



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, MARCH 12, 2025

7:00 P.M.

MINUTES

Present: Mrs. Kulesa, Chair; Mrs. Lucian, Mr. Showers, Mrs. Tilton, Mr. Foote,
Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani, Mr. Perugino and Mr. Zbuska Board of Education Members

Others 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 March 12, 2025, to order at 7 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 to add: 9. (d) Communications
Motion Mrs. Tilton, second Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani, all in favor, motion carries.

MOTION: To entertain a motion to adopt the agenda as amended. Motion Mr. Perugino,
Second Mrs. Lucian, all in favor, motion carries.

3. **Approval of Minutes**

MOTION: To entertain a motion to approve the following minutes:

- (a) The minutes of the Regular Board of Education Meeting of February 12, 2025.
Motion Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani, second Mrs. Tilton, any discussion, all in favor, any opposed,
any abstentions, motion carries.

AND

- (b) The minutes of the Special Meeting of the Plymouth Board of Education Policy Committee of February 12, 2025. Motion Mrs. Tilton, second Mr. Zbuska, any discussion, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, (Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani abstains) motion carries.

4. **Student Representatives**

Fallon Roth-Perreault

* National Honor Society – The National Honor Society inducted eleven new members during an induction ceremony which took place in the auditorium.

* Mrs. Glaser, Career Counselor and eleven juniors attended CCSU for an all-day event where students took part in Junior Achievement's Innovation College.

* Adding Color to Terryville High School – The student council created a committee to add color to the high school. This process is already in motion. Some happenings: each sport and club getting a small painting and adding silhouettes of jumping kangaroos going up and down the stairwells.

Ava Gwizd

* March 7th was the THS variety show which showcased singing, dancing, playing instruments, and "air swimming" performed by the wrestlers. Eighteen hundred dollars was raised with all funds going to both the THS class of 2025 and the Angel Fund.

*Wrestling Season finished off their season strong. Highlight, Ethan Rodriguez, placed in State Opens, making New England's, David Karlack, Ethan Rodriguez and Andi Dermaku making States and Berkshire League, along with Ryan Lewondoski.

5. **Presentation**

- (a) **Mid-Year Energy Update** – Mr. Sandshaw

- (b) **Harry S. Fisher Elementary School** – Mrs. Satow, Principal

Mrs. Satow, Principal, Ms. Levesque, Literacy Coach, and Ms. Stein, Mathematics Coach presented an update on the improvement goals presented to the Board earlier this school year. They gave an update on how the new SRBI model is progressing as well as an update on overall data.

Additionally, student presenters read a few selected pieces from their work this year in their new reading program, Wit and Wisdom.

6. **Public Comment**

- (a) In-person public comment (limited to 3-minutes per speaker)

Melanie Church, 328 Main Street – Comment: In order to keep up with the appearance of the Town Buildings, suggested the possibility of sharing the Board's Facilities Manager.

Dan Gentile, 269 Mt. Tobe Road – The Board was presented for review, a policy regarding stipulations as to what certain things can be done within the Board of Education. He believes these stipulations to be unfair. Sometimes, medical problems or family problems may come up. He feels this policy should not be brought forward. Does not support restrictions.

- (b) Remote public comment (please go to www.plymouth.k12.ct.us for instructions on how to participate)

Virginia Kinane, 18 Adams Drive – Expressed how displeased she was with the PreK process. No waivers, lack of information provided on the website and on the google form, no policy. Decisions made by two individuals. She feels the entire process is a total secret. Suggests the Board look into the PreK program.

7.

Superintendent's Update

* Small token of appreciation was placed at each Board Members seat in appreciation of Board Appreciation Month.

* Water Issue at Eli Terry Jr. Middle School was due to a fitting in a pipe in the D wing above the ceiling which broke off. Students were redirected to the high school on Monday, March 10th and were dismissed at 11 a.m. Tuesday, March 11th, students had no school. On Tuesday, March 11th at around 2 p.m. the building was cleared by the town Building Inspector and students were able to return to school on Wednesday, March 12th. The building was cleared with the understanding that D Wing would need to be closed for the time being. The science room will be closed for the remainder of this school year and nearly all classes in D Wing in some fashion as well. The gym floor is showing signs of buckling. Wood, particle board to be disposed of and replaced. Professionals were brought in to address the situation to monitor all moisture in each individual space. Moisture levels were checked and confident there are no additional issues. Mr. Tencza to look into purchasing alarms for the water lines.

