



# 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, November 13, 2024**

7:00 P.M.

## MINUTES

Present: Mrs. Kulesa, Mr. Seaman, Mr. Showers, Mrs. Tilton, Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani, and Mr. Perugno

Absent: Mrs. Lucian, Mr. Foote, and Mr. Zbuska

Also Present: Mr. Falcone, Superintendent, Mrs. Melillo, Superintendent, Mrs. Mozak-Pezza, Director of Curriculum and 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 November 13, 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 as follows:

Item #5 – Student Representatives moved to Item #4

Item #4 – Presentation moved to Item #5

Motion Mr. Seaman, second Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani, any discussion, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion carries.

3. **Approval of Minutes**

MOTION: To entertain a motion to approve:

- (a) The minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Plymouth Board of Education of October 9, 2024

Motion Mrs. Tilton, second Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani, any discussion, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, Mr. Seaman and Mr. Showers abstain motion carries.

- (b) The minutes of the Special Meeting of the Plymouth Board of Education of October 30, 2024

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

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PLYMOUTH, CT  
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE  
RECEIVED FOR RECORD

4. **Student Representatives**

**Fallon Roth-Perreault**

Terryville High School Band – Field trip to UMass on October 26, 2024.

PJ Hour – October 17, 2024, was the first PJ hour which was held in the library. Students volunteered to read to elementary students while all wore pajamas.

Fundraisers – The Class of 2025 is having a bake sale at IGA on November 23, 2024.

Electives – College-bound upperclassmen have voiced they feel the school does not offer enough honors electives.

**Ava Gwizd**

Homecoming - Disco-themed Homecoming hosted by the Leos Club and the Senior Class.

Club Events – Pep Club hosted spirit week and the fall pep rally.

The National Honor Society had a Pink Out where students and staff wore pink and donated a dollar for breast cancer.

Fall Sports – The season has come to an end. The girls' team had a phenomenal season and made it well into championships. The three girls who made the All Berkshire League are Maya Coviello, Sara Bardhi, and Taylor Freimuth.

New Cafeteria – Most of the students like the change in the cafeteria with the new furniture. However, it is felt the oval, twelve set tables are too low and all tables with attached seating are too close together for high-school sized students. Eating at these tables is difficult without bumping elbows and table mates. Therefore, they do not function properly in this cafeteria.

5. **Presentation** – Eli Terry Jr. Middle School – Mr. Vigliotti, Principal

Mr. Vigliotti, along with Literacy Coordinator, Stacey Simpson, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade ELA teacher, Samantha Baumgart, and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade ELA teacher, Taylor Bunker, spoke about ongoing teacher learning at Eli Terry Jr. Middle School and how that learning is being translated into instruction. An emphasis was placed on a few specific examples from ELA, including their Whole Novel pilot, learning about Socratic Seminars, and the role of the Coordinator/Coach in supporting this learning. Finally, they described how they believed this learning will impact student engagement and ultimate achievement.

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

None

7. **Superintendent's Update**

- \* Some exciting events held throughout the month of October for our students:
  - Spirit Weeks at our High School and Middle School
  - The Harlem Wizards (held in November)
  - Halloween festivities at our elementary schoolsMany thanks to the entire administrative team, faculty, and staff for helping to create positive memories and build stronger school communities.
- \* Members from the Lion's Club came to Plymouth Center School and Harry S. Fisher Elementary School to complete Vision Screenings for our students which in total 487 vision screenings were completed, and 49 Vision referrals were made at the elementary Schools.
- \* Congratulations to Noah Demetri, Technology Teacher, the high school's new technology education teacher for being selected the Connecticut Technology and Engineering Association Teacher of the Month. He is now in the running for the Connecticut Technology and Engineering Association Teacher of the year.

- \* We have begun the 2025 – 2026 budget creation process.  
 Between now and the New Year - Finalizing the budget.  
 January Board Meeting – Mr. Tencza and I will present my proposed budget to the Board.  
 Throughout January and February – Budget Workshops will be held to answer questions and make appropriate adjustments.  
 February Board of Education Meeting – Final Budget Review and the Board of Education will vote on budget adoption.  
 Mid-March – The Board adopted budget will be presented to the Board of Finance.  
 A Tri-Board Meeting with the Board of Finance, the Town Council and the Plymouth Board of Education will take place.
- \* School Closures due to inclement weather – Parents and students will be notified around 5 a.m. Besides phone calls, text messages, and emails, parents may also find weather related information on local TV networks and on the district website.
- \* Reminder – The school district will be closed from Wednesday, November 27<sup>th</sup> – Friday, November 29<sup>th</sup> for Thanksgiving Break.

