



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, MARCH 11, 2020

7:00 P.M.

MINUTES

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

Absent: Mrs. Lucian

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

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

Mr. Seaman 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 entertain a motion to adopt the agenda as presented. 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 February 12 2020.

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

MOTION: To entertain a motion to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting (Public Hearing) of February 27, 2020. Motion Mr. Showers, second Mr. Foote, any discussion, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion passes.

4. **Presentations**

- Next Generation Accountability Results – Mrs. Parsons, Director of Curriculum & Instruction
Mrs. Parsons indicated the 2018 – 2019 Accountability Index presentation would be available on-line.

- Roos Helping Roos – Ms. Hurd and Students
This was fundraiser created by a group of students along with Ms. Hurd to help fight the brush fires across Australia. Students cut out kangaroo shapes and sold them to staff and students who wrote their names on them. The cutouts were then hung up along the hallways of the school. The group raised \$4,300.00 which was split evenly between two charities. A certificate was presented to Ms. Hurd in acknowledgement to the staff and students of Terryville High School for creating ways to help others.

- Recognition of LCSA (Litchfield County Superintendent Association) Student Award Winners

Harry S. Fisher Elementary School
Robert Schnaars

Plymouth Center School
Samantha Sidoti

Eli Terry Jr. Middle School
Jenna Wildman - Absent
Jacob Darrell

Terryville High School
Abigail Moyles
Jacob Zappone

RECESS:

MOTION: To entertain a motion to recess at 7:30 p.m. to congratulate the award recipients.

Motion Mr. Showers, second Mr. Foote, all in favor, motion passes.

RESUME REGULAR SESSION:

MOTION: To entertain a motion to resume regular session at 7:41 p.m. Motion Mr. Foote, second Mr. Showers, all in favor, motion passes.

5. Superintendent's Update

* Community Reads

- ❖ Kick off date was on Friday, March 6th
- ❖ Individuals may find books at the following locations: IGA, Thomaston Savings Bank, Town Hall and the Public Library.
- ❖ On May 1, there will be a culminating event at Baldwin Park from 5 p.m. – 7 p.m. with food trucks and a number of activities. Some will be connected to the book.

* COVID -19 Update

- ❖ Parents have been emailed to keep them informed.
- ❖ Conference call with the Governor on Monday, March 9 with a recommendation of cancelling all events of 100+ attendees.
- ❖ Governor is cancelling all out of state travel for State workers and suggested we do the same.
- ❖ The State Department of Education suggests working with the Department of Public Health on cancelling athletic events; school plays/spring concerts and field trips where more than 100+ people are expected. Dr. Semmel indicated he has a list of all of the activities we do here in Plymouth, taking note of the big events that bring a large group of people together and looking to find either dates to either postpone those events or cancel if postponement is not an option.
- ❖ Flowchart from the State Department of Education, which addresses what would happen if districts needed to close.
 - The District would follow the recommendations of the State Department of Education.
 - The District would only close schools at the local level in consultation with and the recommendation of the local health officials, head nurse, school physician and the Department of Public Health.

❖ Policy 6153

"The Superintendent shall have the responsibility to react swiftly to local, national, and international events to protect the safety and security of staff and students. The Superintendent reserves the right to cancel, alter or modify the field trip at any time before or during the trip. Nothing in this policy shall interfere with that prerogative. In the event of such a cancellation, the Board of Education assumes no responsibility for losses incurred by anyone associated with the planned field trip.

- Museum of Modern Art – moved from March 31 to May 19
- Boston, MA – April 3 – 5 – working with vendor to change date
- Costa Rica – April 9 – 18 – working on alternatives if it needs to be postponed.
- Agawam, MA – June 6 – Six Flags – on the agenda for tonight

Ms. Aronheim – Director of Pupil Personnel & Special Education Services

PreK lottery applications closed on March 6. If your child was accepted into the lottery, you will receive notification via email on March 20 which will contain a set of instructions, that include important steps that need to be followed. You need to accept your child's spot. If you do not accept, your child's slot will be assigned to the next child listed in the lottery. Slots were offered to approximately 4 children.

