

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, OCTOBER 8, 2014
TERRYVILLE HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA

7:00 P.M.

MINUTES

Present: Board: Mr. Melchionna, Mr. Perugino, Mrs. McCann, Mr. Goodwin, Mrs. Kulesa, Mr. Gentile and Mr. Engle

Absent: Mr. Orsini

1. Call to Order and Pledge to the Flag

Mr. Engle called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. and the group joined in the Pledge to the Flag.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

MOTION: To adopt the agenda as amended by moving Item 10 I – Student Representatives to Item 4. Motion Mr. Perugino, seconded Mr. Goodwin, motion passes.

3. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the following meetings:
Regular Meeting – September 10, 2014

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

4. Student Representatives

George Andrews – Sports

October 5	Booster Club, 1 st Annual Road Race
October 24	Spirit Week begins with a pep rally and students wearing school colors
October 27	Pajama Day
October 28	Twin Day
October 29	Former Boston Celtics Players will speak regarding substance abuse
October 30	Students to wear class tee-shirts; bon fire
October 31	Students to dress up (Halloween); National Honor Society to host an upperclassman/staff volleyball tournament
November 4	Sports physicals are offered from 8 a.m. – 11 a.m.

PLYMOUTH, CT
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
RECEIVED FOR RECORD

14 OCT 15 AM 8:43

Beth A. Rockwell
TOWN CLERK

Fall sports season is coming to an end and states will begin. Multiple teams are looking to qualify to compete in the state meets and tournaments.

Question: Regarding chrome books at home – Can the chrome books be used for personal use i.e. websites? Answer: Mr. Trudeau, Director of Technology – chrome books will be filtered at home. The same rules applied at school will be applied at home.

Question regarding chrome books: At home, can students use the chrome books for personal use, i.e. websites?

Answer: Mr. Trudeau – Chromebooks will be filtered at home so the same rules that are applied at school will be applied at home.

Halley King – School Activities

October 10	Chromebooks to be distributed
October 17 – 18	Jr. Class is selling candles as a fundraiser Terryville Congregational Church – fundraiser – proceeds to go to the food bank
October 18	Band to participate in UMass Day
October 27	8 th graders to THS for an assembly
October 31	Halloween Party at the fairgrounds sponsored by the Lions Club
November 11	FBLA Bake Sale
November 6 – 8	Drama Club – Ten Little Indians

Allison Smith - Senior Activities

October 6	Sr. Fundraiser at Jakes Wayback Burgers in Bristol to help raise money for the senior class
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Senior Class Officers

George Andrews	President
Maranda Gallo	Vice President
Molloy Northrop	Secretary
Elliott Wilion	Treasurer

Junior Class Officers

Kolbie Prenner	President
Milyssa Raboin	Vice President
Alex Ieronimo	Secretary
Halley King	Treasurer

Sophomore Class Officers

Mike Gudeczauskas	President
Trevor Jones	Vice President
Kelsey Turgeon	Secretary
Brendon Pavelec	Treasurer

Freshman Class Officers

Jacob Tellier	President
Amy Ieronimo	Vice President
Zachary Johnson	Secretary
Trey Belanger	Treasurer

October 22	5:30 p.m. Financial Night – THS auditorium for seniors and their families
October 24	Homecoming Dance 7 p.m. – 10 p.m. in the THS Cafeteria – all profits to benefit the senior class

Leo Club – Reminder – Support a Soldier Campaign

Mr. Peugino requested that fundraiser information be forwarded to Mrs. Piskorski, recording secretary for the Board in order for the Board to be informed of activities at the school.

5. Public Comment (limited to 3 minutes)

Chris Simo-Kinzer – 52 Old Farm Road – commented on the information that he handed out at the last Board Meeting regarding common core; questioned if the Board addressed the reasons for the recent exodus of staff; and suggested the Board hold an open house for any potential candidate for superintendent prior to hire.

Lisa Simo-Kinzer – 52 Old Farm Road – made the Board aware that her son had been assaulted twice at the middle school.

Brian Dunn – 19 Carriage Drive – asked if the Board came up with why common core should not be implemented; opting out of common core; investigation into why so many staff have left the district; the Ray Lapinski issue, if it has been looked into and/or resolved; why the elementary classes at Plymouth Center School are working without a curriculum in Language Arts, and how does the public get dialogue from the Board, how does the system work?

