



## 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, MAY 10, 2023

7:00 P.M.

### MINUTES

Present: Mr. Seaman, Mrs. Kulesa, Mrs. Lucian, Mr. Showers, Ms. Tilton, Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani, and Mr. Zbuska

Absent: Mr. Foote and Mr. Perugino

Others Present: Mr. Falcone, Superintendent, Mrs. Mozak Pezza, Director of Curriculum & Instruction; Mrs. Melillo, Director of Pupil Personnel & Special Education Services and Mr. Tencza, Business Manager

PLYMOUTH, CT  
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE  
RECEIVED FOR RECORD  
2023 MAY 16 AM 9:23  
TOWN CLERK

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

Mr. Seaman called the meeting of the Regular Board of Education Meeting of May 10, 2023 to order at 7:05 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. Showers, second Mr. Zbuska, any discussion, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion carries.

3. **Approval of Minutes**

MOTION: To entertain a motion to approve the minutes of meetings held between January 21, 2023 through and including April 17, 2023 collectively. Motion Mr. Showers, second Mr. Zbuska, any discussion, all in favor, any abstentions, any opposed, motion carries.

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

None

5. **Student Representatives** (reported on the following)

**Robert Pedersen** – Sports

Booster Club Sports Awards, May 31

Participation number for Spring Sports has been very high especially for track & field and softball  
Season for Boys' Basketball is coming to an end

Track Championships – May 20 with two student athletes participating in States on May 30

Senior Give Back Day, May 19

**Emily Ireonimo**

AP Testing is wrapping up with 82 students taking the tests

Spring & Band Concert, May 23

Drama Club, Spring Musical (Seussical) took place in April

Spirit Week, May 15 – May 19

Pep Rally, May 19

Career Center Trip to Sekorsky

**Anna Greene**

May 22, Music Banquet and Award to Seniors

May 25, Scholarship Night

May 26, Senior Class Trip to Holiday Hills

June 2, Senior Prom

June 8, Senior Night

June 13, Graduation and Aftergrad Party

6. **Presentation**

**\* CAPSS/LCSA Superintendent Student Recognition Award Recipients**

**Mrs. Loveland, Principal Plymouth Center School**

Logan Worhunsky

Plymouth Center School

**Ms. Suffridge, Principal Harry S. Fisher Elementary School**

Harper Yanavich

Harry S. Fisher Elementary School

**Mr. Vigliotti, Principal Eli Terry Jr. Middle School**

Robert Schnaars

Eli Terry Jr. Middle School

Samantha Sidoti

Eli Terry Jr. Middle School

**Mr. Hults, Principal Terryville High School**

Kaitlyn Brazee

Terryville High School

Zachary Oemcke

Terryville High School

7. **Recess**

MOTION: To entertain a motion to recess at 7:21 p.m. to recognize:

(a) CAPSS/LCSA Superintendent Student Recognition Award Recipients  
and

Motion Mr. Showers, second Mrs. Lucian, all in favor, motion carries.

8. **Resume Regular Session**

Resume regular session at 7:35 p.m.

9. **Presentation**

**\* Administrative Team**

Each principal, assistant principals and central office administrators presented individually:

- (a) 2022 – 2023 Year-in Review
- (b) 2023 – 2024 Looking Ahead

with reference to: Student Achievement Goal, Engagement Goal and Well-Being Goal. A full presentation may be viewed on our website: [www.plymouth.k12.ct.us](http://www.plymouth.k12.ct.us).

Comment: - Mr. Falcone – This work is the work of a team. A leadership Team that is creating an alignment through the district from PreK – Grade 12. The work and focus on the Board Goals is very clear in the work that is being done. He thanked the team for the hard work they have put in this year. The teachers, paras, nurses, custodians. Everyone is on the same page. How much they care for our children and everything they are doing for our children is really unbelievable. So, the work is really, really impressive. That you so much for all you have done for our schools.

10. **Superintendent's Update**

**\* Congratulated the 2023 Terryville High:**

Valedictorian: Alice Bensen  
Salutatorian: Nicholas Tiejen

Both of these students will be attending UConn in the fall and because they were chosen as valedictorian and salutatorian, their tuition will be fully paid for.

\* May 8 – 12, Teacher Appreciation Week. On behalf of the Board of Education and Administrators, the entire faculty and staff (paras, nurses, custodians) were treated to a catered lunch. Each school was treated on a different day.

\* Thank you to Tom Wood and Family for their generous donation of \$500 to Plymouth Center School and Harry S. Fisher Elementary School to help support the after school programs. This donation was made on behalf of Mr. Wood's grandfather, John L. Ososki who passed away in 1982. Mr. Ososki was the principal at East Main Street School for a number of years. Since he had such an impact in the school and community a field was named after him behind the former Main Street School.

\* Last Day of School is June 14, 2023

\*During this time of year there are many activities happening at each of the schools, i.e. field day, prom, step-up programs, and graduation to mention a few. Each Board Member received a list of the end of the year happenings. If anyone is interested in joining Mr. Falcone, please contact him.

