



## 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, NOVEMBER 13, 2019

7:00 P.M.

## MINUTES

Present: Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani, Mr. Elsaghir, Mr. Foote, Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Kremmel, Mrs. Kulesa, Mrs. Lucian, Mr. Seaman, Mr. Showers

1. **Call to Order & Pledge to the Flag –**

Dr. Semmel called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The group joined in the Pledge to the flag.

2. **Adoption of the Agenda**

**MOTION:** To adopt the agenda as presented. Motion Mr. Showers, seconded, Mrs. Candrea Florenciani. Discussion: none. Vote: unanimous.

3. **Nomination And Appointment For Temporary Chairperson**

Dr. Semmel opened up nominations for a Temporary Chairperson. Melissa Kremmel was nominated by Melissa Johnson, seconded by Karen Kulesa. Gregory Showers was nominated by Josiah Elsaghir, seconded by Walter Seaman. There being no further nominations, paper ballots were distributed and signed by the Board of Education members and will be made public within 48 hours.

Five (5) votes were cast for Gregory Showers, and four (4) votes for Melissa Kremmel. Gregory Showers was elected Temporary Chairperson.

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4. **Caucus for the Purpose of Election of Officers for the Plymouth Board of Education**  
Temporary Chairperson Showers stated the Caucus, Republicans will caucus in high school principals' conference room and the Democrats will caucus in the room adjacent to the cafeteria.

**MOTION:** To convene for the purpose of caucus at 7:05 p.m. Motion Karen Kulesa seconded Melissa Kremmel. Discussion: none. Vote: unanimous.

**MOTION:** To reconvene after caucus at 7:15 p.m. Motion Richard Foote, seconded Cindy Candrea Florenciani, motion passes unanimously.

5. **Election of Officers for the Plymouth Board of Education**

Temporary Chairperson Showers opened nominations for chairperson.

**(a) NOMINATIONS AND ELECTION OF CHAIR**

Walter Seaman nominated by Josiah Elsaghir, seconded by Cindy Candrea Florenciani.  
Melissa Johnson nominated by Karen Kulesa, seconded by Melissa Kremmel.

There being no further nominations:

**MOTION TO CLOSE NOMINATIONS:** Motion Josiah Elsaghir, seconded Cindy Candrea Florenciani. Motion passed unanimously.

Paper ballots were distributed and signed by the Board of Education Members and will be made public within 48 hours.

Five (5) votes were cast for Walter Seaman and four (4) votes were cast for Melissa Johnson. Walter Seaman was elected Permanent Chair of the Plymouth Board of Education.

Chairman Seaman opened nominations for Vice Chair.

**(b) NOMINATIONS AND ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR**

Karen Kulesa nominated by Gregory Showers, seconded by Cindy Candrea Florenciani.

There being no further nominations:

**MOTION TO CLOSE NOMINATIONS:** Motion Richard Foote, seconded Gregory Showers. Motion passed unanimously with the Secretary casting one ballot with Karen Kulesa elected as Vice Chairperson of the Plymouth Board of Education.

Chairman Seaman opened nominations for Secretary.

**(c) NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF SECRETARY**

Michelle Lucian was nominated by Josiah Elsaghir, seconded by Gregory Showers.  
Melissa Kremmel was nominated by Melissa Johnson; seconded by Richard Foote.

There being no further nominations:

Chairperson Seaman made a Motion that nominations be closed and all in favor.

Paper ballots were distributed and signed by the Board of Education Members and will be made public within 48 hours.

Five (5) votes were cast for Michelle Lucian and four (4) votes were cast for Melissa Kremmel. Michelle Lucian was elected Secretary of the Plymouth Board of Education.

**MOTION:** Mrs. Kulesa made a motion for a short recess to switch seats at 7:18 p.m., seconded Mrs. Kremmel and the vote unanimous.

**MOTION:** Mrs. Kulesa made a motion to come out of recess at 7:20 p.m., seconded Mr. Showers and the vote unanimous.

Mr. Seaman stated he wanted to recognize Melissa Johnson for her many years as chair and knowledge going is going to be valued and her advocacy for all students' especially special needs. When she came on board there was need for special needs and she ran with it. He also recognized Gerry Bourbonniere, a board member no longer with us who spent many years on the board and hopes to be back. Mr. Seaman stated he is humbled and looking forward to working with every single one of the Board to continue good work and move forward.

6. **Approval of Minutes**

**MOTION:** To approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 9, 2019.  
Motion Mr. Showers, seconded Mr. Foote. Discussion: none. Motion passes with Mrs. Kulesa and Mr. Seaman abstaining.

**MOTION:** To approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of October 16, 2019.  
Motion Mr. Foote; seconded Mrs. Lucian. Discussion: none. Motion passes with Mr. Seaman abstaining.

7. **Presentations**

a. **Out-Of-State Field Trips**

\* Greece - Mrs. Ritchie, Teacher – Mrs. Ritchie gave a brief overview of this trip along with student Abby Mensel who went on the Italy trip and spoke on her experiences. Mrs. Kulesa stated she highly recommends this trip be approved.

