

## MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of Plymouth Public Schools is to challenge, inspire, and prepare all students for success in an every-changing and complex world.

PLYMOUTH BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2015  
TERRYVILLE HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA

### MINUTES

Present: Board: Mr. Melchionna, Mr. Goodwin, Mr. Orsini, Mrs. Lucian, Mr. Engle, Ms. McCann, Mrs. Kulesa and Mrs. Johnson

Absent: Mrs. Kremmel

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

1. Call to Order and Pledge to the Flag

Mrs. Johnson called the meeting to order at 7:02 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 Mr. Orsini, seconded Mr. Goodwin. Prior to approval the following motion was made: MOTION: To amend the agenda to move Item 10D – Out-of-State Field Trips to before 10A Resignations. Motion Ms. McCann, seconded Mr. Melchionna, motion passes.

3. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 12, 2015. Motion Mrs. Kulesa, seconded Mr. Orsini, motion passes.

4. Superintendent's Update

(1) Budget – The administration has been meeting with all principals and reviewing the 2016 – 2017 budget requests. At the January Board of Education meeting there will be a first presentation of the Administrations proposed budget followed by workshop dates in January to review the budget. Those dates are January 20 and January 27 and possibly February 3<sup>rd</sup> from 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. A February 10 presentation will be made to the Board for any final questions and to adopt the 2016 – 2017 budget. An article will be placed in the Plymouth Connection to make the public aware of the budget workshop dates.

(2) Superintendent's Brown Bag Lunch - Wednesday, December 16, 2015 from 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. at Central Office. Any parent questions regarding the budget process will be addressed.

(3) Incident Command Training (refresher training) – Attended by most of the entire administrative team,. The program was put together by Mr. Orsini., created by FEMA and is used nationwide to make sure that any type of incident that occurs knows the chain of command.

(4) Thank you to the technology students for producing this evening's meeting.

(5) Holiday Break – Wednesday, December 23, 2015 will be a half day; Classes will resume on Monday, January 4, 2016.

On behalf of the Plymouth Board of Education, sincerest wishes for a safe and happy holiday season.

5. Presentations

(a) Terryville High School – SAT Presentation by Mr. Hults. There was a workshop with 30 – 40 parents prior to the evening's Board Meeting. Mr. Faitak and Mrs. Duffy contributed to the presentation. The PowerPoint presentation addressed the redesigned SAT.

6. Student Representatives

Hailey King

(1) December 9<sup>th</sup> was the 1<sup>st</sup> day for blood drive sign ups. Forty-seven individuals filled 59 open slots which was a record for the Student Council. There will be a blood drive on December 21<sup>st</sup> in the gym at Terryville High School.

(2) Once a month the senior citizens come to the high school to watch a movie hosted by Local Prevention Council and the Leos. This month's movie was a holiday theme followed by baking gingerbread cookies.

(3) The PTSA will be hosting the 2<sup>nd</sup> can and bottle drive on January 2<sup>nd</sup> from 9 a.m. – 12 noon at the Terryville Congregational Church.

(4) December 23<sup>rd</sup> – Ugly Sweater Day

(5) Reporting for Catherine in her absence: All of the winter sports began this week.

Nora Samih – Student Activities

- (1) On November 24<sup>th</sup>, the schools began their DEAR (Drop Everything and Read) Program.
- (2) November 24<sup>th</sup>, Installation Night for the Leo Club in the auditorium at Terryville High School beginning at 6:30 p.m. Eighty-six new Leos were installed, contributing to a grand total of 154 Leos at Terryville High School. Approximately 32% of the entire student population is Leos.
- (3) School Play “The Holiday” was performed beginning on Thursday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> through Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup>. The play was written by Catherine Gullota with the help of Mr. Perkins, Drama Club Director.
- (4) December 8<sup>th</sup>, the high school showcased their electives fair in the cafeteria. Freshman, Sophomores and Juniors were able to look at several electives offered to them at the high school.
- (5) Upcoming Event – the Winter Band and Chorus Concert on Monday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. in the auditorium at Terryville High School.

