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Linda Kulesa
TOWN CLERK

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

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24, 2024

7:00 P.M.

MINUTES

Present: Mrs. Kulesa, Mr. Showers, Ms. Tilton, Mr. Foote, Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani, Mr. Perugino and Mr. Zbuska
Mrs. Lucian (in attendance, arrived late)
Absent: Mr. Seaman

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

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

Mrs. Kulesa Chair called the Special Meeting of the Plymouth Board of Education of April 24, 2024, to order 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 Regular Meeting of the Plymouth of Education held on March 13, 2024. Motion Mr. Foote, second Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani, any discussion, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions motion carries.

4. **Presentation**

- (a) Student group presenting about STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math) (cancelled)
- (b) Video – Therapy Dog (cancelled)
- (c) CAPSS/LCSA Superintendent Student Recognition Award Recipients - Introduction by
Principals

Mr. Vigliotti, Principal Eli Terry Jr. Middle School

Joseph Poulin
Aria Roth-Perreault

Eli Terry Jr. Middle School
Eli Terry Jr. Middle School

Mr. Hults, Principal Terryville High School

Mark Lussier
Charles Rogers (absent)

Terryville High School
Terryville High School

Mr. Falcone – Students and parents have been invited to attend an awards program at the Grand Oak Villa in Oakville on May 1st.

5. **Recess & Resume Regular Session**

MOTION: To entertain a motion to recess at 7:12 p.m. to recognize the CAPSS/LCSA Student Award Recipients. Motion Mr. Showers, second Mr. Foote, all in favor, motion carries.

Return to Regular Session

Mrs. Kulesa, Board Chair resumed Regular Session at 7:25 p.m.

6. **Student Representatives**

Jacob Darrell

April 2 – April 7 – Band and Chorus went to Virginia Beach. Performance at Bush Gardens on April 5.

List of upcoming fundraising events

Freshman	Popcorn and Tumblers
Sophomores	Car Wash
Juniors	Coffee
Seniors	Spirit Wear Sale
Leo Club	May 12 – Mother's Day Breakfast
	May 15 – Harvest (inaudible)

Charlotte Greene

Drama Club Performance – High School Musical	April 26, 2024	@ 7 p.m.
	April 27, 2024	@ 2 p.m. & 7 p.m.

Teacher Appreciation Week – May 6 – May 10

Leo Club – Kindness Week

Mark Lussier

Update on Spring Sports
AP Exams – May 6 – May 17

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

Becca Allen, 17 Meghan Boulevard, Plymouth

Comment: Where would she find Board Regulations and Policies regarding absences of Board Members.

Mr. Falcone responded: Board of Education Policies are on-line on our website – Board of Education By-Laws which addressed concerns regarding Board Members.

Michael Caron – 141 Wolcott Road, Terryville

Comment: Preschool, wait list and lottery system.

Mr. Falcone – To respond to Mr. Caron's questions and concerns by phone.

8. **Superintendent's Update**

Due to the events of the day, Mr. Falcone's original report was handed out to the Board Members at the meeting.

Mr. Falcone spoke regarding the difficulties of the day with respect to the loss of Carolyn Celentano, a teacher who passed yesterday evening.

Mr. Falcone shared the following: Mrs. Celentano has been a member of our school community since 2012. She originally was hired as a Reading Tutor, went on to be a fourth-grade teacher at Harry S. Fisher Elementary School and eventually found her home teaching first grade. She had the ability to see the potential in every student and inspired them to believe in themselves.

The clock did not dedicate Carolyn's day, she was the first to arrive early and leave late at Plymouth Center School each day. She was a special teacher to our children, a great colleague to her peers and an outstanding person and educator. She will truly be missed.

Mr. Falcone asked we keep Carolyn's Family, her son, daughter and three grandchildren in our thoughts and prayers.

Upon hearing this sad news, working with Mrs. Loveland, Mrs. Melillo and Mrs. Mozak-Pezza the district was able to create a plan to support the faculty and staff at Plymouth Center School. The entire mental health staff from across the district approached the situation in a professional manner and Mr. Falcone thanked them for their hard work.

The entire Plymouth Center Faculty and Staff are an amazing group of individuals. Though devastated by the news about one of their colleagues, together, they were able to collect themselves and get through the day, knowing it was what they needed to do for the children. Mr. Falcone expressed being grateful for their professionalism, courage, and commitment to our children.

In his communications, it was felt not to share Mrs. Celentano's passing with the children at Plymouth Center or Harry S. Fisher Elementary Schools today. Rather, it was felt that it was more age appropriate for parents to have this conversation with their children. Resources were provided to assist parents with the conversation and plan to have mental health support in place tomorrow.

