

## 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, November 13, 2013  
Terryville High School Cafeteria  
7 P.M.

## MINUTES

Present: Board: Mr. Raymond Engle, Mr. Patrick Perugino, Mr. Anthony Orsini, Mr. Daniel Gentile, Mrs. Karen Kulesa, Mrs. Melissa Johnson, Dr. Deborah Wheeler, Mr. Michael Melchionna and Mr. Christopher Goodwin

Administrators: Ms. Eleanor Cruz, Superintendent; Dr. Jodiann Tenney, Director of Curriculum & Instruction; Mr. Michael Santogatta, Business Manager; Mr. Robert Parenti, Director of Pupil Personnel & Special Education; and Mr. Richard Trudeau, Director of Technology

### 1. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

Ms. Cruz called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. The group joined in the Pledge to the Flag.

### 2. NOMINATION FOR TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON

Nomination for Temporary Chairperson: **Anthony Orsini**. Nominated by **Raymond Engle**, seconded by **Patrick Perugino**. There being no further nominations, **Anthony Orsini** was unanimously appointed Temporary Chairperson.

### ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR THE PLYMOUTH BOARD OF EDUCATION

MOTION: To convene for the purpose of caucus at 7:05 p.m. Motion **Raymond Engle**, seconded **Daniel Gentile**, motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: To reconvene after caucus at 7:23 p.m. Motion **Raymond Engle**, seconded **Patrick Perugino**, motion passed unanimously.

### NOMINATIONS AND ELECTION OF CHAIR

Nominations for Permanent Chair: **Raymond Engle**. Nominated by **Michael Melchionna**, seconded by **Patrick Perugino**. There being no further nominations, paper ballots, which are to be signed by the Board of Education Members submitting the ballot, will be made public within 48 hours.

Motion to close nominations: MOTION: **Patrick Perugino**, seconded **Karen Kulesa**. Motion passed unanimously. Nine (9) votes were cast for **Raymond Engle**. **Raymond Engle** was elected Permanent Chair of the Plymouth Board of Education.

#### NOMINATIONS AND ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR

Nominations for Vice-Chair: **Karen Kulesa**. Nominated by **Anthony Orsini**, seconded by **Daniel Gentile**. There being no further nominations, paper ballots, which are to be signed by the Board of Education members submitting the ballot, will be made public within 48 hours.

Motion to close nominations: Motion **Patrick Perugino**, seconded **Karen Kulesa**. Motion passed unanimously. Nine (9) votes were cast for **Karen Kulesa**. **Karen Kulesa** was elected Vice-chair of the Plymouth Board of Education.

#### NOMINATIONS AND ELECTION OF SECRETARY

Nominations for Secretary: **Deborah Wheeler**. Nominated by **Christopher Goodwin**, seconded by **Patrick Perugino**. There being no further nominations, paper ballots, which are to be signed by the Board of Education members submitting the ballot, will be made public within 48 hours.

Motion to close nominations: Motion **Anthony Orsini**, seconded **Karen Kulesa**. Motion passed unanimously. Nine (9) votes were case for **Deborah Wheeler**. **Deborah Wheeler** was elected as Secretary of the Plymouth Board of Education.

## 2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

MOTION: To amend the agenda as to Item 9C to include the Terryville Fire Department Firefighters. Motion to amend, **Daniel Gentile**, seconded **Patrick Perugino**, motion to amend passed unanimously.

MOTION: To adopt the agenda with the amendment. Motion **Melissa Johnson**, seconded **Daniel Gentile**, motion passed unanimously.

## 4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: To approve the following minutes:

Regular Meeting, October 9, 2013  
Personnel Subcommittee, October 9, 2013  
Finance Subcommittee, October 9, 2013  
Policy Subcommittee, October 16, 2013  
Facilities Subcommittee, October 22, 2013  
Special Board Meeting, October 29, 2013

With an amendment to the Minutes of the Special Board Meeting of October 29, 2013 to reflect that **Patrick Perugino** did not vote at the meeting as stated in the minutes. Motion **Patrick Perugino**, seconded **Daniel Gentile**. Abstentions: **Melissa Johnson, Dr. Deborah Wheeler, Christopher Goodwin** and **Michael Melchionna**. Motion passed.

