



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

BOARD OF EDUCATION
TERRYVILLE HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA
33 NORTH HARWINTON AVENUE
TERRYVILLE, CT 06786

IN-PERSON MEETING WITH THE PUBLIC
PER ADVICE FROM THE TORRINGTON AREA HEALTH DEPARTMENT
THE FOLLOWING MUST BE IMPLEMENTED

1. Maintain Social Distance
2. Everyone must wear a mask
3. A list is to be collected of everyone in attendance (name, address and phone number) in the case of contact tracing.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 12, 2021

7:00 P.M.

MINUTES

Present: Mr. Seaman, Mrs. Kulesa, Mr. Showers, Mrs. Johnson,
Mr. Foote, Mr. Elsaghir, Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani and Ms. Roth

Absent: Mrs. Lucian

Also Present: Mrs. Turner, Interim Superintendent, Mrs. Mozak-Pezza, Director of Curriculum & Instruction, Ms. Aronheim, Director of Pupil Personnel & Special Education Services, Mr. Tencza, Business Manager and Mr. Trudeau, Director of Technology

1. Call to Order & Pledge to the Flag

Mr. Seaman called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. The group joined in the Pledge to the Flag.

At this time, Mr. Seaman welcomed Ms. Ellen Roth, new Board of Education Member.

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2021 MAY 18 PM 3:14
TOWN CLERK
PLYMOUTH, CT
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

2. **Adoption of the Agenda**

MOTION: To entertain a motion to amend the agenda as follows:

Remove Item #8: Possible Introduction of the Acting Superintendent of Schools for the Plymouth Public School System.

Add the following after: Date of Next Board Meeting: #16 – Executive to Discuss the Contract for the Acting Superintendent. #17 - Resume Regular Session and #18 Possible Action from Executive Session.

Motion Mr. Foote, second Mr. Showers, any discussion, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion passes

3. **Approval of Minutes**

MOTION: To entertain a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 7, 2021.

Motion Mr. Foote, second Mr. Showers, any discussion, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani, motion passes.

MOTION: To entertain a motion to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of May 4, 2021. Motion Mrs. Johnson, second Mr. Foote, any discussion, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, Ms. Roth abstains, motion passes.

4. **Presentation**

- * Connecticut Junior Republic – PowerPoint Presentation – Introduction of Ms. Jennifer Grant by Ms. Aronheim, Director of Pupil Personnel & Special Education Services.

This district will be partnering with the Connecticut Junior Republic on offering counseling services in-house to our students. Many of the students referred to outside counseling are unable to access it because they do not have transportation, etc.

Mrs. Johnson – Are we thinking one per building?

Response – to start, hopefully, 2 days a week; one day could service between 4 – 5 students; 1 full day at the high school and ½ at the middle and Harry S. Fisher Elementary Schools. About 45 minutes to 1 hour working with a rotation schedule within the school.

Mrs. Johnson – Are we going with the gamut of diagnoses also because we know behavioral goes over many diagnoses; are we talking about non-verbal, are we talking about everyone?

Response – It would be any student appropriate for outpatient level talk therapy.

Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani – Where do you plan on having the office space?

Response – We are working with the principals. Mrs. Turner, Mrs. Loveland and Ms. Suffridge already have identified spaces. Ms. Aronheim is working with Mr. Hults on a place in the high school.

5. **Superintendent's Update**

* The following students were recently recognized by the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE) with a Student Leadership Award.

Eli Terry Jr. Middle School Christopher Capaldo and Morgan Champagne

Terryville High School Lilyana Ricardo and Karissa Monahan

Students are nominated to receive this award by their school principal. Students nominated should exhibit the following leadership skills:

- Willingness to take on challenges
- Capability to make difficult decisions
- Concern for others
- Ability to work with others
- Willingness to commit to a project
- Diplomacy
- Ability to understand issues clearly
- Ability to honor a commitment

Graduation Update – High school graduation is scheduled for Monday, June 14 at 6 p.m. with a rain date of June 15. Ceremony will take place out on the soccer field, Mr. Hults, Principal and Jim Mazon, Director of Facilities are working to design a grid where boxes will be painted on the field, each family will be entitled to 4 chairs. More details will follow.