Tammy Piercy– 338 Main Street – Chromebooks – questioned if parents do not sign the paperwork are there any other options, i.e. may the student use books and still be able to get the same education as the other children or will they be left out. She was asked to speak with Mr. Trudeau after the Board Meeting.

Julie Kosikowski – 4 Park Street – The high school band placed third in the Mum Festival Parade for the 1st time. Commented on the elimination of a music teacher.

Melanie Church – 328 Main Street – School system if fragmented, parents are afraid; Board Members talking amongst themselves during public comment; and the Board needs to address the questions posed by the parents.

6. (a) Discussion regarding attorney-client privileged communication concerning employee's claims. (NOTE: The discussion regarding this item may occur in executive session).
- (b) Discussion regarding investigation matters concerning 2014 softball season. (NOTE: The discussion regarding this matter will occur in executive session).

MOTION: The Board of Education hereby moves to enter into executive session at 7:25 p.m. to discuss (a) a matter regarding attorney-client privileged communication concerning employee's claims and (b) to discuss matters related to personally identifiable student information; and to further discuss matters related to the employment and/or performance of employees of the Board of Education. Motion Mr. Perugino, seconded Mr. Gentile.

Along with the Board of Education Members, the following individuals were invited into executive session: Mr. Winzler, Interim Superintendent, Mr. Santogatta, Business Manager and Attorney Stephen Sedor, motion passes.

MOTION: To resume regular session at 8:30 p.m. Motion Mr. Perugino, seconded Mr. Gentile, motion passes

7. Presentation(s)

a. Secondary Access to Eli Terry Jr. Middle School (Charles Street) by Mr. Santogatta, Business Manager

MOTION: To approve the plan for the secondary access to Eli Terry Jr. Middle School (Charles Street) as presented. Motion Mr. Goodwin, seconded Mrs. Johnson Roll Vote: Mr. Melchionna, Mr. Perugino, Mrs. McCann, Mr. Gentile, Mr. Goodwin, Mrs. Johnson and Mrs. Kulesa. All in favor of the motion, motion passes unanimously.

(b) Renovations of Main Street School by the Town were an informational item only presented by Mr. Santogatta, Business manager.

8. Communications

Mr. Engle informed Board Members that due the various changes in the district, the district would not be participating in the CAFE Board of Recognition Awards this year. He also shared the following:

(a) Correspondence from CAFE asking districts if they would like to invite 2 or 3 students to the convention in November: (b) Correspondence from the State Department of Education approving Mark Winzler as the Interim Superintendent and (c) Correspondence from the search firm of McPherson & Jacobson.

9. Unfinished Business

None

10. New Business

a. Resignations

Mr. Winzler informed the Board that he has accepted the resignation of **Julie Prescott**, System Wide Library Media Specialist effective October 10, 2014 and **Barbara Nieves**, Pre-K Speech & Language Pathologist at Harry S. Fisher Elementary School.

b. New Hires/Appointments

MOTION: To recommend the following New Hires and Appointments as discussed in the Personnel Subcommittee Meeting which took place prior to the Board Meeting: **Anita Bergoderi**, Biology Teacher at Terryville High School; **Jill Portera**, 6th grade Mathematics Teacher at Eli Terry Jr. Middle School;

Laurie Eagan, School Psychologist at Harry S. Fisher and Plymouth Center School, **Lisa Lickwar**, Paraprofessional (STAR Program) at Eli Terry Jr. Middle School; **Andrea Kinnard**, Tutor, Grade 5; **Susan Kolukisa**, Tutor, Kindergarten; **Michelle Mulvehill**, Tutor, Grade 4 at Plymouth Center School; **Gerry Oquendo**, Special Education Paraprofessional at Harry S. Fisher Elementary School; **Lynn Leavenworth**, Tutor, Kindergarten; **Brianna Novajasky**, Tutor, Grade 3; and **Diane Ferland**, Tutor, Grade 2 at

Harry S. Fisher Elementary School. All appointments are effective as of October 9, 2014. Motion Mrs. McCann, seconded Mr. Gentile, Mr. Goodwin, abstained, motion passes.

