

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

SPECIAL MEETING
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2014
TERRYVILLE HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA

7:00 P.M.

MINUTES

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

1. Call to Order and Pledge to the Flag

Mr. Engle called the meeting to order at 7:01 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. Perugino, motion passes.

3. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: To approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 12, 2014. Motion Mr. Perugino, seconded Mr. Gentile, motion passes.

MOTION: To approve the Minutes of the Special Meeting of November 24, 2014. Motion Mr. Perugino, seconded Mr. Gentile, motion passes with Mr. Goodwin and Mrs. Johnson abstaining.

4. Student Representatives

George Andrews – Sports

- Girls' Basketball home game, December 16
- Boys' Basketball game, December 19
- Wrestling's 1st meet against Morgan High School
- Indoor Track has started its training
- Booster Club – Calendar Raffle Fundraiser - \$1,500

Halley King – School Activities

- Blood Drive
- Leo Club and Kids in the Middle, ringing bell for the Salvation Army in front of IGA

PLYMOUTH, CT
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
RECEIVED FOR RECORD

14 DEC 22 AM 8:35

Sandra H. Powell

TOWN CLERK

- Leo's collected toys for all schools
- Pictures with Santa and Magnum raised \$400
- Cookie Drive (all school participated)
- Toy's collected at Walmart
- Terryville High School Concert, December 22 at 7 p.m.
- Support a Soldiers

Allison Smith - Senior Activities

- PTSA had a bus trip on December 6, with good participation
- December 17 Moe's Night – sponsored by the PTSA who will receive a portion of the funds to benefit After grad
- National Honor Society food drive
- Book Drive to benefit the community
- National Honor Society Members went to Harry S. Fisher Elementary School to read to the students on December 15.

5. Presentations

(a) Mr. Thomas Jokubaitis and Dr. James Ritchie of CES (Cooperative Educational Services) provided the Board with an overview report regarding the search for a new superintendent.

6. Public Comment (limited to 3 minutes)

Chris Ieronimo – 9 Meghan Boulevard

- Share a success story with the Board regarding her daughter who attends Plymouth Center School.

Chris Simo-Kinzer – 52 Old Farm Road

- Thanked the Board for keeping the public informed and updated on what is happening in the district.
- Requests that the subcommittee agendas be placed on the website.

Brian Dunn – 19 Carriage Drive

- Addressed the following:
Communications; Curriculum at Plymouth Center School; Focus Meetings; and Common Core.

Peter Worhunsky – 19 Coral Drive

- Addressed the Board with respect to Item #9 (g) on the agenda: The transportation contract between the Plymouth Board of Education and Worhunsky Corporation.

Steve Worhunsky – 562 Washington Road

- Worhunsky's have maintained a relationship with the Board for 67 plus years.
- Relinquished the remainder of his time to his brother, Peter.

Melanie Church – 328 Main Street

- Spoke on behalf of Steve Worhunsky and what his has done for the Plymouth Community and urged the Board to vote "no".

Patricia Worhunsy Quinn – 45 Prospect Street

- Spoke on behalf of her father and mother and the pride they have in the bus company.

7. Communication(s)

None

8. Unfinished Business

None

9. New Business

a. Resignations

Mr. Santogatta informed the Board of the following resignations: Matthew Follo, Technology Specialist and Flor Amaro, Director of Pupil Personnel.

b. Strategic School Profile for 2012 – 2013

Mr. Santogatta informed the Board Members that the State Department of Education has released the Strategic School Profiles for the 2012 – 2013 school year. The profiles are available on the district website as well as in each individual school for parents and the community. The profiles were reviewed by the Curriculum Subcommittee at the December 3, 2014 meeting.

c. New Hires/Appointments

MOTION: To recommend the following new hires: Daniel Reitenbach, Chemistry/Physics Teacher at Terryville High School effective December 22, 2014 and Thomas Morgan, JV Girls' Basketball coach at Terryville High School for the winter season.

Motion Mr. Goodwin, seconded Mrs. McCann, motion passes.

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

(1) Trip to Quincy Market, Holocaust Memorial and Boston Science Museum for 8th grade students at Eli Terry Jr. Middle School for May 1, 2015. This trip is an extension of the social studies curriculum and will help incorporate elements of the science curriculum.

(2) Trip to Virginia Beach, Virginia for 9 – 12 grade students in the music program at Terryville High School from April 16 – 19, 2015. This trip will provide music students with exciting performance opportunities and will motivate them to achieve higher performance levels.