Mrs. Parsons – Director of Curriculum & Instruction – Update

The district is well underway with the 5-year curriculum review cycle. Every core subject area comes up every 5 years for a complete look as to what are we doing, what has changed in 5 years, what is working about our practices, are we using the most up-to-date resources. We are going to be looking at everything from survey data to walk-through in the classrooms, etc. Currently, Math will be the first curriculum area to hear from at the end of the year. In June, a review will be presented. Social Studies and World Language Arts will be next.

Dr. Semmel

- Acknowledged March as Board Appreciate Month. Each Board Member was presented a copy of Wish Tree, a bookmark and a button (All Are Welcome Here)

6. **Student Representatives**

* Taylor Greenwood

- A second blood drive was held in February with over 30 donors.
- March 14 the PTSA will hold a fundraiser at Crabby Al's. There will be a full buffet starting at 5 p.m. and children 10 and under are free.
- College knowledge morning is taking place on March 31 beginning at 8:30 a.m. Three college representatives will be speaking to Juniors and interested parents about topics related to finding the right college fit. Not confirmed as of yet, we are looking for representatives from UConn, Tunxis Community College and Sacred Heart University.
- Transition Program – baking and selling dog treats

* Julia Zaniewski

- On February 26 at 6 p.m., the National Honor Society had a dodgeball tournament with all proceeds going to Katie's Cure with the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. The event was a success as there were four teams from Thomaston and others who participated.
- On March 6, there was a kickoff for the Community Read with the book Wishtree by Katherine Applegate. The National Honor Society is joining with Community Reads by constructing a tree outside of the office at Terryville High School. Students will be asked to write positive memories and quotes on leaves to place on the tree.
- On March 13, there is a chili cook-off from students traveling to Costa Rica this year. Tickets are \$5 for adults, \$4 for students. There will also be a 50/50 raffle.

* Tyler Mendela

- Drama Club spring Musical "Sympathy Jones" took place this past weekend.
- Terryville/Thomaston Staff Basketball Game on March 20 at 6 p.m.
- SAT Boot Camp for Juniors have been taking place for the past few weeks. They are reviewing test taking strategies, Math, and English skills from years past that will be on the SAT later this March.

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

Joseph Daverso – 31 North Street, Terryville, CT

Regarding Option I – Please consider the following when making your decision:

- (1) Split of Parent resources
- (2) Additional busing costs and busing time
- (3) Consideration for possible reversion

8. **Unfinished Business**

* Second Reading of the following Policy and Regulation

- (a) Policy 5141.214(a) – Student Sunscreen Use
- (b) Regulation R4112.4/4212.4 – Health Examination/Practice and Procedures

MOTION: To entertain a motion to approve the following:

- (a) Policy 5141.214(a) – Student Sunscreen Use
- (b) Regulation R4112.4/4212.4 – Health Examination/Practice and Procedures

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

9. **New Business**

- (1) Out of State Field Trip

MOTION: To entertain a motion to approve an out of state field trip for 7th and 8th grade band and chorus students to perform at Agawam Jr. High School and then to attend Six Flags in Massachusetts on June 5, 2020. Motion Mrs. Kulesa, second Mr. Showers any discussion, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion passes/fails.

- (2) Facilities Discussion - Option 1 – Reconfiguration of Grade Level in the two elementary schools to commence for the 2021 – 2022 school year. So moved, Mrs. Kulesa, second Mr. Foote, any discussion on the motion?

DISCUSSION:

Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani – If this were approved and transportation or anything else came up that was not expected, are we able to go back and make changes or if this motion passes is it a done deal for the following school year?

Mr. Seaman – I would think that if the motion passes it is a done deal for the following school year.

Mrs. Johnson – I thought this was not immediate.

Mr. Seaman – This is for the 2021 – 2022 school year.

Dr. Semmel – For clarity sake, we did have a recommended motion that we probably should make sure, you can always change a recommended motion but I think given the importance of this decision it would be important to start with that base.

Mrs. Kulesa – I rescind my motion.

MOTION: To entertain a motion to approve Option 1, reconfiguring grade levels in the two elementary schools as follows: pre- K through grade 2 at Plymouth Center School and Grades 3 – 5 at Harry S. Fisher Elementary School to commence for the 2021 – 2022 school year. Motion Mrs. Kulesa, seconded Mrs. Johnson, discussion.

