



PLYMOUTH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

CENTRAL OFFICE

27 NORTH HARWINTON AVENUE
TERRYVILLE, CONNECTICUT 06786

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, NOVEMBER 9, 2022

7:00 P.M.

MINUTES

Present: Mrs. Kulesa, Mrs. Lucian, Mr. Showers, Ms. Tilton, Mr. Foote, Mrs. Candrea-Floresciani,
Mr. Perugino and Mr. Zbuska

Excused Absence: Mr. Seaman

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

1. **Call to Order & Pledge to the Flag**

Mrs. Kulesa called the regular meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7 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. Foote, second Mr. Showers, any discussion, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion carries.

3. **Approval of Minutes**

MOTION: To entertain a motion to approve the minutes of the Meeting of the Plymouth Board of Education for October 12, 2022. Motion Mr. Perugino, second Mrs. Lucian, any discussion, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion carries.

4. **Student Representatives**

Robert Pedersen

Sports

Both the Boys' and Girls' Soccer Teams made it to the States. They won their first round game.

11/09/2022 – Terryville Boys' Soccer Team v Litchfield

11/10/2022 – Terryville Girls' Soccer Team v Lyman Memorial

Report for Anna Green

Sr. Class – Most of common and colleges stuff related to colleges complete.

Students have had opportunities to meet with Mrs. Glaser, Career Counselor.

Scholarships for such a small town are plentiful.

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Plymouth Board of Education is an Equal Opportunity Employer and Provider.

Anna Greene

Absent

Emily Ieronimo

11/04/2022 – Leo Club Annual Homecoming. The money from the ticket sales fund the Harvest Pack wherein food is packaged for those individuals who are in need. No date has been scheduled at this time.

11/14 – 18, 2022 – Mr. Veleas along with 6 students will be going to Washington, D.C.

Drama Club Performance – Murder on the Orient Express

11/18/2022 – 7 p.m. – 9 p.m.

11/19/2022 – 7 p.m. – 9 p.m.

11/20/2022 – 2 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Mr. Falcone – He asked when there was a scheduled date for the Harvest Pack if the Board could please be informed. Some members may be interested in attending.

Mr. Falcone – He asked if any of the student representatives have met with the Career Counselor?

Emily Ieronimo – She indicated she has met with her and discussed colleges, etc.

November 9, 2022 – Law and Order Pizza – A lawyer came in and spoke about his profession.

Mr. Falcone – Mrs. Glaser will be bringing in different individuals to speak about their profession. She will then offer lunch to those students in attendance to try and encourage them to go to the library to watch the presentation and to get some answers to their questions.

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

None

6. **Presentation**

Mr. Vigliotti, Principal of Eli Terry Jr. Middle School presented an overview of the school's two newest programs. Technology Education and Family & Consumer Science. The presentation included brief descriptions of the learning taking place in these classes at different grade levels, efforts to connect these courses to the high school, as well as possible plans for the future. There was a short video accompanying the presentation that featured views of both classrooms and student perspectives on the new courses.

7. **Superintendent's Update**

Mr. Falcone reported on the following:

- Veteran's Day – November 11, 2022 – Each school has a variety of activities scheduled to honor our veterans. Some of those activities are:

Plymouth Center & Harry S. Fisher Elementary Schools

- * Making stars to honor Veterans
- * Sending cards to Veteran Hospitals
- * Read Aloud
- * Watching Movies
- * "Time for Kids Magazine" Activities which were saved for Veterans Day

Eli Terry Jr. Middle School and Terryville High School

- * Social Studies Themed Lessons
- * Moment of Silence
- * Veterans Day Videos

Terryville High School – Ms. Gina Ritchie and the Art Department created a 4' x 4" American Flag out of tile which is being displayed at the Terryville Congregational Church.

○ International Partnership

Indicated he has reached out to an individual from ACES International with respect to an International Partnership. Sharing, teaching and putting kids into the culture of a different country on the other side of the world. There are options available in Asia which will be able to meet the district's price point and tuition needs.

The next step would be to create a high school/district brochure to help to promote and sell the school district and high school which will in turn sell and promote our school district to others in order to find a partner.

Mr. Falcone asked for feedback from the Board as to whether or not they would want to move in this direction, since it is a long term commitment in creating this partnership. Other schools on the opposite side would be dependent on the district to send students here and for us to send students to them. If the district is serious about pursuing this partnership, he has created a brochure in the past and he would be able to create one for this school district as well. However, he indicated he needs feedback from the Board before we move forward and go through the time and effort to continue to pursue this International Partnership. He indicated the timeline, if the Board wanted to move forward, would first to probably form a team of, i.e. one or two Board Members and Administrators. As a team, visit the country agreed upon, meet with their representatives, workout and sign contracts. To begin with, this would be done without students to make certain everything is all set and the Board is happy where the students will be going to. Then, we can begin the partnership the following year, which would be the Spring of next year, if we were to travel.

