



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, JUNE 5, 2024

7:00 P.M.

MINUTES

PLYMOUTH, CT
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
RECEIVED
2024 JUN 10 AM 9:33
TOWN CLERK

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

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 June 5, 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. Foote, 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:

(a) Special Meeting of the Plymouth Board of Education (Retreat)
held on May 8, 2024.

(b) Regular Meeting of the Plymouth Board of Education held on May 8, 2024.

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

4. **Presentation**

- (b) Paraeducator of the Year – Mrs. Melillo, Assistant Superintendent

Kristen Grandboise – Plymouth Center School

- (c) Teacher of the Year – Mrs. Mozak-Pezza, Director of Curriculum & Instruction

Nicole Levesque – ELA Teacher

- (d) Retirees

* Nurse, Eli Terry Jr. Middle School – Mr. Falcone, Superintendent
Jolene Dutkiewicz – Eli Terry Jr. Middle School

* Paraprofessional, Terryville High School – Mr. Falcone, Superintendent

Tracy Malootian – Terryville High School

- (e) Graduating Student Representatives: Mrs. Kulesa, BOE Chair

Jacob Darrell Charlotte Greene Mark Lussier

5. **Recess and Resume Regular Session**

MOTION: To entertain a motion to recess at 7:14 p.m. in recognition of Paraeducator of the Year, Teacher of the Year, Retirees and Graduating Student Representatives.
Motion Mr. Foote, second Mr. Seaman, all in favor, motion carries.

Resume Regular Session

Mrs. Kulesa, Chair resumed regular session at 7:27 p.m.

6. **Student Representatives**

Jacob Darrell – Introduced Ava Gwizd, Student Representative for 2024 – 2025

Charlotte Greene – Introduced Fallon Roth-Perreault, Student Representative for
2024 - 2025

Mark Lussier – Thanked the Board for a very enjoyable experience.

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

None

8. **Superintendent's Update**

(a) In Memory of Mrs. Celentano, a "Little Free Library" was made and placed at Plymouth Center School. Her class of 2023 – 2024 added their handprints to represent the impact she made on their lives. Families were encouraged to take a book they may be interested in reading. The book may be returned, passed on to a friend or families may leave a book they would like to share with others.

(b) Annual Scholarship Night was held at Terryville High School on May 23rd. All totaled, seniors received over \$300,000 in one-time and renewable scholarships which were the most ever received. Thank you to our local businesses, our community members and various organizations for their generous support and the investment they have made in our children.

(c) Harvest Pack was held in the Terryville High School Cafeteria on May 16th. This was put together by the LEO Club and several community members. Twelve Thousand Six Hundred Thirty-Six (12,636) meals were packaged to be sent to Ukraine. Thank you to Pastor Dick Dill, his team, Nicole McWilliams, Ryan Valentin, Marty Sandshaw and our LEO Club.

(d) In wrapping up the school year, thank you to the following: Our entire faculty, staff and administration; our parents, PTAs, the various community members, and the Board of Education for continuing to move forward with initiatives that will have a positive impact on teaching and learning.

May you all have a nice and relaxing summer.

9. **New Business**

(a) **End of the Year Transfers**

MOTION: To entertain a motion to authorize the Superintendent of Schools to work with the Business Manager in order to make the necessary transfers and expenditures to close the books as of June 30, 2024, and to expend funds for the fiscal year 2023 – 2024 and also to be able to utilize the budget 2024 – 2025 to authorize the Superintendent and Business Manager to expend those funds as needed until the August meeting of the Plymouth Board of Education.

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

(b) **Review of Cost of School Breakfast and Lunch Programs and Adult Lunches**

MOTION: To entertain a motion to approve an increase in the costs for the School Breakfast and Lunch Programs and Adult Lunches for the 2024 – 2025 School Year.
Motion Mr. Showers, second Mrs. Lucian,

Current Costs:

School Breakfast Program

	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
Elementary Schools	\$1.60	\$1.85 Increase
Middle School	\$2.00	\$2.25 Increase
High School	\$2.00	\$2.25 Increase

