



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
TERRYVILLE HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA
33 NORTH HARWINTON AVENUE
TERRYVILLE, CT 06786

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2022

7:00 P.M.

MINUTES

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

Absent: Mr. Showers

Also Present: Mr. Falcone, Superintendent, Mrs. Mozak-Pezza, Director of Curriculum & Instruction, Mrs. Melillo, Director of Pupil Personnel & Special Education Services, Mr. Trudeau, Director of Technology and 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. Foote, second Mrs. Lucian, 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 Meeting of the Plymouth Board of Education for September 14, 2022. Motion Mr. Foote, second Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani, any discussion, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion carries.

4. **Student Representatives**

Robert Pedersen – Sports

- Boy's and Girls' Soccer Team are 6/5; October 18, Boy's Senior Night Under the Lights Game; Girl's Senior Night Under the Lights Game – October 20
- Golf doing well
- Cross Country – 2 meets left; Berkshire League Championship & States
- Volleyball doing well

When asked by Mr. Seaman how the soccer fields looked, Robert indicated no comment on the soccer fields.

Anna Greene – Senior Class (portions of this report were inaudible)

- College Planning Night
- Class Meeting – upcoming fundraisers were discussed; Prom; went through application process.

Emily Ieronimo

- Band – September 25, Mum Parade
October 28, Big E
October 8, UMass
- Underclassmen took PTSA
- Pep Club – Spirit Week October 24 - 28 and Pep Rally, October 28
- Leo Club – Home Coming
- Plymouth Block Party – 35 student volunteers

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

Nicole McWilliams – 34 Overlook Terrace, Terryville (Representing the Drama Club)

Agatha Christies – Murder on the Orient Express

Board Members were presented a ticket for admittance to a free performance on October 7, 2022

Tickets officially go on sale on October 14th

6. **Presentation**

SBAC (Smarter Balance Assessment Consortium) – Mr. Falcone, Superintendent and

Mrs. Mozak-Pezza, Director of Curriculum & Instruction

Brief overview of the testing scores for the last 3 years.

Smarter Balanced Performance, 2022: ELA (English Language; Mathematics; Science) – Plan to improve test scores.

Mr. Falcone – What is the plan moving forward? It is going to take time. The district is making some changes. Example: Interventionists and Coaches have never sat in the same room until last Friday. We talked about what are we doing and what does our program look like and how do we advance children from Plymouth Center School to Harry S. Fisher Middle School, then to Eli Terry Jr. Middle School and then to the high school? These conversations are happening as a group and are being looked at as a whole organization.

Mr. Perugino – It takes 4 years roughly to get this going?

Mrs. Mozak-Pezza – 3

Mr. Seaman – Looking forward to seeing in a couple of years those numbers going up.

7. **Superintendent's Update**

CSDE Approval of 6 Reading Programs for Students in Kindergarten – Grade 3

- September 29, 2022, the CSDE approved the use of 6 reading programs for students in Kindergarten – Grade 3. Beginning on July 1st, all local Boards of Education will be required to select and implement one of the approved programs from a list provided by the State. Currently, our district does not utilize any of the 6 reading programs approved by the State. The results of a survey sent out to all Superintendents regarding the list is as follows: Only 12 school districts out of 122 are currently using any of the approved reading programs.

The cost, training, time and stress associated with implementing a new reading program are significant. Currently, our district is focused on the implementation of our new elementary mathematics program. After speaking with our Director of Curriculum & Instruction and the two elementary school principals, it was felt it is in the best interest of the district to fill out a waiver and hold off on the unfunded mandate until the district is ready to make this adjustment in its elementary schools. This seems to be the consensus of the other superintendents as well.

Board of Education Policies

- Since switching from CAGE Policies to Shipman & Goodwin Board Policies, it has come to his attention that every September, Shipman & Goodman updates and revised policies from the previous year. Board Members were presented with a binder containing 12 of those policies which need to be revised based on summer legislative changes and adjustments. Just to clarify, these are not new policies, just current policy revisions. By using Shipman & Goodwin Policies, he is able to provide comparisons.

The binder provides the following: Current Policy; Edited Policy with Cross Outs and a Draft of the Revised Copy.

Board Members were given these revisions for a first read and hopefully adopt the revisions at the Board of Education Meeting in November.

Mr. Seaman – The complete first read this month. Next month, second read on the ones received and the revisions as a whole.

Bus Company Update

- Although the bus company is doing their best to service the district, they are hanging on by a thread. They have lost 3 drivers and are dealing with positive cases of COVID. However, the only transportation that has been affected is for athletic events and we are looking at some outside companies to provide that transportation. It is, however, possible that their staffing shortage could impact our bus routes in the future. If this happens, the district will work with the bus company to double up routes as we have done in the past.