○ Technology

Since Mr. Trudeau will be retiring at the end of January, we have hired an outside technology firm, Twin Lakes Consulting to take over seeing the district's technology until Rich leaves. This was done in order to bridge the gap. Jamie Terry, from Twin Lakes Consulting, has taken over for Rich as the Director as of October 24th. Rich is in the background helping and supporting during this transition until January 31st. However, he will be phased out over time. If the Board has any technology questions or needs, they are asked to please contact Jamie.

○ Budget

Work on the Budget Process for 2023 – 2024 has begun with the Administrative Team. From now until the New Year, we will be working with our team in creating the Budget which will be presented to the Board at the January Board of Education Meeting.

Time Line

- * January Board of Education Meeting – Proposed Budget presented by Mr. Falcone and Mr. Tenza.
- * If needed, Budget Workshops will be scheduled in order for the Board Members to ask questions, receive answers and to discuss appropriate adjustments, if any and should there be an elimination of an item or items. Also, workshops need to take place to determine if the Board's questions have been addressed, i.e. elimination of some item(s) which would cause administration to return to the drawing board to redo the issue and inform the Board.
- * February Board of Education Meeting, Final Budget Review. Board at this time will vote and adopt the Budget.
- * Mid-March – Budget is presented to the Town of Plymouth Board of Finance.
- * Next Presentation – Plymouth Town Council.

Note: The key to the Budget is Transparency with the Board and the Community.

Board of Education Retreat

- * To possibly hold a Board of Education Retreat sometime in January to help the Board to understand what the true impact of the Budget is on the school district.
- * To give individual school updates. How are we doing as a district and the direction we are going in order to improve student learning and student experience across the board.

Weather Related Phone Calls

With the colder weather approaching, he will be making weather related phone calls. Parents and Students will be notified about school closures around 5:30 a.m.

Besides phone calls, text messages, and phone calls, parents may also find weather related information on the various TV Networks, Facebook and on the district website.

Reminder

As a reminder, the school district will be closed, Wednesday, November 23rd – Friday, November 25th for the Thanksgiving Break.

8. Unfinished Business

A. Second Read and Possible Approval of Policies

MOTION: To entertain a motion to approve the policies as presented to the Board.

Motion Mr. Perugino, second Mr. Showers any discussion, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion carries.

9. Board Member/Committee Reports

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

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

Mr. Tencza – Mr. Falcone has covered pretty much of what is taking up the majority of my days. Getting the budget ready for creation and simultaneously looking at where the district is this year to make certain we remain on track. The district continues to spend pretty much on track as it has over the last 5 or 6 years. No concerns at the rate which we are spending. More details as to where we are this year, typically maybe starting maybe next month or January.

Mr. Perugino – Accounts by Facilities Report, page 7, Custodial Salary – Do we need to hire someone?

Mr. Tencza – No, that item is not over. It is actually short. No need to worry.

Mr. Perugino – On your Business Activity Report under Transportation Expense – He liked Mr. Tencza's comment. Mr. Perugino went on to say, it's that time of year and he's glad Mr. Tencza looking at it. As we know, prices are increasing all over. In reading the newspaper, he is also glad that the District does not have any massive projects as do other Districts.

Mr. Tencza – Although, we do not have any massive projects, he is really concerned about inflation especially as it pertains to fuel. He is watching this closely.

Mr. Falcone – It is important to understand, some of the line items are not accurate to spending over years and underfunded of what was being put in. But, the luxury of the Business Manager and Superintendent in the past is, the district did not spend as much in oil so monies could be transferred over to cover social security costs. With inflation, we do not have that luxury anymore. What the Board will receive next month is going to be true to the dollar per person what an individual has in social security and what should be budgeted. So, the Board is going to see an increase. We have budgeted accurate to the dollar. It is going to be a tough year. It is difficult to put the burden on the taxpayers as well. We need to do our best with what we have to make this work so we are not putting the burden on the town.

Mr. Perugino – We need to look at everything. It is going to be a tough year.

Mr. Falcone – It will be a true challenge when the Budget is brought to the Board. The numbers are going to be eye opening. We put things in our schools that are moving us forward. We cannot take a step backwards. This is the challenge.