Thank you to the teachers at both schools, central office, administrators, and director of facilities and custodians an amazing job.

* On March 6th the Board of Education presented their 2025 – 2026 Budget to the Board of Finance and requested a 4.33% increase in its operating budget. However, the Board of Finance Chair informed them that the mayor would recommend an increase of 2.85%. This amounts to a difference of \$395,901.00. A final determination on the 2025 – 2026 Board of Education Budget will be made by the Town Council on Monday, April 21st at 6 p.m. in the Community Room at Town Hall.

*Also discussed were a few safety concerns at Plymouth Center School and Harry S. Fisher Elementary School that need to be addressed and our request to access money from our sinking fund.

Plymouth Center School

- 1) Hallway Enclosure at Plymouth Center School – close in the open area on the 2nd floor that overlooks the gym to prevent students from climbing over the railing - \$38,535.00.
- 2) Fencing – along the basketball play area to keep students contained - \$7,650.00.

Harry S. Fisher Elementary School

- 1) Sink Replacement – In the 4 upper Boys and Girls bathrooms due to safety concerns. Install large vanities with large drop sinks (plumbing covered). (However, the cabinets do not include new sinks or faucets) - \$9,150.00.

Mr. Falcone – Although, it is no longer necessary for the Board of Education to request permission from the Board of Finance to either deposit or withdraw funds from the Sinking Fund for projects, the Board feels it appropriate and important for communication purposes that the Board of Finance be updated as to what these funds are being utilized for.

Note: Upon completion of said projects, any remaining money will be returned to the Sinking Fund.

After a brief discussion, the following motion was made.

MOTION: To entertain a motion to authorize the Superintendent along with the Business Manager to go before the Board of Finance to request the amount of \$65,000 from the Sinking Fund.

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

* Graduation & the Last Day of School - Barring any unforeseen circumstances, the last day of school, currently, for PCS, Fisher and Terryville High School is Wednesday, June 11th. Unfortunately, students in grades 6, 7 and 8 and their teachers, due to the closure on March 11th due to the water leak and based on legislation that states students need to attend school for a minimum of 180 days, the last day of school for Eli Terry, and only Eli Terry, will be Thursday, June 12th. This will probably be a half day of school.

Graduation Date for Terryville High School is set for Wednesday, June 11th. This is the night of the After Grad Party. Graduation will be held outside, however, should it rain, it will be held inside in the auditorium.

8. **Unfinished Business** - Policy – P5035/Students – Use of Artificial Intelligence

MOTION: To entertain a motion to approve Policy – P5035/Students – Use of Artificial Intelligence. Motion Mrs. Tilton, second Mrs. Lucian, any discussion all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion carries.

9. **New Business**

(a) **Revised 2025 – 2026 School Year Calendar**

MOTION: To entertain a motion to approve the following revisions to the 2025 – 2026 School Year Calendar as follows:

- * August 21, 22 & 25 (Convocation and Teacher PDD)
- * August 26 – First Day of School for Students
- * June 5, 8 & 9 – Early Dismissal
- * June 10 – Tentative Last Day of School (early dismissal)

Motion Mr. Foote, second Mrs. Lucian, any discussion all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion carries.

(b) **Proposed 2026 – 2027 School Year Calendar**

This was an information item and will be brought to the full Board at the April 9, 2025, meeting for approval.

(c) **Healthy Food Certification 2025 – 2026**

All public-school districts participating in the NSLP must submit the *Healthy Food Certification Statement – Addendum to Agreement for Child Nutrition Program (ED-099)* by July 1, 2025, to certify whether or not all food items sold to students will or will not meet Connecticut Nutritional Standards.

- **Healthy Food Option:** Pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-21f, the board of education or Governing authority certified that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools under its jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to, school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, culinary programs, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or by non-school organizations and groups.

MOTION: To entertain a motion to implement the healthy food option.

