



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, DECEMBER 11, 2024

7:00 P.M.

MINUTES

PLYMOUTH, CT
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
RECEIVED FOR RECORD
2024 DEC 17 AM 9:30
TOWN CLERK

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

Absent: Mr. Seaman 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 and Pledge to the Flag**

Mrs. Kulesa Chair called the Regular Meeting of the Plymouth Board of Education of December 11, 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 Mr. Foote, 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 November 13, 2024.

Motion Mr. Perugino, second Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani, any discussion, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions (Mrs. Lucian, Mr. Foote and Mr. Zbuska abstain) motion carries.

4. **Presentation**

(a) **Mrs. Loveland, Principal Plymouth Center School**

Principal Loveland, along with Literacy Coach Cory Mazon, spoke about ongoing teacher development in their new reading and phonics program and how that learning is being translated into instruction. Highlights regarding new instructional strategies, as well as supporting programs, including visits from Remy, Plymouth Center School's therapy dog, will be provided.

5. **Student Representatives**

Fallon Roth-Perreault

- (a) December 3rd, Students Against Destructive Decisions hosted a book drive with the American Red Cross. Forty-One students signed up and were gifted Friends themed socks.
- (b) December 13th, Connecticut Children's Medical Center Pajama Day.
- (c) December 11th, Berkshire League Climate Summit hosted by the Vice Principals of the Berkshire League Schools at Shepaug High School.
- (d) Question: When will the cafeteria furniture be fixed?
Response: Mr. Tencza, Business Manager, new tables are on order and in production. Hopefully, the new furniture will arrive sometime in January. He will present an update at the January Special Board Meeting.

Ava Gwizd

- (a) December 10th, Band and Chorus had their first performance of the year at 7 p.m.
- (b) December 13th, Drama Club is hosting a cabaret at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$10 and may be purchased at the door.
- (c) Winter sports have begun.
Students would like the opportunity to have more night games, specifically soccer. Although it is realized there would be refereeing issues and lighting, students feel very strongly that they make their idea known.
Response: Mr. Falcone, Superintendent, some issues: Team and referees at night, change in schedules, boys' and girls' back-to-back games.
Students have suggested merging with schools to make a football team with the possibility of merging with Thomaston. They would like to try to come up with some type of solution to make this occur in later years.
Response: Mr. Falcone, Superintendent, Co-op with Thomaston, is impossible. They do not have a football team. Districts must follow CIAC specifications. Hopefully, he will investigate this and have information at the next board meeting.

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

None

7. **Superintendent's Update**

- (1) Prior to the Special Board of Education Meeting on Wednesday, January 15, 2025, a Board of Education Retreat is scheduled for 5 p.m. in the Terryville High School Library. During the Retreat, Matt Mervis from EdAdvance will be providing an informational session on Artificial Intelligence.

The goal of this Retreat is:

- (a) For the Board Members to have a better understanding of AI technology and the Resources students and teachers are using on a daily basis.
- (b) To use what we learn to create an AI Board Policy that makes sense for our District.

The Retreat is open to the public, but there will not be an opportunity for community questions or comments. As discussed, Mr. Falcone plans to send a letter to the entire school community inviting them to join the Board that evening.

- (2) At the Special Board of Education Meeting, Mr. Tencza and Mr. Falcone will be presenting his proposed 2025 – 2026 budget to the Board. Budget Workshops will be held throughout January and February to answer questions and to make the appropriate adjustments. Per Town Charter, the Board is required to adopt and submit a budget to the Board of Finance prior to February 28th.

NOTE: Mr. Falcone believes he made an error at the last meeting when he stated we were required to submit a budget to the Board of Finance prior to February 15th. The date is February 28th per Charter.

- (3) As a reminder, the school district will be closed for Winter Break from Monday, December 23rd through Wednesday, January 1st.

On behalf of the entire Plymouth Public School Community, Mr. Falcone wished everyone Happy Holidays.

