



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, MARCH 13, 2024

7:00 P.M.

MINUTES

PLYMOUTH, CT
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
RECEIVED FOR RECORD
2024 MAR 20 AM 9:38
TOWN CLERK

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

Absent: Mr. Seaman and Mrs. Lucian

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

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

Mrs. Kulesa, Chair called the Regular Meeting of the Plymouth Board of Education of March 13, 2024, 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.

3. **Approval of Minutes**

MOTION: To entertain a motion to approve the minutes of the:

(a) Regular Meeting of the Plymouth Board of Education held on February 14, 2024

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

4. **Presentation** – Mrs. Hurd, Assistant Principal Terryville High School

Terryville High School Students presented a brief overview of services provided by the Career Center as well as a summary of the new CEC (Career Exploration Capstone) course. Students also shared about how the Career Center has personally helped them with their individual career planning and postsecondary goals.

5. **Student Representatives**

Jacob Darrell – 2/26 Academic Bowl Tournament hosted by Housatonic. THS maintained the top two individuals' scorers, Jacob Darrell, and Nicholas Gwizd.

2/29 – National Honor Society Induction Ceremony (9 new members)

3/20 – National Honor Society to host a Dodge Ball Tournament

Charlotte Greene – 3/22 SAT's begin. Portion of report inaudible.

Mark Lussier – 3/12 – FBLA Students attended a conference at Naugatuck Valley Community College. Boys' and Girls' Basketball – both teams made the State Tournament. Wrestling – Two wrestlers were qualified to compete in the State Open Tournament. Getting ready for spring sports.

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

John Murphy, 385 Greystone Road, Terryville

*Budget Season and increase in taxes, infrastructure

*Top heavy in administration

*Niche System (grades schools under performance)

*NPHF Electricity - \$274,000 (Mr. Tencza – electricity for THS building.

*Question the Solar Panels and their performance.

Aubrey Newbury, 144 E. Plymouth Road

*Commented on recent notification of the closing of Head Start. Looking to the district as she has a four-year-old child.

Dan Gentile, 269 Mt. Tobe Road

*Commented on the recent notice of Head Start closing. This is a Federal Program.

7. **Superintendent's Update**

- (a) Two small tokens were placed at each Board Members seat in recognition of Board of Education Appreciation Month. They are small thank you gifts for all they do for our children and our school community.
- (b) Eli Terry Jr. Middle School will be hosting a Social Media Awareness Presentation on Tuesday, March 19th at 6 p.m. in the library. State Police Officer James White will be informing parents about the current issues students are navigating through with cell phones, social media, and the internet.
- (c) Plymouth Center School PTA is working closely with Mrs. Loveland, Principal and Cory Mazon, Literacy Coach, to host the author of the children's book series Biscuit. In order to connect with the theme of the books, students in all classrooms have the opportunity to read to Remy, a therapy dog, certified by Bright Spot Therapy Dogs.
- (d) On Thursday, March 14, 2024, we will be presenting the Board of Education Budget to the Plymouth Board of Finance at 7 p.m. in the Community Room at Town Hall.
- (e) The Plymouth Board of Finance Budget Presentation and the Public Hearing will be held on Thursday, April 18, 2024, at 7 p.m. in the Community Room at Town Hall. Following the presentation and public hearing, there will be a Special Joint Meeting with the Plymouth Town Council, the Plymouth Board of Finance, and the Plymouth Board of Education.
- (f) Barring any unforeseen circumstances, the last day of school is set for Wednesday, June 12, 2024.
- (g) Graduation Date: Terryville High School graduation date is set for Tuesday, June 11, 2024. This date was chosen because the After Graduation Event is currently scheduled for June 11, 2024, as June 12, 2024, is not available. We are hoping to hold graduation outdoors, however, if the weather does not cooperate, the ceremony would be moved indoors to the auditorium.
- (h) The school district will be closed on March 29, 2024, in observance of Good Friday. Spring Break begins on Monday, April 8, 2024, and goes on through Friday, April 12, 2024.

8. New Business

(a) Healthy Food Certification 2024 – 2025

All public-school districts participating in the NSLP must submit the *Healthy Food Certification Statement – Addendum to Agreement for Child Nutrition Program (ED-099)* by July 1, 2024, to certify whether or not all food items sold to students will or will not meet Connecticut Nutritional Standards.

- **Healthy Food Option:** Pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-215f, the board of education or governing authority certifies that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools under its jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to, school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, culinary programs, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or by non-school organizations and groups.

MOTION: To entertain a motion to implement the healthy food option.

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

If the board of education or governing authority votes “yes” for the healthy food option above, the board of education or governing authority **must also vote** on whether to allow food exemptions, as indicated below. ***NOTE:** If the board of education or governing authority votes “no” for the healthy food option above, a vote on whether to allow food exemptions is not required.*

- **Exemption for Food Items:** The board of education or governing authority will allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the food items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An “event” is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. For example, soccer games, school plays, and interscholastic debates are events but soccer practices, play rehearsals, and debate team meetings are not. The “regular school day” is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. “Location” means where the event is being held.

MOTION: To entertain a motion to allow the food exemptions. Motion Mr. Showers, second, Mr. Foote, any discussion, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion carries.

