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2022 SEP 20 AM 9:03
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2022.09.20

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
TERRYVILLE HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA
33 NORTH HARWINTON AVENUE
TERRYVILLE, CT 06786

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2022

7:00 P.M.

MINUTES

Present: Mr. Seaman, Mrs. Kulcsa, Mrs. Lucian, Mr. Showers, Ms. Tilton, Mr. Foote, Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani, Mr. Perugino, and Mr. Zbuska

Also Present: Mr. Falcone, Superintendent, Mrs. Melillo, Director of Pupil Personnel & Special Education Services, Mrs. Mozak-Pezza, Director of Curriculum & Instruction, Mr. Tencza, Business Manager and Mr. Trudeau, Director of Technology

1. Call to Order & Pledge to the Flag

Mr. Seaman called the regular meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:01 p.m. The group joined in the Pledge to the Flag.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

MOTION: To entertain a motion to adopt the agenda as presented. Motion Mr. Showers, second Mr. Foote, any discussion, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion carries.

MOTION: To entertain a motion to amend the agenda as follows: Moving #5 Student Representatives to #4 and Moving #4 Presentations to #5. Motion Mr. Foote, seconded Mr. Showers, motion passes.

3. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: To entertain a motion to approve the minutes of the Meeting of the Plymouth Board of Education of August 17, 2022. Motion Mr. Showers, second Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani, any discussion, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion carries.

4. Presentations

* Suicide Prevention Walk for October 2, 2022 – Mr. Nave and Ms. Jobbagy

* Portrait of a Graduate – Mrs. Mozak-Pezza, Director of Curriculum & Instruction

MOTION: To entertain a motion to approve the of Portrait of a Graduate as presented. Motion Mr. Showers, second Mr. Foote, any discussion, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion carries.

5. Student Representatives

Robert Pedersen – Senior – President of the Senior Class, Student Council, and Captain of the Cross Country Team.

Sports

Boys' Soccer has place 2 games (1 & 1).

Cross Country – 1st official meet was on September 14 and the team did well.

Golf – 2 matches have been played.

Volleyball – 2nd game today.

Emily Ieronimo – Secretary/Treasurer of the Senior Class; President of the Leo Club, also involved in (inaudible)

This year has begun to a very smooth start. With the new schedule, students are adapting very well. Happy to be back. Overall, this year has been better than previous years because we're starting with no restrictions.

Band – 3 band (inaudible) which start tonight

Sunday, September 25th – Mum Parade

Friday, September 30th – Big "E"

October – UMass Band Day

Anna Greene – Vice-President of the Senior Class, Involved in Leo Club and also (inaudible)
Senior Class Parking Lots

6. Public Comment (limited to 3-minutes per speaker)

None

7. Superintendent's Update

- * Welcomed new student representatives
- * Welcomed newest Board of Education Member, Kelly Tilton
- * The following message was shared with the entire faculty and staff at convocation: The situation is not a reflection on our school district; we have amazing individuals that work in our district. We are not allowing the situation to overshadow the great work and impact we have made on our students, schools and the community. The situation does not and will not define the district.
- * Opening Day of School – Buildings looked great both inside and outside; Buses had minimal issues and delays (even on day 1); Faculty and Staff are energized for the new school year; and our students are excited to be back for their first Non-COVID school year.
- * Litchfield County Superintendent's Meeting – Discussion focused around certified and non-certified openings across all of the school districts. Plymouth is fortunate to have filled all of its certified teacher positions. However, the district is struggling to fill positions with its non-certified staff. There are a number of paraprofessional, substitute teacher and building tutor positions available. If anyone listening, if you are interested or you know of anyone interested in applying for any of these positions, please apply on our website.
- * The district is in the process of transitioning its Health Insurance Coverage from the State Plan to United Health Care. A representative from our insurance broker, Brown and Brown will be visiting all of the schools next week. He will be available to answer any questions during lunch periods. After school, they will be completing a presentation to each of the faculties. The new insurance plan will go into effect on October 1st.
- * Announcement of the retirement of Rich Trudeau. His last day will be on January 31st, 2023. Rich has been a dedicated, loyal and hardworking individual and has logged more weekend and evening hours over the past 15 years and I thank him for all he has done for our students, teachers, school district and town. He will definitely be missed.
- * Lastly, he received a letter On September 6, 2022 from former Plymouth Center School Principal, Sherri Turner of her decision to retire.