Remote Learning Options – Mr. Hults will be offering a remote learning option to seniors beginning on Friday, June 4 to avoid having to quarantine because of a school contact causing the possibility of missing graduation. This will not be mandatory.

Aftergrad Party – To be held at the Sports Center and is sponsored by the PTSA. More details to follow.

Remote Learning for the 2021 school year – At this time, the State Department of Education indicates it will not be mandating that remote learning remain as an option for students or that every district provide remote learning for students after this school year. Remote learning will not be mandated for the 2021 – 2022 school year. However, this topic may be taken up with the State Legislature and this decision may change.

Mrs. Mozak-Pezza – Director of Curriculum & Instruction

ESSERs II Grant Summary

| | |
|------------------------|------------------|
| ESSER's II Allocation: | \$605,783 |
| Hold Harmless: | <u>\$ 97,785</u> |
| Total: | \$703,568 |

PRIORITY 1: Academic Supports, Learning Loss, Learning Acceleration and Recovery

Summer School - \$43,500

July 12th – 30th, 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

K – 8: Academic Recovery by Invitation (15 students per grade level)

9 – 12: College and Career Enrichment Program – Open Enrollment

Before/After School Academic Support Programs - \$47,200

K – 8, four days a week for most of the school year

Late busses for 6 – 12 on days the program runs

Intervention Staff - \$450,000

1 ELA and 1 Math position for PCS, Fisher and Eli

Special Education Staff - \$75,000

1 Special Education Teacher for Eli Terry Jr. Middle School

SRBI Coordinators - \$9,600

1 Coordinator for each building

Priority 3: School Safety and Social-Emotional Well-being of the “Whole Student” and of our School Staff

Additional BCBA Hours - \$60,000

500 hours to be used district-wide

Priority 4: Remote Learning, Staff Development, and the Digital Drive

Coaching Professional Development - \$10,000

2 – 3 days of training

2 days of follow-up support

Home Visits Training - \$5,000

Restorative Practices Training - \$3,300

Partial payment for initial training in one building

Additional funding will be allocated in the ARP ESSER's Grant

Mrs. Johnson – If we did not receive all this new staff, what is the expectation for the following year?

Mrs. Mozak-Pezza – They are only going to be funded for as long as the grant funds them. The goal is to be able to use the extra staff to deal with this little bubble that we have and then, hopefully, those students will go back and do the regular Tier I Instruction because they will have received the support they need and we will not need to have additional staff members to work with them. The intervention and coaching staff were initially trained in March of this year on acceleration and how to do accelerated programs for students.

Mrs. Johnson – Are we going to be fairly clear with them that it is going to be a short term?

Mrs. Mozak-Pezza – It will be clearly identified that it is not be a permanent position.

Mr. Seaman – Do you think you are going to have a difficult time finding people to take a short term position.

Mrs. Mozak-Pezza – That is part of the concern. What may happen, is that we may have staff internally apply for those positions and we would then potentially need to hire classroom teachers.

6. Student Representatives

- * Tyler Mendela
- * Lilyana Ricardo
- * Gena Buckley

Due to the student representatives studying for their AP Exams, the group submitted the following written report which was read by Mrs. Turner.

A.P. Exams

- 10 A.P. exams have taken place over the past two weeks, with sophomores, juniors, and seniors all continuing to participate in the various exams they are eligible for. Exams started Monday, May 3 and are completed on Monday, May 17.

Senior Events

- The senior formal dinner took place on Friday, May 7th.
 - The dinner took place from 5:30pm-9:30pm at the Grand Oak Villa in Oakville.
 - About 40 seniors attended, as well as six staff chaperones.
 - The event was held outdoors the entire time and students wore masks except when eating and taking pictures.
 - There was a “murder-mystery” component to the dinner—the attendees were all assigned a character and played through three rounds of interaction; within each round, characters were given an envelope including details about themselves and information they should, and shouldn’t share with others in order to further the plot. While the advisors and class officers who planned the event were nervous about participation from the attendees, the response to the game was overwhelmingly positive and everybody seemed to thoroughly enjoy it; the game provided an opportunity for students to still be able to walk around, talk, and interact with each other even though dancing was still prohibited.
 - In order to keep this event as similar to a prom as possible, music, catering, and awards were still a part of the night; attendees all truly enjoyed themselves and were grateful for this opportunity, especially considering the circumstances of this school year.
- Scholarship night for seniors is on Tuesday, May 25th.
 - Seniors who earned local scholarships will have the opportunity to bring two guests; since organizations granting scholarships cannot attend due to COVID restrictions, school staff will run this event.

