



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.

**SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE
PLYMOUTH BOARD OF EDUCATION
TERRYVILLE HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA
33 NORTH HARWINTON AVENUE
TERRYVILLE, CT 06786**

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2022

7:00 P.M.

MINUTES

Superintendent
2023 JAN -4 AM 9:01
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

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

Absent: Mrs. Lucian and Mr. Foote

Also Present: Mr. Falcone, Superintendent, Mrs. Mozak-Pezza, Director of Curriculum & Instruction, Mrs. Melillo, Director of Pupil Personnel & Special Education, Mr. Tencza, Business Manager

1. Call to Order & Pledge to the Flag

Mr. Seaman called the regular meeting of the Board of Education 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. Showers, second Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani, 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 the Regular Meeting of the Plymouth Board of Education for November 9, 2022. Motion Mr. Perugino, second Mr. Zbuska, any discussion, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions Mr. Seaman, motion carries.

4. Student Representatives

Robert Pedersen – Sports

- * Indoor Track has begun (only practices, meets begin in January)
- * Wrestling had their first match
- * Girls' Basketball is underway
- * Boys' Basketball has an away game on December 21st and a home game on Thursday
- * D.C. Trip – Great Time (favorite part, meeting workers that work for our representatives, interviews and questions)

Anna Greene – Senior Class

- * Preparing for college applications and applying for scholarships

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Emily Ieronimo – Miscellaneous

* 3 field trips

Bristol Tech – looked at course offerings
Yard Goats Stadium – sports management careers (marketing and broadcasting)
University of Hartford – engineering and architecture

* Lunch & Learns

Advanced Physical Therapy
On Wednesday a professor from CCSU spoke about theater

* Drama Club Fall Performance – 3 successful productions

* Band & Chorus Concert, December 12, 2022 (December 20th, staff and students attended an in school concert)

* Leo Club Installation

Wednesday, December 14, 2022 during homeroom
Installed 30 new Leos and 4 officers
National Honor Society went to Plymouth Center School and read to the students
Fun, elementary students really enjoyed it
National Honor Society Students made bookmarks for the students

* First United Buddies Meeting was Tuesday, December 20, 2022

Ran by Mr. & Mrs. Norton
Non-disabled peers interact with disabled peers in two transition and Apple Program
10 – 15 non-disabled peers and 10 disabled peers

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

None

6. Superintendent's Update

* Sad News – The passing for Larry Amara. Mr. Amara was a 35- year educator for the Plymouth Public Schools. He passed away on Tuesday, November 20, 2022. He was Business Teacher, School Counselor at the high school and the Principal of Plymouth Center School for 23 years. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his wife, Laura, and his family.

* NEASC Update

Our high school is accredited through the New England Association of Schools Colleges. On December 13, 2022, we were informed that the NESAC Commission on Public Schools has continued our High School's accreditation. The next step in this process is to complete a 5- year report updating the Commission on our work with the Portrait of the Graduate. This 5-year report is due on February 1, 2024.

* International Partnership

The Board was provided with the high school and district brochure that we will be utilizing for our international partnership. The next step in this process is finding an international partner. However, for the time being, this initiative has been placed on hold as this is going to be a very difficult budget season. Before moving forward, it is important the Board confirms this is a priority in the 2023 – 2024 budget.

* Schools Making a Difference

Our School Community – With our students and staff participating in various fundraisers, our 4 schools have raised over \$9,662 for organizations, i.e.

- * Down Syndrome Association of CT
- * Terryville Rotary Fuel Fund
- * Bristol Police Heroes Fund
- * American Red Cross Hurricane Relief Fund
- * Plymouth Community Food Pantry
- * Connecticut Children's Medical Center
- * Terryville Lions Fuel Program
- * The Local Animal Rescue Foundation
- * Small Wonders Program
- * Harvest Pack
- * Terryville Public Library

*Winter Break

As a reminder, Thursday, December 22, 2022 will be an early dismissal and there is no school from Friday, December 23, 2022 – Monday, January 2, 2023 for Winter Break

A thank you to Mrs. Fowler's Family & Consumer Science Class for the cookies made especially for the Board Members to wish everyone Happy Holidays.

Mr. Seaman – The Family & Consumer Science Class was reinstated at the middle school this year. Seems as if students are really enjoying this course and he has heard nothing but great things.

7. Old Business – Mr. Seaman, Chair Plymouth Board of Education

Mr. Seaman indicated he had sent out emails to see if there was any interest on serving on the following 3 committees: Policy, Curriculum and Finance. Overwhelming, everyone wanted to serve on Curriculum. We will need to revisit this at a later time.

(a) Committees – Policy – No Interest

Curriculum – Majority of Board Members chose this committee

Finance/Operations – Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani – First Meeting to take place prior to the January 11, 2023 BOE Meeting inviting Mr. Tencza, Business Manager and Mr. Falcone expressed an interest to attend. However, anyone is invited to attend.

