

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
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2015
TERRYVILLE HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA

7:00 P.M.

MINUTES

Present: Board: Mr. Melchionna, Mr. Orsini, Mrs. Kremmel, Mr. Goodwin, Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Kulesa, Ms. McCann, Ms. Lucian and Mr. Engle

Administrators: Dr. Semmel, Superintendent, Dr. Tenney, Director of Curriculum & Instruction, Mrs. Trinks, Director of Pupil Personnel & Special Education; Mr. Penn, Business Manager, and Mr. Trudeau, Director of Technology

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

Dr. Semmel called the meeting to order at 7:01 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. Engle, seconded Ms. McCann, motion passed unanimously.

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

Nomination and Appointment for Temporary Chairperson: Mrs. Kulesa Nominated by Mr. Orsini, seconded by Mrs. Johnson. There being no further nominations, Mrs. Kulesa was unanimously appointed Temporary Chair.

4. **CAUCUS for the Purpose of Election of Officers for the Plymouth Board of Education**

MOTION: To recess for the purpose of caucus at 7:03 p.m. Motion Mrs. Johnson, seconded Ms. McCann, motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: To reconvene after caucus at 7:10 p.m. Motion Mr. Orsini, seconded Mr. Goodwin, motion passed unanimously.

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Debra A. Rockwell
TOWN CLERK

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

(a) Nomination(s) and Election of Chair

Nominations for Permanent Chair: Mrs. Johnson. Nominated by Ms. McCann, seconded by Mrs. Kremmel; Mr. Engle. Nominated by Mr. Melchionna, seconded by Mr. Orsini. 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.

MOTION: To close nominations: Motion: Mr. Orsini, seconded Mr. Engle, motion passes. Four (4) votes were cast for Mr. Engle. Five (5) votes were cast for Mrs. Johnson. Mrs. Johnson was elected Permanent Chair of the Plymouth Board of Education.

(b) Nomination(s) and Election of Vice-Chair

Nominations for Vice-Chair: Karen Kulesa, Nominated by Mr. Goodwin, seconded by Mr. Orsini. There being no further nominations, the following motion was made:

MOTION: To close nominations: Motion Mr. Engle, seconded Mr. Orsini. Motion passed unanimously with the Chair casting one vote. Mrs. Kulesa was elected Vice-Chair of the Plymouth Board of Education.

(c) Nomination(s) and Election of Secretary

Nominations for Secretary: Ms. McCann, Nominated by Mrs. Kulesa, seconded by Mr. Melchionna. There being no further nominations, the following motion was made:

MOTION: To close nominations: Motion Mr. Engle, seconded Mr. Goodwin. Motion passed unanimously with the Chair casting one vote. Ms. McCann was elected Secretary of the Plymouth Board of Education.

6. **Approval of Minutes - MOTION ITEM**

MOTION: To approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 14, 2015. Motion Mrs. Kulesa, seconded Mr. Engle. Abstain: Mrs. Kremmel and Mrs. Lucian. Motion passes.

MOTION: To add Tony Orsini to the minutes of the Special Meeting of October 28, 2015. Motion Mrs. Kulesa, seconded Ms. McCann, motion passes unanimously.

MOTION: As amended to the Minutes of the Special Meeting of October 28, 2015. Motion Ms. McCann, seconded Mrs. Kulesa. Abstain: Mrs. Lucian. Motion passes.

7. Student Representatives

Halley King – Spirit Week was hosted by the student council and Local Prevention Council. Some of the new activities were dress as your dream job and a game of telephone. The student council raised \$200 at the bonfire. The homecoming dance is on Friday, November 13th in the cafeteria from 7 p.m. – 10 p.m. Tickets are \$20 per person or \$35 per couple. Proceeds from the dance will benefit Magnum. On November 19th, there will be a financial aid night for seniors and their parents in the auditorium beginning at 6 p.m.

Catherine Gullotta – The Terryville High School Drama Club presents “The Holiday Party” written by Catherine Gullotta & Mr. Perkins on December 3rd, 4th, and 5th. Each Board Member will be given one free ticket. The Girls’ Soccer Team won States and will be playing Bolton on November 13th. Congratulations to the Boys’ Soccer Team on advancing to the first round. Girls’ Volleyball participated in the Berkshire Tournament. Cory Picard and Connor Levins of the Cross Country Team will be advancing to the state open. The Parent-Athlete Winter Sports Meeting is at 6 p.m. on November 23rd. The Booster Club Calendar give away has already started and will run until November 23rd.