MOTION: Motion to appoint the following individuals to stipend positions as discussed in the Personnel Subcommittee which took place prior to the Board Meeting. **Alysa Oling**, Planning & Placement Team Facilitator at Harry S. Fisher Elementary School; **Hailey Barnard**, Planning & Placement Team Facilitator at Eli Terry Jr. Middle School; **Robert Tomlinson**, Senior Class Advisor at Terryville High School; and **Stephanie Konopaske**, Boy's Cross Country Coach at Terryville High School. All appointments are effective as of October 9, 2014. Motion Mr. Melchionna, seconded Mrs. Johnson, Mr. Perugino and Mr. Goodwin abstained, motion passes.

c. Childbearing Leave

MOTION: To approve a childbearing leave for **Allison Curtiss**, 1st Grade Teacher at Harry S. Fisher Elementary School for on or about November 12, 2014. Motion Mr. Perugino, seconded Mr. Goodwin, motion passes.

d. Out-of-State Field Trips

MOTION: To approve the following out-of-state field trips:

- To Disney World, Florida for students in Grades 9 – 12 at Terryville High School who are in the Drama Club, Art Club and TV Production from February 11 – 16, 2015.
- To New York City, Broadway for students in Grades 9 – 12 at Terryville High School who are members of the Drama Club on March 11, 2015.
- To Montreal, (Quebec Province) Canada for students in grades 10-12 at Terryville High School from April 17 – April 19, 2015.

MOTION: Motion Mr. Goodwin, seconded Mr. Gentile, motion passes.

e. Board of Education Meeting Dates for the Calendar Year 2015

MOTION: To approve the Board of Education Meeting Dates for the Calendar Year 2015 as submitted. Noting that Wednesday, November 11, 2015 is Veterans Day, the November meeting will be held on Thursday, November 12, 2015. Motion Mr. Perugino, seconded Mrs. McCann, motion passes.

f. State –Approved Plymouth Public Schools Administrators' Evaluation Document

MOTION: To approve the State-Approved Plymouth Public Schools Administrators' Evaluation Document as presented. Motion Mr. Melchionna, seconded Mr. Perugino. Roll Vote: Mr. Melchionna, Mr. Perugino, Mrs. McCann, Mr. Goodwin, Mrs. Johnson and Mrs. Kulesa, all voted "yes", Mr. Gentile voted "no", motion passes.

g. Organizational Chart

MOTION: To approve the Organizational Chart for the Plymouth Board of Education. Motion Mr. Goodwin, seconded Mr. Perugino, motion passes.

11. Board Member/Committee Reports

- A. Curriculum – Mrs. Kulesa – possible meeting next week
- B. Facilities – Mr. Goodwin – The subcommittee discussed the access to Eli Terry Jr. Middle School (Charles Street) and the renovations of Main Street School by the Town.
- C. Finance – Mr. Melchionna- The Finance Subcommittee met prior to the Board Meeting, reviewed the Accounts by Facilities report for the month of September and will forward the same to the Town of Plymouth Board of Finance
- D. Negotiations – Mr. Gentile, reported talks began with the PEA on September 29, 2014.
- E. Personnel – Mr. Goodwin – All items were addressed under New Business.
- F. Policy – Mrs. Johnson – No Report
- G. Safety/Transportation – Mr. Orsini - Absent
- H. Education Connection – Mrs. Kulesa – A meeting was held on October 2nd. Education Connection is the RESC for Plymouth and supports education in our area. They have received several grants and they continue to grow their professional development programs throughout area.

12. Administrative Reports/Requests/Information

Dr. Tenney, Director of Curriculum & Instruction – Dr. Tenney reported on the following: (a) a curriculum plan will be presented for this year; (b) curriculum that was revised and rewritten will be presented to the Board for approval; (c) the Vetting Committee is reviewing revisions; (d) Teacher Evaluation and Teacher Development committees met on October 8 and are concentrating on a comprehensive development plan which will eventually be presented to the Board; (e) professional development workshops; (f) 20 teachers will be attending a Saturday workshop in New York City; and (g) Title I, II and III grants are being worked on.

Mr. Trudeau, Director of Technology – Students from Mr. Perkins Drama Club helped with tonight's broadcast (Tori, Alyssa & Jared) along with the technology crew of Matthew and Greg. Chromebooks will be distributed shortly to high school students and next Thursday to students at the middle school.

Mr. Santogatta, Business Manager – Mr. Santogatta reported: (a) the breakfast program in the schools – 3,600 breakfasts were served the first month of school; (b) financial concerns – legal expenses, special education out-of-district tuition costs (both accounts will be watched carefully); (c) building and grounds – everything is operating efficiently.

Ms. Amaro – Director of Pupil Personnel & Special Education – do to miscommunication, Ms. Amaro was not present at the Board Meeting.

