



## 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, October 9, 2024**

7:00 P.M.

### MINUTES

Present: Mrs. Kulesa, Mr. Seaman, Mrs. Lucian, Mrs. Tilton, Mr. Foot, Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani, Mr. Perugini and Mr. Zbuska

Absent: Mr. Seaman and Mr. Showers

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

1. **Call to Order and Pledge to the**

Mrs. Kulesa Chair called the Regular Meeting of the Plymouth Board of Education of October 9, 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 Mrs. Lucian, 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:

(1) The minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Plymouth Board of Education of September 11, 2024

Motion Mr. Foote, second Mr. Perugini, any discussion, all in favor, any opposed, any (Mr. Zbuska) abstentions, motion carries.

PLYMOUTH, CT  
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE  
RECEIVED FOR RECORD  
2024 OCT 17 AM 9:20  
*Janet Kowalski*  
TOWN CLERK

4. **Student Representatives**

Fallon Roth-Perreault

- \* Fundraising – Drew Fowler’s Walk of God was very successful, and the event raised \$16,000 for pediatric cancer.
- \* Senior Activities – The high school guidance counselors hosted Senior Night on September 26<sup>th</sup> which helped parents and students on the college application process.
- \* Career Center – On September 24<sup>th</sup>, Mrs. Glaser the high school Career Counselor took over forty students to an all-day college tour of UConn.
- \* Student Office – The Student Council is working towards planning a Club Fair to highlight what is available at the high school.

Ava Gwizd

- \* The Class of 2025 is hosting a car wash at the Ambulance Corps on Saturday, October 12<sup>th</sup> from 9 a.m. – 12 noon to help raise money for the prom.
- \* Music Program – In September, the high school band, chorus, and color guard performed at the Big E. These groups also performed at the Mum Parade.
- \* Sports – Fall sports are in the second half of their season. The Boys’ soccer team had two big wins against Gilbert. Girls’ soccer has had six wins this season. Girls’ volleyball is getting more competitive as the season progresses. The cross-country team will participate in the Berkshire League Championships the week of October 14<sup>th</sup> at Black Rock State Park.

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

Prior to Public Comment, Mrs. Kulesa, Board Chair made the following statement: For the public coming up to the podium to speak, the Board is always appreciative to hear from the public. However, the Board asks that when speaking to please be mindful, do not make personal attacks against anyone on our staff. This is not fair. Sometimes, we may not share the same opinion, but one should always be kind when speaking about issues. To have a level of trust in those individuals who are in our schools and running the schools, to see the bigger picture and to see a little more about both sides of an issue. So, if we could just be kind, it would be very much appreciated.

Charles Minchenko, 7 Leslie Street, Terryville – Summary of Mr. Minchenko’s handout to the Board members. Currently, his daughter walks from Leslie Street to Prospect Street School for bus pickup. He feels the distance is too far for her to walk and it poses a danger in the early morning hours when it is dark outside. She would need to cross Route 6 and 72 in the dark and he feels this to be a dangerous intersection for cars let alone an individual trying to cross the intersection on foot. Therefore, Mr. Minchenko requests to the Board that the bus pick up his daughter at the corner of Leslie Street and Kearney Street or she can wait on the road outside of the bus lot when the buses pull out. As he stated, he would appreciate any help with this potentially dangerous issue.

Meg St. Germain, 28 Pearl Street, Terryville, - PTA President, spoke about some of the events at Plymouth Center School, i.e., the first Bingo Night took place at the end of September and there are more planned for January and February. These events are free to attend; the Book Fair will take place beginning on October 21<sup>st</sup> and continuing until October 25<sup>th</sup> with a monster theme. As always, volunteers are needed to help during school hours, for family hours every Wednesday and Thursday, and during school store days, which is the first Friday of the month. Volunteers are not only needed for fundraisers but for any family event. The PTA is always open to ideas. Any PTA officer can be reached at [pcsmustangspta@gmail.com](mailto:pcsmustangspta@gmail.com) Ms. St. Germain thanked the district for always supporting the PTA and the school.

Melanie Church, 328 Main Street, Terryville – Getting together a petition for the townspeople to sign to fix the government. Looking towards a town manager.

Wesley Donahue, 24 Knollwood Lane, Terryville – Introduced himself as the liaison to the Board of Education.

6. Superintendent's Update

\* Drew Fowler – A Junior at Terryville High School, hosted a walk for pediatric cancer awareness on Saturday, September 21<sup>st</sup>. The event raised over \$15,000 for both The Jimmy Fund and Connecticut Children's Medical Center. Mr. Falcone thanked everyone who came out to support the event and volunteered their time. This was a perfect example of the power everyone has to make a positive difference in the lives of others.

