



## 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, MAY 8, 2024

7:00 P.M.

### MINUTES

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

Absent: Mr. Foote

Also Present: Mr. Falcone, Superintendent, Mrs. 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 May 8, 2024, to order 7:01 p.m. The group joined in the Pledge to the Flag.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

MOTION: To entertain a motion to amend the agenda to add Item #9(aa) Adoption of New Budget. Motion Mr. Showers, second Mrs. Lucian, 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 held on April 24, 2024. Motion Mr. Perugino, second Mr. Showers, any discussion, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions motion carries.

PLYMOUTH, CT  
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE  
RECEIVED FOR RECORD  
2024 MAY 14 AM 9:19  
JOHN CLERK

4. **Presentation**

(a) **School Closure** – Power Point Presentation – Mr. Falcone, Superintendent

Board of Education's Three Options:

Option #1 – Decide not to entertain the discussion to close a building.

Option #2 – Table the discussion for a later date.

Option #3 – Further pursue the possible reduction of a school building by ordering that another facility study be completed by a qualified outside organization.

5. **Student Representatives**

**Jacob Darrell**

Upcoming Senior Class Events:	5/24	Holiday Hill Trip
	5/31	Senior Prom at Grand Old Villa
	6/06	Senior Dinner
	6/11	Graduation and After Grad Party
	5/10	Six Flags – Band and Chorus
	5/14	Spring Concert – Band and Chorus
	5/27	Band to participate in Memorial Day Parade
	6/03	Senior Dinner for those students in the Music Department

**Charlotte Greene**

Thank you to the Oporto Family for taking on the Spring Drama Club Production

One Hundred prom dresses were donated and collected. These dresses were available to students attending Wamago, Thomaston High School, Terryville High School and Lewis Mills High School.

**Mark Lussier**

Recently fifteen students from Terryville High School attended Coach Lee's Peer Excellence in Leadership Conference at Cheshire High School. Focus was on leadership, communication, team building and problem solving.

5/17 – Senior Give Back Day to the community. Sixty seniors signed up to participate in the following: the Police Department, Community Gardens, Fair Grounds, Congregational Church, Ambulance Corps, and the Town Green.

5/23 – Scholarship Night- over \$250,000 in scholarships will be given out.

At this time, the student representatives were excused.

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

Individuals participating in the first public comment were: Rebecca Allen, Wesley Donahue, Marty Sandshaw, Brooke Matuszczak, Melanie Church, Sara Nizzardo and Candace Telke. Some of those comments were: thank you for the presentation, regionalization, partnership with another small town, time line, grade, be real as to how much money is being saved by closing a school, population data, more recent update, involve town side if a building is going to be closed, what will be done with the building, parents want to be part of the process, outstanding job in keeping the public informed, proactive, in support of Option 2, reach out to the community, surveys, forums, more input, decrease in population of 60% since the census of 2000, layoff of teachers, encourage parents to attend budget meeting in order for them to see how the process works and consider some children may have separation anxiety should their school close.

7. **Superintendent's Update**

\* Congratulations to the following: Gina Tirino, Salutatorian

Milani Giovacchino, Valedictorian

\* Teacher Appreciation Week – The entire faculty and staff at each school were visited by a Mr. Softy Ice Cream Truck throughout this week. This was provided on behalf of the Board of Education and Administrative Team to thank every employee in the district for their hard work and commitment to our students and community.

\* Senior Give Back Day - The idea for this day of service is to thank the community the students grew up in by helping with various cleanup projects throughout town.

\* Reminders: The last three days of school: Monday, June 10<sup>th</sup> – Wednesday, June 12<sup>th</sup>. These are early dismissal days.

Harry S. Fisher Promotion Ceremony – Friday June 7<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m.

Terryville High School Graduation Ceremony – Tuesday, June 11<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m.

Eli Terry Jr. Middle School Step Up Program – Wednesday, June 12<sup>th</sup> at 9 a.m.

Last day of school – Wednesday, June 12<sup>th</sup>.