- The THS Class of 2021 is very appreciative of all of the support that the local community and scholarship agencies that have supported this event and made it possible. Although we will miss seeing many community members at this event, we are still very grateful that we are fortunate enough to have any form of ceremony given the extenuating circumstances.
- Graduation will take place on Monday, June 14th, on the THS soccer field (tentative rain date scheduled for Tuesday, June 15th pending Board of Education approval).
 - All seniors will have the option of going remote after Thursday, June 3rd, for quarantine purposes; classes will be attended virtually for those who chose to go remote on Friday, June 4th, Monday, June 7th, and Tuesday, June 8th.
 - Graduation rehearsals will take place on the soccer field on Thursday, June 10th, and Friday, June 11th, weather permitting. Rehearsals will be conducted with one half of the class at a time.
 - Any graduating senior who tests positive for COVID-19 or is officially flagged as having been a close contact will be prohibited from attending the graduation ceremony.
 - This year's seniors are very grateful to have a bit more of a normal graduation, and are very excited and looking forward to the ceremony!
- Other notes for seniors:
 - Grades for seniors will be finalized by the end of the day on Tuesday, June 8th.
 - Wednesday, June 9th will be reserved for seniors to fulfill any outstanding obligations, and to return their Chromebooks (by appointment).

Schoolwide End-of-Year Events

- Terryville High School's annual Mock DUI will take place on Thursday, May 20th with a rain date of Friday, May 21st.
 - We are very excited to note that this will be the first year that THS fire science students will play a part in this very important event!
- The THS Marching Band and THS Color Guard will be performing at the upcoming town Memorial Day parade, Monday, May 31 starting at 10:30 a.m.. We wish them the best of luck in their performance and know that they will do great!
- The THS Booster Club sports awards are set to take place on Wednesday, June 2nd.
 - Due to the large number of student-athletes that our school has, only athletes and coaches can attend this event.
 - The event will most likely be videotaped and possibly live streamed
- Academic awards will be given in a ceremony on Thursday, June 3rd.
 - This ceremony will only be open to invited students who have earned academic awards; due to COVID restrictions, parents and any outside guests are unfortunately not permitted to attend this event.
 - The event will most likely be videotaped and possibly live streamed
- Field days sponsored by the THS Pep Club will be taking place for grades 9-11 in early June, and the THS Class of 2021 will have a larger field day on June 2nd with a rain date of June 3rd.
- Finally, Teacher Appreciation Week was last week where all faculty and staff were thanked for all they do each and every day. FBLA, National Honor Society, Pep Club, and Student Council all did things to thank and honor all those who work in our schools.

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

Mr. Gerard Bourbonniere – 6 Fairmount Avenue, Terryville – Mr. Bourbonniere was at the meeting on behalf of the Parks & Recreation Commission of which he is Chairperson. He thanked Mr. Tencza, Business Manager, Mrs. Gudczaskas, Secretary and Mr. Mazon, Director of Facilities for reaching a solution to alleviate the concerns with respect to the bathrooms for summer camp at Eli Terry Jr. Middle School.

Mr. Seaman – Appreciated Mr. Bourbonniere's kind words. It is very important for the Town Agencies to work together. He also thanked Mr. Tencza and his staff.

Mr. Randy Picard – 140 Old Waterbury Road, Terryville – As Board Chair, Mr. Picard reported on the Terryville Public Library and their events.

8. **Possible Introduction of the Acting Superintendent of Schools for the Plymouth Public School System. NOTE:** This item has been removed from the Agenda.