8. Unfinished Business

- (a) Second Read of Board of Education Policies

After some short comments, the following motion was made:

MOTION: To entertain a motion to approve the following:

Modified Policies

Series 1000 – Community/Board Operations

- P-1004 Non-Discrimination

Series 3000 – Business

- P-3001 Budget Procedures and Line-Item Transfer

Series 4000 – Personnel

- P-4009 Employment and Student Teacher Checks
- P-4010 Family and Medical Leave
- P-4014 Non-Discrimination
- P-4015 Increasing Educator Diversity Plan
- P-4017 Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990
- P-4018 Prohibition of Sex Discrimination, Including Sex-Based Harassment (Formerly Policy Regarding Prohibition of Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment in the Workplace)

Series 5000 – Students

- P-5001 Administration of Medications
- P-5002 Attendance, Truancy and Chronic Absenteeism
- P-5011 Graduation Requirements
- P-5013 Homeless Children and Youth
- P-5015 Non-Discrimination
- P-5018 Policy to Improve the Completion Rate of the FAFSA
- P-5021 Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990
- P-5022 Student Discipline
- P-5027 Suicide Prevention and Intervention
- P-5029 Prohibition of Sex Discrimination, Including Sex-Based Harassment (Formerly Policy Regarding Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 – Prohibition of Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment)
- P-5034 Admission to The Public Schools at Or Before Age Five

Series 9000 – Bylaws of the Board – New Policy

- P-9024 Required Two Year Service on the Board of Education to Serve in an Officer or Leadership Position

Motion Mr. Showers, second Mrs. Lucian, any discussion, (if none) all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion carries.

9. New Business

Out of the Country Field Trip to Puerto Rico

After a brief presentation by Ms. DeCarolis, Family & Consumer Science Teacher at Terryville High School and a brief discussion, the following motion was made.

MOTION: To entertain a motion to approve an out-of-the-country field trip to Puerto Rico for 5 – 30 students in grades 9 – 12 at Terryville High School from Thursday, June 18, 2026 - Monday, June 22, 2026. Motion Mr. Perugino, second Mr. Foote any discussion, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion carries.

(a) WAMOGO Agricultural Advisor

Mrs. Zagurski has chosen to complete her Agricultural Advisory Commitment to allow another interested individual to be appointed. Andrea Perugini has strong ties to the agricultural community and is the mother of a current Agriscience student. In conversations with the staff at Wamago, she expressed interest in filling the position and they welcome her appointment. Therefore, the following motion was made:

MOTION: To entertain a motion to approve the appointment of Andrea Perugini to the Wamago Agricultural Advisory Committee for a term of three years. Motion Mr. Showers, second Mr. Perugino any discussion, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion carries.

(b) Board of Education Hybrid Meetings (beginning with January 15, 2025, Special Board of Education Meeting)

Several parents and community members have approached members of the Board and Mr. Falcone is asking if the district can offer Online Public Comment to the community during Board Meetings. Mr. Falcone contacted the attorney for the district to inquire about any Freedom

of Information concerns or special protocols would need to be followed by moving to a Hybrid Model of In-Person and Online. There are a few adjustments that will need to be made, but the plan is to move to a Hybrid Model of In-Person and Online for Public Comment beginning in January. Mr. Falcone indicated he would be sending out communication about this change and how to submit public comments online prior to the next meeting.

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 November and 7 different submissions.

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

Mr. Tencza indicated he reluctantly put a budget freeze into effect on November 27, 2024. This decision was based on the district's current spending rates, and the continuing rising costs. With respect to Budget development 2025 – 2026 as stated in his Activity Report, the department budgets are being loaded daily. Everyone has been working well together to keep expenses down. However, the challenging work in December is yet to come as work is being done towards creating a responsible budget that Mr. Falcone is comfortable recommending to the Board.

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

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

No Questions

11. **Committee Reports**

(a) **Curriculum/Achievement**

The Special Meeting of the Plymouth Board of Education Curriculum/Achievement Committee took place prior to the Board of Education Meeting and reviewed the following:

- Program of Studies Updates – Course Title Changes and Portrait of the Graduate.
- Purchase of the following textbooks – Precalculus and Reveal Algebra 2
- Adding to course weighting at the high school

and moved these items to be brought to the full Board for their approval. (NOTE: Coming out of committee these motions do not require a second)

- (1) MOTION: To entertain a motion to approve the following Program of Studies Updates

- * Course Title Changes
- * Portrait of the Graduate Changes

MOTION Mr. Foote, any discussion, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion carries.

