



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, JANUARY 14, 2026

6:00 P.M.

MINUTES

Present: Mrs. Kulesa, Mr. Bourbonniere, Mr. Perugino, Mrs. Tilton, Mr. Showers, Mr. Foote, Mrs. Palmer, Mrs. Corry and Mrs. Allen

Also Present: Mr. Falcone, Superintendent of Schools, Mrs. Melillo, Assistant Superintendent of Schools and Mr. Tencza, Business Manager

1. **Call to Order and Pledge to the Flag**

Mrs. Kulesa Chair called the Special Meeting of the Plymouth Board of Education of January 14, 2026, to order 6 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:

- (a) The minutes of the Special Meeting of the Plymouth Board of Education **Workshop** of December 8, 2025. Motion Mr. Showers, second Mr. Foote, any discussion, if none, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion carries.

MOTION: To entertain a motion to approve:

- (b) The minutes of the Plymouth Board of Education **Ad Hoc Policy Committee** Meeting of December 10, 2025. Motion Mrs. Tilton, second Mrs. Palmer, any discussion, if none, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion carries.

PLYMOUTH, CT
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
RECEIVED FOR RECORD
2026 JAN 21 AM 9:21
Deirdre Kowalski
TOWN CLERK

MOTION: To entertain a motion to approve:

- (c) The minutes of the **Regular** Plymouth Board of Education Meeting of December 10, 2025. Motion Mr. Showers, second Mr. Perugino, any discussion, if none, all in favor, any opposed any abstentions, motion carries.

MOTION: To entertain a motion to approve:

- (d) The minutes of the Special Meeting of the Plymouth Board of Education **Finance & Operations** Committee of January 7, 2026. Motion Mr. Bourbonniere, second Mr. Perugino, any discussion, if none, all in favor, any opposed any abstentions, motion carries:

NOTE: This committee will meet on the second Monday of each month at 6 p.m. in the Terryville High School Library beginning on Monday, February 9, 2026.

MOTION: To entertain a motion to approve:

- (e) The minutes of the Special Meeting of the Plymouth Board of Education **Retreat** of January 7, 2026. Motion Mr. Bourbonniere, second Mr. Showers, any discussion, if none, all in favor, any abstentions, any opposed, motion carries.
-

MOTION: To entertain a motion to approve:

- (f) The minutes of the Special Meeting of the Plymouth Board of Education Curriculum & Instruction Committee of January 8, 2026. Motion Mrs. Tilton, second Mr. Foote, any discussion, if none, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion carries.

NOTE: This committee will meet on the first Thursday of each month before the Regular Board of Education Meeting in the Terryville High School Library at 5 p.m. beginning on Thursday, February 5, 2026,

4. **Student Representatives**

Tianna Avallone

December 16, 2025 – Terryville High School Winter Concert & Staff Band.

January 9, 2026 – Terryville High School Boys' Basketball Team defeated Thomaston 68-54.

January 14, 2025 – First meet for Indoor Track.

January 14, 2026 – Wrestling competes against Derby and St. Paul.

February 5, 2026 – 7th Annual Chili Cook Off.

Fallon Roth-Perreault

January 15, 2026 – Midterms begin.

January 13 and January 14, 2026 - CEC Symposium (Career Exploration Capstone.

Return of school deli.

Weight Room – Most of the weightlifting machines are still in good shape, but the electrically run machines are where there are the most issues.

5. **Public Comment** (limited to 2-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

6. **Presentation**

Superintendent's Recommended Budget Presentation 2026 – 2027 to the Plymouth Board of Education

There was a meeting of the Superintendent's Recommended Budget Presentation to the Plymouth Board of Education at the Regular Meeting on Wednesday, January 14, 2026, at 6 p.m. in the Terryville High School Cafeteria. For those individuals unable to attend, this meeting was livestreamed and recorded. Following the meeting, the Superintendent's 2026 – 2027 Budget Presentation will be posted on the district website for the community to review.

Mr. Falcone's recommended budget for the 2026 – 2027 school year totals \$29,016,658, representing a 3.72% increase over the prior year's operating budget. This will preserve existing programs and staffing levels essential to delivering strong instructional opportunities. It will also sustain key initiatives which include engaging unified art and elective courses in the elementary and middle schools; a certified career counselor at the high school; targeted academic intervention programs; and ongoing, job-embedded professional development for educators.

The Board of Education will hold their first Budget Workshop on Thursday, January 22, 2026, at 6 p.m. in the Terryville High School Library. The purpose of the workshop is to review the proposed budget in detail, ask questions and consider any potential adjustments.