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

If the board of education or governing authority votes “yes” for the healthy food option above, the board of education or governing authority must also vote on whether to allow food exemptions, as indicated below. *NOTE: If the board of education or governing authority votes “no” for the healthy food option above, a vote of whether to allow food exemption is not required.*

- **Exemption for Food Items:** The board of education or governing authority will allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the food items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An “event” is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. For example, soccer games, school plays, and interscholastic debates are events but soccer practices, play rehearsals, and debate team meetings are not. The “regular” school day” is the period from midnight before the 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. “Location” means where the event is being held.

MOTION: To entertain a motion to allow the food exemptions. Motion Mrs. Tilton, second, Mrs. Lucian, any discussion, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion carries.

- **Beverage Exemptions:** The Board of Education or governing authority will allow the sale to students of beverages not listed in Section 10-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the beverages are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An “event” is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. The “school day” is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. “Location” means where the event is being held and must be the same place as the beverage sales.

MOTION: To entertain a motion to allow for the beverage exemptions. Motion Mrs. Tilton, Second, Mr. Showers, any discussion, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion carries.

9.(d) Communications

Mrs. Kulesa, Board of Education Chairperson, regretfully accepted a letter of resignation from Walter P. Seaman, Board of Education Vice-Chair as of Wednesday, March 12, 2025. Mrs. Kulesa read Mr. Seaman’s letter of resignation for the record. A copy of the resignation letter is included with these minutes.

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 February and 7 different submissions:
 - (1 & 2) Business Office Activity Report & Negative Balance Explanations
 - (3) Board of Education Summary through February 28, 2025
 - (4) Monthly Budget Report, February 28, 2025
 - (5) Cumulative Board of Education Budget Expenditures % by Month, February 2024 – 2025
 - (6) Food Services Financial Performance Year-to-Date (July 1, 2024 – February 28, 2025)
 - (7) Capital Improvement Plan 2024-2033 Plymouth Public Schools (updated February 28, 2025)
- 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. Public Comment

(a) In-person public comment (limited to 3-minutes per speaker)

Melanie Church, 328 Main Street – Correction, Harry S. Fisher is free of mold now.

(b) Remote public comment (please go to www.plymouth.k12.ct.us for instructions on how to participate)

Frank Smith, 321 Main Street – Commented on the town wanting \$20 million dollars to build a new police station but the mayor is penny pinching less than half a million dollars for the school system.

Virginia Kinane, 18 Adams Drive – Comment – Suggests the Board does not rely on its insurance companies' adjuster and the restoration company regarding the water damage at Eli Terry Jr. Middle School. This is based on her own personal experience.

Mr. Tencza – Shared advice from Mr. Seaman per his experience as a firefighter. Tragic things happen all the time, he suggested the Board seek out an independent adjuster. Mr. Tencza indicated this to be first on his list when he returns to work on Thursday.

12. Committee Reports – Policy Committee, Mrs. Tilton, Chair

The Policy Committee met prior to the Regular Board Meeting. The committee moved to bring forth the Modified Policies and the New Policy to the full Board for a first read.

Mrs. Lucian – Comment – She thought the new policy referred to was on social media. However, after hearing Dan Gentile speak and after quickly looking over the policy, it referred to the 70% attendance. She feels when it comes time to approve the policies, each one should be voted on separately.

Mr. Falcone – The committee has brought forth the policies to the full Board for a first read. If a Board Member has any concerns regarding any of the policies, i.e., the policy Mr. Gentile referred to, those concerns would be discussed at the next Board Meeting. The policies would not be approved as a blanket motion. For example, any Board Member can indicate what policy was a concern to them. After the discussion, the Board could decide to table a particular policy or bring it back to the Policy Committee for revision or approve all the policies brought forth.

13. Board Liaison Reports

Mr. Perugino/Mrs. Tilton

3/14

3/18

3/26

3/11 – 3/21

Reminder: Year Books are currently on sale.

Harry S. Fisher Elementary School

Trip to Hartford Sympathy Orchestra

PTA Meeting 7 p.m.

5th Grade Paint Night

Book Fair & Parent/Teacher Conferences

Mr. Zbuska

3/19 – 3/21

3/17 – 3/28

Plymouth Center School

Parent/Teacher Conferences

Fascia Fundraiser

Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani
4/22

Eli Terry Jr. Middle School
Grit 'N Wit

Last PTA Meeting Cancelled

PTA Meetings take place on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m.