## 5. PRESENTATIONS

### A. CAPSS (Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendent) Award Recipients for 2013 - 2014

The presentation for November was the introduction of the CAPSS Superintendent/Student Award Recipients by each of the school principals. These students were selected for their academic prowess, school citizenship, and community service. Each of these students is an excellent representative of their respective schools and great examples for their peers.

Congratulations to:

**Harry S. Fisher Elementary School**  
Tyler Mendela

**Plymouth Center School**  
Anna Donofrio

**Eli Terry Jr. Middle School**  
Andrew Skempris  
Maria Cesare

**Terryville High School**  
Jacob Johnson  
Karlee Picard

At this time, **Mr. Engle** called for the following motion:

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 7:43 p.m. for a brief reception for our award winners. Motion **Anthony Orsini**, seconded **Patrick Perugino**, motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: To return to regular session at 7:55 p.m. Motion **Daniel Gentile**, seconded **Patrick Perugino**, motion passed unanimously.

## 6. PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS

None

## 7. COMMUNICATIONS

On Friday, November 15, 2013 at 4:45 p.m. in the Mystic Ballroom at the Mystic Marriott Hotel in Groton, an awards ceremony will take place as part of the CABA/CAPSS Convention. At that time, the district will be acknowledged on winning the CABA Board Distinction Award – Level II.

8. OLD BUSINESS

A. Second Reading of Policy regarding Administration of Medication,  
Management of Allergies & Breathalyzers

MOTION: To approve the policy regarding the Administration of Medication, Management of Allergies & Breathalyzers. Motion **Patrick Perugino**, seconded **Anthony Orsini** motion passed unanimously. Abstention: **Dr. Deborah Wheeler**  
Motion passed.

9. NEW BUSINESS

A. Appointments

MOTION: To approve the following coaching appointments at Terryville High School:

|                                |                           |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Erica Nodine & Stephanie Hudak | Winter Cheerleading       |
| Mark Fowler                    | Boys' Varsity Basketball  |
| A.J. Sirianni                  | JV Boys' Basketball       |
| Peter Veleas                   | Varsity Wrestling         |
| Damian Cogshall                | Varsity Girls' Basketball |
| Tom Morgan                     | JV Girls' Basketball      |
| Jeff Foulds                    | Indoor Track              |
| David Baldyga                  | JV Wrestling              |

Motion **Daniel Gentile**, seconded **Christopher Goodwin** motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: To approve the following coaching appointments at Eli Terry Jr. Middle School:

|                |                   |
|----------------|-------------------|
| John Mordarski | Boys' Basketball  |
| Mark Sconziano | Girls' Basketball |
| Dawn Alarcon   | Cheerleading      |

Motion **Anthony Orsini**, seconded **Daniel Gentile** motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: To approve the following appointments effective November 14, 2013:

|                            |   |                 |
|----------------------------|---|-----------------|
| Paulo Teixeira             | Night Custodian                         | Harry S. Fisher |
| David Bernadino            | Part-Time Paraprofessional              | Eli Terry Jr.   |
| Gail Duffy                 | Head Teacher                            | Terryville High |
| Dr. Bonnie Doughty-Jenkins | Head Teacher                            | Eli Terry Jr.   |
| Lindsay Aronheim           | Planning & Placement Team Coordinator   | Terryville High |
| Margrit Morley             | Planning & Placement Team Coordinator   | Eli Terry Jr.   |
| Dr. Elizabeth Platt-Suski  | Planning & Placement Team Coordinator   | Plymouth Center |
| Lisa Jasnow                | Planning & Placement Team Coordinator   | Harry S. Fisher |
| Amy Schapp                 | Positive Behavior Intervention Supports | District        |
| Patrick Norton             | In School Suspension Monitor            | Eli Terry Jr.   |

Motion **Patrick Perugino**, seconded **Daniel Gentile** motion passed unanimously.

B. Resignation(s)

Ms. Cruz accepted the resignation of **Sara LaMarre**, Title I Tutor at Plymouth Center School effective October 20, 2013.