8. New Business

A. Out of State Field Trips

MOTION: To entertain a motion to approve an out of state field trip on September 28, 2022 to The Big E, West Springfield, Massachusetts for 60 Music Students in grades 9 – 12 at Terryville High School and 40 grade 8 Band Students at Eli Terry Jr. Middle School. Motion Mr. Perugino, second Mr. Foote any discussion, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion carries.

Comment – Mr. Falcone – Originally this trip was for high school band students. However, the principal at both schools worked together to include the middle school band students. Building programs and our school district, this is what it's all about.

MOTION: To entertain a motion to approve an out of state field trip on October 8, 2022 to the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Massachusetts for 60 Music students in grades 9 – 12 at Terryville High School. Motion Mr. Showers, second Mr. Perugino, any discussion, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion carries.

B. Draft of Board of Education Meeting Dates for the Calendar Year

Each Board Member was provided with these dates in their packet. This item will be voted on at the October 12, 2022 Board of Education Meeting.

C. Review of Cost of School Breakfast and Lunch Programs (NO INCREASE)

MOTION: To entertain a motion to approve the following costs for the School Breakfast and Lunch Programs for the 2022 – 2023 School Year. Motion Mrs. Lucian, second Mr. Showers, any discussion

Comment – Mr. Tencza – Currently, all lunches are free with the monies that came through. However, these funds will only be available until the end of December. After December break, we will go back to paid lunches.

School Breakfast Program

Elementary Schools	\$1.60
Middle School	\$2.00
High School	\$2.00

School Lunch Program

Elementary Schools	\$2.90
Middle School	\$3.10
High School	\$3.10
Specialty Lunch	\$3.25

ROLL VOTE: Mr. Showers - Yes Mr. Foote – Yes Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani - Yes

Mr. Perugino - Yes Mr. Zbuska – Yes Mrs. Lucian - Yes Mrs. Kulesa - Yes

motion passes unanimously.

D. End of the Year Transfer

MOTION: To entertain a motion to transfer funds in the amount of \$266.50 back to the Town of Plymouth. Motion Mrs. Lucian, second Mr. Showers, any discussion, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion carries.

Question: Mr. Perugino – Why are we transferring fund back to the Town?

Answer: Mr. Tencza – I didn't spend it.

Question: Mr. Seaman – Is this part of the money that was allocated for the or is it separate?

Answer – Mr. Tencza – No, it is not. The 640551l was not spent and remains in the Sinking Fund Balance. I did not have to use any of those funds.

E. Assignment of Subcommittees (Tabled)

Discussion: Mr. Perugino would like to see members choose which committees they would like to be on and also to have that committee choose their chair. He would also like to expand the subcommittees i.e. negotiations.

1. Policy Subcommittee
2. Student Achievement
3. Finance/Operations – Meets at 6 p.m. in the library at Terryville High School prior to the scheduled Board of Education Meeting.

Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani, Chair
Mr. Perugino
Mr. Showers

9. Old Business

A. Board of Education Policies

MOTION: To entertain a motion to approve the Board of Education Policies as presented. Motion Mr. Showers, second Mr. Perugino, any discussion, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions (Ms. Tilton abstains), motion carries.

Comment – Mr. Perugino – We need to be very careful that we don't jump into the Town Charter at all. Just a few that we need to refer back to Town Charter. Policies look good.

Comment – Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani – The chart the Board received last month helped when going through the packet a little bit better. If there is anything in the policies when they are put in place, we can always review it again.

Comment – Mr. Falcone – Understand, Shipman sends him e-mails monthly on any policy. They are watching the legislation of any policies that have to change. This is why the Policy Subcommittee is important. If there are other items, his recommendation to the Board would be to give them to the Policy Chair and then from there they could be discussed and then brought back to the Board. Discussions are made here. To funnel the process, he feels this is the right way to go about it. That is his recommendation.

