



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

SPECIAL
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
TERRYVILLE HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA
33 NORTH HARWINTON AVENUE
TERRYVILLE, CT 06786

TUESDAY, JANUARY 31, 2023

7:00 P.M.

MINUTES

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

Absent: Mrs. Lucian

Also Present: Mr. Falcone, Superintendent and Mr. Tencza, Business Manager

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

Mr. Seaman called the Special Meeting of the Plymouth 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. Showers, second Mr. Foote any discussion, all in favor, any opposed, any
abstentions Mrs. Lucian abstains, motion carries.

3. **2023 – 2024 Superintendent's Proposed Budget Presentation to the Plymouth Board of Education** – Mr. Falcone, Superintendent of Schools and Mr. Tencza,
Business Manager

At this time, Mr. Seaman turned the meeting over to Mr. Falcone, Superintendent.

Mr. Falcone presented a PowerPoint Presentation which included the following:

- (a) Budget Development Schedule – included a time line with beginning and ending dates for the budget. This also included Budget Related Activity from the Initial Budget Meeting with the Administrative Team to the submission of the Board Adopted Budget to the Board of Finance.

All challenges and obstacles were reviewed. Some hard decisions were made. Every decision took into consideration what would be in the best interest of our kids and our schools. Items appearing in blue present a minimal budget impact, meaning less than \$5,000 or less than \$10,000. This is not a significant impact on our budget to offer these engaging opportunities for our students.

- (b) Budget and Board Goal Alignment

Goal 1: Student Achievement Goal – Support All Students in Achieving Their Best Possible Learning Outcomes

Item: New Grade 6 – 8 Math Textbooks (Grant Funded) No Impact on the overall budget.

Goal 2: Engagement Goal – Engage Students in the Learning Process by Providing Authentic Learning Experiences

Minimal Budgetary Impact:

Plymouth Center School – STEM Program
Harry S. Fisher Elementary School – STEM Program
Eli Terry Jr. Middle School – Technology Education Program
Family & Consumer Science Program
Terryville High School – Incorporate Personal Finance into the Senior
Capstone Project
Best Buddies/Unified Buddies

Goal 3: Well-Being Goal – Create an Environment and Opportunities that Support Well-Being for All Students

Minimal Budgetary Impact

Provide Faculty & Staff with appreciation reminders.

Goal 4: Fiscal Oversight Goal – Align Budgetary Spending with District Goals and Strategies.

Future Projects:

Plymouth Center School – New Playscape
Eli Terry Jr. Middle School – Refinish Music Room
Paint Classrooms
Paint Library
Replace Ceiling Tiles

(c) Future Budgetary Initiatives

- * District – Bolster before and after school programing
Provide consistent academic intervention
Train and utilize a Chemical Hygiene Specialist
- * Eli Terry Jr. Middle School & Terryville High School
Create Best Buddies/Unified Classes
Offer additional engaging classes
- * Terryville High School – Enhance the Career Center Program
Develop an Alternative Education Program

Sinking Fund – go back to the town to ask and request for funds and/or funds that the district may have at the end of the year, if there is a surplus, which is highly unlikely this year.

Mr. Falcone turned the meeting over to Mr. Tencza, Business Manager

2023 – 2024 Budget/Inflation Concerns

	<u>Increase</u>		<u>Increase</u>
Contractual Obligations (.6%)	\$558,159	Contractual Obligation (3.6%)	\$558,159
Special Education Outplacements	\$262,051	Special Education Outplacement	\$262,051
Health Insurance	\$251,786	Transportation Costs	\$ 75,071
Sinking Fund	\$326,719	Tuition Vocational/Agricultural	\$ 84,115
		Diesel Fuel	\$ 85,250
		Electricity	\$ 57,731
		Health Insurance	\$251,786
		Social Security	\$ 45,515
		Medicare	\$ 38,400
		Sinking Fund	\$376,179

These 4 Budgetary Items:

Increased the 2023 – 2024 Budget
by \$1,398,175

These 10 Budgetary Items have increased
the 2023 – 2024 Budget by \$1,784,257

Budget Creation Policy – We kept in mind all of the things important to the Board that we put in place last year and to the town. We kept in mind to maintain as many current components put in place last year important to the Board and the town.

Current Board of Education Operating Budget	\$25,401,165
Town of Plymouth Allocation	\$25,074,985
Difference – sinking fund money used by the district in order to operate	\$ 326,179

Increase from the 2022 – 2023 Budget \$1,074,115 or 4.3%

\$1.1 million in cuts to get to the 4.3%

Mr. Falcone – The impact of these cuts are significant to our schools. We needed to prioritize. The District is in a hole, based on inflation, expenses and the sinking fund which we need to pay back. Unfortunately, we needed to make some difficult decisions. (See Budget Impact on Individual Schools/District)

Review of Projected Enrollment Chart – Enrollment is increasing not declining.

Budget Category – Drivers by Percentage – Salaries and benefits make up 75% of the overall budget.

Mr. Tencza – Board of Education 2022 – 2023 Budget Funding - Plymouth taxpayers funded - \$16,346,979.

Budget History – 2012 – 2013 thru 2022 - 2023

Mr. Falcone – The budget workshop for Thursday, February 2, 2023- He is looking for information and a discussion. Thoughts, what was eliminated, what should go back, what the Board feels should go back into the Budget or if the Budget number is too high or too low, etc.

The Budget needs to be approved and in the hands of the Plymouth Board of Finance by February 15, 2023 per Charter.

Important, while we are asking for 4.8%, by filling the hole of the sinking fund brings our Budget down to 2.95%,

No questions from the Board.

Mr. Seaman thanked Mr. Falcone and Mr. Tencza and their teams for the months and months of work.

4. Public Comment (3-minute limit per speaker)

Mr. James Kilduff, Chair Plymouth Board of Finance
31 Prospect Street Ext
Terryville, CT

Statement: The amount that the Budget vs how much is received from the State. He has always made the distinction every year working with the Board. Made a point of separating that out because it is not fair to say all that money is coming from the town. Separation as to amount received from the State and the amount from the town taxpayers. He looks forward to the new budget season. The Board of Finance and the Board of Education have always worked well together. Everything turns out good. Anticipates the same for this budget. Thanked the Board very much.

Mr. Seaman – We always make it through somehow.

NOTE: For a full look at the Budget Presentation, please visit our website at <http://plymouth.k12.ct.us>

5. **Next Board Meeting** – The next meeting will be a Special Board of Education Meeting (Budget Workshop #1) on Thursday, February 2, 2023 at 7 p.m. in the cafeteria at Terryville High School.

6. **Executive Session**

MOTION: To entertain a motion to enter into executive session at 7:27 p.m. to discuss the following:(a) Contractual Agreement with Twin Lakes Consulting and (b) Personnel Discussion inviting Mr. Falcone, Superintendent and Mr. Tencza, Business Manager into executive session. Motion Mr. Foote, second Mr. Zbuska, any discussion, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion carries.

7. **Resume Regular Session**

MOTION: To entertain a motion to resume regular session at 8:37p.m. Motion Mr. Showers, second Mr. Foote, any discussion, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion carries.

8. **Possible Action from Executive Session**

- (a) Contractual Agreement with Twin Lakes Consulting

NO ACTION TAKEN

- (b) Personnel Discussion

NO ACTION TAKEN

9. **Adjournment**

MOTION: To entertain a motion to adjourn at 8:43 p.m. Motion Mr. Foote, second Mr. Showers, all in favor, motion carries.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia Piskorski

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Recording Secretary for the Plymouth Board of Education