C. Use of Exercise Equipment

MOTION: To recommend the approval for the Plymouth Police Department and the Terryville Volunteer Firefighters to use the exercise equipment at Main Street School. Motion **Dr. Deborah Wheeler**, seconded **Anthony Orsini** motion passed unanimously.

D. Transfer of Funds

MOTION: To transfer the amount of \$12,500 from the new textbooks – elementary to staff development for the following reason: The Administrative Team was accepted to Harvard Graduate School of Education. This training is part of district obligation to provide Professional Development regarding the New Teacher Evaluation Process. (\$7,374.96) Additional staff development funding was needed for training in Writer’s Workshop. Motion **Daniel Gentile**, seconded **Melissa Johnson**. Opposed: **Christopher Goodwin** and **Patrick Perugino** Two (2) “no” the rest “yes”, motion passes.

E. Accounts By Facilities Report for the Month of October

The accounts by facilities report is to be forwarded to the Town of Plymouth Board of Finance.

10. BOARD MEMBER/COMMITTEE REPORTS (Subcommittees to be appointed by Board of Education Chair)

A. Curriculum

No Report

B. Facilities

No Report

C. Finance

No Report

D. Negotiations

No Report

E. Personnel

No Report

F. Policy

No Report

G. Safety & Transportation

No Report

H. Education Connection

No Report

I. Student Representatives

**Alexandra Belanger** reported on the following: (a) fall sports is being wrapped up; (b) winter sports will begin the first week in December; and (c) Connor Levins a sophomore at Terryville High School has made it to All State in cross country.

**Sazan Dauti** reported on the following:

|                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| November 14               | Terryville Drama Club "Noises Off" 7 p.m.  |
| November 15               | Terryville Drama Club "Noises Off" 7 p.m.  |
| November 16               | Terryville Drama Club "Noises Off" 4:30 p.m. & 7 p.m.  |
| November 20               | Leo Club installation practice   |
| November 25               | Leo Installation Ceremony @ 6:30 p.m. 43 new members, public invited, yearbook picture will be taken at the ceremony |
| November 25 – December 13 | Toy Drive sponsored by the Leo Club & Lincoln College. Toys will be distributed to families in the community.        |
| December 6                | Last day for coat drive.   |
| November 13, 14, & 15     | Parent/Teacher Conferences 4 p.m. – 6 p.m. and on November 15 <sup>th</sup> 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.                          |
| December 19               | Band & Chorus Annual Winter Concert  |

Article regarding honoring of Veterans was read as to how to properly dispose of the American Flag.

**Jonathan Zaleski**- Excused Absence

11. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS/REQUESTS/INFORMATION

Mr. Trudeau, Director of Technology

Mr. Trudeau report included: Thanking Mr. Maslak's Digital Media Production Students; the tech support personnel; continues to deploy the chrome books; hopes to secure additional grant opportunities which will help with the actual testing in the schools; testing the new video system and training will be provide for staff over the next few weeks.

Mr. Parenti, Director of Pupil Personnel

Mr. Parenti reported: Preparations are being made with respect to the new budget and preparing all of the special education teachers for the new teacher evaluation system by helping them with their goals and objectives.

Dr. Tenney – Director of Curriculum and Instruction

Dr. Tenney: Updated the Board with respect to administrating the Smarter Balance verses the CMT/CAPT Tests. Teacher and Administration Evaluation Plan will be brought back to the Board in December.

Mr. Santogatta, Business Manager

Mr. Santogatta reported: The payroll accounts are tight but we should be okay; the utility accounts look excellent; the month of October for medial was terrible; on the building & grounds side – control systems at the high school are functioning properly; and the boilers & burners installed at the middle school are functioning quite well (minor issue with the steam section). Internal tubes broke on the boilers at the Main Street School costing approximately \$7,800.00. Showers at Main Street School are approximately 95% complete.

Ms. Cruz, Superintendent

Ms. Cruz welcomed everyone to go to see “Noises Off” directed by Mr. Perkins; congratulations to the girls’ volleyball team; and is looking forward to fall sports, a wished everyone a happy holiday.

12. Public Comments Regarding Agenda or Non-Agenda Items

1. Melanie Church, 328 Main Street, Terryville, CT – commended on the October 29<sup>th</sup> special meeting and indicated she has FOI concerns.

