

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, NOVEMBER 12, 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 and Mr. Engle

Absent: Mrs. Kulesa

1. Call to Order and Pledge to the 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 as presented. Motion Mr. Perugino, seconded Mr. Gentile, motion passes.

3. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: To approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 8, 2014; the Minutes of the Special Meetings of November 3, 2014 and November 6, 2014. Motion Mr. Melchionna, seconded Mr. Gentile. Mrs. Johnson abstains with respect to the November 6, 2014 minutes, motion passes with one abstention.

4. Student Representatives

George Andrews – Sports

- Girls' Volleyball Team reached the state tournament
- Girls' Soccer Team advanced to the second round in the state tournament
- Girls' Cross Country Team – 17th in the Class S meet
- Boys' Cross Country Team – 14th in the Class SS meet
- 12/1 – 1st day for official practice for winter sports

TOWN CLERK
Robert F. Johnson
14 NOV 19 AM 8:52
RECEIVED FOR RECORD
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
PLYMOUTH, CT

Halley King – School Activities

11/12 THS Drama Club to NYC to see “Matilda”
11/06/07/08 Drama Club Play “Ten Little Indians”
11/12/13/14 ½ days due to conferences
11/15 Leo Club “Kids Against Hunger”
Spirit week was a huge success

Allison Smith - Senior Activities

PTSA & Fundraisers

12/06 Bus Trip to NYC – 8 a.m. – 8 p.m. - \$45 per seat – Deadline
for payment – November 19; check to be made payable to
THSPTSA

Terryville Roos Car Magnets are on sale during conferences and at other
school events – cost \$7.00

11/26 & 12/17 (evenings) – Fundraisers at Moe’s Restaurant in Bristol to
support seniors after grad

Vocational Foods Class is having a pie sale but there is no information at
this time.

Opinions on Chromebooks: George – very helpful and useful; Allison – helps
with her on-line course and projects; Halley – helps in the classroom.

5. Presentations

(a) CAPSS (Connecticut Association of Public School
Superintendents) Award Recipients for 2014 – 2015 were acknowledged by
each of the school principals: Morgan Messner – Harry S. Fisher
Elementary School; Zoe Zappone – Plymouth Center School; Alexa Nelson
and Garrick Webster – Eli Terry Jr. Middle School and Sarah Leger and
Sean Huria – Terryville High School.

(b) Mr. Martin Sandshaw updated the Board on the Energy Program
using a PowerPoint presentation.

6. Public Comment (limited to 3 minutes)

Chris Simo-Kinzer – 52 Old Farm Road –

- Informed the Board as to the outcome of his son’s situation
- Spoke on communication or the lack thereof

Sandra Standish – 10 Seibert Drive

- Question: When is the THS Friends of Music Petition to re-instate
the Eli Terry Jr. Middle School music position that was eliminated
for the 2014 – 2015 school year going to be addressed?

Melanie Church – 328 Main Street

- Complimented the board chair on his article in the Plymouth Connection.
- Suggested putting together a procedure form for parents to follow.

7. Communication(s)

None

8. Unfinished Business

None

9. New Business

a. Resignations

Mr. Winzler informed the Board of the following resignations: Gerald Brainard, Maintenance (District) for the purpose of retirement; David Pfaff, Chemistry/Physics Teacher at Terryville High School; and Kristina Padelli, Majorette Advisor at Terryville High School.

b. New Hires/Appointments

MOTION: To recommend the following new hires effective November 13, 2014 as discussed in the Personnel Subcommittee Meeting: Cheryl Lapointe, Pre-K Speech/Language Pathologist at Harry S. Fisher Elementary School; Sarah Jackson, Tutor, Grade 1 at Harry S. Fisher Elementary School and Soraya Potter, Library Media Specialist for the District.

Motion Mr. Perugino, seconded Mr. Melchionna, motion passes.