Recess -- Removed

Resume Regular Session - Removed

9. **Unfinished Business**

(a) 2022 – 2023 School Year Calendar

MOTION: To entertain a motion to approve the 2022 – 2023 school year calendar as presented. Motion Mr. Showers, second Mr. Foote, any discussion, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion carries.

(b) 2021 – 2022 Budget

MOTION: To entertain a motion to accept the 2021 – 2022 Budget in the amount of \$24,552,027.00 as approved by the Town Council. Motion Mr. Foote, second Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani, any discussion

ROLL VOTE: Mr. Showers - Yes Mrs. Johnson - Yes Mr. Foote - Yes
Mr. Elsaghir - No Ms. Roth - Yes Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani - Yes
Mrs. Kulesa - Yes

Yes Votes = 6 No Votes = 1 motion passes

MOTION: To entertain a motion to authorize the use of funding deposited into the Sinking Fund (not to exceed 2% of the Board of Education's total operating budget for the fiscal year 2020 – 2021) as outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding agreed to by the Board of Education and the Board of Finance. Motion Mrs. Johnson, second Mrs. Kulesa, any discussion.

ROLL VOTE: Mr. Showers - Yes Mrs. Johnson - Yes Mr. Foote - Yes
Mr. Elsaghir - Yes Ms. Roth - Yes Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani - Yes
Mrs. Kulesa - Yes

Yes Vote = 7 No Votes = 0 motion carries.

10. **New Business**

- * First Read of Policy Series 3000 Business – Purchasing
- * First Read of the Code of Conduct Governing Procurements Under A Federal Award

Each Board Member received a copy of the policies in their packet. There will be a second read and a motion to approve and/or not approve at the June Board of Education Meeting.

- * Board of Education Meeting Date Change for June, 2021

MOTION: To entertain a motion to change the Regular Board of Education Meeting date from Wednesday, June 2, 2021 to a Special Board of Education meeting on Wednesday, June 9, 2021. Motion Mr. Showers, second Mr. Foote, any discussion, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion passes.

11. **Board Member/Committee Reports**

A. Finance/Operations - Matthew Tencza, School Business Manager

- Included in the packet are the following; Accounts by Facilities Report for April, 2021 and 3 different submissions: (1) Business Office Activity Report; (2) Board of Education Budget Summary through April, 2021 Report; and (3) Cumulative Total Board of Education Budget % by Month.
- The Accounts by Facilities Report will be forwarded to the Town of Plymouth Board of Finance

Additional Information: Mr. Tencza – We were able to execute a MOU that will allow us to use up to 2% of our 2021 – 2022 budget (estimated at \$495,511.00). Funds have already been identified and isolated. These funds are being used like a grant or line of credit.

To arrive at the number approved by the Town Council, Mr. Tencza indicated he needed to reduce the original ask by approximately \$380,000.00. This was done without any disruption to staffing. Unfortunately, the STEM Program was put off; however, we have pre-purchased next year's chromebooks. Good news, the insurance rate is below 4 ½%; able to isolate transportation savings because of the recent reconfiguration and there were other miscellaneous savings. All in all Mr. Tencza stated we are in a good spot and he feels comfortable about next year.

The lighting project is well underway. Plymouth Center School is approximately 95% complete. The gymnasium and the boiler room will complete this project.

Projects at Harry S. Fisher Elementary School and Terryville High School have begun. Eli Terry Jr. Middle School will begin next week. Feedback has been good. Buildings are brighter.

The original estimate \$336,690.00. After final review of all incentives - \$294,177.00. This comes to \$42,550.00 less then original quote.

B. Personnel Report – Mrs. Turner, Interim Superintendent
Mr. Tencza - Mrs. Rebecca Sowa is the district's new Payroll/Benefits Coordinator. She is a Terryville graduate of 1999. She began her new position today.

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

None

13. **Board Liaison Reports**

Mr. Seaman -- Harry S. Fisher Elementary School

Meeting took place on May 11th

New Officers: Mr. Picard, President

Treasurer, Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani

End of the school year activities were reviewed.

Field Day was discussed in depth.

Comment: School system, Mrs. Loveland, PTA really worked extremely hard to make field day happen.

