



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, MAY 14, 2025

7:00 P.M.

MINUTES

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

Also Present: Mr. Falcone, Superintendent, Mrs. Melillo, Assistant Superintendent, 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 May 14, 2025, to order at 7:05 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:

**** Unfinished Business – Adoption of the Assigned Budget**

14(b) **Executive Session**

To discuss contracts for the Superintendent of Schools, Assistant Superintendent of Schools and Business Manager.

Motion Mr. Perugino, second Mr. Showers all in favor. Motion carries.

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

PLYMOUTH, CT
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
RECEIVED FOR RECORD
2025 MAY 21 AM 9:21

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 April 9, 2025, and the Special Board of Education Meeting (Budget Workshop for 2025 – 2026) of April 23, 2025.

Motion Mr. Showers, second Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani, any discussion, (none) all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions (Mr. Bourbonniere abstains as to the Special Board of Education Meeting of April 23, 2025, Budget Workshop), motion carries.

AND

- (b) The minutes of the Special Meeting of the Plymouth Board of Education Curriculum/Achievement Committee of April 9, 2025.

Motion Mrs. Tilton, second Mr. Foote, any discussion, (none) all in favor. any opposed, any abstentions, motion carries.

Mr. Bourbonniere made the following motion:

MOTION: To rescind the policy pertaining to Policy 9024 ByLaws on page 55. It is in violation of the Town Charter and the Connecticut General Statutes, Section 10-218. Motion Mr. Bourbonniere, second, Mr. Showers

Summary of Discussion:

Mr. Bourbonniere referenced the language in Policy P-9024 and information received by Mr. Gentile from Attorney Louis Todisco, Connecticut Department of Education to Justin Cleary. Indicated basically what needs to be done is to rescind the policy and go forth and decide the legalities stated in the policy. He feels the policy is discriminatory. He will ask the mayor if the Town Attorney can have a legal opinion if the Board is seeking a legal opinion from Shipman and Goodwin as recommended by Mr. Falcone.

Mr. Falcone – The policy referenced in the ByLaws was voted in and does not impact the present Board until the election in November when new leadership positions take effect.
Recommendation: To speak with the Board's attorneys to inquire if they have any concerns regarding this policy. Upon hearing from Shipman, he will report if they have any concerns regarding legalities of this policy.

Mr. Foote – Move the question.

Prior to Moving the question, Mrs. Kulesa asked if there were any other Board Members that would like to speak.

Mrs. Lucian – She agrees with Gerry on the Policy. Indicated she was absent from meetings due to a medical condition.

Mr. Perugino – Asked, when she was out due do a medical condition, did she not attend meetings via the computer?

Mrs. Lucian – Yes, she did attend some of the meetings on-line.

There being no further discussion Mrs. Kulesa called for a Roll Vote.

Yes, you are in favor of rescinding the motion.

No, you are not in favor of rescinding the motion.

Yes

Mr. Bourbonniere
Mr. Showers
Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani
Mrs. Lucian

No

Mr. Foote
Mr. Zbuska
Mr. Perugino
Mrs. Tilton

Due to a tie of **4 yes** and **4 no**

Mrs. Kulesa cast the tie breaking vote and voted - **No**

Motion carries – **4 Yes** and **5 No**

Mrs. Kulesa asked Mr. Falcone to contact Shipman and Goodwin and to report back to the Board. There still is enough time to rescind the policy, if necessary, if the Board chooses to do so.

4.

Student Representatives

Fallon Roth-Perreault

- Harvest Pack – On May 8th community members joined the Leos Club for the annual Harvest Pack. This is a volunteer organization that packages millions of meals for people in need around the world. This year students joined forces with the Watertown Leos Club. In just three hours a total of 13,000 meals were packaged for people in Kentucky who recently experienced extreme floods.
- Teacher Appreciation Week – The Student Council planned something special during Teacher Appreciation Week. Letters could be seen hung through the windows on the front of the school that spelled out “Thank You Teachers!” Personalized, handwritten cards for each teacher, paraprofessional, custodian, cafeteria worker, office employee, and members of the technology department were created. Students organized a tie-dye day to create a fun and unique shirt for staff to wear on Fridays to dress down.
- Francis the Killdeer – The new, unofficial mascot for Terryville High School.
- AP Exams - This is the middle of the season of AP Exams.
- Student Recognition – Student recognition has increased. Several students have been highlighted in the morning announcements as well as Roos News. The Student Council is continuing to work to find easy and accessible ways for news and accomplishments to reach the entirety of the school community.

Ava Gwizd

- Choices Matter Assembly – On May 13th, Stephen Emt, a motivational speaker, came to speak to the entire student body. In his speech he addressed the impact of choices, and he shared how one decision he made in his 20’s to drive under the influence changed his life forever.
- Legally Blonde – The Terryville High School Drama Club show, Legally Blonde, was held on April 25th and April 26th.
- Musical News – The Terryville High School Band and Chorus took a trip to Hershey Park and performed in front of judges at a “Music In The Parks Ceremony”!
- Spring Concert – On May 13th, the Band and Chorus had their final performance of the year.
- Art Show – In the lobby at the high school, you can see the various items on display at the high school’s yearly Art Show.