MOTION: Motion to appoint the following individuals for the Winter Coaching positions effective November 13, 2014:

Eli Terry Jr. Middle School

John Mordarski	Boys' Basketball
Mark Sconziano	Girls' Basketball
Dawn Alarcon	Winter Cheerleading

Terryville High School

Mark Fowler	Boys' Varsity Basketball
A.J. Sirianni	Boys' JV Basketball
Damian Cogshall	Girls' Varsity Basketball
Peter Veleas	Varsity Wrestling
David Baldyga	JV Wrestling
Jeff Foulds	Indoor Track
Erick Cabiya & Stephanie Hudak	Winter Cheerleading

Motion Mr. Orsini, seconded Mrs. Johnson, motion passes

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

MOTION: To approve the following out-of-state field trip:

- To National Harbor Maryland/Washington, D.C. for 8 students in grades 9 – 12 at Terryville High School beginning on Monday, February 2 – Friday, February 6, 2015 to attend the National Youth Leadership Institute and Capitol Hill Legislator Meeting Days Events. This trip is in cooperation with the Local Prevention Council.

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

10. Board Member/Committee Reports

A. Curriculum – Mrs. Kulesa – Dr. Tenney reported on the Curriculum Subcommittee Meetings due to the absence of Mrs. Kulesa. The following items were discussed at the October 15, 2014 subcommittee meeting: (1) curriculum development calendar; (2) upcoming curriculum sharing process and approval dates; (3) online Middlebury College Spanish course; (4) and teacher evaluation and professional development committee role. The following items were discussed at the November 5, 2014 subcommittee meeting: (1) K-8 Math curriculum; (2) Spanish III update and (3) high school English texts.

Mr. Perugino inquired if there is a grammar school curriculum in order now, if every class has a curriculum, if it is being worked on and to make certain it will get done.

Dr. Tenney responded “yes” there has been a curriculum in place. Revisions were done last year. There has been a delay in refinement due to more teacher professional development. It’s not perfect, but it is being worked on.

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

MOTION: To approve the transfers in the amount of \$365,281 as discussed in the Special Finance subcommittee meeting which took place prior to the Board Meeting. Motion Mr. Goodwin, seconded Mr. Gentile, motion passes.

D. Negotiations – Mr. Gentile – A tentative agreement has been reached with the PEA and the Board will be notified when everything is finalized.

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

F. Policy – Mrs. Johnson – Mrs. Johnson indicated that she will be meeting with a CAFE representative this weekend to review the policies the subcommittee has work on this past year along with future policies. The policies that were approved as a Board were never brought to our legal

representative. We are in the process of working to update the policies as soon as we can with the assistance of C.A.B.E.

G. Safety/Transportation – Mr. Orsini - A meeting of the Safety/Transportation will take place on Wednesday, December 3, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. in the conference room at Central Office.

H. Education Connection – Mrs. Kulesa – No Report (excused absence due to the passing of her mother-in-law)

11. Administrative Reports/Requests/Information

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

Mr. Trudeau, Director of Technology

- Thanked tonight's crew
- Discussed Chromebooks (system & procedures)
- School Messenger (phone alert system)
- Town side (grant to connect town hall with fiber internet access)
- Comcast Reduced Internet Costs (Comcast Internet Essentials Program for families that qualify for free/reduced lunch)

Mr. Santogatta, Business Manager

- Issues regarding current budget (special education budget – out of district tuition; paraprofessional salary line items and legal fees)
- Building Side – engineers on solar project were in the district; and on behalf of the district Mr. Santogatta applied for a security grant and were notified it will receive \$92,000 towards the modifications for the entryway for Harry S. Fisher Elementary School.

Ms. Amaro – Director of Pupil Personnel

- Visible in schools and with parents and attempting to be very proactive with communication to parent regarding any special education concerns they may have.
- CPI Training (De-escalation training)
- Co-teaching training
- Medicaid Training and Forms
- Successful professional development for special services staff

Mr. Winzler – Interim Superintendent

- Recognized Mr. Santogatta for his work on the security grant
- Weekly meetings with Administrative Team – focusing on teacher and administrative evaluation and calibrating
- Continue working with Dr. Wasta on District Improvement Plan (improvement of instruction and assessment)
- Bidders Conference – funding pre-school renovation and expanding programs
- Security Task Force Meeting
- Timeline for 2015-2016 Budget and realities of this year's budget

- Weekly meetings with Cabinet Members (Mr. Santogatta, Dr. Tenney, Mr. Trudeau and Ms. Amaro)

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

Chis Simo-Kinzer – 52 Old Farm Road – acknowledged Chairman’s article in the Plymouth Connection; curriculum – parent input is very important; and data collection was addressed.