In conclusion, Mr. Falcone thanked Melissa Morelli, Math Interventionist at Plymouth Center School for taking over Mrs. Celentano's classroom for the remainder of the school year. While this is a difficult task, Mrs. Morelli's teaching experience and knowledge of the students in the classroom will help during this challenging time.

In conclusion, he once again asked everyone to please keep Mrs. Celentano's family in your thoughts and prayers and to be thankful for the amazing individuals who work with our children.

9. **Unfinished Business**

(a) **2025 – 2026 School Year Calendar**

MOTION: To entertain a motion to approve the 2025 – 2026 School Year Calendar with the following adjustment "first day for students is August 25, 2025". Motion Mrs. Lucian, second Mr. Perugino, any discussion, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion carries.

(b) Irrigation Bid

Following a brief discussion, the following motion was made:

MOTION: To entertain a motion not to proceed with the irrigation project and to return the amount of \$250,000 to the Town of Plymouth.

Motion Mr. Perugino, second Mr. Showers, any further discussion, there being none, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion carries,

10. New Business

(a) Out-of-State Field Trips

MOTION: To entertain a motion to approve an out-of-state field trip to Six Flags New England for Band and Chorus students in grades 9 – 12 at Terryville High School on May 10, 2024.

Motion Mr. Foote, second Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani, any discussion, there being none, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion carries.

MOTION: To entertain a motion to approve an out-of-state field trip to Washington, D.C. for 5 – 12 grade 10 – 12 students at Terryville High School from November 10, 2024, to November 15, 2024.

Motion Mrs. Florenciani, second Mr. Perugino, any discussion, there being none, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion carries.

11. Business Manager's Report and Personnel Report

(a) Business Manager's Report

- Included in the packet are the following: Accounts by Facilities Report for March 2024 and 6 different submissions; (1) Business Office Activity Report; (2) Board of Education Budget Summary through March 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 March 2024.
- The Accounts by Facilities Report will be forwarded to the Town of Plymouth Board of Finance

Mr. Perugino: Comment on the electricity costs per month and kwh:

Plymouth Center School	\$ 6,100
Harry S. Fisher Elementary School	\$ 6,100
Eli Terry Jr. Middle School	\$ 7,300
Terryville High School	<u>\$22,300</u>
	\$43,800

Mr. Sandshaw – Response – the amount of kwh is about nineteen cents. Solar Ray about an average of seventy-two cents (now owned by ConEd). Down 3 or 4 cents a kwh from where the district was in 2009 when solar power was discussed. If anyone chooses, he can go into further detail.

Mr. Falcone – School Closure – When the Board of Education Members rescinded their vote to close Harry S. Fisher Elementary School, it was decided the closing would not be discussed until after the budget process was completed. The budget process is now basically complete. The school closure will be placed as an item on the May 8, 2024, Board of Education Meeting Agenda. This is being mentioned and will also appear in tonight's minutes, so there is no misunderstanding, and the public is aware of this discussion. It is important for the public to know the Board has kept its word to wait until the budget process was completed. Where the outcome discussion on May 8th will lead will not be known until the May meeting.

(b) Personnel

No questions.

12. Committee Reports

• Curriculum Committee – Mrs. Kulesa, Board Chair

There was a Special Meeting of the Curriculum Committee prior to the Special Board Meeting. The following items were discussed:

(a) Textbook Approval

After discussion, the Curriculum Committee moved to forward the following textbooks to the full Board for approval.

MOTION: To entertain a motion, per recommendation of the Curriculum Committee, to approve the following textbooks:

- | | | |
|-----|-------------|---|
| (a) | Mathematics | Publisher: McGraw Hill Education
Reveal Algebra 1
Reveal Geometry |
| (b) | Spanish | Publisher: Vista Higher Learning
Descubre Levels 1, 2 3 |

Motion Mr. Foote, second Mr. Perugino any discussion, there being none, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion carries.

(b) K – 5 Reading Program – Informational Item. No action taken.

