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*Carla K. Rockwell*  
TOWN CLERK

## 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, APRIL 13, 2016 TERRYVILLE HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA

#### MINUTES

Present: Board: Mr. Melchionna, Mrs. Kremmel, Mr. Goodwin, Mrs. Lucian, Mr. Orsini, Mr. Bourbonniere, Ms. McCann, Mrs. Kulesa and Mrs. Johnson

Others Present: Dr. Semmel, Superintendent, Mr. Penn, Business Manager, Mrs. Trinks, Director of Pupil Personnel & Special Education; and Dr. Tenney, Director of Curriculum & Instruction

Absent: Mr. Trudeau, Director of Technology

1. Call to Order and Pledge to the Flag and a Moment of Silence

Mrs. Johnson called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. and the group joined in the Pledge to the Flag. There was a moment of silence remember former Mayor Vincent Festa.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

MOTION: To adopt the agenda as presented. Motion Mr. Orsini, seconded Mr. Goodwin, motion passes.

3. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: To approve the minutes of March 9, 2016. Motion Ms. McCann, seconded Mr. Melchionna, abstained Mr. Goodwin, motion passes.

4. Superintendent's Update

- Nora Samih – Rotary Student of the Month
- Budget Update – April 21<sup>st</sup> is the Public Hearing on the Town Budget. Time 7 p.m. in the Community Room at Town Hall
- State Budget – We are paying attention to what is occurring at the state level regarding the budget since there has been a great deal of conflict about their course of action.

- Solar Field – The solar field at the high school went on line on March 23<sup>rd</sup>. The official start date for the solar field in April 1<sup>st</sup>. We are in the process of scheduling a ribbon cutting ceremony.
- Last Day of School – Barring any unforeseen circumstances, the last day of school along with graduation ceremonies is Wednesday, June 8<sup>th</sup>. That being the case, the June Board of Education Meeting is scheduled for June 8<sup>th</sup> and Dr. Semmel will be working with the Board Chair to identify a different date for the June Board Meeting.

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

Halley King

- April 16<sup>th</sup> Booster Club Bake Sale @ IGA from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. in support of the Golf Team to purchase uniforms.
- April 17<sup>th</sup> Softball Car Wash @ Advanced Auto from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
- April 27<sup>th</sup> Senior Financial Realty Field Trip to Torrington High School and will create a false life. Students will live on their career based salary and will need to manage their money.
- April 26<sup>th</sup> Chute Gates, from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. proceeds to benefit softball
- April 28<sup>th</sup> PTSA Pasta Dinner @ the Lucky Cup from 5 p.m. – 8 p.m.
- May 7<sup>th</sup> Mother's Day Flower Sale at Plymouth Congregational Church from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Catherine Gullotta – Absent

Nora Samih

Congratulations to the Terryville High School Drama Club on their 4 performances of "Little Shop of Horrors".

- April 14<sup>th</sup> Terryville High School Band and Chorus trip to Washington, D.C. Group will be returning on Sunday, April 17<sup>th</sup>.
- April 28<sup>th</sup> Possible meeting with parents regarding the trip to Italy @ 6 p.m.
- April 29<sup>th</sup> Spring Extravaganza @ 6:30 p.m. in the high school auditorium.
- May 7<sup>th</sup> Friends of Music Bake Sale @ IGA & Car Wash at Advanced Auto

6. Presentation

(a) Out-of-State Field Trip

Mr. Perkins requested approval for a field trip for Drama/Social Studies students @ Terryville High School to New York City, Broadway to see the musical "Something Rotten" on June 22, 2016.

MOTION: To approve the out-of-state field trip to New York City, Broadway for Drama Club/Social Studies Students in grades 9 – 11 (approximately 35 students) at Terryville High School to attend the musical "Something Rotten" on June 22, 2016. Motion Ms. McCann, seconded Mr. Goodwin, motion passes.

(b) Out-of-the Country Field Trip

Ms. Ritchie/Ms. Rioux teachers at Terryville High School requested approval for a trip to Italy from April 7, 2017 – April 16, 2017.

MOTION: To approve the out of the country field trip to Italy for 11 – 36 students in grades 10 – 12 at Terryville High School from April 7 – April 16, 2017.

Motion Ms. McCann, seconded Mrs. Lucian, opposed Mr. Melchionna, motion passes.

(b) Recognition of Para Educator of the Year

Mrs. Sandra Parkes was recognized as the 2016 Plymouth Public Schools ParaEducator of the year.

7. Recess (To congratulate Para Educator of the Year)

MOTION: To recess at 7:40 p.m. in order to congratulate Sandra Parkes, ParaEducator of the year. Motion Mrs. Kulesa, seconded Mr. Goodwin, motion passes.

8. Resume Regular Session

MOTION: To resume regular session at 7:52p.m. Motion Mr. Goodwin, seconded Mrs. Kremmel, motion passes.