Mrs. Kulesa – Is there a place that you know of that I can look up those 6 reading programs?

Mr. Falcone – He will send them to her. He does not believe Bristol uses them.

Mr. Perugino – So, we will be getting changes every September, correct?

Mr. Falcone – Yes, every September the Board most likely is going to receive them, however, it could be October based on when he received the policies in September. He received the current ones in mid-September. Other policies may come up or be revised throughout the year which will be brought before the Board as they are received.

Mr. Perugino – With respect to the 6 reading programs, doesn't the State Board of Education communicate with the Superintendents and the State or do they go on their own?

Mr. Falcone – We were told what the 6 reading programs were going to be and then we were surveyed by the superintendent's group to see how many districts were using the program. He indicated he just completed another survey regarding Special Education Program that the State moved over to and now school districts across the state are dealing with this compliance issue because of the actual program and information being lost. So another survey was received for that as well.

Mr. Perugino – We need to speak with our representatives. There seems to be no communication.

8. Unfinished Business

A. Board of Education Meeting Dates for Calendar Year 2023

MOTION: To entertain a motion to approve the Board of Education Meeting Dates for the Calendar Year 2023 as presented. Motion Mr. Perugino, second Mrs. Lucian, 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 is the Accounts by Facilities Report for September 2022.
- The Accounts by Facilities Reports will be forwarded to the Town of Plymouth Board of Finance.

The Board Members were provided the following at their seats.

- Included in the packet are the following; Accounts by Facilities Report for September 2022 and 5 different submissions; (1) Business Office Activity Report; (2) Board of Education Budget Summary through September, 2022 Report; (3) Cumulative Total Board of Education Budget % by Month; (4) Food Service Report; and (5) Capital Improvement Plan 2021 - 2030.

Mr. Tencza

- Overview – 2021 – 2022 – encumbrances down to \$37,413.00 and anticipated unspent encumbrances below \$5,000 this year.
- Sinking Fund – Projects – Projects for the sinking fund remain unchanged from last month to this month. Most of the projects are complete except for the scoreboards which should be installed within the next 2 – 3 weeks.
- Food Services – Food Services again made a profit which was due mainly to the additional funding provided by the state in order that free meals can continue. August and September combined along with the SMART funds from the state equals a net profit of \$27,600.
 - (a) Labor Issue – This district is short 2 part-time employees that help to serve the lines at both the middle school and the high school. Due to the shortage, our revenue has been impacted and there was a need to make service changes. At the high school, the deli line has not been opened, sandwiches are pre-made, so additional revenue is not picked up from the premium sandwiches. This is fine for now, but when the district moves to paid lunches, the premium meal is important. At the middle school, the pizza line is only opened on Fridays rather than every day as in the past.
In speaking with Mrs. Melillo, 2 candidates have been identified in the Transition Program who are interested in the positions that are open. They are going to apply for these positions and we will move to hire them. They will become some of our cafeteria employees.
 - (b) Breakfast – THS – There has been a significant drop in breakfast participation. We are down by approximately 60%. Last year, we made about \$50,000 in revenue for breakfast alone. At the current rate, we will come in at \$22,000 which results in a \$27,000 decrease. No solution at this point in time. Significant decrease in revenue will impact the district long term. At some point, this will need to be addressed.

Mr. Seaman – Is this because of the schedule?

Mr. Tencza – Currently, the only thing is the change in schedule. Breakfast is at a different time now. Just wanted to notify the Board of the change and let them know he is looking at speaking with Mr. Falcone and Mr. Hulst to see what can be done moving forward.

- Health Insurance Transition – The transition to United Health Care from the State Partnership Plan has gone much smoother than anticipated. There have been very few complaints and issues. We are fully operational. He recognized Becky Sowa, payroll and benefits, for doing an exceptional job working with the staff and the district's brokers Brown & Brown during the transition.
- Project Update – A few projects need to be completed. More hooks for backpacks and coats need to be installed at the middle school. These are on order and will be installed as soon as possible upon receipt.
- Budget Review and Creation – The review process is underway. Review of individual budget lines and appropriate transfers are being reviewed to ensure costs are on the appropriate expense lines. The process of the 2023 – 2024 budget is underway. Budget templates are in the process of being created for the upcoming year and populating salaries and benefits. Budget templates will be released to building administrators at the beginning of November.

Mr. Seaman – Talk to me about the sidewalk project.

