PLYMOUTH PUBLIC SCHOOLS
CENTRAL OFFICE
27 NORTH HARWINTON AVENUE
TERRYVILLE, CONNECTICUT 06786

PLYMOUTH, CT
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
RECEIVED & RECORD
2025 AUG 27 AM 9:36
TOWN CLERK

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
SPECIAL MEETING
TERRYVILLE HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY
33 NORTH HARWINTON AVENUE
TERRYVILLE, CT 06786

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 20, 2025

5:00 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, Board Chair called the Special Meeting of the Plymouth Board of Education of August 20, 2025 to order at 5:06 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 Mr. Showers, any discussion, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion carries.

3. **Board of Education Retreat** – Superintendent's Update

Brief Summary

The Board of Education Retreat will take place after the New Year in January since there will be new Board Members. Attorney Mills will do a training session for the Board at that time.

Board of Education and Superintendent Roles and Responsibilities

The Board are elected officials who represent the community, select, hire, and evaluate the Superintendent. He is the Board's only employee. The Board is in charge of adopting the Board Policies. The Superintendent upholds the policies. The Board reviews and improves curriculum for new courses and new textbooks. They adopt the budget every year. The Superintendent proposes the budget, and the Board then decides how to move forward. Bylaws can be checked for the specifics on the Role of the Board.

The Superintendent recommends Board Policy to the Board, creates a long-term and long-range Improvement Plan. A 5-year Strategic Plan will be shared with the Board at its September meeting. School Building Plans are being worked on by the Administrative Team to align with the Strategic Plan. After which an Ad Hoc Committee will be formed to modify, further expand, or omit items, if necessary.

The Superintendent prepares the budget with the Business Manager and the Administrative Team. However, the Board approves the Budget. The Superintendent makes recommendations. He is also responsible for negotiating contracts, terminations, and disciplines.

The Superintendent represents the Board in the daily operations of the schools.

Update on Board of Education Goals

Two pieces have been added to the District Goals for the 2025 – 2026 school year.

Added to Student Achievement Goal: Strategies: Write and implement scope and sequence frame works for every class and subject taught in grades Pre-K through 12.

Feedback from staff, there were some things they felt were in need of and were missing, curriculum component and finalized curriculum.

Added to Fiscal Oversight: Strategies: Align professional development to reflect evolving needs and instructional focus areas.

Aligning Professional Development to what their needs are. It was felt this should be reflected in the Goals.

Provided everyone agrees with the Goals submitted to the Board, they will be adopted at the Board Meeting.

At this time, the Board Members were given the opportunity to review the District Goals.

Norms

Come in on time to meetings; Be prepared to engage in conversations; If a board member is unable to attend a meeting, he/she is to notify the Board Chair; Be transparent; and with respect to public comment, do not respond to a question as public comment is not a question-and-answer period. Rather, inform the individual the Superintendent will respond at a later date. The board meeting is not a place to engage in dialogue or conversation.

Organizational Chart

Reviews the responsibilities of each individual's position. The responsibilities of the Director of Curriculum & Instruction were assigned to various individuals as seen on the organizational chart. For example, Superintendent's additional duties: Instructional Coaches, Adult Education, McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance, and Curriculum & Instruction. It is too early to know how the division of responsibilities of the Director of Curriculum and Instruction is working out. We will know more as the school year progresses.

Committees – Recommendation from Mr. Falcone, committees remain the same until after the November elections.

Future Initiatives

Plymouth Center School – Fencing project completed. There were funds used from the sinking fund. Funds were set aside for the PreK Playground which were raised by parents. Some funds will be used from an activity account. This does not impact the budget. Board will be kept informed.

Harry S. Fisher Elementary School – New bathroom sinks will be completed by the 1st day of school.

Eli Terry Jr. Middle School – Water damaged classroom and gym floor repairs are underway. Science lab plumbing has been removed. Gym floor has been removed. Repairs should be completed by October 1st. In the meantime, weather permitting students will go outside for gym. During inclement weather, students will have class in the library for health, which is part of the curriculum. There are tiles that are beginning to buckle. However, the district is working with the insurance company to have them replaced.

Terryville High School – When one drives up to the field, they will notice a large rock. This was an idea from former Mayor Merchant to have a rock placed at the high school as students to paint to celebrate accomplishments, welcoming students back to school.

Focus – To have consistent learning experiences in both grades; Reading program in grade K -5; Providing high quality intervention in Special Education; Purchase of IXL as benchmark testing in our schools (grades 2-8); Testing 3 times a year (beginning, middle and end) to show growth of students. Will be focused on curriculum to be taught; Common learning experiences for students; Utilization of new reading program for grades 6 – 8; Making lessons more engaging; and District Wide – Professional Development; Appropriate teaching resources; bolster before and after school programs; Lower current operating budget and begin to transition from monthly newsletters to weekly updates from schools which will be sent to all board member emails. Also, to be included in board packets.

Mr. Falcone explain the process for choosing a new principal at Plymouth Center School with the Board. He will share this process at the regular meeting for the public.

4. **Executive Session** (these items will be discussed in executive session)

MOTION: To entertain a motion to enter into executive session at 5:48 p.m. inviting Mr. Falcone, Superintendent, Mrs. Melillo, Assistant Superintendent and Mr. Tencza, Business Manager to discuss the following:

(a) Security
(b) Ratified Agreement Between the Plymouth Board of Education and the Plymouth School Administrators Association 2026- 2029.

Motion Mrs. Lucian, second Mr. Showers, motion passed.

5. **Resume Regular Session**

MOTION: To entertain a motion to resume regular session at 6:31 p.m. Motion: Mr. Showers, second Mrs. Tilton all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion carries.

6. **ACTION FROM EXECUTION** (if any)

MOTION: To entertain a motion to vote on the following two items at the Regular Board of Education Meeting on August 20, 2025.

(a) Security

Modified Policies

Series 1000 – Community/Board Operations

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

AND

(b) Ratified Agreement Between the Plymouth Board of Education and the Plymouth School Administrators Association 2026 – 2029.

Motion Mr. Showers, second 6:32 p.m. Motion Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani, second Mrs. Lucian, all in favor, motion carries.

Respectfully Submitted

Patricia Piskorski

Patricia Piskorski
Recording Secretary
Plymouth Board of Education