Mr. Winzler – Interim Superintendent – some basic information – Mr. Winzler is a retired superintendent and Plymouth has been his 7th

assignment since his retirement. He is not a candidate for the permanent position of superintendent. He is trying to learn about Plymouth, has met individually with each administrator, PEA co-presidents, president of the UAW, the mayor, has attended faculty meetings, has reinstated weekly cabinet meetings (district wide items are addressed) with central office administrators; administrative council meets on a weekly basis to discuss curriculum instruction and management; and he will begin spending quality time in the schools beginning the week of October 14. Mr. Winzler indicated he is not in Plymouth to make broad and sweeping changes but to prepare a smooth path for the new superintendent.

13. Superintendent Search

Mr. Winzler suggested to the Board that they begin work on a superintendent search. To use a firm that specializes in this type of endeavor and one that can guide the Board appropriately. Mr. Winzler is requesting that the Board authorize him to seek out information and proposals for the Board so that the Board may bring in firms and interview them and then make a decision as to what path to take. Mr. Winzler suggested CABA, NESDAC and CES.

MOTION: To authorize the Interim Superintendent, Mr. Winzler, to contact firms that specialize in searches. Motion Mr. Melchionna, seconded Mr. Perugino, motion passes.

14. Public Comment (limited to 3 minutes) Note: The Board does not comment on Public Comment

Christine Ieronimo - 9 Meghan Boulevard - Parent concerned about the elimination of the Enrichment Program and the quality of field trips.

Tammy Piercy – Needs to know if the service dog, scheduled to arrive in February, will be accepted or not in the school system.

Chris Simo-Kinzer – 52 Old Farm Road – mentioned his wife's comments to the Board, commented on communication with the Board and how actions speak louder than words.

Julie Kosikowski – 4 Park Street – commended on the Enrichment Program at the middle school.

15. Board Liaisons

Harry S. Fisher Elementary School - Mr. Perugino

No Report

Plymouth Center School - Mr. Melchionna

No Report

Eli Terry Jr. Middle School - **Mrs. McCann**

September 30 PTA Meeting

Some of the highlights: (a) mix of family unit changing which will promote a sense of unity; (b) 6th grade ice cream social; (c) 8th graders to see Don Quixote; (d) fundraisers will begin shortly; and (e) Red Ribbon Week – last week in October and is part of the Dare Program.

Terryville High School - **Mr. Goodwin**

Meeting date has been changed from the 1st Thursday of the month to the 3rd Tuesday of the month.

SEPTA - **Mrs. Johnson**

October 9 Meeting Date

Greenery Fundraiser – if interested please contact Mrs. Aiudi

CABE - **Mr. Gentile**

November 14 & 15 CABE/CAPSS Convention

PTSA Council - **Mr. Winzler**

No Report

15. Final Board Comments

Mr. Gentile – Thanked the individuals who spoke during public comment; informed the public the Board is listening to their concerns, public was asked to follow the chain of command (teacher, principal, superintendent); the interim superintendent is doing a tremendous job for all the challenges he faces; and please be patient with the Board.

Mr. Goodwin – Reminded the public the Board needs to follow state and federal laws; also there are matters that require legal attention, and he understands the people's frustration and he welcomed Mr. Winzler.

Mrs. Johnson – Welcomed Mr. Winzler and Ms. Amaro; commented on the Charles St. Project and how pleased she is this is being done for the safety of the children.

Mr. Melchionna – Thanked Mr. Winzler for the job he is doing.

Mr. Perugino – Welcomed Ms. Amaro and Mr. Winzler; supports the idea of placing the student representatives at the beginning of the Agenda and excusing the school administrators from attending Board meetings.

Mrs. McCann – Welcomed Mr. Winzler; congratulated the high school band members; reminded the public this was Fire Prevention Month; Operation Edith (on the school website which is sponsored by the Fire Department and will take place on October 9th)

Mrs. Kulesa – Speaking as a teacher, school personnel leave for a variety of reasons, i.e. more money, shorter commute, to teach a different subject, a district that has a more successful program and professional development. Plymouth is not the only district that faces staff leaving.

Mr. Engle – Congratulations to the high school band; thank you to Mr. Winzler for the great job he is doing in the district and the members of the Board do listen to public comment and do take notes.

16. Next Regular Board Meeting – Wednesday, November 12, 2014

15. Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn at 9:45 p.m. Motion Mr. Perugino, seconded Mr. Goodwin, motion passes.

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. Johnson
Secretary
Plymouth Board of Education