10. Board Member/Committee Reports

A. Finance/Operations – Mr. Tencza, Business Manager

- Included in the packet are the following; Accounts by Facilities Report for August, 2022 and 5 different submissions; (1) Business Office Activity Report; (2) Board of Education Budget Summary through August, 2022 Report; (3) Cumulative Total Board of Education Budget % by Month; (4) Food Service Report; and (5) Capital Improvement Plan 2021 - 2030.
- The Accounts by Facilities Reports will be forwarded to the Town of Plymouth Board of Finance

Mr. Tencza – The monthly report has a number of negative numbers. They are there simply because this year, as he did partly through last year, he encumbered all of the salaries and all of the known expenses in the budget. There are negative numbers and you will see pretty much they are on the salary line and that is because when the budget was created, we had certain people in certain places. Now that we have had one payroll cycle, we are starting to see where the salaries are falling. He just needs to move them around to the correct locations.

If there is a problem, he will tell the Board. However, he does not anticipate any problems right now.

Question – Mr. Perugino - Accounts by Facilities Report – page 15 – Transportation Magnet Schools - \$56,700. Is that for the year?

Answer – Mr. Tencza – This number is the net number after the grant.

Question – Mr. Perugino – We're still purchasing diesel fuel, correct?

Answer – Mr. Tencza – yes

Question – Mr. Perugino – We have the Magnet School Transportation for \$56,000 and then we have Transportation Technical School for \$237,000. I'm looking at the numbers. There are 69 students for the Tech Schools and 32 students for the Voag School for a total of 101 students. For the magnet schools there are 77 students. He does not understand the difference. Extra buses?

Answer – Mr. Tencza – There are more buses for the Tech schools and there are also more students, more buses and more schools. We are going to more places than with the Magnet schools. In some cases, we are able to combine the runs into one.

Question – Mr. Perugino – The district is still being granted by the State? That little amount of money for every student, correct?

Answer – For Magnet schools, yes. He just completed that report.

Question – Mr. Perugino – That money goes directly to the Town and should be coming here?

Answer – Mr. Tencza – It comes to us.

Question – Mr. Perugino – Accounts by Facilities Report – page 17 – Legal Fees - \$50,000. Do you think that is going to be enough?

Answer – Mr. Tencza – We budgeted \$50,000. In addition, last year he also paid a retainer of \$50,000. So, we actually have \$100,000.

Question - Mr. Perugino – American Rescue Plan Act - \$3.4 million. Is any of that portion for education for Plymouth?

Answer – Mr. Tencza – We received an allotment about 1 ½ years ago. He thinks that is when the grant went through. He believes the figure is \$1.3 million. He indicated we have already spent a pretty good portion of these monies. It is conceivable the Town received \$3.4 million and our portion was \$1.3 million.

Comment – Mr. Seaman – That is correct. The town did receive money. The Board received their portion and the Town received their portion. Some of the monies used by the Town were, i.e. Ambulance Corps, life monitors, CPR devices; American Legion – kitchen. Some businesses received help. The ARPA Committee for the Town that individuals can present to. There is going to be a presentation to the ARPA Committee for the fields.

B. Personnel Report - Mr. Falcone, Superintendent

Mr. Falcone informed the Board he received a retirement letter from the former Principal of Plymouth Center School, Sherri Turner on September 6, 2022.

11. Public Comment (limited to 3-minutes per speaker)

None

12. Board Liaison Reports

Mr. Perugino
September 15 @ 6 p.m.