Mr. Tencza – An agreement was worked out with the town. The district would return its unspent encumbrances from last year, roughly \$174,000 back to the town and they in turn would coordinate having the sidewalks redone. The sidewalks project has been completed. We over ran the original estimate by \$10,832.29. Mr. Tencza's recommendation to the Board is to make a motion to go back to the Board of Finance and to request that the \$10,832.29 come from the district's sinking fund to cover the overage for the project. That would close this out.

Mr. Seaman – So, with that said, any questions?

Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani – What led to the overage? Was anything added?

Mr. Tencza – Nothing was added. It is just, in a typical construction format rate, materials cost so much when quoted and with the current economy, the quote ran over. Project was scaled back considerably.

Mr. Seaman – The amount of work that was done was incredible. \$11,000 roughly on a \$174,000 project is pretty good.

Mr. Falcone – As Mr. Tencza indicated, the original price was much higher than that and we worked to bring it down as far as we could.

Mr. Seaman – He entertained the following?

Motion: To entertain a motion to go the Board of Finance and ask for the \$10,832.29 to be used to offset the overages from the project. Motion Mr. Perugino, second Mr. Zbuska, any discussion, all in favor, any opposed, any abstention, motion carries.

- 30 second clock

Mr. Perugino – To Mr. Tencza – He was reading the CIAC regarding the 30-second clock and is of the understanding that an employee needs to run that clock. It cannot be a student.

Mr. Tencza – He indicated he does not know if that is correct. He feels this would be a question and discussion with the athletic director.

Mr. Falcone – Currently, students cannot run the clock. Joe Stefanski is the actual individual that runs the clock for basketball games. It is not known if Mr. Stefanski is able to run both clocks or if another individual game operator is needed. Again, we go back to unfunded mandates. If another individual is needed, the district will need to comply and it will be a cost to the district.

- Accounts by Facilities Report for September

Mr. Perugino – Page 7 - Furnishings – (\$9,551) overage. What happened?

Mr. Tencza – Originally, only a desk was scheduled for the middle school principal. But, additional items needed to be purchased for the science room and the technology room.

Mr. Perugino – That is a whole new project. New chairs are needed. Understood.

Mr. Perugino – Page 13 – Outplacement – Non-Public (\$507,000)

Mr. Tencza – The district will receive a portion of the excess costs at the end of this month which will go against that figure. The other portion will be received in April.

Mr. Perugino – Page 14 – Tuition Vo Ag - \$240,000 – The district pays tuition to send its students to Vo Ag?

Mr. Tencza – Yes, it does.

Mr. Perugino – When the district is preparing its budget, many of the town's people do not understand the district pays for this. They think it is for free, correct? So, when the budget is being prepared this year Mr. Chairman, he suggests letting the town's people know what this is going to cost them, \$240,000 to send students to Vo Ag. The students are not going for free.

What about the tech school? That is State, right?

Mr. Tencza – The tech school – The district does not pay tuition. The district pays for the transportation. Magnet schools, the district pays for transportation or in some cases a small tuition for students to attend.

B. Personnel Report - Mr. Falcone, Superintendent
No Questions

10. Public Comment (limited to 3-minutes per speaker)
None

11. Board Liaison Reports

<u>Mr. Perugino</u>	--	<u>Harry S. Fisher Elementary School</u>
October 12		School Store
November 14 (ends)		Nutmeg Spice Fundraiser
October 17 – 12		Book Fair (During School Hours)
October 18 @ 7 p.m.		Next Meeting
October 21		Trunk or Treat (October 28 rain date)

Comment on Open House – Impressed. Great attendance. He had an opportunity to walk around and see some of the various classrooms. School looked really nice. Teachers were upbeat. Parents seemed happy. Amazed when he went to the art room. Ms. Suffridge looking for some shelves and he will see about looking into this for her. Told her to call him if he needs anything as he would be happy to come down to the school to help out.

<u>Mr. Zbuska</u>	--	<u>Plymouth Center School</u>
October 1 – 21		Fall Scholastic Book Fair
October 21 – November 4		Harvest Bakery Fundraiser (November 22 pickup)
October 21		Trunk or Treat
November 9		Spirit Wear Sale
October 31		School Wide Dress Up for Halloween

Amazon Wish List Fundraiser did very well. With the money raised purchases were made for the playground, i.e. basketballs, soccer balls, balls for the playground, basketball hoop, slide, wagons and 2 t-ball stands.

<u>Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani</u>	--	<u>Eli Terry Jr. Middle School</u>
November 8		Fundraiser at Mulligan's from 12 noon – 7 p.m. – full menu. They will donate a portion of the proceeds back to the school for the entire day.
October 25		Skate Night from 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. Town-wide - \$10 for non-skaters and \$15 for skaters

As always, the PTA is looking for new members. Currently there are over 25 members.