Roxanne Perugino, 82 Allen Street, Terryville, CT – expressed some concerns with some recent financial decisions. She congratulated new Board of Education Members.

Catherine Kosak, 201 Harwinton Avenue, Terryville, CT – Ms. Kosak expressed her concern and disappointment over the major renovation of 210 Harwinton Avenue indicating that this was a residential neighborhood and the changes would alter the entire compilation of the neighborhood.

Chris Kinzer, 52 Old Farm Road, Terryville, CT – Mr. Kinzer expressed his concerns regarding the adoption of the Common Core State Standards and specifically any data collection of student benchmark testing and personal information.

Lisa Simo-Kinzer – 52 Old Farm Road, Terryville, CT – Mrs. Simo-Kinzer presented information to the Board from the National PTA Myth vs Fact Sheet on Common Core.

Jessica Chiong, West Haven, CT – Ms. Chiong spoke in support of Mr. & Mrs. Kinzer on the Common Core. She spoke with respect to her experience with her children in her school system and the adoption of the Common Core in the West Hartford schools.

Mary Smutnick, 138 Brooklyn Road, Pomfret Center, CT – Ms. Smutnick spoke as a concerned citizen and an American regarding the Common Core.

Sara Martocchio, 42 Cindy Lane, Bristol, CT – Ms. Martocchio spoke on reasons to oppose the Common Core.

Jane Bate, 454 Riverside Drive, Cheshire, CT – Ms. Bate addressed Islamic bias and death penalty in Islam for apostasy.

Roxanne McCann, 123 Town Hill Road, Terryville, CT – Ms. McCann read a passage (graphic) from a book entitled “Dreaming in Cuban” by Cristina Garcia approved book for the Common Core reading in English.

Pattie DeHuff, 20 Lynn Avenue, Terryville, CT – Ms. DeHuff spoke about the word allegiance. She indicated that parents have the responsibility to educate their children.

13. Board Liaisons to Schools (Board Chair to ask for volunteers)

Harry S. Fisher Elementary School – Patrick Perugino

Plymouth Center School – Michael Melchionna

Eli Terry Jr. Middle School - Dr. Deborah Wheeler

Terryville High School - Christopher Goodwin

SEPTA – Melissa Johnson

Education Connection - Karen Kulesa

PTSA COUNCIL – Ms. Cruz

CABE – Daniel Gentile

14. Final Board Comments (if any)

Mr. Perugino – welcomed all the new Board Members. They should prepare themselves for a lot of work ahead. In a few weeks, possibly get together for an informational meeting to bring new Board Members up to date as to all items.

Mr. Orsini – Congratulations to our entire student award winners. Congratulations to Mr. Engle for being elected Chair, to Mrs. Kulesa, Vice-Chair and to Dr. Wheeler, Secretary. Welcome to all the newly elected Board Members.

Mrs. Johnson – She is not a professional in special education. She is a parent and is here to advocate for all children. That was her reason for running for the Board of Education.

Mr. Gentile – Thank you to everyone that spoke on Common Core. We need to implement what has been mandated to us. What's said at the podium is not always true. This Board has always been above board, open to the public, and has always had the best interest of the children. Nothing misleading or underhanded. Addressed the relocation of the Board of Education Offices and what had occurred 12 years ago.

Dr. Wheeler – She was elected to the Board as a private citizen in the town not because of her profession and she has no allegiance to anyone in the district, elected, appointed, hired or otherwise and she would expect to respectfully be allowed to demonstrate that she thinks for herself and she appreciates the support that she has received thus far.

Mr. Engle – Thanked everyone and welcomed new Board Members. Thank you for having confidence in him. To everyone who spoke this evening, thank you, yes, we do want to hear from you.

15. Next Regular Board Meeting – Due to a conflict, the December 11, 2013 Board Meeting is rescheduled and will take place on December 18, 2013 at 7 p.m. in the cafeteria at Terryville High School as a Special Board Meeting. A Special Board Meeting will be posted as an informational meeting only.

16. Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 9:10 p.m. Motion **Melissa Johnson**, seconded **Patrick Perugino** motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dr. Deborah Wheeler  
Secretary