



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

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 16, 2023

7:00 P.M.

MINUTES

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

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

Absent: Mrs. Mozak-Pezza, Director of Curriculum & Instruction

2023 AUG 23 AM 8:30
TOWN CLERK
RECEIVED
PLYMOUTH, CT
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

1. Call to Order & Pledge to the Flag

Mr. Seaman called the meeting to order at 7:04 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.

3. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: To entertain a motion to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of the Plymouth Board of Education (Retreat) of June 7, 2023. Motion Mr. Foote, second Mr. Showers, any discussion, all in favor, any opposed, any abstention, motion carries.

MOTION: To entertain a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Plymouth Board of Education of June 7, 2023. Motion Mr. Showers, second Mr. Foote, any discussion, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion carries.

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

MOTION: To entertain a motion to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of the Plymouth Board of Education of June 28, 2023. Motion Mr. Foote second Mr. Showers, any discussion, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, (Mrs. Lucian abstains) motion carries.

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

Marty Sandshaw – 7 Richmond Drive, Plymouth, CT – Thanked the Board of Education for the donation of kitchen equipment to the Lions Club food service department.

5. **Superintendent's Update**

- * Welcome Back to the 2023 – 2024 school year.
- * Tuesday, August 22, 2023, New Teacher Orientation.
- * Professional Development on high quality instruction.
- * Coherent and goal alignment across the district with a focus on academic achievement.
- * Technology and Maintenance have been very busy throughout the summer. Utilization of ESSER funds and switching over to lease agreements, we have completed significant technology upgrades throughout the district. We will be able to provide updated devices to the entire certified faculty and devices to our entire non-certified staff.
- * Utilizing some remaining funds from last years' projects, we were able to finish off the Music classroom at Eli Terry Jr. Middle School.

Mrs. Melillo – Assistant Superintendent

Summer School Summary

- * The district ran two different summer schools for our students.

This year's regular education summer school program was funded through ESSERS. A total of 47 students in kindergarten through 8th grade participated in a three-week program in July focusing on ELA, Writing, and Mathematics.

Twenty-One middle and high school students participated in a three-week enrichment program focusing on career skills and personal finance. Fifteen high school students participated in a six-week credit recovery program.

Some of our special education students participated in ESY, our extended school year program. This was a six-week program for students in APPLE and a three-week program for students receiving special education who required instruction in Reading, Mathematics, and/or Writing over the summer. There was a total of 23 students in APPLE ESY and 58 students in our three-week program.

Teachers left time to have fun with water play on Fridays and theme days, i.e. beach day and pajama day. A thank you went out to Summer school coordinators, regular and special education teachers, related services providers, and paraprofessionals that worked this year's summer school.

Mr. Falcone

- * Three new BOE Student Representatives from Terryville High School will begin in September. As the Board discussed, their reports will focus on reporting more about experiences in our schools, i.e. what was it like coming back to school this year? The Pep Rally, etc.

* Mr. Falcone thanked the administration, technology department, maintenance department, secretaries and everyone involved in getting the district ready to open for the 2023 – 2024 school year. He is looking forward to an amazing school year with our children, faculty and staff.

Mr. Seaman welcomed Mrs. Melillo in her new role as Assistant Superintendent of Schools.

6. **New Business**

(a) **Plymouth Board of Education Policies – First Read**

Each Board Member was given a copies of these policies. Which will be brought forward at the September 13, 2023 for a second read and approval.

(b) **Plymouth Board of Education Goals**

MOTION: To entertain a motion to approve the Plymouth Board of Education Goals for 2023– 2024 as submitted. Motion Mr. Showers, second Mrs. Lucian, any discussion, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion carries.

(c) **DRAFT Board of Education Meeting Dates for 2024**

Each Board Member was provided a draft copy of the Board of Education Meeting Dates for 2024. This will be voted upon at the September 13, 2023 Board of Education Meeting

(d) **Textbook Approval – Mr. Seaman, Chair**

MOTION: To entertain a motion to approve the purchase of the following textbook for Terryville High School, “Fire Fighter Skills and Hazardous Materials Response” Motion Mr. Perugino, second Mr. Foote, any discussion, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion carries.

Comments – Mr. Falcone: Thanked Russ Fuller for running the fire program for a number of years at the high school. Mr. Fuller actually brought the program into the high school.

Mr. Seaman – Shelley Forker, will be the part-time teacher for the fire program. Shelley is a career firefighter in the city of Stratford full-time and teaches at the college level. She will be the teacher of record for this program. Some of the guest speakers, Fire Chiefs from the cities of New Haven, Hartford and Waterbury.