Patty DeHuff – 20 Lynn Avenue – chairman is too quick to move to a vote when a motion is made, therefore, there is no time for discussion; Board does not communicate; need for a policy where the public can participate.

Melanie Church – 328 Main Street – Urged the public to attend the subcommittee meetings. Items are discussed in detail. Board members are in the audience as the public. Recognized Mr. Santogatta for his report during the Finance Subcommittee Meeting and recognized Mr. Winzler for helping the community heal.

13. Board Liaisons

Harry S. Fisher Elementary School - Mr. Perugino

No report. Next meeting is scheduled for November 18, 2014.

Plymouth Center School - Mr. Melchionna

No report. Next meeting is scheduled for November 28, 2014.

Eli Terry Jr. Middle School - Mrs. McCann

- Parents concerned about the coat & canned drive since Mr. Bikakis is no longer employed by the district and ran this program.
- Students excited about the chrome books
- Still working on curriculum and reading audits
- Fundraiser – selling bags (new patterns and designs)

Terryville High School - Mr. Goodwin

- December 6 trip to NYC. Deadline – November 19
- PTSA is exploring spring fundraisers

SEPTA - Mrs. Johnson

- Exploring Best Buddy Chapter for the high school (Friendship Program)
- Delivery for greenery fundraiser, November 21
- Next Meeting – December 11 at Eli Terry Jr. Middle School Library – 7 p.m. pot luck

CABE - **Mr. Gentile**

- CABE/CAPSS Convention to be held at the Mystic Marriott in Groton Friday, November 14 and 15 in Groton. Six individuals from the Board and Mr. Winzler will be attending.

14. Final Board Comments

Mr. Melchionna – Congratulations to the student award recipients.

Mr. Perugino – Congratulations to the student award recipients; thank you to Mr. Santogatta for the work in obtaining the grant; tremendous job Mr. Sandshaw; and welcome Ms. Amaro.

Mrs. McCann – Congratulations to the student award recipients; the bus trip to NYC is open to everyone; IGA roundup; and if a parent does not want their child to read a specific book please feel free to opt out.

Mr. Gentile – Welcome Ms. Amaro; complimented Mr. Winzler for the work he is doing in district; reminded parents to follow the chain of command to address problems; work is being done in the subcommittee meetings prior to the board meetings; and congratulations to the student award recipients.

Mr. Orsini – Reiterated everyone's comments; spoke on Operation Edith; smoke alarms still available and individuals may contact Mr. Orsini, the Fire Marshall, Food Pantry and Human Services at Town Hall if they would like a smoke alarm.

Mr. Goodwin – “It takes a village to raise a child” – advice to the community to be positive; and voice your concerns in a positive manner in order to move the community forward.

Mrs. Johnson – Congratulations to the student award recipients; Volleyball team and fall athletes, congratulations; thank you to Melanie; next Curriculum Subcommittee will be held on Wednesday, December 3 at 5:30 p.m.; all subcommittee meetings are posted and are open to the public and everyone is welcome to attend.

Mr. Engle – Thanked Mr. Sandshaw; congratulations to the student award recipients; condolences to the Kulesa Family; thank you to the administrative staff and everyone in attendance; thank you to Mr. Winzler for a fine job in helping the district get through some tough times; announced there will be a press release which announces the hiring of CES as the search committee for the superintendent search; see website for information on focus groups; on-line survey; time-line to be published; deadline for resumes, January 15, 2015; the board has appointed themselves as the search committee, therefore, they are not acting as a board but as a search committee and interviews will be held in executive session.

Clarification by Mr. Winzler: In a search for a superintendent of schools, there needs to be an executive search committee appointed. The board does the appointing. The board appoints itself and only itself due to confidentiality. This has nothing to do with being secretive. Search

committee meetings are not posted and are exempt from FOI. The focus groups are conducted by the consultants. At the December 10 Board of Education Meeting, the consultants will present a synopsis of the results of the focus groups and survey in order to help guide the search committee.

15. Next Regular Board Meeting – Wednesday, December 10, 2014

16. Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn at 8:48 p.m. Motion Mr. Perugino, seconded Mr. Goodwin, motion passes.

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. Johnson
Secretary
Plymouth Board of Education