



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, FEBRUARY 14, 2024

7:00 P.M.

MINUTES

Present: Mrs. Kulesa, Mr. Showers, Mr. Foote, Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani, Mr. Perugino and Mr. Zbuska
Attendance by means of electronic equipment: Ms. Tilton and Mrs. Lucian
Absent: Mr. Seaman

Also Present: Mr. Falcone, Superintendent, Ms. Melillo, Assistant Superintendent and
Mrs. Mozak-Pezza, Director of Curriculum & Instruction

Absent: Mr. Tencza, Business Manager

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

Mrs. Kulesa, Board Chair 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. 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 following minutes:

- a) Special Meeting (Retreat) and Regular Meeting of the Plymouth Board of Education on January 10, 2024
- b) Special Meeting of the Board of Education Finance Committee and Special Meeting of the Plymouth Board of Education (1st Budget Workshop – Budget 2024 – 2025 on February 6, 2024.

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

4. **Student Representatives**

Jacob Darrell – Wrestling Team finished 3rd in the Berkshire League Tournament; Seniors – Duck Hunt and receiving responses from colleges; CICA Scholar-Athlete Award recipients, Morgan Slevinski and Charlie Rogers; and Connecticut Association of Schools recipients, Jacob Darrell and Hannah Foster.

Charlotte Greene – Drama Club – “High School Musical” and January 22nd, CPR Training.

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

Mark Lussier – February 19th – Unified Buddies – Terryville and Thomaston gathered at Thomaston Lanes for a bowling match; and Boys’ and Girls’ Basketball season is coming to a close and February 15th – Senior Night.

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

None

6. **Superintendent’s Update**

- a) Thank you to Mrs. DeCarolis and her food class for the Valentine treats for the Board.
- b) Congratulations to Jacob Darrell and Hannah Foster of the Connecticut Association of Schools Art Award. Recognition will take place this spring at a banquet at the Aqua Turf.
- c) Congratulations to Morgan Slevinsky and Charlie Rogers recipients of the CIAC Scholar-Athlete Award. Recognition will take place this spring at a banquet at the Aqua Turf.
- d) Congratulations to the nine Terryville High School students who will be inducted into the National Honor Society on February 29th.
- e) The Drama Club held open auditions for both middle school and high school students for the spring performance of “High School Musical”.
- f) The Plymouth Food Pantry thanks the school district for their support and generosity for food and monetary donations throughout the holiday season.
- g) Mrs. Melillo spoke about Unified Buddies with respect to both the middle school and high school.
- h) Winter Break – February 19 – 23, 2024.
- i) Board of Education Budget Presentation to the Town of Plymouth Board of Finance on Thursday, March 14, 2024, at 7 p.m. in the Community Room at Town Hall.
- j) Town of Plymouth Board of Finance Budget Presentation followed by Tri-Meeting (Board of Finance; Town Council and Board of Education) on Thursday, April 18, 2024, at 7 p.m. in the Community Room at Town Hall. Full Board Attendance Required

7. **New Business**

(a) **Adoption of 2024 – 2025 Plymouth Board of Education Budget and Vote**

MOTION: To entertain a motion to adopt the Plymouth Board of Education Budget for 2024 – 2025 as presented to the Board with an increase of \$876,641 or 3.35% over last year’s budget. Motion Mr. Perugino, second Mr. Foote.

There being no discussion, the following roll called was made.

ROLL VOTE: Mr. Showers - No Ms. Tilton - Yes Mr. Foote - Yes

Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani - Yes Mr. Perugino - Yes Mr. Zbuska - Yes

Mrs. Lucian - Yes Mrs. Kulesa - Yes

7 YES 1 NO

Motion carries

8. **Business Manager’s Report and Personnel Report**

(a) **Business Manager’s Report**

- Included in the packet are the following: Accounts by Facilities Report for January 2024 and 7 different submissions:
 - (1) Business Office Activity Report.
 - (2) Board of Education Budget Summary Report through January 2024.
 - (3) Cumulative Total Board of Education Budget % by Month.
 - (4) Food Service Report.
 - (5) Monthly Budget Report for January 2024
 - (6) Capital Improvement Plan 2023 – 2033
 - (7) Explanation of Negative balances (in excess of \$2000.00) for January 2024
- The Accounts by Facilities Reports will be forwarded to the Town of Plymouth Board of Finance