Mrs. Mozak-Pezza – Director of Curriculum & Instruction - Approximately, a year and a half ago, the district applied for a grant to begin renovating the culinary classroom at Terryville High School. This was aligned with Gateway Community College Culinary Program for our students to receive college credit for some of the course work at the high school. A second grant was applied for halfway through last year. The grants combined totaled \$66,000. With this amount, the counters were completely resurfaced, new stoves were purchased, and the sinks were redone. This renovation converts the culinary classroom from a residential to a commercial kitchen. The teacher and students should be returning to the classroom at the end of the week.

8. **Unfinished Business**

- (a) Immersive International Trip – This item has been placed on hold for the time being.

9. **New Business**

- (a) **Change of Regular Board of Education Meeting Date of January 8, 2025**

MOTION: To entertain a motion to change the date of the Regular Board of Education Meeting date from Wednesday, January 8, 2025, to a Special Board of Education Meeting to take place on Wednesday, January 15, 2025. Motion Mrs. Tilton, second Mrs. Candrea-Floresciani, any discussion, all in favor, any opposed and abstentions, Mr. Showers abstains, motion carries.

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

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

- Included in the packet are the following - Accounts by Facilities Report for October and 5 different submissions.

- (1) Business Office Activity Report & Negative Balance Explanations
- (2) Board of Education Summary through October 31, 2024
- (3) Monthly Budget Report, October 31, 2024
- (4) Cumulative Board of Education Budget Expenditures % by Month, October 2024 - 2025
- (5) Capital Improvement Plan 2024 – 2033 Plymouth Public Schools (updated October 31, 2024)

The Food Service Financial Performance Year-to-Date (July 1, 2024 – October 31, 2024) was made available to the Board at the meeting.

- 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**

Policy Committee – Mrs. Tilton, Chair

Shipman & Goodwin updates and revised policies from the previous year, which need to be modified or eliminated based on legislative changes and adjustment, and any new policies.

The Policy Committee met prior to the board meeting, reviewed the policies, and moved them to be forwarded to the Full Board for a first read. Each Board Member received a copy of the policies at their seat.

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

Mr. Sandshaw – 7 Richmond Drive, Terryville, CT – Commented on the Immersive Internation Trip.

Mrs. Church – 328 Main Street, Terryville, CT – Commented on our schools being closed on Veteran’s Day. She felt it was important for the students to attend school to learn exactly what Veterans Day means. She also suggested the possibility of approaching Thomaston Savings Bank for any help regarding field trips.

13. **Board Liaison Reports**

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

\* Discussion regarding new student activities over the course of the year i.e., BMX motivational speaker in April, Wolf Pack Game – March 1<sup>st</sup>, Craft Night before Mother’s Day, and the Concert for Tree Lighting (fifth graders to sing) on December 7<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. at the Plymouth Congregational Church.

\* Invited the community to the next PTA Meeting on November 19<sup>th</sup>, 7 p.m. where they will be voting on various committees.

Mr. Zbuska -- Plymouth Center School

Absent – No Report

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

\* Currently, there are 25 PTA Members

\* End of the Year Activities

\* Amazing Wizard’s Game

\* Grit & Wit Program – hoping to bring this back this year

\* School Dance, January 24<sup>th</sup> with a snow date of January 31<sup>st</sup>

\* Students are enjoying the school store

Mr. Foote -- Terryville High School

Absent – No Report

Mrs. Kulesa – The PTSA is focused on fundraising for the AfterGrad Party. All help, participation and donations are welcome.

Mrs. Tilton -- EdAdvance

\* Update on various programs and how they are progressing, alliance for locked in prices for fuel, oil, and diesel. Mr. Tencza explained that Plymouth has an alliance with Wolcott and Thomaston.

Mr. Falcone – He had the opportunity to observe the PTA at Plymouth Center School a few weeks ago. They were in the library making crafts with various groups of students. This is not only limited to the PCS PTA but is true of all our PTAs.

In respect to Veterans Day, Mr. Falcone agrees with Mrs. Church that students should be in school that day. Teachers do things with students to show them the importance of Veterans Day and the difference our veterans have made to our lives and our freedom.

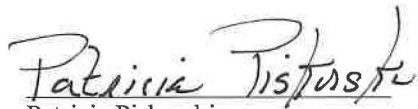
14. **Board Comments**

The Board Members commented on the presentation, student representative reports and wished a Happy Thanksgiving to all.

15. **Next Board Meeting** –The next Regular Meeting of the Plymouth Board of Education is on Wednesday, December 11, 2024, at 7 p.m. in the cafeteria at Terryville High School.

16. **Adjournment**

MOTION: To entertain a motion to adjourn at 8:21p.m. Motion Mr. Perugino, second, Mr. Showers all in favor, motion carries.



Patricia Piskorski  
Recording Secretary  
For the Plymouth Board of Education