

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
WEDNESDAY, MAY 11, 2016
TERRYVILLE HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA

MINUTES

Present: Board: Mr. Melchionna, Mrs. Kremmel, Mrs. Lucian, Mr. Orsini, Mr. Bourbonniere, Ms. McCann and Mrs. Johnson

Absent: Mrs. Kulesa and Mr. Goodwin

Others Present: Dr. Semmel, Superintendent, Mr. Penn, Business Manager, Mrs. Trinks, Director of Pupil Personnel, Dr. Tenney, Director of Curriculum & Instruction and Mr. Trudeau, Director of Technology

1. Call to Order and Pledge to the Flag

Mrs. Johnson 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 Ms. McCann, seconded Mr. Orsini, motion passes.

3. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 13, 2016. Motion Ms. McCann, seconded Mr. Melchionna, motion passes.

4. Superintendent's Update

- Proposed plan cuts \$83.7 million from primary and secondary education. \$32.1 million from the ECS (Educational Cost Sharing Grant). Cuts are being made from the state's wealthiest towns and big cities. \$24.6 million cut from transportation. Public Hearing on the town's budget is Thursday, May 12, 2016 at 7 p.m. at Town Hall.

This is the last Board Meeting for our two senior representatives, Catherine & Halley.

PLYMOUTH, CT
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
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16 MAY 18 AM 8:28

Barbara H. Poterrell
TOWN CLERK

- MOC DUI was held at Terryville High School today, Wednesday, May 11, 2016. Thank you to Mr. Perkins and all of the emergency personnel.
- Mr. Penn updated the Board on the progress of the Food Service Director. This individual will be shared with Plymouth, Litchfield, and Region 6 (WAMOGO). The name of the individual will be announced at the June BOE Meeting.

5. Student Representatives –Catherine Gullotta, Halley King and Nora Samih

Catherine Gullotta

May 1	Rotary 5K
May 16	Spring Concert
May 29	Plymouth Memorial Day Parade
June 1	Booster Club Sports Awards
June 2	Middle School Spring Concert at Terryville High School

Halley King

April 27	Financial Reality at Torrington High School
May 14	Senior Prom from 6 p.m. – 11 p.m. at Hawk's Landing in Southington. A pancake breakfast will follow from 11 p.m. – 1:30 a.m. at the Congregational Church.
May 20	Spring Extravaganza, auditorium at Terryville High School beginning at 6:30 p.m.
May 24	Awards Ceremony, Terryville High School at 8 a.m.
May 25	Scholarship Night, Terryville High School
May 26	Senior Class Day at Holiday Hill
June 3	Senior Night
June 7	Senior Breakfast
June 8	Graduation

Nora Samih

April 30	Ecology Club Nature Walk
May 3	Field Trip to Tunxis Community College for the finance classes
May 4	Torrington Fire Department presentation for students
May 7	Leo Club 3 rd Annual Walk for Diabetes - \$1,000 was raised for juvenile diabetes
May 13	Career Fair at Terryville High School
May 14	Car Wash hosted by the Class of 2019 at Advanced Auto
May 17	Connecticut Technology Expo at the Oakdale Theater
	Ribbon Cutting for the solar panel field
May 20	Leo Day of Caring
May 23	Art Show (week long)
May 25	Mentor Picnic

6. Presentation

(a) Out of State Field Trips

MOTION: To approve an out-of-state field trip for grade 8 students at Eli Terry Jr. Middle School to Salem, Massachusetts on Friday, October 28, 2016 and to approve an

out-of-state field trip for grade 8 students at Eli Terry Jr. Middle School to New York City on Friday, April 28, 2017 to visit the Museum of Natural History, attend a planetarium show and to visit the 9/11 Memorial and Museum. Motion Mr. Bourbonniere, seconded Mr. Orsini, motion passes.

(b) Recognition of Spelling Bee Winners

- Azayda Lynt (3rd place) Harry S. Fisher Elementary School
- Alice Benson (2nd place) Plymouth Center School
- Danielle Thayer (1st place) Harry S. Fisher Elementary School

(c) Terryville High School Band

The Terryville High School Band has performed in a variety of places, i.e. Virginia Beach, Ocean City, Boston and Washington, D.C. In the last two years, the band has earned first place in the St. Patrick's Day Parade.