**MOTION:** To approve an out-of-state field trip for students who will be in grades 10, 11 and 12 in the year 2021 to Greece from April 8 – April 17, 2021.  
Motion Mr. Foote; seconded Mr. Shower. Discussion: none. Vote: unanimous, motion passes.

\* Boston, MA – Mr. Keane – Music – Mr. Keane and students Jessie and Olivia gave an overview of the trip to Boston, MA.

**MOTION:** To approve an out-of-state field trip for approximately 40 students, in the Terryville High School, Choir, Band and Color Guard in grades 9 – 12 from April 3, 2020 – April 5, 2020 to Boston, MA. Motion Mrs. Kulesa, seconded, Mrs. Kremmel. Discussion: none. Vote: unanimous, motion passes.

b. **Update to Instructional Framework/SEL** – Mrs. Parsons, Director of Curriculum & Instruction

Mrs. Parsons gave a presentation on the Instructional Framework and Social Emotional Learning within our district.

c. Unspent Encumbrances – Mr. Hendrickson, Business Manager

Mr. Hendrickson reviewed information from the August 19, 2019 meeting and the Motion passed by the Board that the remaining balance from the Fiscal Year 2018-19 budget of \$138,053.24 be transferred to the Sinking Fund by the Board of Finance. As was done last year, he is asking the Board also request the Board of Finance transfer any unliquidated encumbrances to date to the Sinking Fund.

**MOTION:** The Board of Education requests that the \$31,282.77 in unliquidated Fiscal Year 2018-2019 encumbrances be transferred to the Sinking Fund by the Board of Finance by Mrs. Kulesa; seconded Mrs. Johnson. Discussion: none. Vote: unanimous.

Mr. Hendrickson stated the total amount to be requested is \$169,336.01. He and the Superintendent will present to the Board of Finance at its Thursday, November 21<sup>st</sup> meeting.

8. Superintendent's Update

- Will be attending next Thursday's Board of Finance meeting, bringing both requests made for the Sinking Fund; reminding the Board of their Motion to change the Sinking Fund Request from 1% to 2%.
- Congratulations to everyone on recent election and looking forward to working with Mr. Seaman as Chair and everyone on the Board as we continue to challenge, inspire and prepare our students as is our Mission Statement.
- Winter weather reminder – decision will be made by 5:30 am, working with Jim Schultz (Department of Public Works), the Police Department, Jim Mazon who is here making sure all our buildings are ready.
- Budget memo email was sent and a hard copy at each members seat on the budget process.

9. Student Representatives

\* Taylor Greenwood – (a) There are 9 students with Mr. Schumann on the Close Up trip in Washington DC and heard from one of the students that they met Nancy Pelosi today. (b) Staff Infection band performed on October 25<sup>th</sup> and raised over \$1,000 for the Close Up trip. (c) Boys Cross Country won Berkshire League; Chris Deforest won the Class S Championship and placed 11<sup>th</sup> in States.

\* Julia Zaniewski – (a) Homecoming week is November 18 – 22 with the Homecoming Dance on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Tickets are \$20. (b) There is a PTSA fundraiser at Chute Gates on December 5<sup>th</sup> and will get 10% of proceeds.

\* Tyler Mendela – (a) THS Band & Color Guard participated in UMass Band Day along with other high school bands to perform at half time. (b) Harvest Pack is December 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 in the café. This is an event where Leo's package thousands of meals to send around the world. (c) Drama Club has changed productions from "Frenzied Fairytale" to "A Rented Christmas" where the audience follows the story of a wealthy man, with no family, who goes to a rent shop and asks to rent a Christmas. Performances are December 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:30, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 2 pm and 6:30 pm

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

a. Cathy Paskus, 4 Arrow Drive – Liaison to Leo Club – (a) students from THS participated in Election Day at the polls and did a terrific job in assisting. (b) Leo Club meets after school and a lot of them are having a hard time attending and hoping something can be done about that.

b. Jaimie Ferland, 22 Whitney Court – Commented on NESDEC and Option 5 and if there is going to be any conversation on this. Mrs. Kulesa responded on public meetings already held; the Board is nowhere near a final decision and will continue to work on it and will ask about another

public forum; relayed ways in which the word on meetings was put out through Facebook, school emails. Dr. Semmel stated the Board has met after public forums on Options that made more sense, did eliminate Options 2, 3,4; options can always be put back to the table. He reviewed the process being held on Options and what work is being done to compile information. Mr. Seaman stated he was at public forums as a citizen and encourages everyone to get the word out when another meeting is set.

c. Candace Telke, 82 Ridge Road – (a) Thanked Melissa Johnson for her time as Chair on the Board, appreciates her hard work and all Board members for their time and efforts. (b) as a PTA Board person and parent, she feels the BOE does hear you. (c) She was the only person, non BOE member that went to the BOE Retreat October 16<sup>th</sup> which was a very difficult meeting to attend as you cannot speak. It was eye opening, learned what Board members thought and experience in community. (d) Question to the Board on how they feel Election Day went at the Lyceum and are they considering moving it back into the school system and can children have school that day. Mr. Seaman stated it is not up to the BOE where election voting is held. Whether students attend school on Election Day is a board discussion. Mrs. Kulesa stated the school year calendar is set and would have to be a discussion for the future. Ms. Telke noted the Veterans Day ceremony held at PCS which was beautiful.

d. Gerry Bourbonniere, 6 Fairmont Avenue – returned Chromebook.

