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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, AUGUST 20, 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 & Pledge to the Flag

Mrs. Kulesa called the meeting 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 adopt the agenda as presented. Motion Mr. Showers second Mr. Foote, any discussion, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion carries

3. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: To entertain a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Plymouth Board of Education of June 4, 2025. Motion Mrs. Lucian, second Mrs. Tilton, any discussion, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions (Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani abstains), motion carries.

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

(a) In-person public comment - None

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

None

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Plymouth Board of Education is an Equal Opportunity Employer and Provider.

5. **Superintendent's Update** – Mr. Falcone, Superintendent

Included in Mr. Falcone's update to the Board were the following:

- (a) Welcoming everyone back for the 2025 – 2026 school year.
- (b) New Teacher Orientation; Convocation; and Professional Days,
- (c) First day of school for students, August 26th; Summer School Program (Mrs. Melillo, Assistant Superintendent).
- (d) Completed projects (District – Install phone system, Plymouth Center School – Fence around the basketball court, Harry S. Fisher Elementary School – renovation of bathrooms, and Eli Terry Jr. Middle School fix the classroom that was water damaged, completion of projects with money from the sinking fund or the insurance settlement for the water damage at Eli Terry Jr. Middle School); gym floors at the middle school will not be completed by the first day of school due to lumber and supply needs with an estimated completion date of October 1st outside weather permitting.
- (e) Madison Kinane a student at Plymouth Center School, held a lemonade stand raising more than \$1,100 for the Plymouth Small Wonders Program.
- (f) In A Heartbeat Program to be offered on October 7th after school hours with more information to follow.
- (g) Large rock delivered to the high school which will allow students to paint the rock at various points throughout the school year indicating special events, celebration of achievements, promote causes and showcase student creativity. Thank you to former Mayor Dave Merchant, Jim Schultz, and the entire crew.
- (h) Mrs. Loveland's last day as principal of Plymouth Center School will be on Friday, August 29th. Jessica McDonnell will take over responsibilities until a permanent replacement is found. Thirty-nine candidates have applied, interviewing 8 in the first round which will take place on Monday, August 25th from 8 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Interview committee to include Plymouth Center School faculty/staff/parents and Board of Education Member (Mr. Bourbonniere); 2nd round Interview, Thursday, August 28th; Final Round Interview, Wednesday, September 3rd with 2 candidates brought before the Board at a Special Meeting, and goal is to have a principal in place by Monday, October 6th.

6. **Unfinished Business** - Mrs. Kulesa, Chair

- (a) **Security** - Each tabled Modified Policy will be voted on separately due to concerns expressed at a previous meeting.

MOTION: To entertain a motion to approve the following tabled Modified Policy as discussed in executive session at the Special Board of Education Meeting of August 20, 2025, which took place prior to the Regular Board of Education Meeting.

Modified Policy

Series 1000 – Community/Board Operations

- **P-1006 School Security and Safety**

Motion Mr. Showers, second Mr. Perugino

ROLL VOTE:

	YES (in favor)		NO (not in favor)	ABSTENTION
Mr. Showers	x			
Mr. Bourbonniere	x			
Mr. Foote	x			
Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani	x			
Mr. Perugino	x			
Mr. Zbuska	x			
Mrs. Lucian	x			
Mrs. Tilton	x			

8 - Yes (in favor)

0 - No (not in favor)

0 - Abstentions

Motion carries

MOTION: To entertain a motion to approve the following tabled Modified Policy as discussed in executive session at the Special Board of Education Meeting of August 20, 2025, which took place prior to the Regular Board of Education Meeting.

Modified Policy

Series 1000 – Community/Board Operations

• **P-1010 Visitors and Observations in the Schools**

Motion Mrs. Lucian, second Mr. Showers

ROLL VOTE:

	YES (in favor)	NO (not in favor)	ABSTENTION
Mr. Showers	x		
Mr. Bourbonniere	x		
Mr. Foote	x		
Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani	x		
Mr. Perugino	x		
Mr. Zbuska	x		
Mrs. Lucian	x		
Mrs. Tilton	x		

8 – Yes (in favor)

0 – No (not in favor)

0 -Abstentions

Motion carries

(b) **Ratified Agreement Between the Plymouth Board of Education and the Plymouth School Administrators Association 2026 – 2029** – Mrs. Kulesa, Chair

MOTION: To entertain a motion to approve the Ratified Agreement Between the Plymouth Board of Education and the Plymouth School Administrators Association 2026- 2029 as discussed in executive session at the Special Board of Education Meeting of August 20, 2025, which took place prior to the Regular Board of Education Meeting.