9. Public Comment (limited to 3 minutes per speaker)

Justin Gentile – student, Justin spoke in support of keeping the Family & Consumer Science Teacher at the middle school and presented the Board with the signatures of approximately 135 students who were in support of the same.

10. Communications

Mrs. Johnson – Each Board Member was presented a list of the subcommittees they serve on which indicated proposed dates & times for 2016 – 2017 meetings, a copy of the approved 2016 – 2017 school calendar and the proposed 2016 – 2017 Board of Education Meeting Dates to review prior to their next meeting(s).

Board of Education Retreat is scheduled for May 26, 2016 from 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. A starting time of 5:30 p.m. – 6 p.m. has been scheduled for new Board Members prior to the retreat. Also, although in the early stages, plans are to possibly schedule a retreat in the fall and early spring of 2016 – 2017.

11. Unfinished Business

None



12. New Business

A. Resignation(s)

Dr. Semmel informed the Board that he has accepted the resignations of the following individuals:

**Alicia Robinson**, English/Language Arts Teacher at Terryville High School;  
**David Marchesani**, Industrial Technology at Terryville High School;  
**Miranda Boden**, Pre-School Teacher at Harry S. Fisher Elementary School; and  
**Soraya Potter**, District Library Media Specialist. All resignations are effective at the end of the 2015 – 2016 school year.

**Damian Coggs**, Health/Physical Education Teacher at Eli Terry Jr. Middle School and Girls' Volleyball Coach and Girls' Varsity Basketball Coach at Terryville High School effective March 22, 2016.

B. Appointments

MOTION: To approve the following spring coaching assignments for 2016 for Eli Terry Jr. Middle School:

- |                     |                 |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| • Kimberly Dumonski | Girls' Softball |
| • Mark Sconziano    | Girls' Track    |

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

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

MOTION: To approve the non-renewal of contract(s) of employment of the following individuals: Stephanie Colella, Literacy Coach at Eli Terry Jr. Middle School and Kevin Schumann, History/Social Teacher at Terryville High School and that said contracts not be renewed for the following year upon its expiration at the end of the 2015 – 2016 school year due to budgetary constraints. The Superintendent of Schools is hereby directed to advise such persons in writing of this action. Motion Mr. Goodwin, seconded Ms. McCann, motion passes.

D. Policy Series 1000 (Community Relations)

Each Board Member was provided a copy of Policy Series 1000 (Community Relations) in their packet for a 1<sup>st</sup> read.

1114 – District – Sponsored Social Media – Dr. Semmel confirmed that he reviews all flyers and places his initials on the original prior to its being sent home to students. However, just to clarify, this section refers to sponsored social media.

1114(c) "All staff shall receive information about appropriate use of official District Social Media". Dr. Semmel explained, new employees are required to complete and sign off on a District Use Technology Form. By doing this, the employee agrees that he/she will use the district technology appropriately. A suggestion was made that

possibly, at the beginning of the school year when all of the staff is gather together, a reminder could be made about the appropriate use of district technology.

1140 – Distribution of Materials by Students (Use of Students) - Question by Mrs. Johnson if we are still doing signatures and the answer is “yes”.

1313 – Gifts between students and teachers shall be discouraged – Policy Subcommittee to look into using another word in place of **discouraged**.

1331(b) Smoke Free Environment – “A sign shall be posted on school premises indicating that smoking, including the use of e-cigarettes is prohibited by state law”. Dr. Semmel – Just of clarify; a sign is needed at every school that says smoking is prohibited outside on the school grounds? Dr. Semmel to check on this prior to adoption.

1700(b)

#### IV. Other Exemptions

B. The person possesses the deadly weapon or firearm on the real property of any school or administrative office building or at a school-sponsored activity pursuant to a written agreement with school officials or a written agreement between such person’s employer and school officials.

Mr. Goodwin – For Policy Subcommittee consideration, a Request for a Board Policy outlining what the exemptions are for the written agreement. By doing this, the Board has decided what the requirements are for the applicant. As it stands now, it seems as though there is a lot of arbitrary control over this by the administrators. Mr. Goodwin would like to see this as a laid out public policy that the Board can say these are the requirements that the Board is looking for.

Dr. Semmel asked if any other Board Members had questions regarding the Policy 1000 Series to send them to either Ms. McCann or himself prior to the next Policy Subcommittee Meeting on April 26<sup>th</sup>.

#### E. Transfers

MOTION: To approve transfer in the amount of \$114,009.  
Motion Mr. Orsini, seconded Ms. McCann, motion passes.

### 11. Board Member / Committee Reports

#### A. Curriculum – Mrs. Lucian, Chair

- Final Cursive Writing Plan – subcommittee members were provided with a revised copy of the Cursive Writing Plan which Dr. Tennney reviewed with the group. Ultimate goal is for the students to read cursive.
- State Science Curriculum - Dr. Tenney presented the State Five Year Science Plan and indicated the new science test would be active in 2019 – 2020.
- District Data is working on long term professional development and mapping for the reading program.