5. **Public Comment**

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

Dan Gentile – 269 Mt. Tobe Road, Plymouth

Comments: Policy information on the agenda.

P-9024 ByLaws – Required Two Year Service on the Board of Education to serve in an Officer or Leadership Position and Due Diligence.

Shared communication from Attorney Louis Todisco, Connecticut Department of Education.

Melanie Church – 328 Main Street, Terryville

Comments: Since the Superintendent and Administration are not under a union contract, consider giving back to the community and consider taking only have of a raise this year.

Little party of a graduation for kindergarten students.

Figure out a way to let parents back into the schools.

Virginia Kinane – 18 Adams Drive

Comments: Thanked Mrs. Kulesa for thinking out of the box at the last budget meeting.

She has not heard anything further on kindergarten graduation.

Looking for the results on the climate study.

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

6. **Superintendent's Update**

- 2025 Terryville High School: Morgan Champagne Salutatorian
Tyler Lachance Valedictorian
- Teacher Appreciation Week: Every employee in the district was provided with a complimentary ice cream from Rita's Italian Ice Truck on behalf of the Board of Education and the Administrative Team in appreciation for their dedication and commitment to our students and school community.
- Plymouth Rotary Club's Day of Service: Sponsored by Terryville High School. Seniors participate in a Senior Give Back Day on Tuesday, May 20th. This is a way for students to thank the community they grew up in by helping with various cleanup projects throughout the town before their graduation. Seniors will be cleaning up the Fairgrounds and working to spruce up a trailer from Industrial Riggers that is used by volunteer organizations for parades and summer concerts.
- Update on Magnet School Transportation concern: Letters from the new Superintendent of Waterbury Public Schools were sent to all the district's magnet school parents sharing Waterbury will be covering the cost of magnet school transportation for all students residing in Plymouth. Mr. Falcone thanked the Superintendent and the Waterbury Board of Education for supporting the families and children in our community. He also thanked our Board of Education for supporting the decision to cut the magnet school transportation for the budget as ultimately this decision saved the district from cutting an additional \$112,625 out of the operating budget.

○ Reminders:

Plymouth Center School, Harry S. Fisher Elementary School – Last day of school Wednesday, June 11th.

Harry S. Fisher Promotion Ceremony – Monday, June 9th at 9:30 a.m.

Eli Terry Jr. Middle School – Last day of school Thursday, June 12th.
Step Up Program will be held at 9 a.m.

Terryville High School Graduation Ceremony – Wednesday, June 11th
at 6 p.m.

- End of the Year Events – Mr. Falcone handed out a list to the Board Members which listed the end of the year events. He asked if any Board Members wished to attend to please contact him as he is always planning to attend some of the events.

**** Unfinished Business – Adoption of Assigned Budget**

MOTION: To entertain a motion for the Plymouth Board of Education to adopt the assigned Town Budget of \$27,578,551 which is a 3% increase. Motion, Mr. Showers, second Mr. Perugino, any discussion, (none), all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion carries.

7. New Business

(a) Out-of-State Field Trip to Disney World, Orlanda, Florida

MOTION: To entertain a motion to approve the out-of-state field trip to Disney World in Orlando, Florida, for Terryville High School Band, Color Guard and Chorus students in grades 9 – 12 from March 26 – March 29, 2026.

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

(b) International Field Trip to London, Paris, and Rome - Mrs. Avcollie, English Teacher at Terryville High School

MOTION: To entertain a motion to approve the International Field Trip to London, Paris, and Rome for Terryville High School students in grades 9 – 12 from April 8, 2027 – April 16, 2027.

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

8. 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 April 30, 2025
 - (4) Monthly Budget Report, April 30, 2025
 - (5) Cumulative Board of Education Budget Expenditures % by Month, April 2024 – 2025
 - (6) Food Services Financial Performance Year-to-Date (July 1, 2024 – April 30, 2025)
 - (7) Capital Improvement Plan 2024-2033 Plymouth Public Schools (updated April 30, 2025)

Mr. Tencza touched upon the following items:

- Budget Expenditures 2024 – 2025.
 - Budget 2025 – 2026.
 - Food Services Report.
 - Update on Facilities: (Eli Terry Jr. Middle School).
 - The fact that all school parking lots need improvement.
-
- The Accounts by Facilities Report will be forwarded to the Town of Plymouth Board of Finance

(b) Personnel Report – Mr. Falcone, Superintendent

Mr. Falcone review the various job openings for the 2025 – 2026 school year.

9. Public Comment

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

Melanie Church – 328 Main Street, Terryville

Comment: Suggested that the Board consider contacting a grant writer company in Plainville.

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

10. 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, Discontinued Policies, and the New Policies to the full Board for a first read.