\* PSAT – PSATs, are given to the entire junior class and any interested sophomore students. They will be offered at Terryville High School during the school day on Wednesday, October 16<sup>th</sup>.

\* Congratulations to Mark Fowler, Terryville High School Athletic Director who has been appointed to the Connecticut Association of Athletic Directors Board of Control for the 2024 – 2025 school year. He will be representing our school, as well as other schools in our region, on various issues and topics involving high school athletics.

\*School Climate Plan – Concerns at the last board meeting concerning the lack of parental involvement at one of our schools. The Board was provided a copy of our District's School Climate Plan, the purpose of which is to share what we do to make the school welcoming and safe for all our students. A section in the plan identifies individual schools: Activities, Instructional Practices and Staff Trainings.

Activities Portion– Shows how our PTAs collaborate with our schools to foster a connection with their individual school communities. The plan may be found on the website under "District Information."

\* Update on Bus Company – All-Star is doing their best to service our district. However, they are short on drivers, which could impact on some of the bus routes in the future. Although they are fully staffed with daily drivers, their current substitute pool is a concern. All-Star is in the process of hiring additional drivers, but there is a six-week turnaround to get the drivers on the road. If the district is in a situation where we do not have a driver for a bus run, the district will work with the bus company to double up routes as has been done in the past.

\* Harlem Wizards – The Harlem Wizards will be returning to the town to play the Eli Terry Jr. Middle School and Plymouth Public School staff in basketball. There are a number of faculty members from the various schools who will be participating in the game as well as volunteering to work on the event. The Harlem Wizards game will take place at Eli Terry Jr. Middle School on Monday, November 4<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.

\* CABE Conference – The CABE Conference will take place on Friday, November 15<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, November 16<sup>th</sup> at the Mystic Marriott Hotel in Groton. This conference is geared towards providing professional development to: Superintendents, District Leaders, and Board of Education Members. There are a number of good learning opportunities at this event. Please let Pat know as soon as possible if you are interested in attending.

Mr. Perugino – Will Board Members be able to remain overnight?

Mr. Falcone – This would be a decision the Board would need to make.

MOTION: To entertain a motion, if any Board Member would like to stay overnight, the Board will pay for it. Motion Mr. Perugino, second Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani, any discussion, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, Mr. Foote abstains, motion carries.

7. Unfinished Business

1. Board of Education Policy – 5031 Students – Use of Private Technology Devices by Students (Second Read)

MOTION: To entertain a motion to approve Policy 5031 Students – Use of Private Technology Devices as revised. Motion Mrs. Tilton, second Mrs. Lucian, any discussion, there being none. all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion carries.

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

(1) **Business Manager's Report** – Mr. Tencza, Business Manager

- Included in the packet are the following - Accounts by Facilities Report for September and 6 different submissions.

- (1) Business Office Activity Report & Negative Balance Explanations
- (2) Food Service Financial Performance Year-to-Date (July 1, 2024 – September 30, 2024)
- (3) Board of Education Summary through September 30, 2024
- (4) Monthly Budget Report, September 30, 2024
- (5) Cumulative Board of Education Budget Expenditures % by Month, September 2024 - 2025
- (6) Capital Improvement Plan 2024 – 2033 Plymouth Public Schools (updated September 30, 2024)

**Summary** – (1) Budget Expenditures 2024 – 2025 – Spending is slightly ahead of last year.

(2) Food Service – The first profit and loss statement reflect not only all expenses from July 1 and the beginning of the year ramp up of purchasing, but it is also measured against only five weeks of revenue. We are currently preparing for our Administrative Review by the State. This will be the first review since 2017 - 2018 and this first as a team.

(3) Covid Relief Essers/ARP Grants – All funds have been successfully expended per grant requirements and there are no funds to return.

(4) 2023 – 2024 Annual Fiscal Audit – All documents have been provided electronically to the new audit team and we are now responding to questions.

(5) Capital Committee Meeting – On Thursday, September 26<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Falcone, Mr. Perugino and Mr. Tencza met with the Town's Capital Committee. The main purpose of the meeting, from their perspective, was to introduce the committee to the district's capital needs since Mr. Falcone and Mr. Tencza has not been before this committee since they joined the district. The meeting went well and there is an understanding of expectations and processes.

Mr. Perugino – This committee has not met since prior to COVID which is 3 – 4 years. He thought the meeting was productive and there was no negativity.

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

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

There was a brief review of the personnel report. No questions.