- 5 (b) Chartwells – Mr. Michael Edgar, District Manager & Mr. William Weitzler,  
Executive Chef

Mr. Edgar presented the Board with a Food Service Program Update, December, 2015 for the Plymouth Public Schools.

(c) Mid-Year Energy Update – Mr. Martin Sandshaw presented the Board with the 2015/2016 Energy Conservation Fall Review for the Plymouth Public Schools.

10D. Out-of-State Field Trips

Ms. Badehop and students made a proposal and presented it to the Board regarding a one day trip to New York City. The outcome of that proposal was the following:

MOTION: To approve an out-of-state field trip to New York City for approximately 85 eighth grade students at Eli Terry Jr. Middle School on May 27, 2016 to visit the Museum of Natural History; 9/11 Museum and Memorial and to attend a space show. Motion Mr. Engle, seconded Ms. McCann, motion passes.

Regarding both out-of-state trips, it needs to be recognized of the possibility that the Board may cancel a trip or trips if the world changes and it becomes dangerous to travel. A representative from Destinations Unlimited, the tour company spoke to the Board regarding cancellation concerns. There are cancellation penalties involved depending on when a trip is cancelled. However, an optional insurance is offered which individuals may purchase. In the case of a day trip the cost is \$13.50 and in terms of the extended Washington, D.C. trip the cost is \$42.00. Any cancellation due to any health issue is 100% covered up to the date of departure. Regarding terrorism or if the school board should cancel, the carrier allows you to cancel for any reason whatsoever 72 hours prior

to the trip and receive 75% of your money. Also, if a terrorist event occurs in the city listed in the itinerary, i.e. New York or Washington, D.C. than naturally a full refund would be given provided it is listed as a terrorist incident by the Government, i.e. 911 was a terrorist incident, however, the sniper, in Washington, D.C., was not a terrorist incident.

Mr. Keane, Music Teacher at Terryville High School gave some brief highlights of the Washington, D. C. trip. Following that presentation, the following motion was made: MOTION: To approve an out-of-state field trip to Washington, D.C. for approximately 70 students in grades 9 – 12 in the Terryville High School Band and Chorus from April 14 – 17, 2016. Motion Mr. Engle, seconded Mr. Orsini, motion passes.

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

Chris Simo-Kinzer, 52 Old Farm Road

Commented on: (1) the resignation of Lisa Lickwar. He commented on at least 50 resignations within the past 2 years which he feels is a serious turnover rate. He feels that this reads as a serious personnel problem and hopes that others are taking notice of these resignations. (2) Research – In January of 2014 was the last proper PDF on the Agenda, but in the past year has been replaced with scanned images. Please bring back PDF. and (3) Corrections: Policy Change regarding term limits, Article 10, Section 10, should be Article 6, Section 10. Proposed change commented on as a by-law change which is incorrect, it was a change in policy. And (4) good questions from Board Members regarding Chartwells.

Brian Dunn, 17 Carriage Drive

Appreciated the line of questioning that was directed towards Chartwells. Are we on a year to year contract with Chartwells?

Mr. Penn – Plymouth needs to go out to RFP by the end of this year for the following year's contract.

Mr. Gentile – Board of Education Liaison

(1) Congratulations to everyone that was elected. Hope everyone had a Happy Thanksgiving and have a Merry Christmas.

(2) Addressed the price of gas vs the price of oil.

(3) Chartwells and mandates. Questions: Are we getting reimbursed \$30,000?

Mr. Penn: Reimbursement is actually in the neighborhood of \$300,000.

(4) Spoke in favor of limiting terms of office.

8. Communication(s)

(1) Schedule of Budget Workshops

(2) 12<sup>th</sup> Annual CABA Leadership Institute offered at CABA in Wethersfield.

9. Unfinished Business

(a) Policy 9000 (ByLaws) – 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading

MOTION: To accept the Policy 9000 Series – ByLaws as rewritten. Motion Ms. McCann, seconded Mr. Orsini.

Discussion: Mr. Melchionna indicated that he has yet to see a rewritten copy. Mr. Engle: The policy was amended to table 9110 and 9210.