(2) MOTION: To entertain a motion to approve the purchase of the following textbooks:

* Title: Precalculus
Publisher: McGraw Hill
Copyright: 2024

*Title: Reveal Algebra 2
Publisher: McGraw Hill
Copyright: 2025

MOTION Mrs. Lucian, any discussion, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions,
motion carries.

(3) MOTION: To entertain a motion to move forward with adding to course weighting
at Terryville High School.

MOTION Mrs. Tilton, any discussion, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions,
motion carries.

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

None

13. **Board Liaison Reports**

Mr. Perugino/Mrs. Tilton -- Harry S. Fisher Elementary School
Reports cards have been issued.
December 11, 12, and 13 Parent/Teacher Conferences
December 9 – 11 - Holiday Bazaar
December 2 – 13 – Food Drive – the class that brings in the most donations will have extra recess.
December 13 - PJ Day for students to raise money and to honor the brave kids fighting cancer at the
Connecticut Children's Hospital.

Spirit Week
December 12 - Magic Lazer Presentation
December 17 – Next meeting 7 p.m.

Mr. Zbuska -- Plymouth Center School
Absent – No Report

Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani -- Eli Terry Jr. Middle School
January 22, 2025 – Next meeting in the middle school library.
Basketball Game was an enormous success and a good fundraiser.
Holiday Bazaar
Gift Wrapping Present Fundraiser - \$4 shirt size box/ \$6 large box/\$8 extra-large box. Looking for
donations of bags and bows. This fundraiser will take place in the middle school library beginning on:
December 12 from 5 p.m. – 8 p.m. December 14 from 9 a.m. – 11 a.m. and on
December 16 from 5 p.m. – 8 p.m.
Bringing back dances for all grades. The first beginning on January 24, 2025.
December 17 – Band and Chorus Concert

Mr. Foote -- Terryville High School
Lyman Orchards Pies may be picked up after 2:30 p.m. on Friday. Sixty pies were sold.
January – IGA Round-Up.
January – Working on business donation letters.
April – Graduation signs.
May – Mother's Day Flower Sale.
Twenty-four Yeti mugs were sold.
June 9th – Graduation Party.

Meeting cancelled. Next meeting is on January 2, 2025

14. **Board Comments**

Mr. Showers; Mr. Foote, Mr. Perugino, Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani and Mrs. Lucian – Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year to all.

Mrs. Tilton – Commented on student concerns, Wishing everyone a happy holiday.
Request if it is possible for a 3-hour school delay.

Mrs. Kulesa – To Mr. Falcone, Is this an item the Board needs to vote on?

Mr. Falcone – No. This is something that can be put in place. He needs to speak with his Administrators and write a letter to parents to inform them of the request. However, the 2-hour delay will still be in place.

Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani -How will this affect transportation with Litchfield?

Mr. Falcone – Region 20 is a concern no matter what the delay.

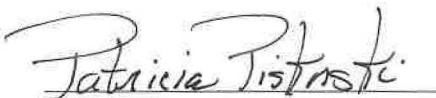
Mr. Perugino – Attended the CABA conference. The workshops were great and urged board members to attend. There is so much one can learn.

Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani – Thank you for the treats prepared by the students from the Family & Consumer Science Classes at the middle and high schools. She appreciated the opinions brought forth by the student representatives.

15. **Next Board Meeting** –There will not be a Regular Meeting of the Plymouth Board of Education on January 8, 2025. However, there will be a Special Plymouth Board of Education Meeting on Wednesday, January 15, 2025, at 7 p.m. in the cafeteria at Terryville High School.

16. **Adjournment**

MOTION: To entertain a motion to adjourn at 7:55 p.m. Motion Mr. Perugino, second, Mrs. Lucian all in favor, motion carries.



Patricia Piskorski

Recording Secretary for the
Plymouth Board of Education