



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
RETREAT
TERRYVILLE HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY
33 NORTH HARWINTON AVENUE
TERRYVILLE, CT 06786

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 21, 2024

5:30 P.M.

MINUTES

PLYMOUTH, CT
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
RECEIVED
2024 AUG 27 AM 9:49

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 of Schools and Mrs. Melillo, Assistant Superintendent of Schools

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

Mrs. Kulesa, Chair called the Special Meeting (Retreat) of the Plymouth Board of Education to order at 5:35 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 carried.

3. **Superintendent's Update**

(a) **Board of Education and Superintendent Roles and Responsibilities**

Highlights: Board Members are elected officials and work for the community.

The Superintendent is their only employee.

Technically, all others work under the supervision of the Superintendent.

As part of their responsibilities, the Board hires, fires and evaluates the Superintendent, sets policies, approves curriculum (textbooks included) and approves the budget. The Board runs the school district. Specific powers of the Board are addressed in the By-Laws – Series 9000.

Superintendent – The job of the Superintendent is to do what the Board charges him/her to do, upholds the policies, creates the long-range vision of the district based on his/her expertise as an educator over time, sets the vision to be approved or not approved by the Board; creates and presents the Budget to the Board for approval or disapproval; Negotiations (currently in negotiations with the PEA), day to day operations of the district; appoints individuals to positions; brings terminations to the Board; speaks weekly with the Board Chair and on Fridays/Saturdays sends weekly updates to the Board.

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

(b)

Update of Board of Education Goals

Highlights: Review and understanding of Board Goals for the 2024 – 2025 school year; changes to be made and possible adoption at the Board of Education Meeting tonight or otherwise revise further, if necessary.

Question – Mr. Seaman – How are the Well-Being Goals measurable? How do we measure that we created an environment and opportunities?

Answer – Mr. Falcone – There is a school climate survey that goes out to parents and students. The survey will show us where our weak spots are. The district works with EdAdvance in creating the survey. At the parent conferences, computers are outside of classrooms so parents can fill out the survey. Also, a link will be e-mailed to parents.

A problem which exists within our school district, we are still focusing on Academic Achievement. Due to a disconnect, test scores do not align to how hard we are working and the good work that is being done. How do we plan to address learning. What are the gaps when students are not receiving a common learning experience because one teacher teaches one way and another different way. Gaps are created in learning which impacts student achievement. Hopefully, these issues can be addressed by teachers speaking with one another in common planning time and planning lessons together. Thus every student walks out with this skill set. Understandably, some students will encounter problems, thus the reason for Interventionists. This allows us to teach the same things in all classrooms. We notice when we use our new programs, i.e., Math (went into place 2 years ago) we notice scores at Plymouth Center School have increased due to students receiving a common learning experience. They are moving and building on their skills. Students are not moving without the skills and the second, third and fourth grade teachers are aware of this. This is also a high school issue as well.

Question – Mrs. Tilton – Will you be looking at the other scores as well, example i-ready?

Answer – Mr. Falcone – We will not be sticking to one score as one score does not define any child. It is more looking at the benchmark scores.

(c)

Board of Education Meeting Norms

Highlights: A Board Member should either contact the Board Chair or Superintendent if he/she is unable to attend a meeting. Board needs to be transparent; no conversations should take place among Board Members during a meeting; Public Comment – The Board needs to run the district with protocols and procedures, therefore, there should be no response to public comment; be aware of facial expressions; if a parent contacts a Board Member with a complaint or question, either by e-mail or in person, please refer these concerns to the Superintendent. There should be no texting during meetings.

(d)

Organizational Chart

Highlights: Correction to the Organizational Chart – remove: District Technology Services and Town Technology Services as these no longer apply. The chart indicates who is responsible for what departments.

(e)

Committees

Curriculum Achievement

Michelle Lucian, Chair
Kelly Tilton
Richard Foote

Policy

Kelly Tilton, Chair
Louis Zbuska
Cindy Candrea-Florenciani

Finance/Operations

Cindy Candrea-Florenciani, Chair
Gregory Showers
Walter Seaman

Facilities

Patrick Perugino, Chair
Gregory Showers
Cindy Candrea-Florenciani
Louis Zbuska

Ad Hoc Committee (as needed)

Liaisons

Harry S. Fisher Elementary School
Plymouth Center School
Eli Terry Jr. Middle School
Terryville High School
EdAdvance

Mr. Perugino/Mrs. Tilton
Mr. Zbuska
Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani
Mr. Foote
Mrs. Tilton

(f)

Future Initiatives

Highlights of work that has been accomplished during the summer.

Improvements (one-time monies from the State to make improvements in our schools)

Harry S. Fisher Elementary School – All classrooms painted.

Plymouth Center School – Pre-K playground (two phase project)

Phase I – Drainage added; fence removed for safety reasons; grass replaced blacktop; and
Playscape (better pieces)

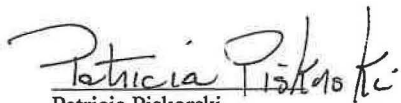
Eli Terry Jr. Middle School – Renovated Library: donated bookshelves and one twenty-foot table
which allows three classrooms to be housed at one time; carpet replaced (with insurance monies; dark
brick wall in library painted; and basketball court sanded down.

Terryville High School – Basketball court sanded down and stained.

Banners were purchased and placed at all the schools.

4. Adjournment

MOTION: Motion to adjourn at 6:08 p.m. Motion Mr. Showers, second Mrs. Tilton, all in favor, motion carries.



Patricia Piskorski
Recording Secretary
For the Plymouth Board of Education