Mr. Falcone indicated the Budget Workshop is open to the public and encourages community members who wish to provide feedback or learn more about the proposed budget to attend the workshop.

Also, it was suggested before the Budget Workshop, if Board Members have questions about the budget if they could email Mr. Falcone or Mr. Tencza in order for them to be better prepared.

Example: Mrs. Palmer asked Mr. Falcone regarding the use of University of Bridgeport Interns vs the hiring of building substitutes. Why the district does not have as many as in the past. Currently, there is one intern at Harry S. Fisher. Mr. Falcone distributed the response from the University of Bridgeport to the full Board. Also, Mrs. Palmer requested information regarding summer school attendance. Mr. Falcone provided a chart from 2022 – 2024 with Summer School Expense Breakdown as to Attendance and Expenses per school. He indicated summer school was option and not required for regular education Students in the district. He distributed a breakdown sheet regarding his findings to each Board Member. By requesting this information in advance, Mr. Falcone was better prepared to answer Mrs. Palmer's request.

7. **Unfinished Business**

(a) **Adoption of the Plymouth Board of Education 5-Year Strategic Plan**

MOTION: To entertain a motion to table the discussion concerning the adoption of the Plymouth Board of Education 5-Year Strategic Plan until the next Board Meeting.

Motion Mr. Bourbonniere, second Mr. Showers, after a short discussion, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion carries,

(b) **Second Read of Board of Education Policies**

MOTION: To entertain a motion to approve the Modified Policies in Series 1000 as listed in your packet.

Motion Mr. Bourbonniere, second Mrs. Palmer, any discussion, if none, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion carries.

MOTION: To entertain a motion to approve the Modified Policies in Series 3000 as listed in your packet.

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

MOTION: To entertain a motion to approve the Modified Policies in Series 4000 as listed.

Motion Mrs. Palmer, second Mrs. Tilton, any discussion, if none, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion carries.

MOTION: To entertain a motion to approve the Modified Policies in Series 5000 as listed.

Motion Mr. Showers, second Mr. Bourbonniere, short discussion, if none, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion carries,

MOTION: To entertain a motion to approve the Modified Policies in Series 6000 as listed.

Motion Mrs. Palmer, second Mrs. Tilton, short discussion, if none, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion carries,

MOTION: To entertain a motion to approve the new policy in Series 6000 as listed.

Motion Mr. Showers, second Mrs. Tilton any discussion, if 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 were the following - Accounts by Facilities Report for November and 8 different submissions.
 - (1 & 2) Business Office Activity Report & Negative Balance Explanations
 - (3) Board of Education Summary through December 31, 2025
 - (4) Monthly Budget Report, December 31, 2025
 - (5) Cumulative Board of Education Budget Expenditures % by Month, December 2025 – 2026
 - (6) Food Services Financial Performance Year-to-Date (July 1, 2025 thru December 31, 2025)
 - (7) Capital Improvement Needs/5 Year Plan Updated December 31, 2025
(Capital Projects Less Than \$50,000 to be addressed through School Budget Funds or Sinking Fund Allocations)
 - (8) Capital Improvement Needs 5 Year Plan Updated December 31, 2025
(Capital Projects in excess of \$50,000 to be Submitted to the Town of Plymouth for Capital Expenditure Consideration)

Highlights:

Budget Expenditures 2025 – 2026 – Currently, no early budget freeze is necessary.

Food Service – Financial Performance for the Month of December, food service department basically broke even. Audit went well, meeting on February 22nd with audit team who will present a preliminary report.

Arbiter Pay – Interscholastic official and site workers will be paid through a software called ARBITER.

Transition of Financial Reporting Responsibilities – Business Office and Town Comptrollers Office have agreed to a transition of responsibilities. Beginning with fiscal year 2026, the Business Office will be responsible for providing all financial information regarding Cafeteria Funding and Educational Grant Fund annually to the audit firm.

Other Items Discussed

Communications from the Capital Improvement Committee.
Policy Adjustment – 90 days for corrective action.
Food Service - Products from local farmers are used in recipes.
Provide a list of grants, when they are up, what they cover and is the grant reoccurring.
ECS balance of \$6,000 due to the district.
Statement of Supplies – Maintenance - \$309.27.
Elementary Extra Curricular - \$4,000.
Clubs – How do these individuals get paid?
Emergency Roof Repairs @HSFES - \$4,000.
Provide a breakdown of where money is taken from to cover what account. (purpose for budget reasons)
Alternative Discipline Program – Monitor – (refers to detention)
OSHA Compliances - \$1,000 per school.
Taking money out of one account to pay for something. Constantly shifting money around to pay bills.