Nora Samih – Homecoming Dance, Friday, November 13th. November 7th, the Plymouth Local Prevention Council will be hosting the World Café Community Discussion. This includes a breakfast with a discussion of townwide drug prevention. Parent/Teacher Conferences will be held on Wednesday, November 18th from 4 p.m. – 6 p.m.; Thursday, November 19th from 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. and Friday, November 20th from 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. On Friday, November 20th from 4 p.m. – 8 p.m. Jane Doe No More, a self-defense class at the high school for girls 15 and older will take place. Kids Against Hunger Food Packaging will take place from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. in the cafeteria. On Tuesday, November 24th DEAR (Drop Everything and Read) will be introduced to the school. Two flex periods a month, students and staff will stop what they are doing to read a book. During the evening, the Leo Club installation will take place at 6 p.m. There will be a Thanksgiving Pie Sale by the band and chorus from Harvest Bakery. An SAT Parent Workshop will take place on December 8th at the high school. As a recap, the Gay Straight Alliance Faculty was held in October and 19 staff members came to support the awareness of LGBT issues.

8. Presentations

(a) CAPSS (Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents) Award Recipients for 2015 – 2016 were acknowledged by each of the school principals: **Brayden Evans** – Harry S. Fisher Elementary School; **Zackary Oemcke** – Plymouth Center School; **Jacob Zappone** and **Madison Maske** – Eli Terry Jr. Middle School and **Kolbie Brenner** and **Kaitlyn Levesque** – Terryville High School.

(b) MOTION: To recess the meeting at 7:34 p.m. for a brief reception for our award winners. Motion Ms. McCann, seconded Mr. Goodwin, motion passed unanimously.

(c) MOTION: To resume regular session at 7:48 p.m. Motion Mr. Orsini, seconded Mr. Godwin, motion passed unanimously.

(d) Terryville High School Presentation – Mr. Hults, Principal of Terryville High School gave a power point presentation on CAPT 2015; SAT 2015; Advanced Placement Report; Terryville High School Graduation Rate; College Acceptance Report Class of 2015 and ended with a Focus for 2015 – 2016: SAT.

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

Lori Theriault, 304 Harwinton Avenue, Plymouth – Spoke on Work It!

Chris Simo-Kinzer, 52 Old Farm Road – Congratulated the new board members; and spoke in favor of Work It!

Cindy Candreau – 382 Harwinton Avenue, Plymouth – Spoke on college preparedness and peer mentoring.

10. Communication(s)

On November 20, 2015, the Plymouth Board of Education will be acknowledged on winning the CABA Board of Distinction Award – Level II. The presentation will take place during the Banquet Session at the Mystic Marriott in Groton. There are 7 other districts that will be also be acknowledged on this date.

11. Unfinished Business

None

12. New Business

a. Resignations

A. J. Sirianni, Boys' Junior Varsity Basketball Coach, Terryville High School, effective October 23, 2015 and **Mark Sconziano**, Girls' Basketball Coach, Eli Terry Jr. Middle School.

b. New Hires/Appointments/Re-Appointment

MOTION: To appoint **Robert Tierney, II**, Mathematics Teacher, Terryville High School, effective November 2, 2015. Motion Mr. Goodwin, seconded Ms. McCann, motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: To appoint the following individuals for the winter coaching positions at Terryville High School:

Damian Cogshall	Varsity Girls' Basketball
Tom Morgan	JV Girls' Basketball
Peter Veleas	Varsity Wrestling
David Baldyga	JV Wrestling
Mark Fowler	Varsity Basketball
Jeff Foulds	Indoor Track

Motion Mr. Orsini, seconded Mr. Goodwin, motion passes unanimously.

MOTION: To approve the re-appointment of Karen Zagurski on the Agricultural Education Advisory Committee for a 3 year term.
Motion Mr. Engle, seconded Mr. Melchionna, motion passes unanimously.

c. Out of State Field Trip

MOTION: To approve an out-of-state field trip to New York Broadway from Drama Club Students in grades 9 – 12 on April 7, 2016 to see a professional production and tour the theater district and meet with a member of the cost and crew of the show “Phantom of the Opera”. Motion Mr. Engle, seconded Mr. Melchionna, motion passes unanimously.

d. Accounts-by-Facilities Report for the Month of October

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

MOTION: To forward the October Accounts-by-Facilities Report to the Town of Plymouth Board of Finance. Motion Mrs. Kulesa, seconded Mr. Melchionna, motion passes unanimously.

e. First Reading of Policy 9000 (Bylaws)

MOTION: To table Section 9220 until further comment from the town attorney. Motion Mr. Engle, seconded Ms. McCann. (Discussion)

Mr. Engle read the following e-mail from Lewis Button from the Office of the Secretary of State.