Mr. Elsaghir - A temporary inconvenience for certain students, but a permanent improvement for all students, including those inconvenienced in terms of their education. Our job is to educate students and the decision will help educate all of the students than the option we currently have.

Mrs. Johnson – She experienced a transition with two of her children and was successful in making it through. There will be some bumps in the road. But, one needs to look at the overall picture as to what is best for the district and for all students.

Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani – Wished there was more feedback from staff. Hopes in the transition the small items are taken into consideration, the libraries, reallocating the books, the staff sizes. Hopes there is a full transformation for both schools and everything is thoroughly thought through especially the bus routes and how the drop off situation will be. Plymouth Center is extremely limited with parking and there is a lot of volume with PreK and hopes this is fully thought through and executed as much as possible and no shortcuts are taken to just get by.

Mr. Seaman – To everyone who attended the Public Hearing, however the Board votes, all of your considerations and concerns have been heard. The Board has spent a lot of time reviewing this, that is why originally the thought was can we do this for 2020 – 2021 if this were to pass and the answer was no. The Board does not want to rush into anything. If this does pass, the Board wants to cross all of its “t’s” and dot all of its “i’s” and to pay attention to every detail to make this as smooth as possible, if it passes. All of your concerns, your thoughts and comments whether for or against it have been heard. They did not go by the wayside. They were all taken into consideration. Any other comments?

Vote yes if you are in favor of Option 1 and No is Against Option I

ROLL VOTE: Mr. Showers - yes Mrs. Johnson - yes Mr. Foote - yes

Mr. Elsaghir - yes Mrs. Kremmel – yes

Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani - yes Mrs. Kulesa - yes

Motion passes unanimously.

(3) Appointment

MOTION: To entertain a motion to appoint Kelly Boggio to represent Terryville on the Agricultural Education Advisory Committee for the remainder of Christopher Goodwin's Term.

Motion Mrs. Johnson, seconded Mr. Foote, any discussion on the motion, all in favor, against, motion carries.

10. **Board Member/Committee Reports**

A. Finance/Operations - Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani, Chair

1. The Finance/Operations Subcommittee met prior to the Board Meeting. The subcommittee reviewed:

* The Accounts-by-Facilities Report for the month of February 2020. This report will be forwarded to the Town of Plymouth Board of Finance.

2. The Personnel Report

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

Candace Telke – 82 Ridge Road

Thanked the Board for passing Option 1 and appreciates all the work the Board has done on this matter although it was not an easy decision. Suggest a diverse committee, parents, teachers, staff, and community members.

Erin King – 14 Whitney Court

Thank you to the Board. This was a tough decision. Urges the Board and Administration to put together a Community Advisory.

12. **Board Liaisons to Schools**

Mr. Seaman

March 12

March 20 – April 3

March 25

March 31

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Harry S. Fisher Elementary School

Dinner for teachers (conference day)

Sock Fundraiser (with school logo)

5th grade paint night at Harry S. Fisher

Spring Picture Day

Mr. Elsaghir

March 24 – April 7

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Plymouth Center School

Spring Fundraiser

Flower Bulbs & Munson Chocolates

Picture Day

Spring Fundraiser Pickup

Teacher Appreciation Week

Teacher Appreciation Breakfast

<u>Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani</u>	--	Eli Terry Jr. Middle School
March 20		Comedy Night (\$25 for advanced tickets/\$30 if tickets are purchased at the door)
Preparations are underway for the 8 th grade ceremony at the end of the school year.		
<u>Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani</u>	--	Booster Club
March 26		Staff vs Students Basketball Game
May 17		Tentative Car Wash at the Sno White Car Wash in Bristol
June 29		Golf Tournament
<u>Mrs. Kulesa</u>	--	Terryville High School
PTSA Fundraisers for the Aftergrad Party		
March 14		Dinner at Crabby Al's
April 9		Harlem Wizzards
<u>Mr. Foote</u>	--	SEPTA
February 19		Ms. Aronheim, Director of Pupil Personnel & Special Education Services gave a presentation on Tier II and Tier III Intervention
March Meeting		Cancelled
<u>Mrs. Kremmel</u>	--	CABE
March 11		"Day on the Hill" – some decision around potential bills that may pass. Non-Medical Exemption for Vaccines has passed through committee and is now on its way to the next level. Small amendment to this bill, which grandfathers everyone that already has the non-medical exemption.
<u>Mrs. Johnson</u>	--	EdAdvance
No Meeting		
<u>Mr. Showers</u>	--	District Safety Committee
May 3		Meeting