Motion Mr. Perugino, second Mr. Showers

ROLL VOTE:

	YES (in favor)	NO (not in favor)	ABSTENTION
Mr. Showers	x		
Mr. Bourbonniere	x		
Mr. Foote	x		
Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani	x		
Mr. Perugino	x		
Mr. Zbuska	x		
Mrs. Lucian	x		
Mrs. Tilton	x		

8 - Yes (in favor)

0 - No (not in favor)

0 - Abstentions

Motion carries

7. New Business

(a) Plymouth Board of Education Goals – Mr. Falcone, Superintendent

Mr. Falcone – Goals for the 2025 – 2026 school year were discussed at the Special Board of Education which took place prior to the Regular Meeting.

DISTRICT GOALS

Student Achievement Goal

Support all students in achieving their best possible learning outcomes.

Strategies:

- * Expand the instructional capacity of certified and non-certified staff.
- * Update and enrich the Pre-K through Grade 12 curriculum and common assessments.
- * Enhance special education programs and student supports.
- * Utilize and aligned MTSS (Multi-Tiered System of Supports) process Pre-K through Grade 12.
- * Write and implement scope and sequence frameworks for every class and subject taught in grades Pre-K through 12.

Engagement Goal

Engage students in the learning process by providing authentic learning experiences.

Strategies:

- * Establish learning opportunities for students to grow and explore academically, both in and out of school.
- * Develop performance based learning opportunities Pre-K through Grade 12.
- * Create authentic and relevant learning opportunities for students in PreK through Grade 12.

Well-Being Goal

Create an environment and opportunities that support well-being for all students.

Strategies:

- * Enhance wellness supports and services Pre-K through Grade 12.
- * Expand safety measures at each building.
- * Increase extracurricular offerings to foster student engagement in the school community.

Fiscal Oversight

Align budgetary spending with district goals and strategies.

Strategies:

- * Evaluate and revise the capital improvement plan to address the district's infrastructure needs.
- * Analyze, assess, and implement various strategies to use budget funding more efficiently and effectively.
- * Align professional development to reflect evolving needs and instructional focus areas.

MOTION: To entertain a motion to approve the Plymouth Board of Education Goals for 2025– 2026 as submitted. Motion Mrs. Tilton, second Mrs. Lucian, any discussion, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion carries.

(b) Appointment of Committees – Mrs. Kulesa, Chair - (Current Board Members will remain on their appointed committee(s) until after the November elections)

CURRENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Curriculum Achievement

Michelle Lucian – Chair
Kelly Tilton
Richard Foote

Policy

Kelly Tilton – Chair
Louis Zbuska
Cindy Candrea-Florenciani

Finance/Operations

Cindy Candrea-Florenciani – Chair
Gregory Showers
Karen Kulesa

Facilities

Patrick Perugino – Chair
Gregory Showers
Cindy Candrea-Florenciani
Louis Zbuska

(c) DRAFT Board of Education Meeting Dates for 2026 – Mrs. Kulesa, Chair

Each Board Member was provided with a draft copy of the Board of Education Meeting Dates for 2026 in their packet. These dates will be voted upon at the September 10, 2025, Regular Board of Education Meeting.

(d) Landscaping Contract – Mr. Tencza, Business Manager

Mr. Tencza explained he is requesting the Board waive the RFP process. Decision will be made in respect to a contract without first bringing the proposal before Board for their approval or disapproval. Information will be shared in the September Board Packet.

Summary of discussion involving Mrs. Tilton, Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani and Mr. Bourbonniere, Board Members and Mr. Tencza, Business Manager and Mr. Falcone, Superintendent

Board Members:

What is the difference between the Budget figure and the Actual with Wygant. Will the Board be part of the decision-making process? Concerns regarding contracts brought before the Board. Would like time to digest the information and ask questions before a decision is made. Possibility of pursuing other offers. If the Board chooses, if they are not in favor of the figure from Wygant, are they able to request an RFP? Transparency with respect to sharing additional tasks not included in the contract and services provided by other companies.

Mr. Tencza and Mr. Falcone: (responses)

The amount for Wygant is \$155,000. Anything requiring services out of the contract, for example, at the high school all poison ivy and bushes were removed which was an additional project. Also, the removal of mulch at the playground and putting in stakes and mulch was an additional service. There is a separate fee for any landscaping service outside of the contract and if another company needs to be brought in.

All the motion requests of the Board is they approve not pursuing an RFP at this time in order to allow the Superintendent and the Business Manager to hopefully negotiate a favorable extension or a contract with Wygant. If successful and once Mr. Tencza receives a final figure with respect to an extension or contract it will be shared with the Board in their September packet for them to review and ask questions at the September meeting. They may choose to accept the contract with Wygant or choose to pursue an RFP. The RFP is not off the table. The Business Manager and Superintendent will not bring forth any proposal to the Board that is not beneficial to the district.