Mr. Foote
No Report

Terryville High School

Mrs. Kulesa: Reminder to support the high school after grad fundraisers.

Mrs. Tilton – Juniors are doing a flower sale, no details were given.

Mrs. Tilton

EdAdvance

Most of the meeting focused around the budget.

14.

Board Comments

Mr. Showers, Mrs. Tilton, Mr. Foote, Mr. Perugino, and Mr. Zbuska – All of these individuals on the fantastic presentation by the students at Harry S. Fisher Elementary. It is great to see what is happening at our schools. Thank you to Marty Sandshaw for all his work throughout the years. The Board expressed much appreciation. Thank you to Mr. Seaman for his time on the Board.

Mr. Perugino – To the parents of those student attending magnet schools and magnet school transportation. Every 3rd Friday of the month from 8 a.m. – 9 a.m. our state senator and state representation hold a coffee hour at the Engle's Nest. Suggests these parents attend a coffee hour and speak with our state representatives. Our state senator is on the Educational Committee and our state representative is on the Appropriations Committee.

Mr. Perugino also noted Waterbury Airport Inc. sold property on 173 Mt. Tobe Road to Nforty1 LLC Rhode Island Company. Nforty1 LLC builds homes. Nforty1 LLC purchased the property of approximately 62 acres. The parcel of land next to this piece of property is approximately 7.6 acres for a total of approximately 70 acres. Nforty1 LLC has purchased other property on Mt. Tobe Road. Hopefully, if there exists a possibility of homes being built on this land, student enrollment could increase in the district. Also, he mentioned there was a meeting next week for South Street in with the possibility of building apartments.

Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani – Thank you for the gift for Board Appreciate Month and to everyone for their time in serving on the Board. Thank you to Marty for saving the district money and it's going to be a long couple of months dealing with the water damage that occurred at the middle school.

Mrs. Lucian – Thank you to Walt for the time he spent serving on the Board. He will be missed. Also, thank you to the Board of the gift for Board Appreciation Month. She also expressed how pleased she was with the middle school presentation.

Mrs. Kulesa – Thanks to everyone who attended the meeting and spoke at public comment; to the students for their presentation; and Mr. Seaman for his service to the Board of Education. To Mr. Seaman, the Board knows that you are only a phone call away.

15.

Next Board Meeting –The next Regular Meeting of the Plymouth Board of Education is on Wednesday April 9, 2025, at 7 p.m. in the cafeteria at Terryville High School.

16. Adjournment

MOTION: To entertain a motion to adjourn at 8:37 p.m. Motion Mr. Showers, second, Mrs. Lucian all in favor, any abstentions, any opposed, motion carries.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Patricia Piskorski", written over a horizontal line.

Patricia Piskorski
Recording Secretary for The
Plymouth Board of Education

March 12, 2025

Walter P. Seaman

To: Plymouth Board of Education

Cc: Mayor Kilduff

Brian Falcone, Superintendent of Schools

PLYMOUTH, CT
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
RECEIVED
2025 MAR 20 AM 9:33

Dear Members of the Plymouth Board of Education,

It is with mixed emotions that I submit my resignation from the Plymouth Board of Education, effective immediately. Serving on the Board has been an honor, and I take great pride in the challenges we have navigated together and the successes we have achieved.

During my tenure, we have accomplished significant milestones, including the implementation of S.T.E.M. programs, redistricting, the reintroduction of family consumer science and woodworking programs, and the expansion of the school-to-career program. These initiatives will undoubtedly contribute to the success of the students of Plymouth. It was a privilege to serve as both Board Chair and Vice Chair, and I am grateful for the opportunity to have played a role in shaping the district's future.

I wish the Board continued success as it faces the ever-evolving challenges of education. The landscape of learning is constantly changing, but I am confident that the Plymouth Board of Education will continue to adapt and thrive, ensuring the best possible outcomes for our students. I commend all who dedicate their time and effort to serving the community, recognizing that differing perspectives are essential to progress. While we may not have always agreed, I hope my contributions to the Board will be remembered as positive and impactful.

I look forward to witnessing the continued success of the Plymouth Public School System and the bright future ahead for its students.

Sincerely,



Walter P Seaman

FILED

MAR 12, 2025

NOTED