New Business(a) Healthy Food Certification 2023 – 2024

All public school districts participating in the NSLP must submit the *Healthy Food Certification Statement – Addendum to Agreement for Child Nutrition Program (ED-099)* by July 1, 2023 to certify whether or not all food items sold to students will or will not meet Connecticut Nutritional Standards.

- **Healthy Food Option:** Pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-215f, the board of education or governing authority certifies that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools under its jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to, school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, culinary programs, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or by non-school organizations and groups.

MOTION: To entertain a motion to implement the healthy food option.

Motion Mr. Showers, second Mrs. Lucian, any discussion, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion.

If the board of education or governing authority votes “yes” for the healthy food option above, the board of education or governing authority **must also vote** on whether to allow food exemptions, as indicated below. ***NOTE:** If the board of education or governing authority votes “no” for the healthy food option above, a vote on whether to allow food exemptions is not required.*

- **Exemption for Food Items:** The board of education or governing authority will allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the food items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An “event” is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. For example, soccer games, school plays, and interscholastic debates are events but soccer practices, play rehearsals, and debate team meetings are not. The “regular school day” is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. “Location” means where the event is being held.

MOTION: To entertain a motion to allow the food exemptions. Motion Mr. Showers, second Mr. Zbuska, any discussion, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion carries.

- **Beverage Exemptions:** The Board of Education or governing authority will allow the sale to students of beverages not listed in Section 10-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the beverages are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An “event” is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting or extracurricular activity. The “school day” is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. “Location” means where the event is being held, and must be the same place as the beverage sales.

MOTION: To entertain a motion to allow for the beverage exemptions. Motion Mr. Showers, second Mr. Zbuska, any discussion, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion carries.

12. **Board Member/Committee Reports**

A. **Finance/Operations** - Mr. Tencza, Business Manager

- Included in the packet are the following; Accounts by Facilities Report for April, 2023 and 6 different submissions; (1) Business Office Activity Report; (2) Board of Education Budget Summary through April 2023 Report; (3) Cumulative Total Board of Education Budget % by Month; (4) Food Service Report; (5) Capital Improvement Plan 2021 -2030 and (6) Monthly Budget Report for April 2023.
- The Accounts by Facilities Reports will be forwarded to the Town of Plymouth Board of Finance

Mr. Tencza – Reported on the following:

- \* National Education Week, May 5. Lunch Hero's Day. Celebrated with lunch for staff with hanging flowered plants which everyone received on behalf of the district.
- \* There will be no State funding for free lunches next year. The district will go back to paid lunches for all students that do not qualify for free/reduced lunches. Discussion: Not to increase lunch prices at this point. Although, some prices have increased since COVID. Minimum wage has increased \$3 from what it was pre-COVID. All food costs and supply costs have increased significantly as one can see by their own grocery bill. More on this matter will be, hopefully, reported in June.

Question – Mr. Seaman: Is there a Bill in the House to continue with free lunch for all? Is it in Committee or out of Committee?

Response – Mr. Tencza: Dead

Response – Mr. Seaman: Too bad.

\* End of the Year Budget

About 6 weeks away.

This year is a very tight year. We will not go into the Sinking Fund Allocation which was pretty much the plan all along. However, there will not be any additional money at the end of this year to do anything else. There will be enough money to get to the end of the year. There have been significant costs this year. Paras were moved from part-time to full time. Special Education had to use an Agency to fill para positions since these positions are difficult to fill. The district is doing great. But no surplus.

B. **Personnel Report**

No Questions

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

None

14. **Board Liaison Reports**

Mr. Perugino

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Harry S. Fisher Elementary School

Absent

Mr. Zbuska

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Plymouth Center School

- \* Field Day is next month.
- \* Helping out with Craft Club and other things.

Mrs. Candrea-Floresciani

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Eli Terry Jr. Middle School

- \* Staff Appreciation Week – PTA put together a Committee that supplied something in the staff room for each day of the week.
- \* PTA funded field trips for 6, 7 & 8 graders.
- \* Last fundraiser for the year is approaching.
- \* Paint Day May 19 from 7 p.m. – 9 p.m. cost is \$25.00
- \* \$20 Visa Cards for all 8<sup>th</sup> graders for their field trip to Lake Compounce. This was provided due to the funds the 8<sup>th</sup> grade committee raised.
- \* Next meeting May 15 – 7 p.m. library. New Board Members for the ETJMS PTA will be elected for next year.

Mrs. Candrea-Floresciani --

Booster Club

- \* Preparations are being made for the Awards Dinner
- \* Fair is one of their biggest fundraisers of the year. Many volunteers are needed for the 3-day event. Any parent of an 8<sup>th</sup> grader that plays sports is asked to get involved with the Booster Club. This organization does many great things.

Mrs. Kulesa

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Terryville High School

- \* No meeting in April
- \* Next meeting sometime next week. Possibly May 17.

Mrs. Kulesa

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EdAdvance

This was her first in-person meeting which took place in Litchfield. As always, please feel free to contact her if you are interested in attending a meeting.

