



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, APRIL 9, 2025

7:00 P.M.

MINUTES

Present: Mrs. Kulesa, Mrs. Lucian, Mr. Bourbonniere, Mr. Showers, Mrs. Tilton, Mr. Foote, Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani, Mr. Perugino, and Mr. Zbuska. Mrs. Lucian left the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

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 April 9, 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 the following to executive session.

- (c) MOU Non-Lapsing Account
- (d) MOU PEA for Athletic Director for the middle and high schools
- (e) MOU Department Coordinator Positions at Terryville High School

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

MOTION: To entertain a motion to adopt the agenda as amended. Motion Mr. Foote, second Mrs. Lucian, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion carries.

3. **Caucus for the Purpose of Election of Vice Chair for the Plymouth Board of Education**

MOTION: To entertain a motion to eliminate going into Caucus and proceed directly to the election of **Vice Chair** for the Plymouth Board of Education. Motion Mr. Showers, second Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani, any discussion, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion carries.

4. **Nominations and Election of Vice-Chair for the Plymouth Board of Education**

Mrs. Kulesa, Chair opened up nominations for Vice Chair for the Plymouth Board of Education.

Mrs. Tilton, was nominated by Mr. Perugino, seconded by Mr. Zbuska

Mrs. Lucian, was nominated by Mr. Showers, seconded by Mr. Foote

There being no further nominations, Mrs. Kulesa, Chair called for the following:

MOTION TO CLOSE NOMINATIONS:

There being no further nominations, the following motion was made:

MOTION: To entertain a motion to close nominations for Vice Chair of the Plymouth Board of Education.

Motion Mr. Showers, second Mr. Foote, all in favor, motion passes unanimously.

Paper ballots were distributed, collected, and signed by the Board of Education Members and will be made public within 48 hours.

4 votes were cast for Kelly Tilton

4 votes were cast for Michelle Lucian

The tie breaking vote was cast by Mrs. Kulesa, Chair for Kelly Tilton

5 votes were cast for Kelly Tilton

4 votes were cast for Michelle Lucian

Kelly Tilton was elected **Vice Chair** of the Plymouth Board of Education

5. **Approval of Minutes**

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

- (a) The minutes of the Regular Board of Education Meeting of March 12, 2025.
Motion Mrs. Tilton, second Mr. Showers, any discussion, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, (Mr. Bourbonniere abstains) motion carries.

AND

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

6. **Student Representatives**

Fallon Roth-Perreault – Reported on the following:

- (a) Pride Pouch – On March 21st members of the Pride Pouch, a club that promotes inclusion at Terryville High School, attended SOGIEcon at UConn Stores.
- (b) Future Business Leaders of American Conference – On March 18th members of FBLA attended their annual conference at Southern Connecticut State University.
- (c) SAT Prep – Juniors took the SAT on March 26th. Members of the Junior Class participated in SAT prep twice a week for five weeks.
- (d) Increase Student Recognition – Students achievements should be announced and celebrated more.

Ava Gwizd – Reported on the following:

- (a) Roo's Night – The Terryville Class of 2027 hosted their first ever Roo's Night on March 21st and involved in games i.e., basketball, volleyball, watching movies, and singing karaoke.
- (b) Legally Blonde – The Terryville High School Drama Club will present a performance of "Legally Blonde" with show dates of Friday, April 25th at 7 p.m. and Saturday, April 26th, at 2 o'clock and 7 o'clock.
- (c) Unified Buddies Event – The most recent event for Terryville Unified Buddies took place on March 25th at Terryville High School. Terryville friend came together in the gym to spend quality time, playing a variety of games, i.e., volleyball, basketball, and pickleball.

7. **Presentation**

- (a) CAPSS/LCSA Superintendent Student Recognition Award Recipients - Introduction by
Principals

Mr. Vigliotti, Principal Eli Terry Jr. Middle School

Edward Armbruster
Dacia Giovacchino

Eli Terry Jr. Middle School
Eli Terry Jr. Middle School

Mr. Hults, Principal Terryville High School

Tyler Lachance
Cassandra Fortunato

Terryville High School
Terryville High School

Mr. Falcone along with students and their parents will attend an Awards Program to be held on May 6, 2025, at the Grand Oak Villa in Oakville, CT.

- (b) Terryville High School – Mr. Hults/Mrs. Hurd

Terryville High School presentation will focus on the school climate at the high school. Two initiatives will be highlighted which were kicked off this year in an effort to continue making the school environment positive.