8. **Unfinished Business**

(a) **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

MOTION: To entertain a motion to approve the Modified Policies as presented.

Motion Ms. Tilton, second Mr. Seaman, any discussion, there being none, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion carries.

9. **New Business**

(a) **Reduction In Work Force Due to Budgetary Constraints**

Brief presentation followed by a discussion regarding the following:

Technology I – Specialist

Library Media Paraprofessional @ Plymouth Center School

Special Education Teacher @ Harry S. Fisher Elementary School

District-Wide Paraprofessional

After discussion, the following motion was made:

MOTION: To entertain a motion to approve the following reduction in positions due to budget constraints at the end of the 2023 – 2024 school year.

Technology I – Specialist  
Library Media Paraprofessional @ Plymouth Center School  
Special Education Teacher @ Harry S. Fisher Elementary School  
District-Wide Paraprofessional

and hereby direct the Superintendent of Schools to advise each person in writing of this action. Motion Mr. Showers, second Mr. Perugino, any further discussion, there being none, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion carries.

(b) School Closure/Board of Education Discussion

- Option #1:** Decide not to entertain the discussion to close a building.  
**Option #2:** Table the discussion for a later date.  
**Option #3:** Further pursue a possible reduction of a school building by ordering another facility study be completed by a qualified outside organization.

After the discussion, the following motion was made:

MOTION: To entertain a motion to select the following option.  
Motion Ms. Tilton, second Mr. Showers

ROLL VOTE as to each option.

Option #1		Option #2		Option #3
Mr. Showers	N	Mr. Showers	N	No Vote Was Needed
Ms. Tilton	N	Ms. Tilton	Y	
Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani	N	Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani	Y	
Mr. Perugino	N	Mr. Perugino	Y	
Mr. Zbuska	N	Mr. Zbuska	Y	
Mrs. Lucian	N	Mrs. Lucian	N	
Mr. Seaman	N	Mr. Seaman	N	

**Option #1**

Vote: Yes 0  
No 7  
Abstention 0

Option #1 - Fails

**Option #2**

Vote: Yes 4  
No 3  
Abstention 0

**Option #2 - Carries**

(c) Removal of Board Officers (ByLaws Policy 9019)

MOTION: To entertain a motion to table “initiate the formal procedure for the removal of a Board Officer due to the causes stated in Board of Education “Bylaws” – Policy -9019” and to place this item on the Agenda for a Special Board of Education Meeting on June 5, 2024, to be discussed in executive session. Motion Mr. Perugino, second Mr. Seaman, any discussion, there being none, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, any opposed, motion carries.

(d) Educator Evaluation Plan – Mrs. Mozak-Pezza, Director of Curriculum & Instruction

After a brief discussion, the following motion was made.

MOTION: To entertain a motion to approve the Education Plan as discussed. Motion Mr. Showers, second Mrs. Lucian, any further discussion, there being none, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion carries.

10. **Business Manager's Report and Personnel Report**

(a) **Business Manager's Report**

- Included in the packet were the following: Accounts by Facilities Report for April 2024 and 6 different submissions; (1) Business Office Activity Report; (2) Board of Education Budget Summary through April 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 April 2024.

Accounts-by-Facilities Report: Item: Athletic Area Maintenance – discussed.

Business Office Activity Report: Budget 2023 – 2024; Food Service Report; and items under Sinking Fund Approvals were reviewed.