Mr. Falcone did mention the salary, along with benefits, of two outside custodians Totaled approximately \$180,000 a year versus \$155,000.00.

In the future, additional tasks beyond the contract and using other companies will be shared.

After discussion, the following motion was made:

MOTION: To entertain a motion to waive the RFP (Request for Proposal) process and to authorize the Superintendent of Schools in conjunction with the Business Manager to negotiate the renewal of landscaping contract with Wygant Construction & Maintenance Services LLC and to present said renewal to the Board at their regular September Meeting for discussion and possible approval.

Motion: Mr. Foote, second Mr. Showers any further discussion, (if not) all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion passes.

8. Board Member/Committee Reports

a. Finance/Operations - Mr. Tencza, Business Manager

Some of the items were reported under Superintendent's Update.

Also, during the meeting reference was made to the Bonding involving the Town of Plymouth, replacement of roofs at the schools and the parking lot at the high school, and capital improvements.

There was a change from OMNI to TCG as third-party administrators for the 403b and 457 account management. This is at no cost to the district. Transition to HES for custodial services is now complete and everything seems to be going smoothly. Capital Project Report has been revised. Report is broken down

into two sections. 1.) Capital projects more than \$50,000 and submitted to the town for consideration and 2.) Capital projects less than \$50,000 to be addressed through Plymouth Public Schools operating budget or through sinking fund allocations. The sinking fund is no longer under the town's control. Report will be sent to the town's capital committee, the board of finance and the mayor's office following each Board of Education Meeting.

At the meeting, Mr. Tencza reviewed the items below in this Business Office Activity Report June/July 2025.

- Included in each Board Members packet were the following – Accounts by Facilities Report for the fiscal year June 30, 2025, and Accounts by Facilities Report for the Month of July 2025 and:
 1. Business Office Activity Report June/July
 2. Board of Education Budget Summary Through June 30, 2025 (Fiscal Year 2024-2025)
 3. Board of Education Monthly Budget Report – June 30, 2025
 4. Cumulative Board of Education Budget Expenditures % By Month June 2024 – 2025
 5. Food Services Financial Performance Year to Date (July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025)

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1. Board of Education Budget Summary Through July 31, 2025 Fiscal Year 2025 – 2026
 2. Board of Education Monthly Budget Report July 31, 2025
 3. Cumulative Board of Education Budget Expenditures % By Month July 2025 – 2026
 4. Capital Improvements Needs 5 Year Plan Updated August 13, 2025

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

b. Personnel Report – Mr. Falcone, Superintendent

Each Board Member received a copy of the Personnel Report in their packet which was reviewed by Mr. Falcone at the meeting.

Openings:

Harry S. Fisher Elementary – Special Education Teacher (STAR Program)
Plymouth Center School – Principal
Eli Terry Jr. Middle School – Building Substitute
Terryville High School – Special Education Teacher
.50 Speech/Language Pathologist

District is in desperate need of qualified district paraprofessionals.

9. Board Liaison Reports – Mrs. Kulesa, Chair

Board Liaison Members will remain the same until after the November elections. Reports will resume on September 10, 2025, at the Regular Board of Education Meeting.

CURRENT LIAISONS

Mr. Perugino/Mrs. Tilton	Harry S. Fisher Elementary School
Mr. Zbuska	Plymouth Center School
Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani	Eli Terry Jr. Middle School
Mr. Foote	Terryville High School
Mrs. Tilton	EdAdvance

Mrs. Kulesa – Please get involved in your PTA Meetings.

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

(a) In-person public comment - None

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

None

11. **Board Comments**

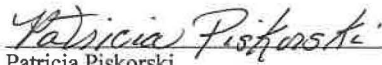
Summary: Welcome Back; Nicole Corry, PTA President, Eli Terry Jr. Middle School in a Heartbeat Program is a good program and is free. Do not forget to purchase your baked potato at the Terryville Fair; Sorry to see Mrs. Loveland leave the district and best wishes to her in her new job; Looks like it is going to be another great year; Happy New Year to all community, staff, paras, students, teachers, etc. and wishes everyone a nice year; let's get involved and work together; and urges board members to make a commitment to be on at least one committee and if we all do that we will be running smoothly.

12. **Next Board Meeting** –The next Regular Meeting of the Plymouth Board of Education is on Wednesday, September 10, 2025, at 7 p.m. in the cafeteria at Terryville High School.

13. **Adjournment**

MOTION: To entertain a motion to adjourn at 8:08 p.m. Motion Mr. Perugino, second, Mr. Showers all in favor, motion passes.

Respectfully Submitted



Patricia Piskorski
Recording Secretary
Plymouth Board of Education