Mr. Elsaghir -- Plymouth Center School

Teacher Appreciation Week – teachers were provided with free year books and paid breakfast and lunch.

Fascia Chocolate Fundraiser pick up, Wednesday, May 19

Spring Book Fair, May 17 – 21

5th Grade end of the year celebration, Friday, June 11

Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani -- Eli Terry Jr. Middle School

8th graders are selling window markers – 8 pack - \$20

Teachers Appreciation Week was catered by Frankie's; teacher breakroom was filled with snacks for the week.

Working on many end of the year activities as well as awards, 8th grade promotion and a field day.

Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani -- Booster Club

Planning on Scholarship and Senior Night. Great year as students were able to play sports all year long.

Mrs. Candrea – Florenciani(for Mrs. Kulesa) -- Terryville High School

Students are going to the Sports Center and bus company is donating the buses. However, the drivers will be given a generous tip as compensation for the donation of the buses.

Senior yard signs are \$20 each. The PTSA is shy on funds so any donations would be greatly appreciated to help set off Senior Night. Counting down the days until graduation.

Mr. Foote -- SEPTA

The Scholarship Committee has awarded one scholarship to be presented on Scholarship Night. All applicants were incredible and all deserving. All 2021 Seniors were wished good luck in their future endeavors.

Vacant -- CABE

Mr. Seaman assigned new board member, Ellen Roth as a liaison to CABE.

Mrs. Johnson

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EdAdvance

- * The Head Start 2020 – 2021 Annual Program Self-Assessment and improvement plan was approved.
- * The 2022 – 2023 Uniform Regional Calendar was approved.
- * The projected annual budget for FY 2021 -2022 was presented. However, it will not be voted on until October.
- * EdAdvance awarded scholarships to 4 incredible and well deserving seniors within our district.
- * The closing for The Workspace facility in Bethel was held today, the collaboration of our RESC and CES, Cooperative Education Services, is now a reality. The address is 16-18 Trowbridge Drive and there will be a ribbon cutting ceremony on Monday, June 7th, from 5 p.m. – 7p.m. All are welcome. There will be an official invitation for each superintendent and Chair and Board Members throughout both Regions/RESC.

Mr. Showers

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District Safety Committee

No Report

14. Board Comments

Mrs. Johnson – Super excited about what Lindsay is doing.

Ms. Roth – Thank you to everyone for the welcome and she looks forward to working with the Board Members.

Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani – Comment: Although it was Teacher Appreciation Week, most schools recognized all the staff, whether one is in the kitchen or the classroom, everyone is teaching our children something. All teachers were super appreciative for all they received, i.e. frozen breakfast sandwiches, little ice creams and life savers. Welcome Ellen Roth to the Board. Counting down the school days.

Ms. Kulesa – Welcome to Ellen Roth. Thank you Lindsay for your presentation. She has something similar in the school she works at and she looks forward to Plymouth having that opportunity as well. Once teachers are in their building they're trapped and cannot go anywhere especially with only a 20-minute lunch so they are happy to get anything.

15. Next Board Meeting –The next Regular Meeting of the Board of Education scheduled for Wednesday, June 2, 2021 has been changed to Wednesday, June 9, 2021 as a Special Board of Education Meeting.

16. Executive Session

MOTION: To entertain a motion to adjourn into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the contract for the Acting Superintendent of Schools at 8:04 p.m.
Motion Mr. Showers, second Mr. Foote, all in favor, motion passes.

17. Resume Regular Session

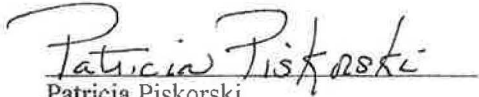
MOTION: To entertain a motion to resume regular session at 8:21p.m.
Motion Mrs. Johnson, second Mr. Showers, any discussion, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions motion passes.

18. **Possible Action from Executive Session**

No action taken

19. **Adjournment**

MOTION: To entertain a motion to adjourn at 8:21 p.m. Motion Mr. Showers, second Mr. Foote, any discussion, all in favor, motion passes.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Patricia Piskorski", written over a horizontal line.

Patricia Piskorski
Recording Secretary
Plymouth Board of Education