8. **Public Comment**

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

Virginia Kinane, 18 Adams Drive, Erica Lavoie, 2 Magnolia Lane. These individuals addressed the importance of family involvement in terms of families being included in the classroom and kindergarten graduation to celebrate children and their accomplishments.

Melanie Church, 328 Main Street, addressed having kindergarten at the end of the day on the last day of school. Also, the petition is still available for Town Manager. She is looking to possibly borrow the high school auditorium if necessary.

- (b) Remote public comment (please go to www.plymouth.k12.ct.us for instructions on how to participate) - None

9. **Superintendent's Update** - Mr. Falcone, Superintendent

Mr. Falcone welcomed Mr. Bourbonniere to the Board of Education. Mr. Bourbonniere was a past Board Member. Mr. Falcone expressed how happy he was to be working once again with him. Mr. Bourbonniere truly puts children first in his decision making.

- (a) Mr. Falcone, Mr. Tencza and Mr. Perugino met with the Board of Finance on April 8th and discussed the Board's Sinking Fund, and the request for the completion of three projects: Catwalk Enclosure at Plymouth Center School - \$38,535
Playground Fencing at Plymouth Center School - \$7,650
Bathroom Sinks at Harry S. Fisher Elementary School - \$11,722
All three projects were approved with an additional 20% contingency, if needed. Upon completion of these projects the district will receive reimbursement from the State for the building camera project.
- (b) Additionally, at the meeting revisions in the Non-Lapsing or Sinking Fund statute were discussed. In the former statute, the town had a larger role in decision making about the non-lapsing account, especially in terms of deposits and approved spending. In the revised Statute, the town's involvement is removed, leaving all decisions regarding the account to the local school board. A discussion with the Board of Finance took place about creating an agreement with them which will continue to:
- Present all the projects the Board plans on completing with the Board of Finance.
 - To only utilize the funds for infrastructure and emergency purposes.
- (c) On March 17th both Mr. Falcone and Mr. Tencza, Business Manager, met with the Interim Superintendent, Business Manager and Transportation Director from Waterbury about Magnet School Transportation. Items discussed at the meeting: Transportation, Budgets and Current outdated agreement between the two districts. To date, Mr. Falcone is waiting to hear back from the Interim Superintendent of Waterbury, to see if Waterbury will be able to assist Plymouth families with transportation to and from their Magnet Schools.
- (d) The district is in the middle of conducting a school climate study across all four of its schools. The goal is to survey all students, faculty, and as many parents as possible to gather information which will help to develop individual School Climate Improvement Plans. Prior to summer break, Mr. Falcone will share the common themes found within each survey and the individual School Climate Improvement Plans with the Board.
- (e) Mr. Falcone updated the Board on where we are with the 2025 – 2026 budget by providing a presentation. He indicated at the last meeting, the final determination of the 2025 – 2026 budget will be made by the Town Council on Monday, April 21st at 6 p.m. in the Community Room at Town Hall. There will be a Special Board of Education Meeting the evening of April 23rd at 5 p.m. in the Terryville High School Library where the Board will discuss any additional budget cuts and position eliminations which will need to be made.
- (f) Budget

Impact of Receiving the Mayor's Recommended 2.85% Increase

4.33% Board of Education Proposed Increase	\$27,934,289
2.85% Mayor's Recommended Increase	-\$27,538,388
Unexpected Items That Were Not Budgeted	-\$ 310,000
Total Board of Education Budget Cut	\$ 705,901

BOTTOMLINE

Currently, we have already cut 5 part-time and 2 full-time positions and \$347,536 in budget eliminations (\$678,568).

An additional \$705,901 cut from the Mayor's recommended 2.85% budget increase would lead to a possible 6 to 7 more full-time positions being eliminated.

Additionally, the Police Department is also proposing to eliminate the School Resource Officer, the most significant safety resource in our District.

In total, the Board of Education could be eliminating 14 – 15 positions.

TO VIEW A FULL PRESENTATION PLEASE GO TO OUR WEBSITE

- (g) Finally, as a reminder, the school district will be closed for April Break from Monday, April 14th through Friday, April 18th.

10. **Unfinished Business**

- (a) 2026 – 2027 School Year Calendar – MOTION ITEM

After a brief discussion regarding the first day of school for students, the following motion was made:

MOTION: To entertain a motion to approve the 2026 – 2027 School Year Calendar as presented. Motion Mr. Showers, second Mr. Foote, any discussion (no further discussion), all in favor, any opposed (Mr. Bourbonniere) any abstentions, motion carries.