- **Beverage Exemptions:** The Board of Education or governing authority will allow the sale to students of beverages not listed in Section 10-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the beverages are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An “event” is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting or extracurricular activity. The “school day” is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. “Location” means where the event is being held and must be the same place as the beverage sales.

MOTION: To entertain a motion to allow for the beverage exemptions. Motion Mr. Showers, second, Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani, any discussion, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion carries.

(b) Proposed 2025 – 2026 School Year Calendar

This was a draft of the proposed 2025 – 2026 School Year Calendar for the Board's review.
This item will be voted on at the April 17, 2024, Board of Education Meeting.

(c) Diversity Plan

Mr. Falcone presented an overall explanation of the Educator Diversity Plan to the Board.
Legislative Requirement, the Educator Diversity Plan to be approved by March 15, 2024, and submitted to the State Department of Education.

After a brief discussion, the following motion was made:

MOTION: To entertain a motion to approve the Diversity Plan as presented. Motion Ms. Tilton, Second, Mr. Perugino, any discussion, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion carries.

(d) Sinking Fund

Mr. Falcone reviewed the items requested.

MOTION: To entertain a motion to approve utilizing an estimated \$363,921.34 from the Sinking Fund for the following:

• Building Security Cameras	\$182,586.34
71% reimbursement, State \$130,421.42; Plymouth \$52,164.92 (pay total & get reimbursed)	
• Terryville High School Auditorium Lighting	51,335.00
• Air Quality Study Plan & HVAC Study Plan	100,000.00
• Replace Leaking Hot Water Coil at Terryville High School	15,000.00
• Install Fencing at Plymouth Center School	<u>15,000.00</u>
	\$363,921.34

and any monies not used from this allocation will be returned to the Sinking Fund upon completion of the projects. Motion Mr. Foote, second, Mr. Perugino, any discussion

After a brief discussion, the following motion was made:

ROLL VOTE: Mr. Showers Yes Ms. Tilton Yes Mr. Foote Yes

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

Mrs. Kulesa Yes

VOTE: 7 YES 0 NO motion carries.

9. Business Manager's Report and Personnel Report

a. Business Manager's Report

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

Mr. Tencza, Business Manager

- No budget freeze to date.
- End of the year wrap up.
- Security Camera Upgrade Project – Nationwide Security Corporation is the vendor.
- Non-Certified Staff Agreement – Custodial and Maintenance needs to be addressed by June 30, 2024.

The Board has given authority to the Superintendent and Business Manager to negotiate.
Request from Mr. Perugino – He would like a copy of the current agreement.

b. Personnel Report

No Questions

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

Erica Lavoie, 2 Magnolia Lane

- *Commented on the presentation
- *Diversity Plan – where are the funds coming from; is there access to the plan online; wants to know more about the plan.

Roxanne Perugino, 82 Allen Street, Terryville

- *Congratulations on the budget and hopes the council supports it
- *Individuals need to know where the money is going, what mandates are and contractual obligations
- *\$250,000 for an Irrigation System is a waste. Who is responsible for upkeep and maintenance. Funds can be used elsewhere.

Dan Gentile, 269 Mt. Tobe Road

- *Condition of fields
- *Unfunded Mandates
- *Cell Phones
- *Hardest decision to make is the right decision. The Board has a voice. There is always a choice to make the right decision

11. Board Liaison Reports

Mr. Perugino/Ms. Tilton -- Harry S. Fisher Elementary School

3/11 – 3/15 Book Fair
3/20 – 3/22 Parent/Teacher Conferences
3/23 Pasta Dinner Fundraiser for the Food Pantry
3/27 5th Grade Paint Night

Mr. Zbuska -- Plymouth Center School

3/1 Bingo Night (a huge success)
3/15 – 3/22 Book Fair (will also take place during parent conferences)
3/31 End of yearbook pre-sale

Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani -- Eli Terry Jr. Middle School

3/19 Digital Media Awareness
3/17 – 3/24 Student/Staff Basketball Game
3/16 Wit and Grit Assembly

Mrs. Kulesa/Ms. Tilton -- Terryville High School

Please support and participate in fundraisers as they support the After Graduation Party for our graduation seniors. Encourages parents to get involved. We need your support.

Mrs. Kulesa -- EdAdvance

No Report

12. **Board Comments**

Overall Board Comments: Great Presentation; Thank you for the gifts; Thank you to the community for their support; Thank you to the principals for informing the Board of the various activities at their school, i.e. Bingo Night, Pasta Dinner, comment on the sinking fund; and support our budget.

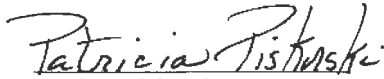
Mrs. Kulesa – Thank you to all of those individuals who made public comments. Board supports Universal Pre-K and is looking at ways to offer this.

13. **Next Board Meeting** –The next Regular Meeting of the Plymouth Board of Education is on Wednesday, April 17, 2024, at 7 p.m. in the cafeteria at Terryville High School.

14. **Adjournment**

MOTION: To entertain a motion to adjourn at 8:11p.m. Motion Mr. Showers, second, Mr. Foote all in favor, motion carries.

Respectfully submitted,



Patricia Piskorski
Recording Secretary
For the Plymouth Board of Education