7. **Board Member/Committee Reports**

A. **Finance/Operations** - Mr. Tencza, Business Manager

- Included in the packet are the following; Accounts by Facilities Report for the fiscal yearend June 30, 2023; and Accounts by Facilities Report for the month of July 2023 along with the following submissions: (1) Board of Education Budget Summary Through June 30, 2023 (Fiscal Year 2022 – 2023 Final); (2) Cumulative Total Board of Education Budget % By Month (June 2022 – 2023 – Final); (3) Food Services Financial Performance Year to Date (July 1, 2022 thru

June 30, 2023 – Final); (4) Business Office Activity Report (June 2023); (5) Monthly Budget Report (June 30, 2023 – Final); (6) Business Office Activity Report (July 2023); (7) Monthly Budget Report (July 31, 2023); (8) Board of Education Budget Summary Through July 31, 2023 (Fiscal Year 2023 – 2024); (9) Food Services Financial Performance Year to Date (July 1, 2023 thru July 31, 2023) (10) Board of Education Budget Expenditures % By Month – July 2023 – 2024); and (11) 2023 -2024 Plymouth Public School Capital Improvement Plan (updated August 8, 2023).

Mr. Tencza, Business Manager

(a) The district is introducing a new on-line payment system, School Cash. Parents will receive an e-mail from the school district on August 18th inviting them to set up an account. When this program is up and fully running, parents will be able to pay for nearly all school activities, i.e. class fees, yearbooks, etc. on-line. Cash and checks will no longer be needed. The program will be introduced slowly beginning with Chromebook insurance which is offered to all students. By using this on-line system, this will reduce the handling of cash coming in the building.

(b) Thank you to Alicia DaPonte, who has been the district's Food Service Director and is now pursuing a job opportunity in another school district. Alicia has done an outstanding job.

The district is excited to Welcome Jessica Peterson who will be replacing Alicia as the district's Food Service Director.

- The Accounts by Facilities Reports will be forwarded to the Town of Plymouth Board of Finance

B. Personnel Report – Mr. Falcone, Superintendent

Each Board Member was provided a copy of the Personnel Report.

8. Board Liaison Reports

Please forward Mr. Seaman as to your choice of Board Liaison for a particular school or if you would like to remain at your current school.

Mr. Falcone – This year there will not be the traditional open houses at Plymouth Center and Harry S. Fisher Elementary Schools. Rather, on August 24 there will be a Meet & Greet at both schools which will allow children and parents to meeting their teachers. Plymouth Center Meet & Greet will take place from 4 p.m. – 6 p.m. and Harry S. Fisher Elementary School Meet & Greet will take place from 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. This will allow parents to attend both should they have a child in both schools.

Grade 6 Orientation will take place on August 24th and Open House will be on September 7th.

Terryville High School Open House will we be on September 12th.

All Board Members are welcome to attend any of the events.

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

None

10. **Board Comments**

Mr. Zbuska – Glad to be back. On August 24th, members of the Plymouth Center School PTA will have sign up for parents to join.

Mr. Perugino - No liaison report. However, expressed how pleased he was to see the Fire Prevention Class will be up and running this school year at the high school. Thanked the Board for their approval and for all the work Mr. Seaman did to get the program in place.

Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani – Again, PTA, Friends of Music, Booster Club, PTSA are looking for members.

Mrs. Lucian – Wishes for a good, safe and happy beginning to the new school year.

Mrs. Kulesa – Welcome Back.

Mr. Foote – Correction he was not a firefighter but a Commissioner. Echoed Mr. Perugino's comments with respect to the Fire Program. He thanked the Board on behalf of the Lion's Club for the donation of equipment to their cafeteria.

Ms. Tilton – Welcome to all new staff members and have a wonderful school year.

Mr. Showers – Welcome Back. Also, paving on Route 6 will begin on August 23rd.

Mr. Falcone – The bus company is aware of this and the district is working with them.

With respect to Convocation: On Wednesday, August 23rd, all staff will report to their buildings for breakfast. At that time computers will be distributed followed by a faculty meeting. Convocation will begin at 10:45 a.m. in the auditorium at Terryville High School which will last approximately ½ hour. Following convocation, there will be a district-wide picnic for approximately 1 hour. Following that, teachers will report back to their respective schools to get ready for the new school year. Invitations will be sent to all Board Members.

11. **Next Board Meeting** –The next Regular Meeting of the Plymouth Board of Education is on Wednesday, September 13, 2023 at 7 p.m. in the cafeteria at Terryville High School.

12. **Executive Session** (Items will be discussed in executive session)

MOTION: To entertain a motion to enter into executive session at 7:24 p.m. with respect to:

- (a) Facilities discussion
- and
- (b) Athletic Trainer Contract

inviting Mr. Falcone, Superintendent, Mrs. Melillo, Assistant Superintendent and Mr. Tencza, Business Manager. Motion Mr. Foote, second Mr. Showers, any discussion, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion carries.

13. **Resume Regular Session**

Mr. Seaman, Board Chair resumed regular session at 8:33 p.m.

14. **Possible Action From Executive Session**

(a) Facilities Discussion – No Action Taken

(b) MOTION: To entertain a motion to approve the Athletic Trainer Contract 2023 – 2024 as discussed in executive session. Motion Mrs. Lucian, second Mr. Showers, any discussion, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion carries.

15. **Adjournment**

MOTION: To entertain a motion to adjourn at 8:34 p.m. Motion Mr. Showers, second Mrs. Lucian, all in favor, motion passes.



Patricia Piskorski
Recording Secretary
Plymouth Board of Education