(d) Recognition of the Plymouth 212^o Award Recipients

- Lisa Aiudi
- Jan Basoli
- Melissa Morelli
- Chris Perkins

7. Recess (To congratulate Spelling Bee Winners, Terryville High School Band & the Plymouth 212^o Award Recipients for 2016)

MOTION: To recess at 7:40 p.m. Motion Mr. Orsini, seconded Ms. McCann, motion passes.

8. Resume Regular Session

MOTION: To resume regular session at 7:55 p.m. Motion Ms. McCann, seconded Mr. Melchionna, motion passes

9. Public Comment (limited to 3 minutes per speaker)

None

10. Communications

None

11. Unfinished Business

The Policy Subcommittee did not meet in April, therefore, the Policy 1000 Series – Community Relations - Second Read will be brought to the Board at the June 15, 2016 meeting.

12. New Business

A. Resignation(s)

Dr. Semmel informed the Board that he has accepted the resignation for the following individual:

Kathleen Sullivan, Social Studies Teacher at Terryville High School for the purpose of retirement.

B. Appointments

MOTION: To approve the appointment of **Gail Duffy**, as 2016 Summer School Program Coordinator for the middle and high schools. Motion Mr. Bourbonniere, seconded Ms. McCann, motion passes.

MOTION: To approve the hiring of the following individuals for the 2016 – 2017 school year:

- **Sarah Falcetti**, to the position of English Teacher at Terryville High School
- **Karen Robillard** to the position of English Teacher at Terryville High School

Motion Mr. Bourbonniere, seconded Mr. Orsini, motion passes.

C. Transfer(s)

MOTION: To approve transfers the amount of \$80,446.00 as explained by Mr. Penn. Motion Ms. McCann, seconded Mr. Melchionna, motion passes.

D. Grant Fund Reconciliation

This was an information item that Mr. Penn brought before the Board regarding excess funds in the grant account that goes back at least 19 years. He informed the Board he would wait until the end of the school year before making any recommendations. At the June Board Meeting, Mr. Penn hopes to have a figure that he will recommend be returned to the town with a caveat.

E. Adoption of Textbooks

The new accounting textbooks for the high school are a replacement for the existing textbooks. The course has been approved by Tunxis and Tunxis is requiring a new text beginning in the 2016 – 2017 school year. The textbook needs to be changed in order for Tunxis to approve the course to offer students college credit. Tunxis will be paying for the textbooks. Therefore, the following motion is needed:

MOTION: To adopt textbooks “College Accounting, 13th Edition”, author, Slater, published by Pearson. Motion Ms. McCann, seconded Mr. Orsnin, motion passes.

13. Board Member / Committee Reports

- A. Curriculum – Mrs. Lucian, Chair – Due to a lack of a quorum, the Curriculum Subcommittee did not meet in April. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 17th at 5:30 p.m. in the conference room at the Board of Education Offices.
- B. Facilities – Mr. Orsini, Chair – Due to a lack of business, the Facilities Subcommittee did not meet in May. The next regular scheduled meeting is Tuesday, June 7th at 7p.m. in the conference room at the Board of Education Offices.
- C. Finance – Mrs. Kulesa, Chair – absent. However, due to a lack of a quorum, the Finance Subcommittee did not meet but Mr. Penn reviewed the accounts by facilities report with the full Board and will forward the same to the Town of Plymouth Board of Finance.
- D. Negotiations – Mrs. McCann, Chair - Negotiations is in the beginning stages with UAW (paraprofessionals and secretaries).
- E. Personnel – Mr. Goodwin, Chair – Absent – No Report due to a lack of a quorum the Personnel Subcommittee did not meet.
- F. Policy – Ms. McCann – Due to a lack of a quorum, the April 26th meeting of the Policy Subcommittee was cancelled. The next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 17th at 6:30 p.m. in the conference room at the Board of Education Offices.
- G. Safety/Transportation – Mr. Orsini, Chair – Due to a lack of business, the May 7th meeting of the Safety/Transportation Subcommittee was cancelled. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 7th at 6:00 p.m.

14. Public Comment (limited to 3 minutes per speaker)

Julie Kozikowski – Park Street, Plymouth – thanked the Board for allowing students to travel.

