

Mission Statement

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

PLYMOUTH BOARD OF EDUCATION  
SPECIAL MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 2015  
TERRYVILLE HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA

AGENDA

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

Absent: Mr. Goodwin

1. Call to Order and Pledge to Flag

Mr. Engle called the meeting to order at 7:02 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 Mrs. Johnson, seconded Mr. Gentile, motion passes.

3. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the regular meeting of March 11, 2015.  
Motion Mrs. McCann, seconded Mr. Gentile, abstention: Mrs. Johnson, motion passes.

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the special meeting of March 30, 2015.  
Motion Mrs. McCann, seconded Mr. Melchionna, abstentions: Mrs. Kulesa, motion passes.

4. Student Representatives

George Andrews – Sports  
Absent

Halley King – School Activities  
Absent

Allison Smith – Senior Activities  
Absent

Barbara F. Pothmann  
TOWN CLERK  
PLYMOUTH, CT  
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE  
RECEIVED FOR RECORD  
15 APR 22 AM 10:48

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

Chris Simo-Kinzer – 52 Old Farm Road

Comments: Town Council & the Regular Board of Education Meeting were scheduled on the same date; Parent-Workshop and Plymouth Center School Spring Concerts were scheduled on the same date. He is requesting, as in the past, that the groups get together so that events are not held on the same evening.

- 6 Introduction of Mrs. Barbara Trinks, Director of Pupil Personnel & Special Education by Dr. Semmel.

At this time, Dr. Semmel introduced Mrs. Barbara Trinks the new Director of Pupil Personnel and Special Education.

7. Recess

At this time the Chair called for the following motion:

MOTION: To recess at 7:10 p.m. in order to meet the Director of Pupil Personnel and Special Education. Motion Mr. Orsini, seconded Mrs. McCann, motion passes

8. Resume Regular Session

MOTION: To resume regular session at 7:20 p.m. Motion Mrs. Johnson, seconded Mr. Orsini, motion passes.

9. Communications

None

10. Unfinished Business

None

11. New Business

A. Resignation

Dr. Semmel informed the Board of the resignation of David Goodwin who represented Terryville on the Agricultural Education Advisory Committee.

B. Appointments

MOTON: To appoint Christopher Goodwin to represent Terryville on the Agricultural Education Advisory Committee for the remainder of Mr. David Goodwin's term. Motion Mrs. Johnson, seconded Mr. Orsini, motion passes

MOTION: To appoint Michael Santogatta, Interim Business Manager from May 1, 2015 – June 30, 2015 and to allow the superintendent to execute a contract with him. Motion Mr. Melchionna, seconded Mrs. McCann. Roll Vote: Mr. Melchionna, Mrs. McCann, Mr. Gentile, Mr. Orsini, Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Kulesa and the Chair all vote “yes”. Motion passes.

C. Proposal for a New Policy Manual

MOTION: To approve the adoption of the proposal for a new policy manual prepared by Mr. Vincent Mustaro of CAFE and to further have Mr. Mustaro prepare a contract. Motion Mrs. Johnson, seconded Mr. Melchionna, motion passes

D. Out-of-State Field Trips

MOTION: (a) To approve an out-of-state field trip for grade 6 Band Students at Eli Terry Jr. Middle School to perform at Faneuil Hall Marketplace and then go to 5 Wits Productions in Foxboro, MA on June 8, 2015 and (b) To approve an out-of-state field trip for grade 5 students at Plymouth Center School to Sturbridge, Massachusetts on May 22, 2015. Motion Mr. Orsini, seconded Mr. Melchionna, motion passes.

E. Addendum of Agreement of Child Nutrition Programs (ED-099)

Public Act 06-63, An Act concerning Healthy Food and Beverages in Schools, requires that all Connecticut Public School Districts that are eligible to participate in the healthy food certification take action to certify whether all food items sold to students will or will not meet Connecticut Nutritional Standards.

MOTION: In accordance with Public Act 06-63 of the Connecticut General Statutes, the Plymouth Board of Education hereby authorizes the Superintendent to execute the Addendum to Agreement of Child Nutrition Programs (ED-099) and to execute any claims for reimbursement. Motion Mr. Melchionna, seconded Mrs. McCann, abstention, Mr. Gentile, motion passes.

Certification Statement

MOTION: Pursuant to Section 10-215f of the Connecticut General Statutes, the Plymouth Board of Education hereby certified that all food items offered for sale to students in the school(s) under its jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education will meet said standards during the period of July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016. Such certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, and any fundraising activities on school premises, whether or not school sponsored. Motion Mrs. Kulesa, seconded Mr. Orsini, motion passes.

