



## 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, OCTOBER 9, 2019

7:00 P.M.

### MINUTES

2019 OCT 18 AM 9:47  
TOWN OF PLYMOUTH  
CLERK'S OFFICE  
RECORDS & COMMUNICATIONS

Present: Mrs. Johnson, Mr. Showers, Mr. Bourbonniere, Mr. Foote, Mr. Elsaghir,  
Mrs. Kremmel and Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani

Absent: Mrs. Kulesa and Mrs. Lucian

Also Present: Dr. Semmel, Superintendent of Schools, Mrs. Parsons, Director of Curriculum &  
Instruction, Mrs. Aronheim, Director of Pupil Personnel & Special Education  
Services, Mr. Hendrickson, Business Manager and Mr. Trudeau, Director of  
Technology

#### 1. Call to Order & Pledge to the Flag

Mrs. Johnson called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. The group joined in the Pledge to the Flag.

#### 2. Adoption of the Agenda

MOTION: To adopt the agenda as presented. Motion Mrs. Kremmel, seconded Mr. Foote, any discussion, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion passes.

### 3. **Approval of Minutes**

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 11, 2019  
Motion Mr. Showers, seconded Mrs. Kremmel, any discussion, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion passes.

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of September 25, 2019  
Motion Mr. Foote, seconded Mr. Showers, any discussion, all in favor, any opposed (Mr. Bourbonniere opposed), any abstentions (Mrs. Kremmel abstained), motion passes.  
CORRECTION: Mrs. Kremmel was at the meeting. The abstention was made in error.

### 4. **Presentation**

- Greece Trip – Mr. DiStasio

The presentation gave the Board Members a glimpse of the Greece Trip and some of the sites visited by the students.

- High School Report – Mr. Hults, Principal Terryville High School  
Mr. Hults presented data related to PSAT, SAT and AP. The data showed students who were challenging themselves with respect to the Advanced Placement Courses.

High School Academic Reports:

<https://plymouth.k12.ct.us/common/pages/DisplayFile.aspx?itemId=2275786>

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- Smarter Balanced Assessment Results – Mrs. Parsons, Director of Curriculum & Instruction

Mrs. Parsons presented data related to the Smarter Balanced Assessment results for the 2018 – 2019 school year.

Smarter Balanced Assessment Results

<https://plymouth.k12.ct.us/common/pages/DisplayFile.aspx?itemId=2275783>

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Mr. Bourbonniere – Comment: Kudos to the staff for a really good job considering the funds that are available. Feels the teachers are doing a really great job with the assets given to them for the classroom. However, he has concerns about Harry S. Fisher. ELA score is pretty far down the pole. He feels the district needs to begin exploring resources for Fisher. He is not looking for a drastic increase but just enough of an increase to show the school is moving up in the pole.

Mrs. Parsons – Even if a group goes from a 43% proficiency in 1 year and 43% the next year, that does indicate growth. However, it does not indicate that we are closing the gap towards more students being proficient. But, what it does mean is that all of those students made a full year's worth of growth. So maintaining proficiency level means that students are growing. It is just that they are not excelling more than a years' worth of growth unless that number is (inaudible)



5. **Superintendent's Update**

- Dr. Semmel thanked Mr. DiStasio, Mr. Hults and Mrs. Parsons for the night's presentations.
- Great Suicide Prevention Walk – Thank you to Mr. Nave and Ms. Jobbagy for all of their hard work in organizing this walk.

Mrs. Parsons – Update on NAEYC (National Association for the Education of Young Children) – One of the obligations of the Smart Start Grant when applied for by the district 4 years ago was that by the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of operations, the district would obtain NAEYC Accreditation. This involves a series of 10 standards that are broken down into about 50 – 100 statements at the program level and the classroom level. There will be a visit within the next 4 months to review all of the statements and evidence that have been compiled. These must meet NAEYC standards meaning the district needs to meet at least 70% - 80% of the hundreds of statements submitted. If the district meets that based on the documentation presented and based on what was observed during the visit, then the district should obtain accreditation by the end of the school year.