- \* Healthy Foods Certification & Exemptions were approved.
- \* Cost of Living Increase. Every employee including the Director and up will receive the same increase across the board.
- \* Discussed Budget and Finance and how sometimes they work and sometimes they don't.
- \* Goal of EdAdvance is to spend money, give back to districts and make certain services are being provided.
- \* Discussed Personnel Report.
- \* New buildings opening in the Torrington Area.
- \* Projection of the number of student.

Mr. Seaman – Regarding the Safety Committee – Informed Mr. Showers, the committee will be resuming but with some different changes coming. Different viewpoints. He will keep him updated.

15. **Board Comments**

Mr. Showers – Comment: The budget voting in the cafeteria was much nicer than the gym for the individuals who worked at the referendum. However, several individuals did complain that there wasn't a sign at the bottom of the hill indicating where to vote. This was up to the registrar. However, everyone knew the voting was at the high school. Standard complaint.

Ms. Tilton – Great to see all of the students recognized at the meeting. Wonderful to see their success and what wonderful people we are creating and all the work the schools are doing. Likes the alignment and focus on their goals. Very lovely to see and is looking forward to next year.

Mrs. Kulesa – Congratulations to the students who received awards. Well deserved. Happy Teacher Appreciation Week to all of our educators in Plymouth. Well deserved, especially this time of year.

Mrs. Lucian – Very excited about the new goals for next year. Likes that they are going to be using the common language from the different schools. That way it's like universal and everyone knows what they are talking about.

Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani – Commented on: Spring Musical – Seussical. She attended all of the performances. Such growth from what she saw on Thursday going into Saturday. Drama Club does such a good job. Just wished more people were able to attend. Students put so much work into the show, from memorizing so many lines, singing, dancing, etc. A really good job. Wishes the shows were sold out every night.

Mr. Zbuska – This was the first time being on the Board and he was impressed on what has been accomplished this year. The class that is graduating this year is the last class he had teaching. Going forward, after 49 years, he will not know any of the students going forward.

Mr. Seaman – Very impressed with the Board. They have worked as a team, as a whole. Everyone does little different things from Cindy on Finance and Mr. Perugino; Lou involved in the schools. The organization and common goals we see between the schools has changed from two elementary schools teaching Math two different ways to now being on the same page. From the Superintendent, to the Director of Curriculum, to the Director of Special Education (Beth) to the Business Manager, working as a team for the district.

One of the biggest accomplishments this year was the passing of the referendum. It has been many years since this town has seen a referendum. Especially, one that passed with a budget increase. This was accomplished with the help of the PTA's, Booster Club, Soccer, parents, Dennis Fowler, Ms. Lassey, and Melissa Morelli, in helping to spread the word.

Mr. Falcone – We believe in what we are doing and the work we are doing.

Mr. Seaman (continued) - This could not have been accomplished without the Board of Finance, the Town Council and the Mayor's office and their relationship with the Board. Again, thank you to those individuals who came out to vote. Whether your vote was for or against the referendum. You came out and gave your opinion which is respected.

He is looking forward to the next Budget year. Thankful for a little break.

16. **Next Board Meeting** –The next Regular Meeting of the Plymouth Board of Education is on Wednesday, June 7, 2023 at 7 p.m. in the cafeteria at Terryville High School.

17. **Executive Session**

MOTION: To entertain a motion to enter into executive session at 8:40 p.m. to discuss the following inviting Mr. Falcone, Superintendent of Schools and Mr. Tencza, Business Manager:

(a) 2023 – 2024 Budget – Personnel Matters and Contractual Related Matters and Informational Items related to the outcome.

(b) The contract between the Plymouth Board of Education and the Plymouth School Nurses' Association.

(c) Discuss other possible contractual discussions between the Plymouth Board of Education and the International Union, Unified Automobile, Aerospace & Agricultural Implement Workers of America, UAW 376.

Motion Mr. Showers, second Mr. Zbuska any discussion, all in favor, any opposed, any abstention, motion carries.

18. **Resume Regular Session**

Resume regular session at 9:26 p.m.

19. **Possible Action From Executive Session**

MOTION: To entertain a motion to approve the Contract between the Plymouth Board of Education and the Plymouth School Nurses' Association as discussed in executive session.

Motion Mr. Showers, second Mrs. Lucian, any discussion

ROLL VOTE: Mr. Showers - Yes Ms. Tilton - Yes

Mrs. Candrea-Floresciani - Yes Mr. Zbuska - Yes Mrs. Lucian - Yes

Mrs. Kulesa - Yes

**YES - 6** motion carries.

MOTION: To entertain a motion to authorize the Superintendent of Schools in conjunction with the Business Manager and the Board Chair to enter into a lease agreement for laptops for faculty as discussed in executive session. Motion Mr. Showers, second Ms. Tilton, any discussion, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion carries.

MOTION: To entertain a motion to authorize the Superintendent of Schools in conjunction with the Business Manager and the Board of Education Chair to enter into a contract for Special Education Transportation as presented in executive session. Motion Mr. Showers, second, Mrs. Lucian, any discussion, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion carries.

20. **Adjournment**

MOTION: To entertain a motion to adjourn at 9:28 p.m. Motion Mr. Showers, second, Mrs. Lucian, all in favor, motion carries.



Patricia Piskorski  
Recording Secretary  
Plymouth Board of Education