Exemption Statement

MOTION: Pursuant to Section 10-215f of the Connecticut General Statutes, the Plymouth Board of Education will permit the sale of items excluded from certification as long as such sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular day

or on the weekend; such sale is at the location of the event; and such food is not sold from a vending machine or school store. Motion Mr. Gentile, seconded Mrs. McCann, motion passes.

Amendment to Agreement for Child Nutrition Programs(ED-099)

MOTION: Pursuant to Section 10-215f of the Connecticut General Statutes, the Agreement for Child Nutrition Programs (ED-099) with the Plymouth Board of Education is hereby amended to include the Certification Statement of compliance with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards and application for funding related to those standards. This addendum covers the period of July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016. Motion Mr. Melchionna, seconded Mr. Gentile, motion passes.

F. Non-Renewal of Contract(s) of Employment Due to Budget

MOTION: To approve the non-renewal of contract(s ) of employment for the following individual(s), Joyce Klapheke, Family & Consumer Science Teacher at Terryville High School not be renewed for the following year upon its expiration at the end of the 2014-2015 school year due to budgetary constraints. The Superintendent of Schools is hereby directed to advise such persons in writing of this action. Motion Mrs. Johnson, seconded Mr. Orsini. Roll Vote: Mr. Gentile, Mr. Orsini, Mrs. Johnson, Mr. Melchionna “yes”, Mrs. Kulesa and Mrs. McCann, “abstained”. Motion passes.

G. Approval & Acceptance of Building Projects

MOTION: To approve and accept the building project #111-0051 for Harry S. Fisher Elementary School, motion Mr. Gentile, seconded Mrs. McCann. Roll Vote: Mr. Melchionna, Mrs. McCann, Mr. Gentile, Mr. Orsini, Mrs. Johnson and Mrs. Kulesa all voted in favor of the motion, motion passes.

MOTION: To approve and accept the building project #111-0050 for Eli Terry Jr. Middle School. Motion Mr. Orsini, seconded Mr. Gentile. Roll Vote: Mr. Melchionna, Mrs. McCann, Mr. Gentile, Mr. Orsini, Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Kulesa and the Chair all voted in favor of the motion, motion passes.

MOTION: To approve and accept the building project #111-0047 for Terryville High School. Motion Mr. Gentile, seconded Mrs. Johnson. Roll Vote: Mr. Melchionna, Mrs. McCann, Mr. Gentile, Mr. Orsini, Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Kulesa and the Chair all voted in favor of the motion, motion passes.

H. Terryville High School Baseball Field Grounds Project

MOTION: To approve the Terryville High School Baseball Field Grounds Project as discussed at the Facilities Subcommittee on March 18, 2015. Motion Mrs. McCann, seconded Mr. Gentile, motion passes.

12. Board Member / Committee Reports

- A. Curriculum – Mrs. Kulesa, Chair – No Report
- B. Facilities – Mr. Goodwin, Chair - absent
- C. Finance – Mr. Melchionna, Chair – The Finance Subcommittee met on Wednesday, April 15, 2015, reviewed the accounts-by-facilities report for the month of March and will forward the same to the Town of Plymouth Board of Finance
- D. Negotiations – Mr. Gentile, Chair- No Report
- E. Personnel – Mr. Goodwin, Chair – absent, However, all items were addressed under New Business
- F. Policy – Mrs. Johnson, Chair – No Report
- G. Safety/Transportation – Mr. Orsini, Chair – No Report
- H. Education Connection – Mrs. Kulesa – No Report.

13. Administrative Reports / Requests / Information

Dr. Tenney, Director of Curriculum & Instruction

- Smarter Balance Testing Begins in April & students will be taking the practice tests;
- Local Prevention Council received an award from the Chamber of Commerce;
- Teacher Evaluation and Administrators Evaluation Plans are being worked on;
- Seed Plan has been implemented and will be sent to the State May 15<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Trudeau, Director of Technology

- Thanked Mr. Perkins and his crew (TJ, Tony, Hunter and Melissa) and the individuals from the Board Technology Department, Laura and Jason;
- Chromebook – doing well in terms of repair ratios.

Mr. Santogatta, Business Manager

- Continuing issues with out of district tuition and special education tuition;
- Paraprofessional account will be short approximately \$100,000;
- Natural gas account at Terryville High School is unfavorable strictly due to the weather;
- Natural gas account at Plymouth Center School will be exhausted due to control issues;
- Bond Meeting at Town Hall on April 8<sup>th</sup> regarding the entryway at the rear of Eli Terry Jr. Middle School;
- Building permits have been filed for the roof installations at Harry S. Fisher, Plymouth Center Schools and Eli Terry Jr. Middle School;
- Zoning Board did not take action but elected to hold the public hearing open until the next meeting;
- Security entry way for Harry S. Fisher Elementary School is underway with an anticipated completion date of May 31<sup>st</sup>.