MOTION: To accept the Policy 9000 Bylaws as they were written and handed out last month. Motion Ms. McCann.

Discussion: It was suggested that someone contact Attorney Hamzy, during business hours, and ask him for a legal opinion on Policy 9000 Series (Bylaws), section 9110 and 9220 which limits the terms of office. To give his opinion, if limiting the terms of office was perfectly legal as opposed to violating the Constitution of the State of Connecticut.

Since Mrs. Johnson indicated a response has not been received from Attorney Hamzy, Town Attorney, which was due to some miscommunications, this item would be tabled until such time as an opinion was presented. Therefore, the following motion was made:

MOTION: To amend the motion that we table this again until we receive communication back from the Town Attorney. Motion Mr. Melchionna, seconded Mr. Goodwin, motion passes with Ms. McCann opposing.

Dr. Semmel indicated with the Board's approval he would reach out to the Town Attorney with respect to the 2 particular term questions

Ms. McCann: If possible if Dr. Semmel could see if Attorney Hamzey would be available to attend the Policy Subcommittee Meeting next week

10. New Business

A. Resignation(s)

Dr. Semmel indicated that he had accepted the resignation of Lisa Lickwar, full time paraprofessional at Eli Terry Jr. Middle School effective November 9, 2015.

B. New Hires/Appointments

MOTION: To approve the following new hire and appointments:

**Patrick Norton**, to the position of Physical Education Teacher at Terryville High School, effective November 9, 2015.

Terryville High School

**Mark Fowler**  
**David Alarcon**  
**Patrick Norton**

Athletic Director effective December 1, 2015  
Varsity Boys' Basketball  
JV Boys' Basketball

Eli Terry Jr. Middle School

**John Mordarski**  
**Dean Martin**  
**Dawn Alarcon**

Boys Basketball  
Girls' Basketball  
Winter Cheerleading

Motion Mr. Goodwin, seconded Mr. Melchionna, motion passes.

C. Childbearing/Childrearing Leaves

MOTION: To approve the request for a Childbearing Leave for **Shana Hagan**, School Psychologist at Plymouth Center School beginning on or about January 15, 2016 for approximately 6 – 8 weeks and to approve the request for an Extension of a Childrearing Leave for **Rebecca Fusco**, grade 4 at Plymouth Center School until March 28, 2016. Motion Mr. Goodwin, seconded Mrs. Lucian, motion passes.

E. Fuel Agreement

MOTION: To approve the Agreement by and between Dime Oil Co LLC and the Plymouth Town and Public Schools dated November 12, 2015 for the 16- 17 school year. Motion Mrs. Kulesa, seconded Mr. Orsini, motion passes.

F. Subcontract Agreement

MOTION: To approve the Subcontract Agreement For Professional Services Between Community Mental Health Affiliates, Inc., and Plymouth Board of Education. Motion Mr. Goodwin, seconded Ms. McCann, motion passes.

G. Changes in the Price of School Breakfasts

MOTION: To approve the following changes in the price of school breakfasts and the price of school lunches as presented.

The recommended increases were as follows:

Elementary School	\$1.60	to	\$1.55
Middle School	\$1.50	to	\$1.55
High School	\$1.50	to	\$1.55

AND

H. Increase in the Price of School Lunches

The recommended increases were as follows:

Elementary School	\$2.55	to	\$2.70
Middle School	\$2.85	to	\$3.00
High School	\$2.85	to	\$3.00

If approved, the changes would take place in January of 2016.

Motion Mr. Engle, seconded Mr. Goodwin, motion passes.

I. Non-Certified Pension Evaluation

This was an informational item which was explained by Mr. Penn at the Finance Subcommittee Meeting. He briefly explained that the evaluation was just received based on June 30, 2014, which is the legacy pension. Based on the assets, based on the lower ADC return, the portfolio is currently generating, based on the expected benefits, that would have to be paid overtime, the ADC should be \$293,000 for the current fiscal year.

J. Transfers

MOTION: To approve the transfers as discussed in the Finance Subcommittee Meeting which took place prior to the Board of Education Meeting. Motion Mr. Goodwin, seconded Mr. Melchionna, motion passes.