- (b) Second Read of Modified Policies and New Policy

MODIFIED POLICIES

Series 1000 – Community/Board Operations

- P-2002 Retention of Electronic Records and Information

Series 4000 – Personnel

- P-4019 Social Media

Series 5000 – Students

- P-5025 Confidentiality and Access to Education Records
- P-5026 Student Use of District's Computer Systems
- P-5031 Use of Private Technology Devices by Students

Series 6000 – Instruction

- P6012 Weighted Grading and Calculation of Grade Point Averages

Series 9000 – Bylaws of the Board

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

NEW POLICY

Series 4000 – Personnel

- P – 4024 Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) – Staff

After a brief discussion regarding Series 500 – Students P-5031 Use of Private Technology Devices by Students and Series 9000 – Bylaws of the Board P-9024 Required Two Year Service on the Board of Education to Serve in an Officer or Leadership Position the following motion was made:

MOTION: To entertain a motion to approve the Modified Policies and New Policy as discussed. Motion Mrs. Tilton, second Mr. Foote, no further discussion, all in favor, any opposed (Mr. Bourbonniere and Mr. Showers), any abstentions, motion carries.

11. **New Business**

(a) **Out of State Field Trip**

MOTION: To entertain a motion to approve the out of state field trip to Washington, D.C. for students in grades 10 – 12 in the Social Studies Department at Terryville High School from November 9 – 14, 2025. Motion Mrs. Tilton, second Mr. Showers, any discussion, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion carries.

12. **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 March and 7 different submissions:
 - (1 & 2) Business Office Activity Report & Negative Balance Explanations
 - (3) Board of Education Summary through March 31, 2025
 - (4) Monthly Budget Report, March 31, 2025
 - (5) Cumulative Board of Education Budget Expenditures % by Month, March 2024 – 2025
 - (6) Food Services Financial Performance Year-to-Date (July 1, 2024 – March 31, 2025)
 - (7) Capital Improvement Plan 2024-2033 Plymouth Public Schools (updated
March 31, 2025)
- The Accounts by Facilities Report will be forwarded to the Town of Plymouth Board of Finance

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

Mr. Falcone reviewed the postings with the Board. Note: All positions are pending on the outcome of the budget.

13. **Public Comment**

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

Dan Gentile, 261 Mt. Tobe Road, Thanked Mr. Bourbonniere for volunteering his time; expressed his opinion with respect to Policy Series 9000 – Bylaws of the Board P-9024 Required 2 years of service on the Board to serve in an Officer or Leadership Position (not in agreement with this policy); spoke in favor of having a Kindergarten graduation.

Melanie Church, 328 Main Street, suggested holding off on the 26 – 27 school year calendar and also suggested holding Kindergarten graduation in the Community Room at Town Hall.

Melissa Darr, 90 East Plymouth Road, spoke in favor of Kindergarten graduation.

(b) Remote public comment (please go to www.plymouth.k12.ct.us for instructions on how to participate) None

14. **Committee Reports** – Curriculum/Achievement – Mrs. Kulesa, Board Chair for Mrs. Lucian,
Committee Chair

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:

Reading & Writing Program for students in Grades 6 – 8

and moved this item to be brought to the full Board for their approval. (NOTE: Coming out of committee this motion does not require a second)

- (1) MOTION: To entertain a motion to approve Wit & Wisdom for students in Grades 6 – 8 beginning with the 2025 – 2026 school year.

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

Mrs. Kulesa noted she would be filling the vacancy on the Finance/Operations Committee in lieu of Mr. Seaman's resignation until the November elections.

15. **Board Liaison Reports**

Mr. Perugino/Mrs. Tilton

Harry S. Fisher Elementary School

April 11
March 26
April 10
April 25
April 28

Day of Kindness
6th grade paint night was well attended
BMX Presentation
SBAC Rally
SBAC Starts

Mr. Zbuska

Plymouth Center School

Yearbooks are on sale. They may be ordered through the PTA website.

May 2
May 13
June

Last day for school store
PTA Meeting at 7 p.m. They are looking for members
PTA Board Elections will take place at the June meeting.
The committee is accepting nominations for all five committees. Deadline May meeting.
Build-A-Buddy Fundraiser Event, Friday, May 16 from 5 p.m. – 7 p.m. in the PCS Cafeteria. You must pre-order your kit to attend. Flyers go out after spring break.

Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani

Eli Terry Jr. Middle School

April 22

Wit & Grit, please go to the on-line link to complete the form.