Modified Policies

Series 1000 – Community/Board Operations

- P-1006 School Security and Safety
- P-1010 Visitors and Observations in the Schools

Discontinued Policies

Series 5000 – Students

- P-5003 Bullying Prevention and Intervention Policy and Safe School Climate Plan

New Policies

Series 5000 – Students

- P-5036 Connecticut School Climate Policy
- P-5037 Restorative Practices Response Policy

11. Board Liaison Reports

Mr. Perugino/Mrs. Tilton

May 8th
May 16
May 19th – May 23rd
May 20th
May 28th & 29th
June 4th
June 9th
June 10th

Mr. Zbuska

May 2nd
May 14th
May 16th
May 27th – May 28th
May 23rd
May 30th

June 9th, 10th, & 11th

Yearbook Sale is going on.

Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani

May 9th
May 16th
May 21st

Mr. Foote

Mrs. Tilton

Harry S. Fisher Elementary School

Craft Night
School Store
Coin Wars
PTA Meeting 7 p.m.
Art Show
Field Day
5th Grade Promotion Ceremony
5th Fifth Grade Picnic

Plymouth Center School

Last Day for the School Store
Grade 1 to Indian Rock
Build a Buddy Fundraiser
Art Show from 3:30 p.m. – 6 p.m.
Field Day
Field Day Rain Date (volunteers are asked to be at the School by noon) (more volunteers are needed)
Early Dismissal

Eli Terry Jr. Middle School

Wit "N" Grit
Ice Cream Truck was at the school for all students
Next PTA Meeting (in-person or on-line)
New positions are to be filled at the next meeting for next year. There is still time to place your name in for nomination if you are interested.

PTA helped with Staff Appreciation Week
Scholarship Nite is quickly approaching.

Terryville High School

The Fire Fundraiser raised \$672.
Donations of \$2,080 are going toward Grad Night
Lion's Club donated \$1,500. They were the first Platinum giver ever.
Bingo raised \$1,400.
Yard signs are now for sale.

EdAdvance

The in-person Board Meeting was nice but not very well attended. There was a review of the final budget. (maintaining some cuts which will hopefully not impact any students)

12. **Board Comments**

Mr. Bourbonniere – Thank you to the student representatives for their informative reports. Congratulations to those teachers putting the European Trip together.

Mr. Showers – Both trips seem like the students will have a very good time. Tonight's food was great. Compliments to the cafeteria.

Mr. Foote – Impressed with what the students are doing in school. Pleased to see 2nd graders at Plymouth Center are talking about Civil Rights heroes at a time when it is not nice to speak about such things.

Mr. Zbuska – Thank you to the student representatives for a great job today. Commented on the European Trip and when he went to the University of Rome back in 1969 to study Art for two months the cost for everything, i.e., flight and hotel was \$600.00.

Mr. Perugino – So this does not get unnoticed, he wanted to thank the Superintendent and Business Manager for getting together with the Superintendent in Waterbury in providing transportation for the kids in our town. A comment was made that we do not do too much for the kids who attend other schools out-of-town. What the Superintendent and Business Manager did was above what we should be doing. We did the right thing.

Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani – Thank you to all of the teachers during Teacher Appreciation Week. Thank you to all the PTAs for everything they do from fundraising, field trips, the ice cream truck, etc.

Mrs. Lucian – Hope the seniors have a nice, safe rest of the school year. Congratulations to all the seniors.

Mrs. Tilton – Thank you to all the teachers and staff. She is grateful for everything that everyone does to help our students learn, to the families, the PTAs and members of the community and businesses who donate. As we come to the end of the year, it is important to know how our small community comes together to support our students and to make a difference. Keeping Mandy's family in our thoughts.

Mrs. Kulesa – Thank you to the community members who came up to speak this evening. As always, whether it is a subject we agreed or disagreed on, we are always open and happy to hear your comments and questions. Someone from the Board addresses your concern at some point. Although your question or concern will not be answered at this time, someone will get back to you. So, please ask questions if you have them. Please bring up concerns if you have them. You may also e-mail the Superintendent, and he is more than happy to address your concerns.

13. **Next Board Meeting** – Due to a scheduling conflict, the next Regular Meeting of the Plymouth Board of Education is on Wednesday, June 4, 2025, at 7 p.m. in the library at Terryville High School.

14. **Executive Session** (Item to be discussed in Executive Session)

MOTION: To entertain a motion to enter into executive session at 8:12 p.m. to discuss the following items inviting:

Mr. Falcone, Superintendent, Mrs. Melillo, Assistant Superintendent and Mr. Tencza,
Business Manager

(a) Proposed Agreement Between the Plymouth Board of Education and The Plymouth
School Administrators' Association.

(b) Contracts for the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent and Business Manager

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

15. **Resume Regular Session**

Mrs. Kulesa, Chair, resumed regular session at 9:33 p.m.

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

No Action Taken

17. **Adjournment**

MOTION: To entertain a motion to adjourn at 9:33 p.m. Motion Mr. Showers, second, Mr. Foote
all in favor, motion carries.



Patricia Piskorski
Recording Secretary
For The Plymouth Board of Education