<u>Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani</u>	--	<u>Booster Club</u>
October 18 & 29		Soccer Night – Game Under the Lights. Booster Club will Be selling concessions. Event open to the public.

The Booster Club would like to thank everyone for their support at the Terryville Fair Lemonade Booth. Great turnout and fundraiser.

<u>Mrs. Kulesa</u>	--	<u>Terryville High School</u>
Meeting was about 3 weeks ago. The group is formulating and moving forward with some fundraisers. Parents who have high school students are urged to be on the lookout for emails regarding fundraisers. Please get involved. It would be great to know what it would be like for your senior. The sole purpose to the PTSA is to raise money for a safe grad night for our seniors. Grad night will most likely be at the same venue as in past years.		

<u>Mrs. Kulesa</u>	--	<u>EdAdvance</u>
She was unable to attend the October 6 th meeting.		

12. Board Comments

Ms. Tilton – (Portions of comment inaudible) – asked about emailing those meetings

Mr. Falcone – I'm going to do that to everyone.

Ms. Tilton – Should I be attending and giving reports on any meetings? Being BOE Liaison and email state approved reading list.

Mr. Seaman – We will assign you something.

Mr. Foote – Every year the Lions International sponsors a Peace Poster Contest. Plymouth Lions Club has participated every year. It is at the junior high school level. He hasn't heard definitely this year how many children are participating. He just thought he would bring this forward to see if the district could get participation. Children that win locally receive a \$40 prize. Every child gets \$10 for participating. If a child wins, this is worldwide, he/she can win \$2,500 and have the opportunity to meet with the International President of the Lions Club. He would like to see more participation.

Mrs. Lucian – (portions of comment inaudible) Very happy to see the on-line (inaudible) being monitoring started (inaudible).

Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani – Terryville High School 40th reunion is approaching. Reaching out to get the kangaroo to make an appearance. Reached out to Nicole McWilliams who is gracious enough to help surprise everyone at the 40th anniversary with the kangaroo. Looking into getting a new kangaroo mascot considering the image has changed to the one the school current has. Possibly, everyone can be surprised with a new one.

Mr. Perugino – He read the following in the Eli Terry Jr. Middle School Connection: 8th grade algebra students have discussed how stocks work and what it means to buy stock in a company. He is pleased students are doing this in the eighth grade. They need to know to invest in the future. Hopefully, this can be done at the high school level.

Mr. Falcone – That is the plan. We are planning on implementing a personal finance course at the high school. It is there now but is optional. The plan is to expand on it so that all students can experience this.

Mr. Seaman – He believes the school system and the district are heading in a positive direction. He would like to see the scores go up. He understands COVID was an influence for the decrease in the scores. But, it seems hard work is paying off and the district is moving in a good direction. He is so happy to see this.

13. **Next Board Meeting** –The next regular meeting of the Plymouth Board of Education will be on Wednesday, November 9, 2022 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 7:54 p.m. to discuss personnel matters: Memorandums of Understanding related to:

- (a) The Plymouth School Administrators' Association Contract – Workday
and
- (b) Technical Office and Professional Unit and The International Union, United Automobile, Aerospace & Agricultural Implement Workers of America – UAW, Local 376 - Insurance

inviting Mr. Falcone, Superintendent of Schools and Mr. Tencza, Business Manager into executive session.

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

15. **Return to Regular Session**

MOTION: To entertain a motion to return to regular session at 8:27 p.m. Motion Mr. Perugino, second Mr. Foote all in favor, motion carries.

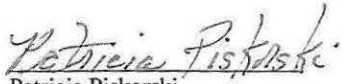
16. **Possible Action From Executive Session**

MOTION: To entertain a motion to approve: The Memorandum of Understanding for The Plymouth School Administrators' Association Contract –Workday as discussed in executive session. Motion Mr. Perugino, second Mrs. Lucian, any discussion, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion carries unanimously.

MOTION: To entertain a motion to approve: The Memorandum of Understanding for the Technical Office and Professional Unit and The International Union, United Automobile Aerospace & Agricultural Implement Workers of America – UAW, Local 376 – Insurance as discussed in executive session. Motion Mrs. Lucian, second Mrs. Kulesa, any discussion, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion carries unanimously.

17. Adjournment

MOTION: To entertain a motion to adjourn 8:29 p.m. Motion Mr. Perugino, second, Mr. Foote, all in favor, motion carries.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Patricia Piskorski".

Patricia Piskorski
Recording Secretary
Plymouth Board of Education