



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, MARCH 11, 2026

6:00 P.M.

MINUTES

PLYMOUTH, CT
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
RECEIVED FOR RECORD
2026 MAR 16 AM 10:00
Shirley Kulesa
TOWN CLERK

Present: Mrs. Kulesa, Chair; Mr. Bourbonniere, Vice Chair; Mr. Perugino, Secretary and Board Members: Mr. Showers, Mrs. Tilton, Mr. Foote, Mrs. Palmer, Mrs. Corry and Mrs. Allen.

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 March 11, 2026, to order at 5:59 p.m. The group joins 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 all in favor, motion carries.

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 February 11, 2025.
Motion Mrs. Tilton, second Mr. Bourbonniere, any discussion, if none, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, Mr. Perugino abstains, motion carries.
- (b) The minutes of the Special Meeting of the Plymouth Board of Education Curriculum & Instruction Committee of February 5, 2026. Motion Mr. Foote, second Mrs. Tilton any discussion, if none, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion carries.

- (c) The minutes of the Special Meeting of the Plymouth Board of Education Finance & Operations Committee of February 9, 2026. Motion Mr. Showers, second Mrs. Palmer any discussion, if none, all in favor, any abstentions, any opposed, motion carries.

4. **Student Representatives**

Tianna Avallone – Reported on the following:

- (a) Leo Club Midwinter Conference took place on February 7th at the Southbury Wyndham Hotel.
- (b) Variety Show featured a wide range of entertaining acts, including glow stick dancing performed by the basketball teams, cheerleading performances, singing, teacher performances, Double Dutch, Drama Club acts and a prom dress modeling segment.
- (c) Boys' Basketball – Rivalry Game, Terryville vs Thomaston at Thomaston High School. Score: Terryville 81, Thomaston 61. Terryville went on to the state tournament on March 10th and played against Plainfield and pulled off an upset with a 64-53 win. This win secured a sport in the quarterfinals, which allows them to continue their tournament run.
- (d) National Honor Society – The National Honor Society Induction Ceremony took place on March 10th.
- (e) Prom Dress Closet – Students from all local towns are invited to make an appointment to find their dream dress. Donations are welcome.
- (f) Birthday Announcements – The Student Council has proposed a birthday announcement. The plan is to begin implementing this program next school year.

Fallon Roth-Perreault – Reported on the following:

- (a) Winter Pep Rally Activities – Grade tug of war where seniors were victorious, a staff vs senior basketball game, a cheer performance and a first-ever dance team performance.
- (b) Indoor Track & Field – Congratulations to Ian Hotchkiss and Jonah Lopez who represented Terryville High School at the state championships and placed 18th and 20th in the entire state.
- (c) Wrestling – The wrestling team dominated the Berkshire League winning first place. Congratulations to Ethan Bochman Rodriguez, Team Captain who placed in S class schools and went on to compete in the New England Championships.
- (d) American Heart Fundraiser – Organized by the Student Council in February.
- (e) Steve's Top Dog Fundraiser – Thursday, March 12th from 4 p.m. – 9 p.m. Ten percent of the proceeds will be donated directly to the school to support student programs.

5. **Presentation**

- (a) Eli Terry Jr. Middle School – Mr. Vigliotti, Principal

This presentation highlighted the first year of implementation of the Wit & Wisdom ELA curriculum. Through student work and perspectives, the presentation examined how the shift toward knowledge-based literacy has increased classroom rigor and student engagement.

6. **Public Comment**

- (a) In-person public comment (limited to 2-minutes per speaker)

Virginia Kinane, 18 Adams Drive, Terryville

- Please to see the agenda regarding the revision to the 2026 – 2027 school year calendar.
- Expressed, she was dissatisfied with the change in the time of the Board Meetings.

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

7. **Superintendent's Update**

(a) **Acknowledged Board Member Appreciation Month**

the (b) **Presentation on February 19, 2026** – The 2026 – 2027 Board of Education Budget Presentation to Board of Finance requesting a 3.99% increase in its operating budget. On February 26th, Mr. Falcone met with Mayor Sekorski who recommended the entire budget move forward with the 3.99% increase as proposed. Final determination of the 2026 – 2027 Board of Education Budget will be made by the Town Council at the Tri-Board Meeting with the Board of Finance and the Plymouth Board of Education in April (date to be determined).

(c) **Two Major Building Concerns**

- Portions of the heating system at Harry S. Fisher Elementary School which are not working.
- One of many leaks in the roof at Plymouth Center School caused by damage to the fire alarm control panel.