B. Personnel Report – Mr. Falcone, Superintendent

No questions

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

None

11. Board Liaison Reports

- Mr. Perugino -- Harry S. Fisher Elementary School
- Meeting next week
 - Harry S. Fisher Elementary School and Plymouth Center School teamed up and raised \$500 for Hurricane Relief
 - 10/21 – Spirit Day

- Mr. Zbuska -- Plymouth Center School
- Due to elections there was no meeting

Comments

With the Food Service and Technology Programs put in place at Eli Terry Jr. Middle School, when these programs were removed, students were upset. One of the reasons for running for the Board and becoming a Board Member was to introduce these two programs back to the middle school. However, Mr. Falcone was already ahead of the game.

Electric Sign at the High School – Would like to see games posted on the board with the sport, time and date so the towns people can see what is happening as they drive by.

- Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani -- Booster Club
- 11/08 – Mulligan Fundraiser – well attended.
 - 11/16 – Next meeting, 7 p.m. middle school library.

Upcoming Skate Night

- Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani -- Eli Terry Jr. Middle School
- Helped to organize two separate night games for the Boys' and Girls' Soccer Teams for which they sold concessions for a fundraiser.
 - IGA Round-Up and Basketball Concessions next fundraisers.
 - Both the Boys' and Girls' Soccer Teams advanced to Round 2 of the State Tournament.
 - 11/09 – Boys' lost to Litchfield
 - 11/10 – Girls' play Lyman Memorial

Boys' and Girls' Cross Country continue to struggle with numbers.

Volleyball ended up with 8 good recruiting class.

Still looking for active members. Need more adult members. Very low this year. For any student who would like to be eligible to receive a scholarship from the Booster Club, they have until December to become a member.

- Mrs. Kulesa -- Terryville High School
- No October Meeting
 - Next Meeting – November 16
 -

- Mrs. Kulesa -- EdAdvance
- No Report

12. Board Comments

Mr. Showers – Thank you to Mr. Mazon and his crew for helping to set up and clean-up during the election.

Ms. Tilton – Very excited to see those programs come back to the school. Remembers when she enjoyed them when she was a student in Terryville. Sad that her middle child missed it. But is looking forward to her elementary student. He loves the elementary STEM program. She thinks it's wonderful. They're starting so young and branching into different opportunities. Looking forward to moving forward with her own children with that.

Mr. Foote – He noticed just short of 100 students going to Technical and VoAg schools. Feels the district is pretty lucky to have that many. But those students shown on the video that were asked if they would continue in this field, they indicated, yes. Not everyone is fortunate to attend one of the technical schools. Our students need to pick up that slack.

Mr. Zbuska – He is really happy to see both programs back at Fisher. Both individuals seem very well qualified. Looking at the students in the video, they were into it.

Mr. Perugino – Same comment as Lou. It is really great to see those programs back. Back in 1958, he was taking those programs. It is just wonderful they're back. He thanked Pat, the Board's recording secretary, for sending him the CAFE agenda, which is on November 18, which are the workshops. Who is going?

Mr. Falcone – Myself and Kathleen.

Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani – She would love to see the Exchange Program happen. She has a passport, if any assistance is needed. She knows of individuals who have participated in Exchange Programs. One individual was in college when he participated. He spoke highly of the program. She knows of exchange students in the high school who came over from some part of Spain. The student was taken to New York and was mesmerized as to what he saw. It was so nice to see what you see on TV come to real life. This is what you get when you do these exchange programs. Once you go there and see it on TV, it's just amazing. She is definitely all of the Exchange Program.

Mr. Falcone – What is different about the Exchange Program we will be doing; the students would be going over with a number of their peers as well. So, they are not by themselves. They are with their peers. They go off and get immersed into the culture. Then, they come back together during the day. They are with each other and they are getting to experience those things together. Then the kids come here. It's like the next level of what we can do for kids.

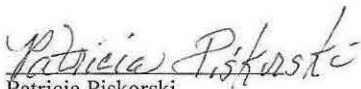
Mrs. Lucian – I have a passport, too.

Mrs. Kulesa – Thanked everyone for being patient with her as she chaired the meeting. It is not her favorite thing to do. But, she got through it. She thanked our teachers who took over the new programs. She really appreciates that and asked that this be extended to Jennie as well. It was very nice to see those programs back up and running. Also, she indicated her full support for the Exchange Program. She would be a super advocate for that and would love to see it happen.

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

14. **Adjournment**

MOTION: To entertain a motion to adjourn 7:46 p.m. Motion Mr. Showers, second, Mrs. Lucian, all in favor, motion carries.


Patricia Piskorski
Recording Secretary
Plymouth Board of Education