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

(b) **Personnel Report** – Mr. Falcone, Superintendent

- \* Acknowledged Melissa Morelli for stepping in and taking over Mrs. Celentano's class.
- \* Brian Rosano resigning as Varsity Baseball Coach
- \* Patrick Norton moving from JV Baseball Coach to Varsity Baseball Coach
- \* Peter Veleas taking over as the JV Baseball Coach

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

Individuals participating in the second public comment were: Brian Dunn, Sara Nizzardo, Rebecca Allen, Erica Lavoie and Candace Telke, Summary: Option 2, correct decision, the district is not ready nor has all of the information to make a decision as to whether or not to close a school, not in favor of school closure, with respect to Terryville Talks, communication problem with respect to Mr. Falcone's budget cuts which contained a small amount of information, content is everything, spoke highly of the special education program, thanked the Board for voting for Option 2, we are here for our students, what is best for their education and for the community as a whole, appreciates the turnout at the meeting, addressed the public regarding attendance at meetings, urges this type of attendance at all meetings, feel free to contact the Board with any questions or concerns, money issue has been a problem for a long time and is a growing problem, it takes time to build up trust, appreciates Coach Norton taking on the position of Varsity Baseball Coach, and budgetary constraints and the need for adjustments.

12. **Board Liaison Reports**

Mr. Perugino/Ms. Tilton  
No Report

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Harry S. Fisher Elementary School

Mr. Zbuska  
5/10 – Last day for student store  
5/23 – Early Dismissal  
5/24 – Field Day  
5/28 & 29 – Art Show

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Plymouth Center School  
Impressed as to what a great job the PTA has done.

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

Wit "N" Gritt – signed up for next year and the year after. (discounted rate)

PTA positions at all schools are open. Also, if a parent is not interested in serving in a position, i.e. president, please consider volunteering on a committee. Preparing for end of the year events.

Mr. Foote/Ms. Tilton -- Terryville High School

No Report

However, Mrs. Kulesa did add the following: PTSA, final push for fundraising; Mother's Day Flower Sale at the Terryville Congregational Church and the primary focus at this stage is scholarships and fundraising for the after-grad party.

Mrs. Kulesa -- EdAdvance

No Report (unable to attend)

13. **Board Comments**

Mr. Perugino: Since he has been on the Board for 2 ½ years, he has noticed things are starting to smooth out considering we have been faced with various problems during some years. Intelligent decisions are being made. A few were made this evening. He thanked the public for their participation. The Board can learn things from public participation. By attending meetings, the public is also able to get the correct facts.

Mr. Seaman: Although it was an unpopular decision, he shared his thought process for the way he voted. He is not against education and children. He pushed bringing back Home Economics (Family & Consumer Science), Industrial Arts and the Stem Programs. Expenses rise every year and income is limited. The reason for voting for the study was to begin updating facts not to push for anything. Hoping to possibly prevent the loss of staff or programs within the schools. He understands and appreciates where the public is coming from. This is where he is coming from.

Ms. Tilton: Happy Teacher Appreciation Week; play was amazing; new lights in the auditorium made it much brighter and easier to walk around; encouraged Board Members to attend end of the year events at the schools (some of them occur in the evening); and thanked everyone who spoke during public comment as it is important to hear multiple perspectives.

Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani: Ditto with respect to Ms. Tilton's comments on the play; newsletters from the schools are detailed, many pictures and is much appreciated; Teacher Appreciation Week, many thanks for all you do and acknowledged PTAs for all their hard work as well.

Mrs. Lucian: Thanked everyone who came to the meeting and to those watching from home and it is great that we all starting to work as a team.

Mrs. Kulesa: Thanked those individuals who came to the Board Meeting and participated in public comment. Although questions are not answered, and there is a reason why, someone will always be in touch to address questions and/or concerns that need to be addressed. Different points of view are always welcome.


To expand on Mr. Perugino's comment, things are running smoothly, which she personally attributes to a strong administrative team who are appreciated. She thinks that sometimes they take a little bit of heat from the public which she feels is unwarranted. She feels a strong administrative team is vital to a school system. Others share her opinion; others disagree but it is okay to disagree.

14. Next Board Meeting –The next Regular Meeting of the Plymouth Board of Education is on June 5, 2024, at 7 p.m. in the cafeteria at Terryville High School.

15. Adjournment

MOTION: To entertain a motion to adjourn at 8:36 p.m. Motion Mr. Showers, second, Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani, all in favor, motion carries.

Respectfully Submitted



Patricia Piskorski

Recording Secretary

For the Plymouth Board of Education