• Policy Committee – Ms. Tilton, Chair

There was a Special Meeting of the Policy Committee prior to the Special Board Meeting. The following is a list of modified policies which were discussed:

Modified Policies

Series 2000 - Administration

- P-2002 Retention and Disposition of Records and Information

Series 3000 - Business

- P-3006 Purchasing

Series 4000 - Personnel

- P-4008 Employee Use of The District's Computer Systems And Electronic Communications

Series 5000 - Students

- P-5013 Homeless Children and Youth
- P-5022 Student Discipline
- P-5026 Student Use of The District's Computer Systems And Internet Safety
- P-5031 Use of Private Technology Devices by Students
- P-5034 Admission to The Public Schools at Or Before Age Five

Series 6000 - Instruction

- P-6001 Policy Addressing Enrollment in An Advanced Course Or Program And Challenging Curriculum
- P-6010 Policy for The Equitable Identification of Gifted And Talented Students

After a brief discussion, the Policy Committee moved to forward the modified policies to the full Board for a first read.

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

Marty Sandshaw, 7 Richmond Drive, Plymouth Public School

- * Mrs. Card, Teacher, and the Transition Students
- * Arbor Day Celebration

14. **Board Liaisons**

Mr. Perugino/Mrs. Tilton -- Harry S. Fisher Elementary School
5/19 – 5/25 IGA Round Up
5/02 Testing
5/06 – 5/10 Teacher Appreciation Week
5/28 Concert
5/28 – 5/31 Art Show

Paint Night was a success. End of the Year Events are in the planning stage.
Parents of incoming third graders, please consider joining the PTA or volunteering.

Mr. Zbuska -- Plymouth Center School
5/26 Family Paint Night from 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.
5/10 School Store

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

Wit 'N' Gritt (PTA, Lions Club, Schools, and Volunteers were all involved) .
Auction
Wizards (possibility for next year)
Parents of incoming sixth graders, please consider joining the PTA or volunteering.

Mr. Foote/Ms. Tilton -- Terryville High School
Fundraiser from Business Letters that were mailed - \$2,875.00.
Graduation Signs go on sale this month.
Mother's Day Flower Sale – Plymouth Green, May (volunteers needed)
Mugs (20 oz tumblers) to be sold town wide with Terryville High School Logo
06/11 – After Grad Party at the Shelton Sports Center (returning at 5 a.m.)

Mrs. Kulesa -- EdAdvance
No Report – However, the next meeting will be in person at the Litchfield Office. She will not be able to attend, however, if anyone is available to attend, please contact her for information.
Mentioned: Individuals get involved in your child's PTA or considering volunteering.

Board Comments

In summary: (Mr. Zbuska) Possibility of sporting events to be displayed on the digital sign at the high school for passersby; (Mr. Perugino) Congratulations to the student award recipients; Thank you to Board Members for attending the tri-meeting; Disappointed with the Town Council and the Board of Finance Members for not having any questions when the Board of Education recommended returning the amount of \$250,000 to the Town; (Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani) Difficult day at Plymouth Center School and thank you to all of the staff; Drama Club – High School Musical – suggests mentioning this on social media to get people to attend; (Mrs. Lucian) Her absence at Board Meetings was due to back surgery; (Mr. Showers) WFSB – Channel 3 and WTIC Radio will be at the Eagle's Nest on April 26 from 5:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. broadcasting live; (Mrs. Tilton) Thank you to all staff for their hard work throughout the year; (Mrs. Kulesa) Expressed condolences to Mr. Falcone on the recent passing of his father; and all Board Members expressed condolences for Mrs. Celentano's family.

16. Next Board Meeting –The next Regular Meeting of the Plymouth Board of Education is on Wednesday, May 8, 2024, at 7 p.m. in the cafeteria at Terryville High School.
17. Executive Session - Personnel Matter (Recommended Budget Cuts and Contracts and Agreements (Items will be discussed in executive session))

MOTION: To entertain a motion to enter executive session at 8:23 p.m. inviting Mr. Falcone, Superintendent, Mrs. Melillo, Assistant Superintendent, Mr. Tencza, Business Manager Mrs. Mozak-Pezza, Director of Curriculum and Instruction and Andrew Deacon to discuss the following:

- (a) Personnel Matter (Recommended Budget Cuts)
- (b) Technology Contract (informational item)
- (c) Transportation Contract (informational item)
- (d) Custodian Agreement (informational item)
- (e) Maintenance Agreement (informational item)
- (f) Food Service Director Agreement (informational item)
- (g) Food Service Employees' Agreement (informational item)

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

18. Resume Regular Session
- Mrs. Kulesa, Chair resumed regular session at 9:50 p.m.
19. Possible Action from Executive Session (if any)
- NO ACTION TAKEN
20. Adjournment

MOTION: To entertain a motion to adjourn at 9:50 p.m. Motion Mr. Showers, second, Mrs. Lucian, all in favor, motion carries

Respectfully Submitted,


Patricia Piskorski

Recording Secretary
Plymouth Board of Education