B. Facilities – Mr. Goodwin, Vice-Chair - The Facilities Subcommittee will meet on Tuesday, April 12, 2016. Mr. Orsini was elected Chair and Mr. Goodwin was elected Vice-Chair. Mr. Penn updated the members on the following: (1) Solar Energy Projects; (2) Sinking (Capital Improvements) Fund; (3) Bleacher Repairs at Eli Terry Jr. Middle School and Terryville High School and (4) Cafeteria Equipment.

C. Finance – Mrs. Kulesa, Chair - The Finance Subcommittee met prior to the Board Meeting.

The group reviewed transfers which were previously brought forth to the full Board for their approval.

The group 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 – Ms. McCann, Chair -The negotiations subcommittee met on Wednesday, March 16, 2016. Ms. McCann was elected Chair and Mrs. Kremmel was elected vice-chair of the subcommittee. The group discussed possible dates for contract negotiations with the UAW. Dr. Semmel is to contact Ms. Danis, President of the UAW with those dates. The group went into executive session to discuss the proposed employment contract for the Business Manager. The matter was tabled until May 18<sup>th</sup>. There will be no meeting in April.

E. Personnel – Mr. Goodwin, Chair - All items discussed in committee were addressed under new business.

F. Policy – Ms. McCann – The Policy Subcommittee met on March 15 @ 6:30 p.m. The group completed the review of the Policy Series 1000 – Community Relations and will begin reviewing Policy Series 2000 – after making adjustments to the 1000 series. Policy Series 2000 is Administration and the group will be working on them at their next meeting which is on April 26<sup>th</sup>.

G. Safety/Transportation – Mr. Orsini, Chair, Absent – However, there was no meeting due to a lack of business

12. Public Comment (limited to 3 minutes per speaker)

Mr. Gentile, Board Liaison – Spoke regarding unfunded mandates.

13. Board Liaisons to Schools

Harry S. Fisher Elementary School  
No Report

VACANT

Plymouth Center School

Mr. Melchionna

No Report – Dr. Semmel spoke to the group regarding the budget.



Eli Terry Jr. Middle School

Mrs. McCann

Dr. Semmel spoke about the budget to the parents who were very receptive and thankful for the information that was provided. The group expressed concerned. The spring fund raiser, mixed bag, is completed; concentrating on the end of the year field trips; seeking parents to help with decorations for the 8<sup>th</sup> grade graduation and the 8<sup>th</sup> graders are looking forward to their end of the year tip.

Terryville High School

Mrs. Kulesa

PTSA Aftergrad Meeting was held on April 12. Dr. Semmel presented information on the budget; the group is concentrating on wrapping up the aftergrad fundraising activity; reminder for seniors to volunteer to get their hours in so they do not need to pay for or are able to pay less for their aftergrad party; and Car Wash, Pasta Dinner and Mother's Day Flower Sale are events that are coming up.

SEPTA (Special Education PTA)

Mrs. Kremmel

Meeting scheduled for April 28<sup>th</sup> @ Eli Terry Jr. Middle School @ 7 p.m. with a program about Art Therapy.

Education Connection

Mrs. Lucian

No Report

WAMOGO

Mr. Goodwin

- 5 year state review. WAMOGO Advisory Council to be used as a model for other districts.
- Program Growth – net increase of 18 students per year
- Review of Equipment Value
- Review Recruitment

CABE

Mr. Bourbonniere

Mr. Bourbonniere was an observer as this was his first CABE Meeting. Some items discussed were:

- Concerns with the initial cut in the ECS Grant Money
- Teacher Evaluation – State Department of Education to hold off on using test scores for Teacher Evaluation for at least 1 year.
- Next Meeting the group will discuss their budget
- Diversity Committee has been set up
- Discussion on the November Convention.

Mrs. Johnson – Explained that she and Dr. Semmel were part of the WAMS Steering Committee. The Committee thanked Plymouth for aligning their bus schedule with Plymouth's.

14. Board Comments

Mr. Orsini – (1) Plymouth Local Prevention Council along with Terryville High School will be sponsoring a Mock DUI Safety Program similar to previous years except this year Life Star will be added to the program and (2) May 17 @ Plymouth Center School @ 2 p.m. – Solar Safety Day for 1<sup>st</sup> Responders.

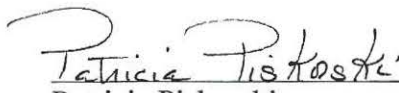
Mrs. Johnson– Congratulations and thank you to Sandy Parkes for all the work she has done at Plymouth Center School.

15. Next Regular Board Meeting – May 11, 2016

16. Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn at 8:40 p.m. Motion Mr. Orsini, seconded Mr. Goodwin, motion passes.

Respectfully Submitted

  
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Patricia Piskorski  
Recording Secretary