School Lunch Program

	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
Elementary Schools	\$2.90	\$3.25 Increase
Middle School	\$3.10	\$3.35 Increase
High School	\$3.10	\$3.35 Increase
Specialty Lunch	\$3.25	\$3.75 Increase
Adult Lunches	\$4.60	\$5.00 Increase

After a brief discussion, Mrs. Kulesa, Chair called for a Roll Vote:

INCREASE: School Breakfast Program School Lunch Program Adult Lunches	
Mr. Showers	Yes
Mrs. Tilton	Yes
Mr. Foote	Yes
Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani	Yes
Mr. Perugino	Yes
Mr. Zbuska	Yes
Mrs. Lucian	Yes
Mr. Seaman	Yes

Vote: 8 – Yes Vote was unanimous, motion carries

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

(a) Business Manager's Report

Review

1. Budget 2023- 2024 Status – Working towards the close of the school year.
2. Food Service – Turned a profit for the month of May. Unfortunately, the state funding will not be available in 2024 – 2025.
3. Sinking Fund Approvals
 - * Security Camera Project – Equipment has been delivered to our vendor. We anticipate work to commence at the high school immediately following the end of the year for students.
 - * Auditorium Project – All house lights and backstage lights have been replaced. The spotlight still needs to be replaced. We are working with vendors to get replacements.
 - * Fencing Project at Plymouth Center School is completed.

- * Mechanical Chiller at Terryville High School – Project is complete.
- *HVAC & Air Quality Studies – Remains on hold.
- 4. Additional Projects/Purchases
 - * Painting – Painting classrooms at both Eli Terry Jr. Middle School and Harry S. Fisher Elementary School and the stairways and library at Eli Terry Jr. Middle School.
 - * Gymnasium Floors – Both the high school and middle school gymnasium floors will be sanded and repainted over the summer.
 - * Re-hab of Plymouth Center School Pre-K Play Area - Some changes are being made to the play area to provide a more user-friendly and safer place area for those students.
 - * Service the Boilers at all schools
 - * State required reading program
- 5. New(used)Furniture – Law firm in Glastonbury liquidating nearly all their office furniture. They are donating the furniture to the Plymouth Public Schools, allowing us to upgrade much of our outdated and worn furniture.
- 6. Cafeteria Fund Balance – Notified by the State, the district must spend down its fund balance for the lunch program. Therefore, purchases will include new kitchen equipment, new high school seating and additional smallware purchases.

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

- (b) Personnel Report – Mr. Falcone, Superintendent
No questions

11. **Committee Reports**

*Curriculum Committee – Mrs. Lucian, Chair

There was a Special Meeting of the Board of Education Curriculum Committee at 6 p.m. prior to the Regular Board Meeting.

Mrs. Mozak-Pezza, Director of Curriculum and Instruction presented the following:
New Programs for Grades K – 5:

(a) Reading and Writing Programs: Wit and Wisdom
and
Geodes

(b) Phonics Program: University of Florida Literacy Institute
(UFLI) Foundations

After a brief discussion, the Curriculum Committee moved to forward these programs to the full Board for approval.

MOTION: To entertain a motion, per recommendation of the Curriculum Committee, to approve the following for the Reading, Writing and Phonics Programs for Grades K – 5:

Wit and Wisdom

Publisher: Great Minds PBC

Copyright: 2023

Geodes

Publisher: Great Minds PBC

Copyright: 2023

And

University of Florida Literacy Institute (UFLI) Foundations

Publisher: Ventris Learning

Copyright: 2023

MOTION: Mrs. Lucian, there being no further discussion, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion carries.

***Finance Committee** – Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani, Chair

There was a Special Meeting of the Board of Education Finance Committee at 6:30 p.m. prior to the Regular Board Meeting. The following were discussed:

- (a) End of the Year Budget Projection.
- (b) Review costs of School Breakfast and Lunch Programs and Adult Lunches

Mr. Tencza covered these items under the Business Manager's Report.

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

None

13. **Board Liaison Reports**

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

June 5th Field Day

June 7th Promotion Grade 5 Celebration

As always, the PTA is looking for volunteers on committees.

Mr. Zbuska -- Plymouth Center School

No Meeting – Comment – Individuals on the PTA are hardworking individuals. Very rewarding and really enjoyed working with this group of individuals.

Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani

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Eli Terry Jr. Middle School

No Meeting – Comment – The PTA Board has done a really good job. They have brought many good programs, i.e., Wizards and Wit “N” Grit, raised a lot of money, and did many good things this year. Thanks everyone who helped this year. Very good job.

Mr. Foote/Ms. Tilton

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Terryville High School

Meeting held on May 15th

Designer Bag Bingo # 1 - \$3,000

Designer Bag Bingo # 2 - \$4,000

Grad Signs - \$1,683

Yeti Mugs – (not all sold - \$99 deficit)

Grad Night - (broke even - \$2,000)

Idea to place a logo in the center of the gymnasium floor.

Mr. Falcone – Mr. Hults has an idea for a logo. However, this needs to wait until after the floor is sanded down.

Mrs. Kulesa

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EdAdvance

No Meeting

14. **Board Comments**

Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani – Enjoy the last few days of school and thank you to everyone for your hard work all year round.

Mrs. Tilton – Thank you to everyone for all the work they have put forth this year. To the parents who support their students and community, thank you as well.

Mrs. Lucian – Have a safe and healthy summer.

Mr. Perugino – Congratulations to the Teacher and Paraprofessional of the Year and to the two retirees.

15. **Next Board Meeting** – There will not be a Regular Board of Education Meeting in July. The next Regular Meeting of the Plymouth Board of Education is on Wednesday, August 21, 2024, at 7 p.m. in the cafeteria at Terryville High School.

16. **Executive Session – Personnel Related Matters** - (Items will be discussed in executive session)

MOTION: To entertain a motion to enter executive session at 7:50 p.m. to discuss the following inviting Mr. Falcone, Superintendent, Mrs. Melillo, Assistant Superintendent and Mr. Tencza, Business Manager

- (a) Extension of the Contract for the Superintendent of Schools
- (b) Extension of the Contract for the Assistant Superintendent of Schools
- (c) Extension of the Contract for the Business Manager

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

17. **Resume Regular Session**

Mrs. Kulesa, Chair resumed regular session at 8:41 p.m.

18. **Possible Action from Executive Session** (if any)

(a) Extension of the Contract for the Superintendent of Schools

The following action was taken:

MOTION: To entertain a motion to extend the contract for the Superintendent of Schools for the period July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027, as discussed in executive session.

Motion Mr. Showers, second Mr. Foote. At this time Mrs. Kulesa, Chair called for a

Roll Vote

	YES
Mr. Showers	x
Mrs. Tilton	x
Mr. Foote	x
Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani	x
Mr. Perugino	x
Mr. Zbuska	x
Mrs. Lucian	x
Mr. Seaman	x

Vote: 8 – Yes Vote was unanimous, motion carries

(b) Extension of the Contract for the Assistant Superintendent of Schools

MOTION: To entertain a motion to extend the contract for the Assistant Superintendent of Schools for the period July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027, as discussed in executive session.

Motion Mr. Foote, second Mr. Seaman

At this time, Mrs. Kulesa, Chair called for a

Roll Vote

	YES
Mr. Showers	x
Mrs. Tilton	x
Mr. Foote	x
Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani	x
Mr. Perugino	x
Mr. Zbuska	x
Mrs. Lucian	x
Mr. Seaman	x

Vote: 8 – Yes Vote was unanimous, motion carries

(c) Extension of the Contract for the Business Manager

MOTION: To entertain a motion to extend the contract for the Business Manager, for the period July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026, and July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027, as discussed in executive session. Motion Mr. Showers, second Mrs. Tilton. At this time, Mrs. Kulesa, Chair called for a

Roll Vote

	YES
Mr. Showers	x
Mrs. Tilton	x
Mr. Foote	x
Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani	x
Mr. Perugino	x
Mr. Zbuska	x
Mrs. Lucian	x
Mr. Seaman	x

Vote: 8 – Yes Vote was unanimous, motion carries

19. Adjournment

MOTION: To entertain a motion to adjourn at 8:44 p.m. Motion Mr. Showers, second, Mr. Foote, all in favor, motion carries.

Respectfully Submitted,



Patricia Piskorski
Recording Secretary for the
Plymouth Board of Education