

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
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2015
TERRYVILLE HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA

7:00 P.M.

MINUTES

Present: Board: Mr. Melchionna, Mr. Perugino, Mrs. McCann, Mr. Goodwin, Mrs. Kulesa, Mr. Gentile, Mr. Orsini and Mr. Engle

Absent: Mrs. Johnson

1. Call to Order and Pledge to the Flag

Mr. Engle called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. and the group joined in the Pledge to the Flag.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

MOTION: To adopt the agenda as presented. Motion Mr. Orsini, seconded Mr. Perugino, motion passes.

3. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of December 16, 2014. Motion Mr. Perugino, seconded Mr. Orsini, motion passes.

4. Student Representatives

George Andrews – Sports

- Winter Sports Season is at the halfway point
- Boys' Basketball game scheduled for Friday and to air on CPTV was cancelled
- Boys' Basketball and Wrestling Teams have a winning record thus far
- Girls' Basketball Team is currently at an away game
- Blood Drive at Terryville High School – a record of 43 pints of blood was collected which will aid 129 people. Another blood drive has been scheduled for March

TOWN CLERK



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Halley King – School Activities

- Midterms begin next week
- January 22 beginning at 6:30 p.m. – Leo Installation in the high school auditorium. 56 new members will be installed creating a total membership of 120 members.
- January 31st – Winter Ball which is a fundraiser for the Juniors
- January 29th & February 10 – career speakers for the sophomores
- Drama Club is in the beginning stages of the production Princess

Allison Smith – Senior Activities

- January 19 – February 12 – 3rd Annual Jean Drive sponsored by the Terryville High School Student Council. Collection bins will be located in the main office.
- January 30 – February 1 - Retail 101 – Terryville High School Senior Class Fundraiser. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to the Terryville High School Senior Class.
- January 14 – Moe’s Night sponsored by the PTSA (this is a continuous fundraiser)
- February 6 – Movie Night sponsored by the PTSA and Senior Class – from 6:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. in the THS auditorium. Open to the Public and ticket prices to be determined.

5. Public Comment (limited to 3 minutes)

Chris Simo-Kinzer – 52 Old Farm Road

Shared information regarding Dr. Christopher Tienken whose main focus is the study of Education Reform. Urged everyone to view Dr. Tienken’s 8 minute video “Current Student Reform Landscape” which can be found on his website.

Melanie Church – 328 Main Street

Expressed her concerns regarding questions from teachers at the elementary level who are fearful regarding the curriculum. Suggested the Board members speak with the staff about their concerns and the problems they are facing. Feels the Board should thoroughly look at the curriculum.

6. Communications

Mr. Engle shares with the Board a copy of the District Data for 2013 – 2014 which he received from Education Connecticut our regional educational service center. This information will be provided to the Board in their February packet and will also be placed on the district website.

7. Unfinished Business

None

8. New Business

a. Resignations

As discussed in the Personnel Subcommittee, Mr. Winzler informed the Board Members of the resignation of Sherry Napychank, Mathematics Teacher at Terryville High School effective January 1, 2015.

b. Childbearing/Childrearing

MOTION: To approve a request for childbearing/childrearing leave for Marie Cleaves grade 5 teacher at Plymouth Center School commencing on or about March 18, 2015 to the end of the 2014 – 2015 school year.

Motion Mrs. Kulesa, seconded Mr. Goodwin, motion passes.

c. Memorandum of Agreement

This item was not acted upon due to the fact that Mr. Namnoum, CEA representative, has been away and has not had an opportunity to review the same.

d. Interim Director of Pupil Personnel

Mr. Winzler shared information about Cyndi Deshais, Interim Director of Pupil Personnel.

9. Board Member/Committee Reports

A. Curriculum – Mrs. Kulesa

The Curriculum Subcommittee met on Wednesday, January 7, 2015. The following items were discussed: (1) 6 – 12 English Curriculum; (2) High School Book Club; (3) Update on K -8 Math; (4) Finalize Parent Survey on CCSS Implementation; (5) Renaming High School Academic Courses; and (6) High School Creative Writing Course Modification.

B. Facilities – Mr. Goodwin – No Report

However, an update was given with respect to the modification of the front entryway at Harry S. Fisher Elementary School. It was also suggested that lights be replaced in the Board parking lot.

C. Finance – Mr. Melchionna- The Finance Subcommittee met prior to the Board Meeting, reviewed the Accounts by Facilities report for the month of December and will forward the same to the Town of Plymouth Board of Finance.

D. Negotiations – Mr. Gentile – No Report

E. Personnel – Mr. Goodwin – All items were addressed under New Business.

F. Policy – Mrs. Johnson – absent

Mr. Winzler informed the Board that Mr. Mustaro, from CAFE, will be invited to speak before the Policy Subcommittee regarding CAFE Policy Services in order that Board Policies be brought up to date.

G. Safety/Transportation – Mr. Orsini – No Report
However, things seem to be moving smoothly and safely.

H. Education Connection – Mrs. Kulesa – No Report

10. Administrative Reports/Requests/Information

Dr. Tenney, Director of Curriculum & Instruction
Dr. Tenney thanked those parents that completed the on-line survey and indicated action would be taken based on the results of the on-line survey.