-- Harry S. Fisher Elementary School
Open House

Mr. Zbuska
No Report

-- Plymouth Center School

Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani
September 14
November 8 (Election Day)

-- Eli Terry Jr. Middle School
Open House
Fundraiser at Mulligans, new restaurant in town at Pequabuck Golf Club. They will be donating a percentage of all of their sales that day back to the PTA
Skate Night sometime in October waiting for approval
PTA Looking for Members and individuals who would like to be on different committees, i.e. scholarship, nominating (meetings take place one month out of the entire year)

Mrs. Candrea-Floresciani -- Booster Club
No Report

Mrs. Kulesa -- Terryville High School
September 21 Meeting

Mr. Perugino -- CABE
October 12 Workshops at the Lyceum in Hartford
Achieving Equity - Title IX and Transgender Students
Collective bargaining by Attorney Richard Mills

Mr. Falcone - Attending the CABE/CAPSS Convention: Mr. Falcone, Mrs. Mozak-Pezza and Mr. Perugino

Mrs. Kulesa -- EdAdvance
Short Zoom Meeting
October 6 from 4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. – EdAdvance is having an event they would like brought to your attention. In Person Event in their Litchfield Office “Annual Meeting” trying to bring as many individuals in from the towns as possible to give information about their services, initiatives, how they support our region and how they plan to further their support for our region as well.

13. **Board Comments**

Mr. Showers – Welcome Kelly, good to see the kids here tonight and Happy Birthday Walt

Ms. Tilton – Greatful to be here, looking forward to working with everybody and doing some great things for our children and our community.

Mr. Foote – Welcome Kelly. Wished Richard a good retirement.

Mrs. Kulesa – Mr. Trudeau we’re going to miss you a lot. You deserve it.

Mrs. Lucian – Mr. Trudeau, I’m very sad you are retiring. This is the first I’ve heard of it. You’ve been a great help to me all the years I’ve been here. I appreciate you and all you’ve done for the schools. We are going to miss you. You will be hard to replace.

Mrs. Candrea-Floresciani – Echoed Mr. Nave regarding 988 number. It just began about a month ago. Went to a meeting about it. Not sure what can be done at the school level to promote it. It seems like it’s a nice blend between the 211 and 911. The more people that learn about the 811merge the more beneficial. Happy Birthday Walt. Welcome Kelly.

Mr. Perugino – Welcome Kelly. Rich I have a great retirement. The only thing I ask is that you please leave me your number.

Congratulations to: Police Chief Karen Krasicky on September 28 at a dinner by the State of Connecticut Police Commission will be awarded the Distinguished Chief Award.

Fire Chief Mark Sekorski – Hall of Fame for the Connecticut Firefighters Association

Mr. Zbuska – Thanked Kelley for replacing Dia who did a great job. Had Rich as a 5th grade student and hope he influenced him to be the person he is today.

14. **Next Board Meeting** –The next regular meeting of the Plymouth Board of Education will be on Wednesday, October 12, 2022 at 7 p.m. in the cafeteria at Terryville High School.

15. **Executive Session**

MOTION: To entertain a motion to enter into Executive Session at 7:50 p.m. to discuss:
(a) the regular education bus contract and
(b) personnel matters
inviting Mr. Falcone, Superintendent and Mr. Tencza, Business Manager into Executive Session.

Motion Mr. Showers, second Mrs. Lucian all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion carries.

16. **Regular Session**

MOTION: To entertain a motion to resume regular session at 8:32 p.m. Motion Mr. Showers, second Mr. Foote, all in favor, motion carries.

17. **Possible Action on Executive Session Matter**

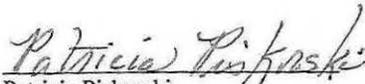
MOTION: To entertain a motion to approve the Regular Bus Contract as discussed in Executive Session. Motion Mr. Perugino, second Mr. Zbuska all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion carries.

MOTION: To entertain a motion to approve the appointment of Mr. Darron Vigliotti, Interim Principal at Eli Terry Jr. Middle School to the position of Principal of Eli Terry Jr. Middle School as discussed in executive session. Motion Mr. Perugino, second Mr. Foote all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion carries.

MOTION: To entertain a motion to approve the appointment of Ms. Jessica Hurd, Interim Assistant Principal at Terryville High School to the position of Assistant Principal of Terryville High School as discussed in executive session. Motion Mr. Perugino, second Mr. Showers all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion carries.

18. **Adjournment**

MOTION: To entertain a motion to adjourn 8:33 p.m. Motion Mr. Perugino, second, Mr. Foote, all in favor, motion carries.


Patricia Piskorski
Recording Secretary
Plymouth Board of Education