MOTION: Mr. Orsini, seconded Mr. Gentile, motion passes.

e. Childbearing/Childrearing Leaves

MOTION: To approve a request for childbearing leave for Samantha Layton, Biology Teacher at Terryville High School beginning on or about November 17, 2014 and to approve a request for childrearing leave for Allison Curtiss, grade 1 teacher at Harry S. Fisher Elementary School to begin at the end of her childbearing leave. Allison will return to work on February 17, 2015. Motion Mr. Goodwin, seconded Mrs. Johnson, motion passes.

f. School Calendar for the 2015 – 2016 School Year

MOTION: To approve the school calendar for the 2015 – 2016 school year as presented. Motion Mr. Perugino, seconded Mr. Gentile, motion passes.

g. Change of Ownership of Worhunsky Bus Corporation (possible executive session regarding contractual issue)

MOTION: To discuss the transfer of ownership from Worhunsky Corporation to All-Star Transportation. Motion Mr. Perugino, seconded Mr. Melchionna, motion passes.

After a brief discussion the Board elected to adjourn and enter into executive session. The following motion was made:

MOTION: To enter into executive session at 7:55 p.m. regarding contractual issue. Motion Mr. Perugino, seconded Mr. Melchionna, motion passes. The following individuals were invited into executive session, Mr. Michael Santogatta, Mr. Peter Worhunsky, Mr. Steven Worhunsky, Mrs. Patricia Worhunsky Quinn and Mr. John Dufour.

MOTION: To reconvene into regular session at 9:17 p.m. Motion Mrs. Johnson, seconded Mrs. McCann.

MOTION: To approve, Per Section 17, A of the Transportation Contract between the Plymouth Board of Education and Worhunsky Corporation, the transfer of ownership from Wohrunsky Corporation to All-Star Transportation. Motion Mr. Perugino, seconded Mr. Melchionna. Roll Vote: Mr. Melchionna, Mr. Perugino, Mrs. McCann, Mr. Goodwin, Mrs. Johnson, and Mrs. Kulesa all voted "yes". Mr. Gentile and Mr. Orsini voted "no". Six (6) for and two (2) against, motion passes.

10. Board Member/Committee Reports

A. Curriculum – Mrs. Kulesa – The Curriculum Subcommittee met on Wednesday, December 3, 2014 and discussed the following: (a) K-8 Math Curriculum; (b) 6-12 English Curriculum; (c) Parent Survey on CCSS Implementation; and (d) Reviewed the Strategic School Profile for 2012 – 2013.

B. Facilities – Mr. Goodwin – No Report

C. Finance – Mr. Melchionna- The Finance Subcommittee met prior to the Board Meeting, reviewed the Accounts by Facilities report for the month of November and will forward the same to the Town of Plymouth Board of Finance.

MOTION: To approve the transfers in the amount of \$114,000 as discussed in the Special Finance subcommittee meeting which took place prior to the Board Meeting. Motion Mr. Goodwin, seconded Mr. Perugino, motion passes.

D. Negotiations – Mr. Gentile – The agreement between the Plymouth Board of Education and the Plymouth Education Association – July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2018 was approved at a Special Board Meeting on November 24, 2014.

E. Personnel – Mr. Goodwin – All items were addressed under New Business.

F. Policy – Mrs. Johnson – No report. Hoping to schedule a meeting for some time in January.

G. Safety/Transportation – Mr. Orsini – Mr. Orsini, Mr. Santogatta, Mr. Wiegert, Interim Director for Public Works, Mr. Schultz, Public Works Foreman met to review some winter concerns, i.e. sidewalk snow removal and the possibility of winter busing. Mr. Orsini is hoping to schedule a meeting sometime in January to address these concerns.

H. Education Connection – Mrs. Kulesa – No Report

11. Administrative Reports/Requests/Information

Dr. Tenney, Director of Curriculum & Instruction – All items were covered under the Curriculum Subcommittee report.

Some of the items Dr. Tenney addressed were:

- Mr. Maslak, Teacher of the Year was presented his award at the Bushnell.
- In conjunction with the revised English curriculum at the high school, book groups will be held for parents. The first meeting was to take place on December 18 and the book “The Color Purple” was to be read by the group and a book discussion was to take place on January 5, 2015. However, due to a lack of interest the first meeting is postponed until a later date.
- School Based Workshops are being conducted along with District Level Workshops.
- Professional Development Committee has surveyed all teachers. The committee is looking at the quality of professional development and if it is meeting the needs of the staff.
- The Administrative Team is working on District Improvement Plan and its status will be presented to the Board at a later date.

Mr. Trudeau, Director of Technology

In lieu of Mr. Trudeau’s absence, Mr. Santogatta thanked the students and Mr. Trudeau’s technology department (Jason and Connor) for their help in the night’s broadcast.

Mr. Santogatta, Business Manager

Financial

- Issues with (a) Special Education out of district tuition and out of district transportation; (b) legal fees, which were an issue, seem to be under control; and (c) the 2015 -2016 Budget is in its early stages of preparation.