(b) Personnel Report

9. Committee Reports

(a) Assignment of Committee Chairs

Chair, Curriculum Committee Mrs. Lucian

Chair, Finance Committee Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani

Chair, Policy Committee Ms. Tilton

Chair, Facilities Committee Mr. Perugino

(b) Special Board of Education Finance Committee Meeting – Mrs. Kulesa/Mr. Falcone

A Special Board of Education Finance Committee Meeting took place on Tuesday, February 6, 2024, regarding the Textbook Account. After a brief discussion, the following motion was made:

MOTION: To entertain a motion, to approve the recommendation of the Board of Education Finance Committee of February 6, 2024, to move the amount of \$134,552.19 from the Textbook Account to the Activities Account. Motion Mr. Showers, any discussion, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion carries.

(c) Special Board of Education Policy Committee Meeting

A Special Board of Education Policy Committee Meeting took place prior to the Board Meeting regarding the following tabled modified policies:

* P-4005 Reports of Suspected Abuse or Neglect of Children or Reports of Sexual Assault of Students by Employees.

* P-4015 Increasing Educator Diversity Plan.

* P-5001 Administration of Student Medications in the Schools

MOTION: To entertain a motion, to approve the recommendation of the Board of Education Policy Committee, to approve the following tabled Modified Policies: P-4005; P-4015; and P-5001.

Motion Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani, any discussion, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion carries.

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

Rebecca Allen, 17 Meghan Boulevard, Plymouth – Commented on how pleased she was with our cafeteria.

11. Board Liaison Reports

Mr. Perugino/Ms. Tilton -- Harry S. Fisher Elementary School
Planning for 5th grade celebration and on February 16th school assembly, NED's Mindset Mission Performance

Mr. Zbuska -- Plymouth Center School
Student Store, Valentine Theme; Discount on orders before March 31st for yearbooks and information can be found on the PTA Facebook page; March 31st is Bingo Night from 6 p.m. – 7 p.m.; March 15th – 22nd is the Book Fair and Parent/Teacher Conferences – March 20th – 22nd.

Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani -- Eli Terry Jr. Middle School
April 19, Auction beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the cafeteria; IGA Round-Up from March 17th – March 24th and Obstacle Course for Kids – April 16th.

Mrs. Kulesa/Ms. Tilton -- Terryville High School
No Report – However, Mrs. Kulesa reminded high school parents to be on the lookout for fundraiser which benefits a safe after grad party for seniors.

Mrs. Kulesa -- EdAdvance
No Report – However, Dr. Jeffrey Kitching has announced his retirement of Executive Director and Jonathan Costa has been named the new Executive Director of Edvance.

12. **Board Comments**

Mr. Showers; Mr. Foote; Mr. Zbuska; Mr. Perugino; Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani; Ms. Tilton; and Mrs. Lucian

Happy Valentine's Day; PTA at Plymouth Center School does a great job; comment on the Unified Arts Buddies that appeared in the Republican American and positive feedback from the parent on the cafeteria staff; Thank you to the food class for the Valentine treat; Impressed with the School Newsletters, however, looking for more from the high school; Need to work with the stake holders to pass this budget. Encourages attendance on the March 14th meeting at Town Hall and thank you to the student representatives for their reports. (Note: some of the comments were inaudible.)

Mrs. Kulesa, Board Chair – Appreciates everyone's time and attendance at tonight's meeting. Happy Valentine's Day.

Mr. Perugino – Inquires if there was a way Board Members could be notified of activities taking place. For example: Book Fair, Bingo Night, Paint Night, etc.

13. **Next Board Meeting** –The next Regular Meeting of the Plymouth Board of Education will be held on Wednesday, March 13, 2024, at 7 p.m. in the cafeteria at Terryville High School.

14. **Adjournment**

MOTION: To entertain a motion to adjourn 7:33 p.m. Motion Mr. Showers, second, Mrs. Lucian, all in favor, motion carries.

Respectfully Submitted



Patricia Piskorski
Recording Secretary
Plymouth Board of Education