6. **Student Representatives**

\* Taylor Greenwood

Report: (a) The suicide prevention walk on Sunday was very successful with an incredible turnout of approximately 80 plus people. There were speakers which included student speakers; (b) The marching band performed in the Bristol Mum Parade and placed 3<sup>rd</sup>; (c) The Berkshire League Music Festival is on Friday, October 11<sup>th</sup>. This is a band performance consisting of the top high school band performers in the Berkshire League; (d) The Drumline performed during the Suicide Prevention Walk; (e) Staff Infection will be performing on October 25<sup>th</sup> (f) The Band Field Trip to the Big E was a fun filled day and ended with an amazing performance from the marching band; and (g) the fall performance for the Dram Club is entitled 'Frenzied Fairytales'. Tickets may be purchased from any Drama Club Member or at [ths.booktix.com](http://ths.booktix.com)

\* Julia Zaniewski

Report: High School Guidance Counselors have been working with the seniors on completing their Common App. In this process, students answer questions about their personal lives which aides them in their college application process. One portion of the Common App requires students to choose colleges they would like to apply to. To help with this process the high school has scheduled visits with representatives from various colleges. To date there have been visits from UConn and Eastern. A visit from a representative from Western will be taking place soon. A Financial Aid Night is scheduled to take place on October 24<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. A representative from ECMC Foundation will be present and speak about FAFSA. ECMC is a non-profit organization. They are able to enforce grants that an individual may apply for rather than loans. This program is both student and parent driven.

\* Tyler Mendela

Report: Sports – (a) The Boys' Cross Country Team completed their undefeated season by beating Thomaston and Shepaug. Terryville had five runners in the top ten spots. Standings were: Chris Deforest – 1<sup>st</sup> place; CJ Hart – 2<sup>nd</sup> place; Conor Garrity – 3<sup>rd</sup> place; Nick Fusco – 5<sup>th</sup> place and Nick Zappone – 7<sup>th</sup> place; (b) Girls' Soccer – The team beat Thomaston this past week with a score of 3 – 9. The next game will take place on Thursday, October 10 at 3:45 p.m. at home against Nonnewaug; (c) Volleyball – The Volleyball Team has had a great season thus far. The next game is on Tuesday, October 15, 2019 at 4 p.m. at Canton High School; and (d) Boys Soccer – The Boys' Soccer team also had a good season thus far. Their next game is October 10, 2019 at 3:45 p.m. at Nonnewaug High School.

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

None

8. **Board Member/Committee Reports**

A. Finance/Operations - Mrs. Kulesa, Chair

No Meeting Due To A Lack of A Quorum

9. **Board Liaison Reports**

Mrs. Johnson/Mrs. Kremmel -- Harry S. Fisher Elementary School

Report: Meeting date: September 17, 2019 – The group discussed the following: (a) individuals who attended the CTPTA Leadership Conference; (b) the success of the open house and how they have surpassed their total membership from last year by their first meeting (many congratulations); (c) discussion regarding upcoming fundraiser, book fair and enrichment plans; partnership with Plymouth Center School PTA was discussed; Friday, October 25, Trunk or Treat at Terryville High School, an ongoing Reusable Bag Fundraiser (year round); and the next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 22, 2019.

Mr. Elsaghir -- Plymouth Center School

Report:

- (a) Cherrydale Farm Fundraiser doing well.
- (b) October 17 – Family Feast at Jakes Wayback Burgers from 5 p.m. – 8 p.m.
- (c) October 21 – 25 – Fall Scholastic Book Fair
- (d) October 25 – Trunk or Treat

Discussion: (Parents) Why was there not going to be school on Election Day since voting was not taking place at the high school? (Response) Well, we voted on it and that's just how it was and then the town decided not to schedule voting at the high school.

Mr. Elsaghir – (Question) Do you have any type of input on that? Would it be something to consider, if future elections are not at the high school, to change whether or not there is school on Election Day?



Dr. Semmel – (Response) The calendars are always brought to the Board. It is always an option if the Board wants to look at that option. He has not noticed schools to be in session on Election Day. As long as it is okay to do and the Board wants to have school on Election day, it certainly can be explored. Obviously, it is encouraged to have individuals go out and do their civic duty of voting. The district often chooses Election Day as a Professional Day. A Professional Day is needed around the time of voting and it works out well for the district. But, as always, it is open for conversation.

Mrs. Johnson – (Response) The other portion of the conversation at the meeting was about Veteran's Day. Many parents were not pleased the schools were in session on Veteran's Day. They indicated veterans attended too many schools. So, it may be a matter of one's perspective. One parent felt very strongly about, if the district were closed on Election Day, why was it not closed on Veteran's Day. She indicated the parent(s) did not understand the balance for the district. It was explained; the district calendar was out much earlier. The town then decided to change the location for voting. The district could not all of a sudden change the calendar since the year had already begun. Possibly, the election individuals need to inform the district in advance prior to the school year.

Dr. Semmel – (Response) – Dr. Semmel believes the election locations may change again. This year is more of an off-season election as opposed to a Presidential Election. It was probably felt that one location was sufficient. But, possibly, as we approach the Presidential Election, the location for voting may return to two locations. Unfortunately, those locations are unknown. It may not even be at the high school. It may be at the Lyceum, back to Fisher or even a combination. The district does not decide the location, it is the registrars who make that decision. They work with the district should they wish to use a school(s). The district tries to accommodate for the elections. This is future planning type of work.