11. Board Member / Committee Reports

- A. Curriculum – Meeting, December 15, 2015 @ 5:30 p.m.
- B. Facilities – The Facilities Subcommittee did not meet on Tuesday, December 8, 2015 due to a lack of business.
- C. Finance – Mrs. Kulesa, Chair - The Finance Subcommittee met prior to the Board Meeting and reviewed the Accounts-by-Facilities Report for the month of November and will forward the same to the Town of Plymouth Board of Finance.
- D. Negotiations – Due to a Lack of Business, the December 16, 2015 meeting will be cancelled.
- E. Personnel – Mr. Goodwin, Chair - All items were addressed under New Business.
- F. Policy – Meeting, December 15, 2015 @ 6:30 p.m.
- G. Safety/Transportation – Mr. Orsini, Chair – The Transportation Subcommittee met on November 30<sup>th</sup> and December 8<sup>th</sup> to review a parent concern regarding a bus stop. The committee decided that the bus stop currently meets the conditions of our Board Policy but will continue to review the matter at a later date based upon winter weather conditions.

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

None

13. Board Liaisons to Schools

Harry S. Fisher Elementary School                      VACANT

Plymouth Center School                                      Mr. Melchionna

December 8    Meeting

Discussion: (1) November Family Feast at Friendly's which raised \$164; (2) Next Family Feast will be at Terryville Pizza, no date has been set at this time; (3) Sportswear Fundraiser netted \$116; (4) Art Enrichment Program "Picasso" is scheduled for March 23; and (5) Discussed bringing in author Ralph Fletcher to coincide with the primetime reading program on April 14.

Eli Terry Jr. Middle School                                      Mrs. McCann

No Report due to a conflict with another meeting.

Next meeting: January 26<sup>th</sup> 7 p.m. in the Eli Terry Jr. Middle School Library.

Terryville High School    Mrs. Kulesa

No Report

SEPTA (Special Education PTA)                                      Mrs. Kremmel

In lieu of Mrs. Kremmel's absence, Mrs. Johnson gave the report for SEPTA.

November 18    Morning Meeting @ Lucky Cup  
9:30 a.m. Mrs. Trinks gave a report  
Jeannette Brodeur    President  
December 29    Bowling Day @ 1 p.m. @  
Thomaston Lanes

Education Connection    Mrs. Lucian

No Report – Next Meeting in February

WAMOGO    Mr. Goodwin

WAMOGO has a group of people, they call the AGG Advisory Committee, they meet and basically the members are all in an industry that involves agriculture in some way, shape or form and that committee then gives recommendations back to the program as far as what they need to do to enrich their program in order to provide the most cutting edge real life experiences to the students. They give a report and talk about what they are doing and then we supplement what we are

doing in the career field. This past month, November, preparation began for review with the State as to the curriculum, the type of equipment used, and if the training provided benefits the individual in the future. A survey is being circulated to graduates of the class of 2010 to see if the career they have chosen goes back to the programs they took at WAMOGO. For example: whether it is in the medical, culinary or any other field is they are currently involved in. The group is working on advocacy and outreach for enrollment. In October, the school sent a contingent to Louisville, Kentucky to compete at the national level and the veterinary/technology team placed first in the nation. Of that team, 3 students were from Torrington and one student was from Plymouth. The State of Connecticut has only had 3 teams in its history place first in the nation.

CABE

VACANT

14. Board Comments

Mr. Goodwin – Regarding SAT’s and calculators. Wants to make certain that students are being prepared for the real world (the college and the career field).

Mr. Orsini – Commended Mr. Sandshaw for providing the Board with a very thorough energy update.

Mrs. Johnson – Thanked all of the presenters on behalf of the Board for coming to the Board Meeting. Thank you to the public for coming up to the podium to speak before the Board.

15. Next Regular Board Meeting – Wednesday, January 13, 2016

16. Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn at 9:38 p.m. Motion Ms. McCann, seconded Mr. Goodwin, motion passes.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Patricia Piskorski  
Recording Secretary  
Plymouth Board of Education