8. New Business

Items Discussed:

1. Name Changes

- a. Foods I to Culinary Arts I
- b. Foods II to Culinary Arts II
- c. Advanced Culinary to Advanced Culinary Arts

2. New Courses

- a. Baking and Pastry Arts 1A
- b. Baking and Pastry Arts 1B
- c. Career Explorations: Grade 11
- d. Career Explorations: Grade 12

3. Course Removals

- a. Project Learn

4. Community Service Requirements

Current Graduation Requirement: Students must complete a minimum of thirty (30) hours of community service through a nonprofit agency or organization for graduation.

Proposed Change – The community service hours will be folded into the Career Exploration Capstone courses as follows:

Pilot CEC: 10 total hours:

- 5 hours' direct job shadow/internship
- 5 hours encompassing one or more of the following career exploration activities
 - Group trips
 - Informational interviews
 - Online videos
 - Guest speakers

CEC: 30 total hours:

- 15 hours' direct job shadowing/internship
- 15 hours encompassing one or more of the following career exploration activities:
 - Group trips
 - Informational interviews
 - On line videos
 - Guest speakers

Following the presentation and after a brief discussion the following motions were made:

(a) 2023 – 2024 Terryville High School Program of Study

MOTION: To entertain a motion to approve the 2023 – 2024 Terryville High School Program of study as presented. Motion Mr. Perugino, second Mr. Showers, any discussion, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion passes.

(b) Modification to the Terryville High School Graduation Requirements

MOTION: To entertain a motion to approve the modification to the Terryville High School Graduation Requirements for the class of 2024 as discussed. Motion Mr. Showers, second Mr. Zbuska, any discussion, all in favor any opposed, any abstentions, motion carries.

9. Board Member/Committee Reports

A. Finance/Operations – Mr. Tencza, Business Manager

- Included in the packet are the following: Accounts by Facilities Report for November, 2022 and 4 different submissions; (1) Business Office Activity Report; (2) Board of Education Budget Summary through October, 2022 Report; (3) Cumulative Total Board of Education Budget % by Month; (4) Food Service Report and (5) Capital Improvement Plan 2021 – 2030.
- The Accounts by Facilities Reports will be forwarded to the Town of Plymouth Board of Finance

Mr. Tencza – Summary

- * All Budget, All the time
- * We are currently in a Budget Freeze (inflation, cost of utilities, fuel and increased tuition (not only special education but magnet schools as well)
- * Bar Graph shows the highest spending we had in November at this point in time – anyone having an expenditure needs to contact him directly. Regular operational needs will be put through. If there is something that can wait, that is what will be done.
- * Food Service – Another good month for November. Food Service continues to do well in our district. Smart Funding from the state, which supplements our revenues expires in December. However, the Board agreed to continue to fund the children through the end of the school year. An additional \$26,000 was received to help offset costs and inflation for certain products used in the cafeteria.
- * Those districts where funding is running out have seen a drop in participation of up to 75% and not for just those students who need to pay but the free and reduced lunch participation also. Students are not taking lunch.
- * Projects Finishing Up
 - Painting complete
 - Scoreboards done, wired and ready to go for the spring
 - Middle school scoreboard shipping on January 2, 2023
 - Auditorium still waiting for parts

Floor opened up to any questions

Mr. Perugino – Furnishings – Is that when we had to redo the middle school for the culinary program?

Mr. Tencza – No, the number there for furnishings is for the new kiln.

Mr. Perugino – Page 13 – Outplacement – Non-Public

Mr. Tencza – No need to worry. Excess Cost Grant 1st payment in February which will offset the negative number.

Mr. Perugino – Special Education Summer School

Mr. Tencza – Needs to make transfers.

Mr. Perugino - \$3.2 million left in Budget?

Mr. Tencza – Keep in \$12.5 million encumbered, all salaries, transportation encumbered.

Mr. Perugino – There are things we have no control over, fuel oil, electricity – 55% from last year. We cannot control Special Education, diesel, heat oil. We are in a bad place.

Mr. Falcone – To be fair to the community and the town, these are hard times for everyone. Inflation has hit everyone hard. We need to sharpen our pencils and do what we can to put up a fair budget that is supportive of our schools and our district but also supportive of the town and community.

Mr. Perugino – Need to get pro-active on outplacement.

Mr. Falcone – The expenses of those schools go up and they just bill us. Our expenses go up but we cannot bill anyone. That is what is happening with our Athletic Trainer, Transportation, etc. It is going to be a challenge.

Mr. Perugino – Capital Improvements – Thinks the town is going to have to (inaudible)

Mr. Falcone – Partnerships have never been stronger or better.

Mrs. Kulesa – Getting back to the lunches. Has there been any discussion or legislation, Universal Free Lunches.