Dr. Semmel, Superintendent of Schools

- Thankful to the Board for giving him the opportunity to work with Mike through June 30<sup>th</sup> as Business Manager;

- The 1<sup>st</sup> round of interviews for Business Manager will be held on April 27<sup>th</sup> and April 28<sup>th</sup>.
- 33 students from France will be visiting Terryville High School on April 28<sup>th</sup> and May 4<sup>th</sup>. These students will be shadowing for a day.
- April 20<sup>th</sup> there will be a meeting with the Board of Finance, Board of Education and Town Council. This tri-meeting provides an opportunity to discuss the impact of the \$532,000 cut from the Board's adopted budget.
- Barring any unforeseen circumstances, the last day of school is Tuesday, June 16, 2015.
- Key for Kindness Event was held on April 14<sup>th</sup> at Town Hall. Dr. Semmel presented each Board member with a key. Each Board Member is to pass his/her key to an individual who they feel has performed an act of kindness.

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

Chris Simo-Kinzer – 52 Old Farm Road

- Asked if anyone in the technology department looked into using Amazon Fire for Kids as opposed to the chrome books. Mr. Simo-Kinzer indicated he would be willing to help in researching the same if the district were interested.

15. Board Liaisons to Schools

Harry S. Fisher Elementary School      Mr. Gentile

No Report

Plymouth Center School      Mr. Melchionna

No Report – Meeting will be held on April 21<sup>st</sup>.

Eli Terry Jr. Middle School      Mrs. McCann

- Encouraged everyone to look at the district website for spring sports, concerts and plays;
- PTA will be doing some fundraising between now and next year to offset costs. One idea being considered is a “ropes course” which provides team building among families;
- The middle school PTA will have a booth at the high school during the car show on May 2<sup>nd</sup> from 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. and all proceeds go towards enrichment for the middle school;
- Pasta Dinner – many thanks to all of those individuals who attended;
- May 9<sup>th</sup> – selling flowers on the green;
- Flamingos are back – check the district website and also flyers will be going out.

Terryville High School      Mr. Goodwin

Absent – No Report

SEPTA

Mrs. Johnson

- Next Meeting, April 16<sup>th</sup>, 7 p.m. Eli Terry Jr. Middle School, upper library;
- Sunday, April 19<sup>th</sup> at 1 p.m. – Community Tea Fundraiser at Terry Allen Farm – Everyone is welcome;
- Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup> from 8 a.m. – 1 p.m. “Tip a Cop” at the Lucky Cup – raising funds for Special Olympics;
- May 13<sup>th</sup> next meeting 9:30 a.m. at the Lucky Cup;
- May 19<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. SEPTA is having a FOCUS autism group come to speak to the public. The program will take place in the auditorium of Terryville High School.

CABE

Mr. Gentile

No Report

16. Final Board Comments

Mr. Melchionna – welcome to Barbara Trinks and is looking forward to her input.

Mrs. McCann- shout out to the 2015 PEP Class and welcome Barbara.

Mr. Gentile – Thank you for the “Key to Kindness” and he already has someone in mind to pass it along to; thank you to Chris for sharing his knowledge and Town Hall has a schedule of everyone’s meetings and we will try our best not to let our meetings or events overlap with each other.

Mr. Orsini – Welcome Barbara and it’s nice to be back.

Mrs. Johnson – A huge welcome to Barbara and she is looking forward to working with her; thank you to Mr. Perkins and all of the coaches and the high school track meet on April 14<sup>th</sup> was wonderful; and please keep in mind our children with special needs get to be a part of this program.

Mrs. Kulesa – welcome Barbara.

Mr. Engle – congratulations to Melissa’s son; Barbara welcome and congratulations to all of our students who participated in the academic bowl

REMINDER to all subcommittee chairmen – At the next Board Meeting, please bring with you some dates of scheduled meetings for your subcommittee for the following year. These will be posted at the Town Hall so they will become regularly scheduled meetings. Even if these meetings are scheduled for once a quarter it will make it easier on the new Board. This way being regularly scheduled meetings you can add or detract from the agenda. Currently, you are not able to do this as the meetings are scheduled as special meetings. Please pass your dates along to the superintendent hopefully in the month of June.

17. Next Regular Board Meeting – May 13, 2015 @ 7 p.m. in the cafeteria at Terryville High School

18. Adjournment

MOTION: Motion to adjourn at 8:15 p.m. Motion Mr. Orsini, seconded Mr. Gentile, motion passes.

Respectfully submitted,

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Mrs. Johnson  
Secretary  
Plymouth Board of Education