13. **Board Comments**

Mrs. Johnson – Indicated she realizes the decision the Board made was a difficult one for some individuals. However, she feels there needs to be a committee of people involved, but overall feels this was a good decision. Something that has been discussed for over a year from the beginning. She thanked the Board and appreciated the parents that come to the meetings.

Mr. Foote – Display of the cutouts of the kangaroos and shows what the children can do. Kids are great.

Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani – Musical on opening night, singing was great and the props were all made by the students. Unfortunately, it was sad to see it was poorly attended.

Mrs. Kremmel – The decision made by the Board tonight probably will not please everyone, but one reason why she was in favor of the option was she lived through the transition of going from East Main Street School to Harry S. Fisher Junior High School. She did not even know there was a whole other side of town that existed. So, the transition from elementary to middle school was extremely difficult. Not only are you entering a new school but you are meeting an entire group of new people that in many cases you have never met before. So, this will be a real good opportunity for our students to have a better transition into middle school.

14. **Next Board Meeting** –The next Regular Meeting of the Board of Education is scheduled for Wednesday April 8, 2020 at 7 p.m. in the cafeteria at Terryville High School.
15. **Executive Session** – (a) Proposed Contract for the Technical Office and Professional (TOP) Unit and the International Union, United Automobile, Aerospace & Agricultural Implement Workers of America – UAW, Local 376 and (b) proposed contract for the Plymouth School Nurses Association.

MOTION: To entertain a motion to go into Executive Session at 8:25 p.m. for the purpose of discussing:

(a) the proposed contract for the Technical Office and Professional (TOP) Unit and the International Union, United Automobile, Aerospace & Agricultural Implement Workers of America – UAW, Local 376

and

(b) the proposed contract for the Plymouth School Nurses Association

along with the full Board and following individuals were invited into executive session, inviting Dr. Semmel, Superintendent of Schools and Mr. Hendrickson, Business Manager.

Motion Mr. Foote, second Mrs. Johnson, any discussion, all in favor. Motion passes.

MOTION: To entertain a motion to return to regular session at 8:52 p.m. Motion Mr. Showers, second Mrs. Kulesa, all in favor. Motion passes.

16. **Possible Action From Executive Session**

MOTION: To entertain a motion to approve the 5 year contract for the Technical Office and Professional (TOP) Unit and the International Union, United Automobile, Aerospace & Agricultural Implement Workers of America – UAW, Local 376 from 2019 – 2024 as presented in executive session.

Motion Mr. Showers, seconded Mr. Foote, discussion on the motion.

ROLL VOTE: Mr. Showers - yes Mrs. Johnson - yes Mr. Foote - yes

Mr. Elsaghir - yes Mrs. Kremmel - no

Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani - yes Mrs. Kulesa - yes

VOTE: 6 - YES 1 - NO Motion passes

MOTION: To entertain a motion to approve the 3-year contract for the Plymouth School Nurses Association from 2020 - 2023 as presented in executive session.

Motion Mr. Foote, seconded Mr. Showers, any discussion

ROLL VOTE: Mr. Showers - yes Mrs. Johnson - yes Mr. Foote - yes

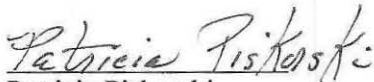
Mr. Elsaghir - yes Mrs. Kremmel - yes

Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani - yes Mrs. Kulesa - yes

VOTE 7 - YES 0 - NO Motion passes

17. **Adjournment**

MOTION: To entertain a motion to adjourn at 8:55 p.m. Motion Mr. Showers, second Mrs. Kulesa, all in favor, motion passes.



Patricia Piskorski
Recording Secretary
Plymouth Board of Education