“Dear Mr. Engle,

The Office of the Secretary of the State is allowed to opine on the administration of elections as prescribed under Title 9 of the Connecticut General Statutes. Our jurisdiction does not extend to opining on the legality of potential municipal law, such an opinion would have to come from the town attorney. Therefore, we may not formally opine on the question below. However, we would point out that the Constitution of the State of Connecticut states in Article 10, **Section 10: Every elector shall be eligible to any office in the state, except in cases provided for in this constitution. The question may then arise why an otherwise qualified elector may not run for the Board of Education.**

Sincerely,

Lew Button “

MOTION: To amend the original motion to include Section 9110. Motion Mr. Melchionna, seconded Mr. Engle.

MOTION: To amend the original motion to table Section 9220 and 9110, motion passes unanimously.

MOTION: All in favor of amending the amendment as amended. Motion passes unanimously.

13. Board Member/Committee Reports (Subcommittees to be appointed by the Board of Education Chair at a later date)

- A. Curriculum – No Report
- B. Facilities – No Report
- C. Finance – No Report
- D. Negotiations – No Report
- E. Personnel – No Report
- F. Policy – No Report
- G. Safety/Transportation – No Report
- H. Education Connection – No Report (moved to Board Liaisons)

14. Administrative Reports/Requests/Information

Dr. Tenney, Director of Curriculum & Instruction

Dr. Tenney welcomed the new Board and congratulated the student award winner.

The Curriculum Subcommittee met on October 20, 2015 and discussed the following: (a) a presentation of the 6 – 8 ELA Curriculum by Nicole Walsh; (b) an overview of the PE and Health Curriculum by Dr. Tenney; and (c) SAT Presentation.

Dr. Tenney's report included: (a) student college visits, (b) SAT numbers and how the changes in the SAT's are more aligned to classroom instruction; (c) Professional Development Day consisted of the elementary teachers focusing on reading and writing workshops; Columbia Reading and Writing Project and the middle and high schools improving SRBI; and a discussion on the French Home Stay Program (April 1 – 15).

Mr. Trudeau, Director of Technology

Mr. Trudeau thanked Mr. Perkins and his students and also Greg from the Board of Education Technology Department.

Mr. Penn, Business Manager

No Report

Mrs. Trinks – Director of Pupil Personnel & Special Education

Mrs. Trinks welcomed the new Board. Some of her areas of focus for the month of November are: (a) ESY (extended school year); (b) meeting student needs; (c) IEP; (d) Present Levels of Educational Performance; and (e) planning for college and transition planning.

Dr. Semmel – Superintendent

Some of the items Dr. Semmel touched on: (a) Welcomed the new Board; (b) orientation process; (c) retreats; (d) student achievement and District Data Team; (e) budget process (calendar items); (f) Facebook (400 likes); and (g) the evening presentation by Mr. Hults.

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

None

16. Board Liaisons (Board of Education Chair will ask for volunteers)

Mr. Goodwin reported on Terryville High School PTSA met on Tuesday, November 10th – (a) February 18th Paint Night - \$30 per person (bring your own food) PTSA Fundraiser; and (b) November 27th At Flight.

Harry S. Fisher Elementary School (vacant at time of Board Meeting)
Plymouth Center School – Mr. Melchionna
Eli Terry Jr. Middle School – Ms. McCann
Terryville High School - Mrs. Kulesa
SEPTA - Mrs. Kremmel
CABE – (vacant at time of Board Meeting)
Education Connection – (vacant at time of Board Meeting)
WAMOGO – Mr. Goodwin

17. Final Board Comments (if any)

Mr. Melchionna – congratulations to new and returning Board Members.

Mrs. Lucian – thank you for the opportunity to serve on the Board and excited to get started.

Mr. Engle – welcome everyone, congratulations to the new Board Chair and to new Board Members, you will enjoy your term on the Board and will gain from it.

Mrs. Kremmel – thank you to everyone for voting for me and is excited to serve on the Board.

Mr. Orsini – congratulations to our award recipients; welcome to the new Board members and congratulations to the new Board officers.

Mr. Goodwin – welcome to the new Board Members and happy to see the extended school year program is being worked on.

Mrs. McCann – welcome new members and just to clarify, the district does have mentors for children so if your child needs help please speak up as help is available.

Mrs. Kulesa – welcome to Melissa and Michelle and she is looking forward to working with everyone.

Mrs. Johnson – welcome to Melissa and Michelle. Thank you Ray for all of your years of service as a Board Member and as Chair and welcome back to those Board Members who were re-elected.

18. Next Regular Board Meeting – The next regular Board of Education Meeting is on Wednesday, December 9, 2015

19. Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn at 9:30 p.m. Motion Ms. McCann, seconded Mr. Goodwin, motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patricia Piskorski". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Patricia Piskorski
Recording Secretary
Plymouth Board of Education