High School to attend Umass Band Day at Gillette Stadium in Foxborough, Massachusetts on October 24, 2015.
- To approve an out-of-state field trip for students in grades 9 – 12 from the Social Studies Classes and the Drama Club at Terryville High School to attend New York City, Broadway and the UN on December 9, 2015.

Motion Mr. Orsini, seconded Mr. Goodwin, motion passes.

D. Board of Education Meeting Dates for the Calendar Year 2016

MOTION: To approve the Board of Education Meeting Dates for the Calendar Year 2016. Motion Mr. Melchionna, seconded Mr. Goodwin, motion passes.

E. Organizational Chart

MOTION: To approve the Organization Chart as presented. Motion Mr. Melchionna, seconded Mr. Goodwin, motion passes.

F. Rescind of Motion to Approve the Appointment of Grade Level Coordinators

MOTION: To rescind the motion of August 12, 2015 approving Grade Level Coordinators as these positions were not included in the 2015 – 2016 Budget. Motion Mr. Wetzel, seconded Mr. Gentile, motion passes.

10. Board Member / Committee Reports

A. Curriculum – Mrs. Kulesa – The Curriculum Subcommittee met on Thursday, August 20, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. in the conference room at the Board of Education and discussed the following: (a) curriculum updates; and (b) summer school updates.

B. Facilities – Mr. Goodwin – The Facilities Subcommittee met on Tuesday, September 8, 2015 at 7 p.m. in the conference room at the Board of Education and discussed the following items: (a) Update on Entryway at Harry S. Fisher Elementary School; (b) Solar update; and (c) continued discussion on the development of the Capital Improvement Plan.

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 August and will forward the same to the Town of Plymouth Board of Finance.

D. Negotiations – Mr. Gentile - The Negotiations Subcommittee met briefly prior to the Board Meeting to discuss a Memorandum of Agreement and the upcoming Administrator's Contract.

E. Personnel – Mr. Goodwin (All Items Were Covered Under New Business)

F. Policy – Mrs. Johnson – The Policy Subcommittee met on Thursday, August 20, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. at the Board of Education and began working on Policy Series 9000 – Bylaws of the Board. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 15, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. in the conference room at the Board of Education Offices.

G. Safety/Transportation – Mr. Orsini – No meeting, however, everything seems to be running smoothly and safely.

H. Education Connection – Mrs. Kulesa - No Report

11. Administrative Reports / Requests / Information

Dr. Tenney, Director of Curriculum & Instruction

- Successful new teacher orientation
- Professional Development Days were successful
- New Math Program is being implemented at the elementary schools
- Special Education Crisis Intervention Training for paraprofessionals
- Smarter Balance to change over to SAT's (more information to follow)

Mr. Trudeau, Director of Technology

- Chromebook Management
- Thank you to Mr. Perkins and his students and to our technology staff, Laura, Greg and Jason.
- Configuration of new programs
- Security

Mrs. Trinks, Director of Pupil Personnel

- Excellent start to the school year
- Hiring of 2 new psychologists
- Training – Crisis Prevention & De-escalation
- Certified Staff – IEP Discussed

Mr. Penn, Business Manager

- ED001 complete
- Meeting with auditors
- Audit for the 2014 – 2015 to begin within the next couple of weeks
- Following-up on the grants for the year as to their completion and funding is received on time
- Working with the town financing director to close out some projects
- Auditors closing out the 13-14 year for the town

Dr. Semmel –Superintendent

- ED001 – Mr. Penn, great job
- Facebook Page – 325 likes
- Teaches & Staff work well during the very humid weather
- Excellent beginning to the school year
- Convocation was a success with several Board Members present
- August 26, 2015 was the first day of school for students
- Dr. Semmel will be participating in the Harlem Wizards game. He will be on the Terryville Twisters team.

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

Mr. Toth – 31 Eastview Road – commented on the summer program run by Mrs. Farrington. He would like to see the middle school added to the program.

13. Board Liaisons to Schools

Mr. Wetzel -- Harry S. Fisher Elementary School

- September 15 Meeting
- September 14 – 18 Book Fair
- September 17 Open House

Tickets for the Harlem Wizards Game can be purchased at the Public Library, Beacon Pharmacy, Hometown Pizza and on line at HarlemWizards.com. For an additional fee, you can have a pregame meeting with 2 Wizards and be entered into a free give away.

Mr. Melchionna -- Plymouth Center School
September 8th Meeting

Unable to attend due to a prior commitment, Facilities Subcommittee Meeting on the same date.

Mrs. Johnson -- SEPTA (Special Education PTA)
September 16th Lucky Cup @ 9:30 a.m.

Mr. Goodwin -- Terryville High School
September 8th Meeting

Unable to attend due to a prior commitment, Facilities Subcommittee Meeting on the same date.

Mrs. McCann -- Eli Terry Jr. Middle School
September 1 Meeting
September 4 Block Dance
September 17 Ice Cream Social

October 27 Next Meeting (all meetings will be held on the last Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. in the library at the middle school).

Discussion regarding the first day of school – students were greeted with balloons at the door; pictures in the auditorium and learned how to do the Sid Shuffle; students spent the 1st three days with families rather than in their traditional classrooms (families consist of a teacher and 10 students (6/7/8 graders are brought together which promotes team building and eliminates the fear of upper classmen); 1st day of school teachers were wearing t-shirts with words, i.e. wisdom, inspire and challenge; homage was paid to Mr. Norton, i.e. message boards where students express their good-bye messages and fundraising activities were discussed and what the children wanted the monies to go towards, i.e. bike rack, smart boards, movie screen, dunk tank and a pool with a slide.

Mr. Gentile -- C A B E

Training for new board members cancelled due to lack of interest. Since Mr. Gentile will not be running for the Board of Education, a C A B E Area Director needs to be appointed by September 26th if anyone is interested.

14. Final Board Comments

Mr. Gentile – Schools look fabulous; the teacher of the year speech was uplifting and welcomed new staff members.

Mr. Orsini – Community Happenings

September 21 Wet Down at Station 1 for engine 2 from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. (free refreshments)

October 4 – 10 Fire Prevention Week

(a) October 3 – at IGA Adams Market – Fire Prevention Saturday

(b) October 6 – Fire Department to visit Harry S. Fisher

October 7 – Fire Department to visit Plymouth Center

(c) October 8 – Community Fire Drill @ 7 p.m.

Mr. Goodwin – Thanked all of the Leos and all those who volunteered at the Terryville Fair and to the central office team and building administrators – he is pleased at the direction the district is moving in and we will continue to move forward.

Mr. Melchionna – Welcomed the new teachers.

Mrs. McCann – September 26 – Community Social at Terryville High School from 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Mrs. Johnson – Welcomed new students representative and new teachers and thanked Dr. Semmel for inviting Board Members to Convocation.

Mr. Engle – Thanked Mrs. Kulesa for speaking at the Convocation in his absence; welcomed new staff and student representatives; he has visited each school and will be visiting the high school on Friday, September 11th; and he emphasized he could not be more proud of the work that has been put forth in this district.

15. **Next Regular Board Meeting** – October 14, 2015 7 p.m. @ Terryville High School

16. **Adjournment**

MOTION: Motion to adjourn at 8:40 p.m. Motion Mr. Goodwin, seconded Mrs. McCann, motion passes.

Respectfully Submitted

By _____
Mrs. Johnson
Secretary
Plymouth Board of Education