Mrs. Johnson – (Response) – Mrs. Johnson indicated it was explained to those parents regarding Veteran's Day. The district wanted the children to experience the day. There was talk last year about having a celebration in our schools and that is why the schools were opened. The Board is not going to make everyone happy. However, the conversation was interesting and something to consider for the next calendar.

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

October 8 Skate Night (156 skaters, fun night)  
October 27 Next meeting at 7 p.m.

(a) Community Book – PTA will be adding the \$500 to bring up for approval at the next meeting; (b) the meeting was well attended by many 6<sup>th</sup> grade parents; and (c) the group is seeking businesses to again sponsor the back of the tee shirts this year. The tee shirts will be given away free at basketball games.

Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani -- Booster Club

October 7 Meeting

(a) The group received checks from Mrs. Boylan in memory of her father who had recently passed; (b) Snow White Car Wash Fundraiser in Bristol (\$700 plus dollars were raised waiting for the final count; (c) Bench Cushion Fundraiser for the high school; (d) Beginning to put together the December Calendar – seeking donations of items between \$25 - \$50; gift certificates, i.e. Dunkin Donuts; Pizza Restaurants, Christmas Tree Farm. Tickets on sale

beginning December 4 – December 25. Each day in December a name will be drawn and the individual will win the item on that calendar date; (d) High School business sponsored tee shirt fundraiser giveaway; (e) Ice Bath (Physical Trainer exploring this possibility for the students and also the group is looking at the cost to purchase an ice machine; and (f) Scoreboard – finances are still being explored.

Mrs. Kulesa (absent) -- Terryville High School

Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani reported the group is looking at the following fundraisers: hiring a hypnotist and Crabby Al's.

Mr. Foote/Mrs. Kremmel -- SEPTA

Paint Party Fundraiser in September was successful and well attended.  
The meeting dates and time are posted on the SEPTA Facebook Page.

Mr. Bourbonniere -- CABE

No Report

Mrs. Johnson – Mrs. Kulesa will be recognized for her achievement on the Board and also the credits she has obtained over the years.

Mr. Bourbonniere – Board Members who have served over 10 years, 20 years will be recognized at the CABE/CAPSS Convention.

Mrs. Johnson -- EdAdvance

The annual meeting of EdAdvance was on October 3, 2019 and was held at the new Partnership School in Terryville. This was a breakfast meeting for all superintendents; central office staff and Board Members, within our RESC, were invited to attend.

Jeff Kitching, Executive Director, introduced all senior staff and department heads. He highlighted the many accomplishments of his office, including the new Partnership School. There was discussion about presenting to the State Legislature about how EdAdvance and Plymouth worked together efficiently to get the new school opened. Following breakfast and the tours, the Board had a quick meeting that included the presentation of the 2019 – 2020 Budget that will be voted on in November. The group also voted to approve the Student Program Policy Manual.

Mr. Showers --- District Safety Committee

No Report

#### 10. **Board Comments**

Mr. Foote – He was in attendance when Terryville High School won the State Championship back in 1954. It was quite the event since Terryville had not won a championship since 1936. A sports night banquet was established by the Lions Club to celebrate their win in 1954.



Mrs. Johnson – This is technically the last official meeting of this Board. Elections are coming up. She thanked everyone on the Board for their participation, teamwork and all of their hard work during the last two years.

11. **Next Board Meeting** –The next Regular Meeting of the Plymouth Board of Education is on Wednesday, November 13, 2019 at 7 p.m. in the cafeteria at Terryville High School.

12. **Executive Session** (to discuss a personnel matter): Memorandum of Understanding.

MOTION: To move into Executive Session at 8:18 p.m. to discuss a personnel matter: Memorandum of Understanding and inviting Dr. Semmel.

Motion Mr. Foote, seconded Mrs. Kremmel, any discussion, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion passes/fails.

Resume Regular Session

MOTION: To return to regular session at 8:37 p.m. Motion Mrs. Kremmel, seconded Mr. Showers, any discussion, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion passes.

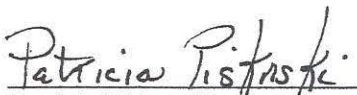
13. **Possible Action From Executive Session**

MOTION: To approve the Memorandum of Understanding as submitted in Executive Session. Motion Mr. Showers, seconded Mrs. Kremmel, any discussion, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion passes.

14. **Adjournment**

MOTION: To adjourn at 8:39p.m. Motion Mrs. Kremmel, seconded, Mr. Showers, all in favor, motion passes.

Respectfully Submitted,



Patricia Piskorski  
Recording Secretary  
Plymouth Board of Education