PTA funded field trip for grades 6, 7 and 8.

It is scholarship time. If you have a senior, please remind them,

April 30
June 12

Next Meeting
Last Day of School for students at Eli Terry Jr. Middle School

Mr. Foote

Terryville High School

Fundraisers are on track for grad-night.

April 7 – April 23

Grad signs available.

Mother's Day Flowers will be available the Saturday before Mother's Day

May 18

IGA Roundup

Mrs. Tilton

EdAdvance

Director, Self Evaluation

PreK Funding for FRC

16. **Board Comments**

Mr. Showers welcomed Mr. Bourbonniere, congratulated Mrs. Tilton, and commented on a great presentation.

Mr. Foote, commented on the need for consideration to others with respect to meeting times.

Mr. Zbuska, nice presentation, congratulations to all of those who were honored tonight, to Mrs. Tilton, the Board's new Vice Chair and to Dr. Bonnie-Doughty Jenkins on the publication of her book.

Mr. Perugino commented on the district not receiving any publicity regarding its students. For example, the AI team at Terryville High School took first and second place at CCSU. The team competed against sixteen other teams around the state. However, he saw nothing in the newspapers. Welcome back Mr. Bourbonniere. Commented on the Board of Finance inquiring about Capital Improvements and not receiving any updates. Mr. Tencza, Business Manager, indicated he does forward them to Town Hall but will gladly follow up on this matter.

Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani, congratulations to Mrs. Tilton, Tyler who will be attending UConn as a Business Major (free tuition) and was officially announced as Terryville High School's Valedictorian (huge accomplishment), congratulations to Eddie and the girls as well. Would like to receive school e-mail as she did in the past, weekly updates. Ben to follow up on this for all Board Members. Commented on Fallon and Ava, Board Student Representatives – liked the incorporation of a variety of items in their reports to the Board and feels acknowledgements are very important, congratulations to the retirees and she appreciates the preparation of a school year calendar and this and next year as they help parents to prepare for vacations, etc.

Mrs. Tilton thanked everyone for their comments tonight. She welcomed Mr. Bourbonniere and congratulated all the students who were recognized at tonight's meeting.

Mrs. Kulesa thanked the public who came to the meeting and spoke tonight. Encourages the public to continue whether comments are in agreement or not, lovely presentation, and welcome to Mr. Bourbonniere and congratulations to Mrs. Tilton.

17. **Next Board Meeting** –The next Regular Meeting of the Plymouth Board of Education is on Wednesday, May 14, 2025, at 7 p.m. in the cafeteria at Terryville High School.

18. **Executive Session** (Items to be discussed in Executive Session)

MOTION: To entertain a motion to enter into execution session at 9:41 p.m. to discuss the following:

- (a) Student Related Matter
- (b) Contract for the Plymouth School Administrators Association
- (c) MOU Non-Lapsing Account
- (d) MOU PEA for Athletic Director for the middle and high schools

and inviting Mr. Falcone, Superintendent, Mrs. Melillo, Assistant Superintendent and Mr. Tencza, Business Manager into executive session:

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

19. **Resume Regular Session**

Mrs. Kulesa, Board Chair resumed regular session at 10:16 p.m.

20. **Possible Action From Executive Session (if any)**

(a) Student Related Matter – No action taken

(b) Contract for the Plymouth School Administrators Association - No action taken

(c) MOU Non-Lapsing Account

MOTION: To entertain a motion to authorize the Superintendent of Schools along with the Business Manager to present to the Plymouth Board of Finance the Memorandum of Understanding for the Non-Lapsing Account as discussed in executive session.

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

(d) MOU PEA for Athletic Director for the middle and high schools

MOTION: To entertain a motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding for the Plymouth Education Association for the Athletic Director for the middle and high schools as discussed in executive session. Motion Mr. Foote, second Mr. Zbuska, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion carries.

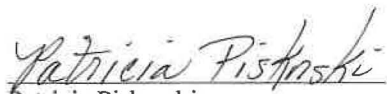
(e) MOU Department Coordinator Positions at Terryville High School

MOTION: To entertain a motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding for the Department Coordinator Positions at Terryville High School as discussed in executive session. Motion Mr. Showers, second Mr. Foote, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion carries.

21. **Adjournment**

MOTION: To entertain a motion to adjourn at 10:17 p.m. Motion Mr. Showers, second, Mrs. Tilton all in favor, motion carries.

Respectfully Submitted



Patricia Piskorski
Recording Secretary
For the Plymouth Board of Education