9. **Committee Reports**

None

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

None

11. **Board Liaison Reports**

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

10/15 – 18 Scholastic Book Fair  
10/15 PTA Meeting  
1021 Harlem Wizards visit Harry S. Fisher Elementary School  
10/22 School store  
10/15 Fire Prevention visit from Plymouth Fire Department

As always, the PTA is always looking for volunteers for various committees. The Board also needs the support of all the PTA's, especially during the budget season.

Mr. Zbuska -- Plymouth Center School

Events that cost money are put on by the PCS PTA. There are many events which are free, i.e., Bingo Night, Trunk or Treat, Field Trips, just to mention a few. Costs are from PTA fundraisers. Author visits, classroom activities, school assemblies, craft supplies, etc. which the PTA also supplies. Staff appreciation occurs once a year for a week and fundraiser funds are used towards this event. With regards to coming to school to celebrate a child's birthday for example. Although this is a nice thing to do, consideration should be given to those parents who are unable to celebrate with their child, i.e., due to work schedules or to those children who do not have a mother and/or a father. Young children are very impressionable at this age, and one needs to take their feelings into consideration. Food allergies also need to be considered. To leave a child out of a celebration or to substitute something different than what the other children are enjoying singles that child out. So, there are many things to think about and take into consideration.

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

Harlem Wizards is a big fundraiser for the middle school. This is the second year this event will be taking place. Purchase of tickets is already on the website. The individuals are asked to follow the school store on its their face book page to get updates. There are emails being sent out from all the schools which have information all one needs to do is click on the link. The PTA is looking for parent involvement. An individual does not need to be involved in all events but when you are able to help. Concession stands will again be available during the winter sports. Volunteers are needed during basketball season.

Mr. Foote -- Terryville High School

September 30<sup>th</sup> - PTSA Meeting.

Main topic item was Fundraisers, i.e., Designer Bag Bingo, Business Donation Letters, Graduation Signs, Mother's Day Flower Sale, and Yeti Fundraiser. Hopefully, the Graduation Signs can be picked up during the Mother's Day Flower Sale. Volunteers are needed for these fundraisers. The After-grad Party is scheduled for June 9<sup>th</sup> at the Sports Complex. Brochures have all been sent out for this event. November 8<sup>th</sup> – Homecoming Dance. Yeti Mugs are on sale for \$45 each. Proceeds benefit the After-grad Party for the Class of 2025. There will be a google form online to complete for orders or an individual may go directly to the PTSA. Orders are open until November 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Mrs. Tilton -- EdAdvance

Budget Approved. Upcoming presentation in January or February from CAFE to discuss and present information on the Legislative Session.

12. **Board Comments**

Mrs. Tilton – Appreciates all the hard work everyone is putting in to get the school year off to a good start. She has received positive feedback about the new reading program from her 5<sup>th</sup> grader. She thanked those individuals for their participation during public comment and for being part of the community working together to help our students succeed.

Mr. Foote – Order the mugs.

Mr. Perugino – Agrees with Mr. Zbuska. The PTA's do a great job and work very, very hard to raise money for the good programs for the students who are their number one priority.

Mr. Falcone – Comment – Since the Board honors a Teacher of the Year and a Paraprofessional of the Year, a recommendation was made to him by a parent to suggest to the Board about honoring a parent from each of the schools' PTAs who has gone above and beyond volunteering their time to their school. This could be done at the Board's last meeting in June as an appreciation award. This is something he would like the Board to consider.

Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani – Loves the newsletter from each of the schools and the painting of the student parking spaces at the high school. Amazing and creative. She attended Drew's event and the Big E with the students.

Mrs. Lucian – Loves the newsletters, pictures, student achievement listing, engagement and well-being activities and the Harry S. Fisher Flyer BOE Edition.

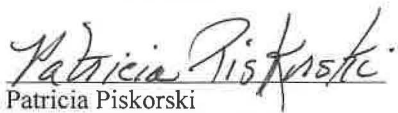
Mrs. Kulesa – Public comment is enjoyed even if we disagree. Although your viewpoint may be different from the Board's, they still want to hear from the public, be challenged, and have issues brought to their attention. These may be issues the Board may not have known about. Although the Board does not respond to public comments, either Mr. Falcone or someone on the Board will get back to you in response to your question(s) or regarding something you brought to the Board's attention. This is how public comment works. It is not that the Board does not want to engage during public comment. All public comments are appreciated.

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

14. Adjournment

MOTION: To entertain a motion to adjourn at 7:46 p.m. Motion Mr. Perugino, second, Mrs. Lucian all in favor, motion carries.

Respectfully submitted,



Patricia Piskorski  
Recording Secretary for the  
Plymouth Board of Education