Mr. Tencza – Article he referred appearing in the Hartford Courant does speak about a representative who is going to introduce legislation in Connecticut. Five states already embrace this nationwide. Universal Free Lunches for all schools. Some have adopted Universal Free Lunches for this year only.

Mr. Seaman – In the article does it look like it will be funded?

Mr. Tencza – They would need to provide funding somehow.

B. Personnel Report – Mr. Falcone, Superintendent

No Questions

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

None

11. Board Liaison Reports

Mr. Perugino -- Harry S. Fisher Elementary School

11/11 – Veterans visited the school and explained their roles and services

12/4 – Grade 4 and 5 chorus/tree lighting ceremony

Mr. Zbuska -- Plymouth Center School

1/7/8/9 – Parent/Teacher Conferences – Early Dismissal

Bucket Filling Assembly

Community Service – Paint Night for adults – middle of January – if interested, contact

Mr. Zbuska on Facebook

3/10 – Eli Terry Jr. Middle School – Paint Night to raise money for the PTA

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

Middle School winter sports have started. Going to be selling concessions at all of the home games.

12/21 – Next PTA Meeting – Virtual

Paint Night

Looking for parents to form an 8th grade committee for the end of the year activities and PTA needs to know plans for fundraisers.

Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani -- Booster Club

Booster Club will also have their winter sports with concessions. Booster Club is looking for volunteers to help with this.

Mrs. Kulesa -- Terryville High School

11/16 – Meeting with the sole purpose, after grad party for seniors plus fundraising.
IGA – Round-up for after grad.
Signs for graduation
Mothers' Day Flowers
Running a Purse Bingo
Car Wash
11/21 – Next Meeting

Mrs. Kulesa -- EdAdvance

Meeting took place earlier this month. Nothing to report, as meeting was held in executive session

12. **Board Comments**

Mr. Showers – Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, Enjoy the Holidays and stay warm.

Ms. Tilton – Wishing everyone a safe and happy holiday with their families. Good to see these new courses coming in.

Mrs. Kulesa – Most exciting – Career enter is really starting to take off. She feels her children would have benefited from this when they were in school. Also, as Mr. Perugino noted, the trades are also important. We need to make certain we are offering a well-rounded career center. Not for just those individuals who are going on to colleges and university but also we plan on pursuing a trade.

Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani – Thank you for the treats from the middle school Food Service Classes. Her son takes this class and loves it. Middle school band did a really good job at their concert yesterday. Enjoy the holidays.

Mr. Perugino – Thank you to the high school Family & Consumer Science Classes for the pies at Thanksgiving. He would like to see our student representatives get more involved on the Board if possible. He realizes they do not have a vote; however, they do have a voice. He also commented on the CABE/CAPSS Convention and the workshops he attended. Feels these workshops would benefit the board. Commented on the Nutmeg Board of Education run by Tom Mooney and the Safety Workshop (getting agencies involved as to who is doing what. Wished Happy Holidays to Everyone.

Mr. Seaman – Comment – From the School Safety Committee – everyone sits at the table. Even from an Emergency Management prospective. Unified command concept from the police chief, school resource officer, public works, fire department, etc. Everyone is at the table.

Mr. Zbuska – Happy Holidays. Thank you to Mrs. Fowler's Food Service classes for the cookies.

Mr. Seaman – Thank you to Mrs. Fowler's Food Service classes for the cookies and the high school Family and Consumer Science Class for the apple pies for Thanksgiving. Happy to see the modification to the graduation requirements. District is really on the right path. Happy Holidays.

13. **Next Board Meeting** –The next regular meeting of the Plymouth Board of Education will be on Wednesday, January 11, 2023 at 7 p.m. in the cafeteria at Terryville High School.

14. **Executive Session**

MOTION: To entertain a motion to enter into executive session at 7:52 p.m. for the following and inviting Mr. Falcone, Superintendent and Mr. Tencza, Business Manager into executive session:

- (a) Contractual Agreement with Twin Lakes Consulting
and

Motion Mr. Showers, second Mr. Perugino, any discussion, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion carries.

15. **Resume Regular Session**

MOTION: To entertain a motion to resume regular session at 8:42 p.m. Motion Mr. Showers, second Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani, any discussion, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion carries.

16. **Possible Action from Executive Session** (if any)

(a) **Contractual Agreement with Twin Lakes Consulting**

No Action Taken at This Time

(b) **Student Residency**

MOTION: To entertain a motion to approve the Student Residence as discussed in executive session. Motion Mrs. Kulesa, second Mr. Perugino, any discussion, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion carries/fails.

17. **Adjournment**

MOTION: To entertain a motion to adjourn at 8:43 p.m. Motion Mr. Perugino, second Mr. Showers, all in favor, motion carries.



Patricia Piskorski
Recording Secretary
Plymouth Board of Education