Building & Grounds

- (a) no significant mechanical issues; (b) construction work on the front entry way at Harry S. Fisher Elementary School has begun with a time line for completion of June 30, 2015 per grant; and (c) pleasant meeting with public works department. Communication has been made with the Police Chief regarding enforcing the ordinance regarding keeping the sidewalks clean during the winter months.

Mr. Santogatta read the following message from Interim Superintendent Mark Winzler:

- School closings, late openings and early dismissals will be broadcast over Channel 16 and the major television and radio stations. Parents and staff will receive a call from School Messenger, the automated emergency system. Calls for staff will be made between 5 a.m. and 5:30 a.m. and to parents at approximately 5:45 a.m.
- Holiday Break – Tuesday, December 23, 2014 will be a shortened day; classes will resume on Monday, January 5, 2015.

Mr. Santogatta added on behalf of the Plymouth Board of Education, Central Office and the Administration a safe and happy holiday season and a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

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

Chis Simo-Kinzer – 52 Old Farm Road – pleased to hear of the new survey focusing on curriculum; focus group regarding the common core and he would like the board to consider having parent's interview potential candidates before a decision is made on hiring a new superintendent.

Tammy Piercy – 338 Main Street – addressed her concern regarding the instability in the special education department due to the lack of a Director of Pupil Personnel.

Brian Dunn – 19 Carriage Drive – addressed the need for continuity for special education students.

Steve Worhunsy – 562 Washington Road – expressed his appreciation and the relationship he has had with the Board.

Jennifer Yeziarski – 27 Hickory Street – commented on the Parent Advisory Council.

13. Board Liaisons

Harry S. Fisher Elementary School - Mr. Perugino

- Thirteen new parking spaces were added at the elementary school
- PTA meeting time has been changed to 6:30 p.m.
- Letter from Leonard Walsh, USN – Retired to Mrs. Worhunsy, Principal at Harry S. Fisher Elementary School commenting on the outstanding Veteran’s Day celebration.

Plymouth Center School - Mr. Melchionna

December 9 – no meeting (craft night)

November 18 – Audio Visual Presentation by Mrs. Collins, Principal Plymouth Center School on Bullying.

Eli Terry Jr. Middle School - Mrs. McCann

- a program is being established on bullying, i.e. what constitutes bullying
- fundraisers are coming to a close
- Charles Street project tabled to next year

Terryville High School - Mr. Goodwin

- Moe’s in Bristol December 17 from 5 p.m. – 9 p.m. PTSA to receive part of the proceeds to benefit the after grad party.

SEPTA - Mrs. Johnson

- December 11 – Pot Luck Supper
- Upcoming workshop for the spring – Sensitivity & Bullying
- Next Meeting – January 14th at the Lucky Cup – at 10 a.m. and each member will be provided with a free cup of coffee.

CABE - Mr. Gentile

- CABE Legislative Area 1 Breakfast, Friday, January 23rd, 2014 at 8 a.m. at Terryville High School in the library. You may register on-line or contact Mrs. Piskorski.

14. Final Board Comments

Mr. Gentile – Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all. A reminder, the Plymouth Board of Finance meets every 3rd Thursday of the month. Mr. Gentile urged the public to attend those meetings and to voice their opinions. It is especially important during budget time.

Mr. Orsini – Adopt a Hydrant Program for a safer community. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Mr. Goodwin – Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. A reminder to everyone to sign up for the blood drive.

Mr. Melchionna – Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Mr. Perugino – Expressed his appreciation to the Worhunsky Family. He asked parents to be patient with the Board. Efforts are being made to hire a Director of Pupil Personnel but as with everything this takes time. Congratulations to Mr. Gentile for bringing the legislative breakfast to Terryville. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Mrs. McCann – The PTA's could use parental help, especially at the high school level. The New York Trip was fun. Merry Christmas.

Mrs. Johnson – Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, Happy Hanukkah. Board is very concerned about obtaining a Director of Pupil Personnel. She urged parents to be patient. She thanked the public for their comments and feedback.

Mrs. Kulesa – Thank you to the students who remained to broadcast the Board Meeting. As a reminder, this being budget time, if something is added to the budget something will need to be removed. Think about what you are willing to give up. Attend the Board of Finance meetings. Without money the Board cannot do what the people want. Expressing your concerns after the Budget has been approved is too late. Merry Christmas.

Mr. Engle – Thank you to the Worhunsky Family for everything they have done. We all wish them the best. This was not an easy decision for the Board. Apologizes to the students for keeping them so late. Merry Christmas and Best Wishes for a Happy Holiday.

15. Next Regular Board Meeting – Wednesday, January 15, 2015

16. Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn at 10 p.m. Motion Mr. Perugino, seconded Mr. Goodwin, motion passes.

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. Johnson
Secretary
Plymouth Board of Education