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

(b) Personnel Report – Mr. Falcone, Superintendent
No questions

9. **Public Comment** (limited to 2-minutes per speaker)

- (a) In-person public comment
Melanie Church – 328 Main Street
*Line Items & Look at every expenditure
- (b) Remote public comment (please go to www.plymouth.k12.ct.us for instructions on how to participate) - None

10. **Committee Reports**

- (a) Plymouth Board of Education Finance and Operations Committee Wednesday, January 7, 2026–
Mr. Bourbonniere, Chair

Summary:

*Early stages of discussion on the Plymouth Center School playscape to make it age appropriate and ADA accessible. Acquire quotes.
*ECS Grant money – printout was handed out to each committee member for them to better understand how the ECS Grant money is actually allocated.
*Finance and Operations Committee will meet on the 2nd Monday of each month (prior to the Board Meeting) at 6 p.m.
in the library at Terryville High School. Meeting

Minutes of this meeting are posted on the district website.

- (b) Plymouth Board of Education Curriculum & Instruction Committee – Mrs. Tilton, Chair
Minutes of this meeting are posted on the district website.

- (c) Plymouth Board of Education Communications Committee – Mrs. Allen, Chair

Summary:

Boy's and Girl's Club - Looking into bringing in the Boy's and Girl's Club as a possibility for a before and After school program for elementary age students as well as potentially for the middle and high school. Asking the Boy's and Girl's Club to make a presentation before the full Board and public at the February meeting. At a later date, have an open quorum meeting with the public and the Boy's and Girl's Club to review their presentation for those individuals who were not able to attend the February presentation to ask questions, share insights and thoughts.

Minutes of this meeting are posted on the district website.

11. **Board Liaison Reports**

Robin Palmer -- Plymouth Center School

January 13, PTA Meeting
Snowflake Fundraiser in December
Spirit Wear Week Fundraiser to begin soon
Box Top Fundraiser
Talk of upcoming plans for cross district events

Rebecca Allen -- Harry S. Fisher Elementary School

Holiday Shop
Bingo Night
Spirit Wear Kickoff
Assemblies
Fundraisers and Family Nights

Kelly Tilton/Nicole Corry -- Eli Terry Jr. Middle School

January 28, School Store
January 29, PTA Meeting
Trivia Night and Babysitting at the middle school (8th graders to support their dance)
March, Wrestling Fundraiser

Richard Foote -- Terryville High School

No Meeting

Mrs. Kulesa – continue to support the THS After Grad Party fundraisers.

Vacant -- EdAdvance

12. **Board Comments**

Mr. Showers, Mr. Perugino, and Mr. Bourbonniere – Touch budget season, looking forward to the Budget Workshop on January 22nd, and 99% of the Budget the Board has no control over. PTA Members begin speaking to individuals reminding them to attend the Board's Presentation to the Plymouth Board of Finance and to attend the Plymouth Board of Finance Presentation to the public. Invest in your community.

Mrs. Tilton – Commented on the walk through of the schools on January 13th.

Mr. Foote – The committee meetings were very informative.

Mrs. Allen, Mrs. Corry and Mrs. Palmer – Thank you to Mr. Tencza for taking the time to go through his monthly documents with the Board, ditto by Mrs. Corry, thank you to those staff members for taking the time to participate in the Curriculum & Instruction Committee Meeting, and thank you to Mr. Tencza, Mrs. Melillo and Mr. Falcone for all they do.

Mrs. Kulesa – All committees have met. She thanked all the members for their hard work. Appreciates comments from the student representatives as well as the public. These comments make the Board aware of how individuals feel.

Asked the Board Members to look closely at the Budget. Reminded them to send their e-mails with any questions they may have to Mrs. Melillo, Mr. Tencza, and/or Mr. Falcone. Having questions before hand makes the meeting more productive.

13. Next Board Meeting –The next Regular Meeting of the Plymouth Board of Education is on Wednesday February 11, 2026, at 6 p.m. in the cafeteria at Terryville High School.

14. Adjournment

MOTION: To entertain a motion to adjourn at 7:52 p.m. Motion Mr. Showers, second, Mr. Bourbonniere all in favor, motion carries.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Patricia Piskorski", written in dark ink.

Patricia Piskorski
Recording Secretary
Plymouth Board of Education