Mr. Falcone met with Mayor Sekorski, who expressed his concerns regarding these two items. During Mr. Falcone's 5 years as superintendent, not one of the district's capital improvement needs have been addressed through the town's capital improvement process. He indicated the district's needs are clear and they cannot continue to go unaddressed as they are becoming a significant operational and safety concern in our schools.

Mr. Falcone recommended and if the Board agrees to document in writing and formally express its concerns and frustrations to the town committees, including the Capital Improvement Committee, he would be happy to draft such a letter.

NOTE: (a) Mr. Falcone to draft a letter.

(b) Invitation or request the Board be placed on the April 14th Town Council Agenda.

(d) **Discussion of Graduation and End of the Year Step Up Programs**

These two items are dependent upon the Board's decision regarding June 19th as to whether or not school will be in session. This will be discussed later in the meeting.

8. **Unfinished Business**

(a) **Partnership Between the Boys and Girls Club and the Plymouth Board of Education**

After a brief discussion, the following motion was made:

MOTION: To entertain a motion to approve the Partnership between the Boys and Girls Club and the Plymouth Board of Education for before and after school care for the 2026 – 2027 school year contingent upon an official agreement prepared by the Boys and Girls Club and for the Board to authorize the Superintendent of Schools to execute said contract on behalf of the Plymouth Board of Education upon Board approval.

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

9. **New Business**

(a) **Possible Revision to the 2025 – 2026 School Year Calendar**

(1) **Juneteenth**

The Board was presented with two (2) options:

* To have students attend school on June 19 (Juneteenth) 2026 and observe the holiday as we do with Veterans Day.

Or

* To observe June 19 (Juneteenth) by closing school.

After a brief discussion, regarding adding Juneteenth Day (June 19, 2026) as a No School Day to the 2025 – 2026 school calendar, the following action was taken:

MOTION: To entertain a motion to approve a revision by adding Juneteenth Day (June 19, 2026) as a **No School Day** to the 2025 – 2026 school year calendar. Motion Mrs. Allen, second Mrs. Palmer any further discussion, if none,

All in Favor – 0

Opposed – All

Abstentions – 0

Motion fails.

Since the Board unanimously approved to have school on June 19 (Juneteenth), 2026, the holiday will be observed during the school day with an educational focus similar to Veterans Day.

Assuming there are no additional closures due to inclement weather, the final day of school for the 2025 – 2026 school year will be on Monday, June 22, 2026.

End-of-the-Year Dates:

* Harry S. Fisher Elementary School Step Up Program:	Thursday, June 18, 2026
* Eli Terry Jr. Middle School Step Up Program:	Friday, June 19, 2026
* Terryville High School Graduation Ceremony:	Friday, June 19, 2026

(b) **Teacher Professional Development Days – 2026 – 2027 School Year Calendar**

After a brief discussion to revise Teacher Professional Development Days from 4 days to 8 days (which are all ½ days) for the 2026 – 2027 school year calendar, the following action was taken.

MOTION: To entertain a motion to make the following revisions to the 2026 – 2027 school year calendar, going from 4 half days to 8 half days with respect to Teacher Professional Development Days.

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

(c) Possible Revisions to the 2026 – 2027 School Year

(1) Superintendent Discussion – Revisions to the 2026 – 2027 School Year Calendar

August

Convocation; Teacher Professional Development Days, First Day of School for Students

February Break

March Break

June – Last Day of School

After discussion, the following motion was made:

MOTION: To entertain a motion to make the following revisions to the 2026 – 2027 School Year Calendar:

Convocation	August 24, 2026
Teacher PDD	August 25 and August 26, 2026
Students Return	August 27, 2026
February Break	February 15 & 16, 2027 (Monday & Tuesday)
March Break	March 29, 2027 (Monday)
June 8, 2027	Tentative Last Day of School

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

(d) Healthy Food Certification 2026 – 2027

All public-school districts participating in the NSLP must submit the *Healthy Food Certification Statement – Addendum to Agreement for Child Nutrition Program (ED-099)* by July 1, 2026, to certify whether or not all food items sold to students will or will not meet Connecticut Nutritional Standards.

- **Healthy Food Option:** Pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-21f, the board of education or Governing authority certified that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools under its jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to, school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, culinary programs, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or by non-school organizations and groups.

MOTION: To entertain a motion to implement the healthy food option. Motion Mrs. Tilton, second Mr. Showers, any discussion, (if none) all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion carries.