Mr. Perugino asked what constitutes a gifted and talented student.

Dr. Tenney responded: the definition of gifted and talented is left up to the district. There is no state definition. This item will be addressed with the new Director of Pupil Personnel and Special Education.

Mr. Trudeau, Director of Technology

Mr. Trudeau thanked the crew from the Drama Club and Greg and Jason from our technology department for tonight's broadcast.

He thanked the parents, students, administrators and staff; thus far no surprises have been encountered with the chrome books.

Mr. Santogatta, Business Manager

- Advised the Finance Subcommittee that the 2014 – 2015 budget was extremely tight
- Budget process has begun for the 2015 – 2016 year
- Facilities – minor computer control issues at Plymouth Center School
- Modifications have begun with respect to the front entryway at Harry S. Fisher Elementary School. Anticipation for completion of the project by Memorial Day
- Solar Project is progressing
- Natural Gas was purchased last Thursday for the year at \$1.76 per gallon

Mr. Winzler – Interim Superintendent

- Reminder, school closings, late openings, and early dismissals are broadcast over cable Channel 16, and the major Television and Radio Stations. Parents and staff receive a call from the automated emergency system at 5:45 a.m. and staff at 5:15 a.m.
- Budget process has begun and the first budget workshop will take place on Wednesday, February 21, 2015 at 6 p.m. in the conference

room at Central Office. At that time, the group will be going through an overview of the needs of the district.

11. Public Comment (limited to 3 minutes) Note: The Board does not comment on Public Comment

None

12. Board Liaisons

Harry S. Fisher Elementary School - Mr. Perugino

- PTA met on Tuesday, January 13th
- January 29 – Winter Concert (grade 4 & 5) with performances at 1:45 p.m. and 7 p.m.
- February 7 or 21 – Winter Carnival
- School store is very busy; Grade 5 picnic is in the planning stages; Brick Fundraiser - \$25 per brick
- Parents are urged to attend the budget workshops which will be scheduled for the next 3 Wednesdays.

Plymouth Center School - Mr. Melchionna

- PTA Meeting January 13th
- Craft Fair netted \$400
- Barnes & Noble Book Fair netted \$900
- Update and time line was provided regarding the superintendent search. Parents were encouraged to participate in the on-line survey regarding the implementation of the common core standards
- January 24 – Cosmic Bowling 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. at Spare Time Bowling in Bristol
- January 27 – Winter Concert (grades 4 & 5)
- Cash for used electronics, i.e. cell phones, tablets, etc.

Eli Terry Jr. Middle School - Mrs. McCann

- PTA Meeting January 27 @ 7 p.m.
- January 29 – PTA Council Meeting @ Thomaston Savings Bank

Terryville High School - Mr. Goodwin

- February 10 – Flatbread Pizza in Canton – Friends of Music Benefit, portion of the proceeds will go to Friends of Music
- January 18 – Drama Club Production – “Princess Whatsername” auditions 2 p.m. – 4 p.m.

SEPTA - Mrs. Johnson

Absent

CABE - Mr. Gentile

- January 15 – Meeting – Retreat 8 a.m. – 2 p.m. Mr. Gentile will address unfunded mandates
- January 23 – CABE Area 1 Breakfast – 8 a.m. Terryville High School Cafeteria
- March 9 – Presentation to the Wolcott Board of Education at 7 p.m. If anyone is interested in attending with Mr. Gentile, please contact him.

13. Final Board Comments

Mr. Gentile – Thanked Mr. Simo-Kinzer for his comments; Thanked Mr. Winzler for fixing many problems; and Thanked Mr. Santogatta for being here and being such a good help to the Board and to the Town.

Mr. Orsini – Thanked Mr. Winzler for keeping him in the loop with the weather forecast.

Mr. Goodwin – no comment

Mr. Melchionna – Echoed Mr. Gentile's comments regarding Mr. Santogatta

Mr. Perugino – January 12, served on the convention committee for the CABE Convention which was very well received; comments were 90% positive. He has concerns regarding the new commissioner and what this individual will bring forth. He will be contacting the woodworking shops at the middle and high schools to see if they would be able to make a plaque as a giveaway gift. Mr. Santogatta fills in for Mr. Winzler, the special education director and helps out at town hall, when needed. Mr. Perugino echoed Mr. Gentile's comments regarding Mr. Santogatta. 2014 is over this is a new year and we are moving forward.

Mrs. McCann – wishing students best of luck on their mid-terms.

Mrs. Kulesa – Encouraged everyone who has concerns regarding the school budget, to attend the budget meetings since this is where the money is decided. After the decision is made, it is very difficult to change things.

Mr. Engle – January 21 – Budget Workshop – entails the Finance Subcommittee, however, everyone is invited to attend. The subcommittee will make the recommendation to move forward or make changes to the recommended budget that come forth from the business office. Please contact central office if you plan on attending so that we will be able to accommodate the number of people attending.

Happy New Year and Welcome Back

14. Next Regular Board Meeting – Wednesday, February 11, 2015

15. Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn at 8:03 p.m. Motion Mr. Perugino, seconded
Mr. Melchionna, motion passes.

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. Johnson
Secretary
Plymouth Board of Education