11. **New Business**

a. Finance/Operations Report – Mr. Hendrickson stated everything is on track with last year on expenditures and percent of budget to date with no significant accounts in deficit. The accounts by facilities report for the month of October will be forwarded to the Town of Plymouth Board of Finance.

b. Student Achievement Report – Mrs. Parsons stated the next meeting will be Wednesday, January 8, 2020 at 6 p.m. in the Central Office Conference Room.

12. **Board Liaison Reports**

Melissa Johnson

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Harry S. Fisher Elementary School

Dr. Semmel attended the October meeting to present the Community Reads project

A new Vice President was voted on

Trunk or Treat with PCS PTA, held at THS, was a complete success

Working on a family movie night

Membership has increased over last year

Rocket ship part of the playground has been installed

A schoolwide crazy hair/outfit day was held for Halloween

FRC is partnering with FES to have a Friday playgroup focusing on literacy

A Positive Girls Power group has started for 5<sup>th</sup> graders

The Literacy K-2 night was held November 4<sup>th</sup>

Veterans Day celebration was held Monday, 11/11

PTA members who attended the CT PTA conference in September presented Mrs. Cumiskey an autographed book from author Jeff Nathan for their library

Next meeting is November 19<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm

Josiah Elsaghir

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Plymouth Center School

Book fair was held

Family Feast at Jake's Wayback Burgers

Upcoming – fundraiser pick up 11/20 from 2 – 6 pm

Spirit wear fundraiser 11/18 – 12/2

Holiday Craft night 12/6 from 6-8 pm  
Holiday Fair on 12/10 from 4:30 – 6:30 and during recess 12/11-13<sup>th</sup> from 10 am – 2 pm  
Barnes & Noble giftwrapping 12/19  
Mrs. Turner spoke on parking lot safety

Cindy Candrea Florenciani -- Eli Terry Jr. Middle School

Book fair did fairly well

Open House

Raised money to have (1) new water fountain installed

T-shirt fundraiser with business sponsorship and 150 shirts will be given away free at basketball games

Next roller-skating night will be in February

Cindy Candrea Florenciani -- Booster Club

Seat cushions on sale \$15 each

Winter sports will soon be starting

31 Days of Giving – athletes will be selling tickets \$5 each

Karen Kulesa -- Terryville High School

PTSA After Grad committee holds one fundraiser each month and on Thursday, 12/5 it will be at Chute Gates and 10% of proceeds is donated back to PTSA

Melissa Kremmel -- SEPTA

Business meeting was held this morning with the next full meeting on 11/21 at 7 pm

Upcoming workshop being planned on IEP 101, Tiered Intervention Transitioning into Special Ed

Paint night January 18<sup>th</sup>

Melissa Johnson -- CABE

Conference this weekend at which our Board is getting recognition as well as 9 other districts and a photo will be taken after lunch

Karen Kulesa received a certificate of membership as she has over 20 credits and will receive a Distinction Award

Melissa Johnson -- EdAdvance

A legislative breakfast will be held December 12 at the new Partnership School from 7 am – 9 am

Gregory Showers -- District Safety Committee

Attended his first meeting which was very interesting on safety discussions; all schools have had fire drills and the next meeting is January 8<sup>th</sup>.

13. **Board Comments**

Josiah Elsaghir recognized Melissa Johnson for her time as Chair, and having had many one on one conversations, her number one issue was advocating for kids.

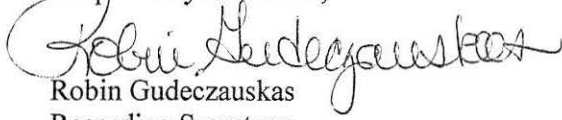
Cindy Candrea Florenciani – thanked Cathy Paskus for acknowledging children and it was a good mixture for people in town to see kids and kids see people; good experience.

Dick Foote – Thanked Melissa for making his first two years easier. Republican or Democrat, we are here to serve people and children of Plymouth.

14. **Next Board Meeting** –The next Regular Meeting of the Plymouth Board of Education is on Wednesday, December 11, 2019 at 7 p.m. in the cafeteria at Terryville High School.
15. **Adjournment**

**MOTION:** Motion to adjourn at 8:18 p.m. Motion Mr. Showers, seconded Mr. Foote.  
Discussion: none. Vote: unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Robin Gudeczauskas  
Recording Secretary