If the board of education or governing authority votes “yes” for the healthy food option above, the board of education or governing authority must also vote on whether to allow food exemptions, as indicated below. *NOTE: If the board of education or governing authority votes “no” for the healthy food option above, a vote of whether to allow food exemption is not required.*

- **Exemption for Food Items:** The board of education or governing authority will allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the food items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An “event” is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. For example, soccer games, school plays, and interscholastic debates are events but soccer practices, play rehearsals, and debate team meetings are not the “regular” school day” is the period from midnight before the 30minutes after the end of the official school day. “Location” means where the event is being held.

MOTION: To entertain a motion to allow the food exemptions. Motion Mrs. Tilton, second Mr. Showers any discussion, if none, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion carries,

- **Beverage Exemptions:** The Board of Education or governing authority will allow the sale to students of beverages not listed in Section 10-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the beverages are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An “event” is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting or extracurricular activity. The “school day” is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. “Location” means where the event is being held and must be the same place as the beverage sales.

MOTION: To entertain a motion to allow for the beverage exemptions. Motion Mrs. Tilton, second Mr. Bourbonniere, any discussion, if none, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion carries.

10. **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 February and 8 different submissions:
 - (1 & 2) Business Office Activity Report & Negative Balance Explanations
 - (3) Board of Education Summary through February 28, 2026
 - (4) Monthly Budget Report, February 28, 2026
 - (5) Cumulative Board of Education Budget Expenditures % by Month, February 2025 – 2026
 - (6) Food Services Financial Performance Year-to-Date (July 1, 2025 – February 28, 2026)
 - (7) Capital Improvement Needs/5 Year Plan updated Feb. 28, 2026
 - (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 February 28, 2026
 - (Capital Projects in excess of \$50,000 to be submitted to the Town of Plymouth for Capital Expenditure Consideration)

After a brief discussion with respect to the playground for Plymouth Center School, the following motion was made:

MOTION: To entertain a motion to approve the extension of the contract with HES to include a 3-year agreement with a 2-year, single year renewal, and for the Board to authorize the Business Manager of Schools to execute said contract on behalf of the Plymouth Board of Education upon Board approval. Motion Mrs. Palmer, second Mrs. Allen, any further discussion, if none, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion carries.

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

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

11. **Public Comment**

- (a) In-person public comment (limited to 2-minutes per speaker) - None
(a) Remote public comment (please go to www.plymouth.k12.ct.us for instructions on how to participate) - None

12. **Committee Reports**

- (a) The Finance & Operations Committee – Mr. Bourbonniere, Chair

The Finance & Operations Committee met on Monday, March 9, 2026 and discussed the following:

Topics: *Update of Heat Pumps for Harry S. Fisher Elementary School
*Walk Through Terryville High School
*Walk Through Plymouth Center School
*Discussion: Possible Use of the Non-Lapsing Account to Fix Heat Pump issue at Harry S. Fisher Elementary School

Minutes of this meeting will be placed on the district website.

13. **Board Liaison Reports**

Robin Palmer – Reported on the following:
Coco, the mascot is missing.
March 20th Build a Mascot – 5 p.m. – 7 p.m.
Other events are forthcoming

Plymouth Center School

Rebecca Allen – Reported on the following:
March 17th, Next PTA Meeting
March 13th, Paint Night – open to 5th graders, proceeds go to 5th grade Celebration Day
March 20th, Wrestling Event
March 31st, Spring Picture Day

Harry S. Fisher Elementary School

Kelly Tilton/Nicole Corry – Reported on the following:
Wrestling
Trivia Night

Eli Terry Jr. Middle School

Mr. Foote
No Report – Meeting cancelled

Terryville High School

Mrs. Kulesa, Chair urged everyone to support the many fundraisers that support the Senior Aftergrad Event.

Vacant

EdAdvance

14. **Board Comments**

Everyone expressed how much they enjoyed themselves and were impressed by the presentation by Eli Terry Jr. Middle School students. Thank you to Council Members, Mr. Zagurski and Mr. Tiscia for attending tonight's Board of Education Meeting. Congratulations were expressed to all the district's sports teams. Mr. Bourbonniere spoke about the ECS Grant Money.

Mrs. Kulesa, Chair – Special thank you to central office staff for the gifts for Board Appreciation Month. She also thanked the Board Members for their patience and support.

15. **Next Board Meeting** – Due to April Vacation, the next Regular Meeting of the Plymouth Board of Education is on **Wednesday April 15, 2026**, at 6 p.m. in the cafeteria at Terryville High School.

16. **Adjournment**

MOTION: To entertain a motion to adjourn at 8:22 p.m. Motion Mr. Showers, second Mr. Foote, all in favor, any abstentions, any opposed, motion carries.

Respectfully submitted,



Patricia Piskorski
Recording Secretary
For the Plymouth Board of Education