15. Board Liaisons to Schools

Harry S. Fisher Elementary School

Mrs. Johnson

Author Ralph Fletcher

Plymouth Center School

Mr. Melchionna

The PTA met on May 11, 2016. Some of the items discussed were:

- Can & Bottle Drive -\$200
- May 28, Prime Time Reading Event featuring Author Ralph Fletcher
- Academic Excellence Event held at the Lyceum
- Spring Fundraiser

- May 24, Last Family Feast at Moe's in Bristol
- June 6, 5th grade pizza party
- June 3, Field Day
- Summer Budget & Planning Meeting date to be determined
- June 4, 7 p.m. Plymouth Center School Night at the Bristol Blues Baseball Team at Muzzy Field in Bristol - \$5 for a grand stand seat
- Plymouth Center School Cares – Donations sent to: Connecticut Children's Medical Center; Animal Rescue Foundation; Plymouth Food Pantry; St. Vincent DePaul Shelter in Bristol; and Pennies for Patients raised over \$500 for the March of Dimes.
- Kindergarten Screening – May 11 & 12
- May 16, Orientation at Eli Terry Jr. Middle School for grade 5 students
- May 17, Grade 3 students to go to the Nutmeg Symphony
- May 19, Kindergarten to go to the Trash Museum
- May 24, Spring Concert
- May 25, Rehearsal for the Gettysburg Address on the Plymouth Green
- May 26, Kindergarten Orientation
- May 27 Grade 3 to the Beardsley Zoo & Grade 4 to the Science Center and Grade 5 to Sturbridge Village
- May 31 & June 1 Art Show
- June 7, Field Day

Eli Terry Jr. Middle School

Mrs. McCann

Key Items Attendance
 Nomination of New Officers
 Fundraising coming to an end
 8th grade graduation

Comment: Thanked the Board for approving the double field trips at the meeting. Field trips are important as a visual learning experience for students.

Terryville High School

Mrs. Kulesa

Absent – No Report

SEPTA (Special Education PTA)

Mrs. Kremmel

April Meeting – Hands on Art Project will be displayed at the Board of Education Central Office. Next Meeting, May 18, at 9:30 a.m. at the Lucky Cup.

Education Connection

Mrs. Lucian

No Report due to a prior commitment.

WAMOGO

Mr. Goodwin (absent)

Mrs. Johnson and Dr. Semmel will be attending a WAMS Steering Committee on Monday, May 16, 2016.

CABE

Mr. Bourbonniere

Presented a list of bills to the Superintendent, 15 pages long in both the House and the Senate. CABE reviewed their budget. CABE will not be increasing their dues for next year. Presentation on "Lighthouse Project". For more information please go to www.Connecticutlighthouse.org Webinar that describes the project.

Question: How Boards of Education can educate the local taxpayers what education does to a town. The "Lighthouse Project" can answer this question. If interested some will attend a meeting to discuss this at no cost.

16. Board Comments

Mr. Bourbonniere – Taxpayers need to understand that the more money you take away from the Board and the Town itself is where regression comes in.

Ms. McCann – Mock DUI, encouraged anyone who has not attended to please attend. Ms. McCann attended the Awards Night at the Terryville Fire Department last Friday night and one of the items recognized were the number of years of service of various individuals and Mr. Orsini was recognized as having 40 years of service.

Mrs. Johnson –Commented on the Mock DUI, and thanked Mr. Orsini and Mr. Perkins. Thank you to the student's representatives and everyone who attended to honor our students.

17. Next Board Meeting – Since the last day of school is Wednesday, June 8th, the June Board of Education Meeting will be a Special Meeting and will take place on June 15th at 7 p.m. in the cafeteria at Terryville High School.

18. Executive Session (To discuss a Personnel Matter: Superintendent's Annual Review)

MOTION: To move into executive session at 8:27 p.m. to discuss a personnel matter: Superintendent's annual review. Motion Ms. McCann, seconded Ms. Lucian, motion passes. Along with the Board, Dr. Semmel will attend the Executive Session.

To also excuse Mrs. Piskorski for the remainder of the meeting.

Dr. Semmel – To the viewing public, this is the last item on the agenda for the evening. When the group returns from executive session, it will not be videotaped but will be recorded and placed in the minutes. The group will come back into session and adjourn publically. There will not be any other motions made.

19. MOTION: To resume regular session at 9:22 p.m. Motion Ms. McCann, seconded Mr. Melchionna, motion passes.
20. Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn at 9:23 p.m. Motion Ms. McCann, seconded Mrs. Kremmel, motion passes.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Patricia F. Piskorski
Recording Secretary