



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

IN PERSON MEETING WITH THE PUBLIC

MASKS ARE REQUIRED

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2021

7:00 P.M.

MINUTES

Present: Mr. Seaman, Mrs. Kulesa, Mrs. Lucian, Mr. Showers, Mrs. Johnson, Mr. Foote,
Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani, Ms. Roth and Mr. Zbuska

Others Present: Mr. Falcone, Acting Superintendent, Mrs. Mozak-Pezza, Director of Curriculum & Instruction, Mrs. Melillo, Director of Pupil Personnel & Special Education Services and Mr. Trudeau, Director of Technology

Absent: Mr. Tencza, Business Manager

1. **Call to Order & Pledge to the Flag**

Mr. Seaman called the meeting to order at 7:04 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 Mr. Showers, any discussion, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion carries.

PLYMOUTH BOARD OF EDUCATION
CLERK'S OFFICE
OCT 22 AM 9:47
Evan Colonna

3. **Approval of Minutes**

MOTION: To entertain a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 8, 2021. Motion Mr. Showers, seconded Mr. Foote, any discussion, all in favor, any abstentions (Mr. Seaman abstains) motion carries.

4. **Presentation - Mr. Seaman, Chair Plymouth Board of Education**

Mr. Seaman acknowledged Mrs. Johnson for her many years on the Plymouth Board of Education. He and Mrs. Johnson have worked together on numerous projects. With her experience and knowledge, she became a mentor to him. Mr. Seaman explained to become a Board Chair takes a great amount of time and effort. Relationships need to be formed. Without understanding and work ethic, one will not be successful. Melissa Johnson, gave not only her time as a Board Member and Board Chair, but when there was a need for a special needs program to be enhanced, she fought and advocated and accomplished this task. As a Board Chair Melissa did a great job. This will be Melissa's last meeting as she will not be running in November, however, one never knows what the future holds. Mr. Seaman then proceeded to read a Citation from our State Representatives who unfortunately were unable to attend the meeting. The citation read as follows:

The citation is issued to Melissa Johnson for her outstanding service to the Plymouth Board of Education. Through dedicated leadership, you helped enrich the lives of the students with the Town of Plymouth. Your personal interest in the quality of their education will greatly be missed. A deserved acknowledgement of your timeless and outstanding service to the Plymouth Community as a Board Member and Board of Education Chair.

Standing Ovation

5. **Recess**

MOTION: To entertain a motion to recess at 7:12 p.m. Motion Mrs. Kulesa, second Mrs. Lucian, all in favor, motion passes.

6. **Resume Regular Session**

MOTION: To entertain a motion to resume regular session at 7:21 p.m. Motion Mr. Foote, second Michelle Lucian, all in favor, motion passes.

7. **Student Representatives**

Matthew Elwell – Sports

Regular season for all fall sports are coming to an end.

October 21, 2021

Under the Lights Game at Terryville High School v. Thomaston.

Girls' Soccer – 5:30 p.m.

Boys' Soccer – 7:30 p.m.

Rebecca Dorsey (absent) – Senior Class report given by Matthew Elwell

October 1, 2021

FAFSA application opened. Students are working diligently on their college applications.

October 13, 2021 Seniors attended a field trip to Tunxis.
October 20, 2021 Guidance Department hosting a virtual financial aid night with a guest from The College Place.

Zachary Oemcke – General Information

September 26, 2021 Marching Band and Color Guard marched in the annual Mum Festival Parade and took home second place prize for best marching band.

October 1, 2021 The THS Marching Band traveled to the Big E and was the only high school marching band at the Big E that weekend to march in the parade.

October 9, 2021 Terryville High School students and staff participated in the Annual Suicide Prevention Walk. Terryville was the largest group at the regional ceremony held by the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention.
Terryville High School Marching Band performed alongside the UMass, UConn and other high school bands from all over the Northeast.

October 13, 2021 9th, 10th, and 11th grade students took their PSAT Exam. A thank you was extended to the Board for supporting the students and providing them the opportunity to experience what it will be like to take the actual SAT.

October 22, 2021 Homecoming is scheduled to take place. Tickets on sale prior to the event, wristbands will be distributed to help with contact tracing, masks will be required and will need to be worn inside.

The THS Pep Club, with the support of the Student Council, will be putting on a spirit week for the upcoming week, which will include a multitude of fun days and activities for the entire school to participate in, closing off with the first Pep Rally in 2 years.

8. Superintendent's Update

Mr. Falcone – To add, the district does offer the PSAT's to grade 9, 10, 11 and 12 students. This is a great experience for the students and prepares them for the real SAT which the juniors will be taking in March.

Mrs. Mozak-Pezza – Director of Curriculum & Instruction

Mrs. Mozak-Pezza reported on the following: Plymouth Center School was notified last week their PreK Program is accredited through the National Association of Young Children (NAEYC). She explained this process began with receiving the Smart Start Grant in 2016 – 2017. All state-funded PreK programs need to be accredited or work towards accreditation. The self-study PreK program was completed in 2019 and was scheduled to have a site visit in the spring of 2020. But due to COVID this did not take place. However, she went on to say, the site visit was rescheduled for April of 2021. NAEYC sent their decision report on Tuesday, October 5, 2021 indicating the Plymouth Center School Program met the standard for accreditation. The program scored particularly high in Relationships, Teaching, and Assessment and no section received lower than an 82% pass rate and almost all of them were 87% or higher. Upon its expiration on November 1, 2026, we will need to apply for reaccreditation. Mrs. Mozak-Pezza recognized the hard work of the following PreK team – Nicole Onofrio, Sarah Trudeau and Jennifer Thomas as well as Sherri Turner, Principal.

Mr. Trudeau – Director of Technology – Emergency Connectivity Award

The Emergency Connectivity Award is part of the American Rescue Plan. Plymouth was awarded of \$106,000. The main intent of the ECF is to meet what it terms as the unmet needs of our student's for remote learning. This includes devices that would go on-line, i.e. chromebooks and tablets. The application that was submitted in August was for 173 tablets for Plymouth Center School and 137 chrome books for Harry S. Fisher Elementary School. The funding commitment letter was received three weeks ago and the district was approved for the full amount of \$106,000.00. The next step in this process is to order the chrome books and tablets. This has been done. It is important to note, the devices the district currently has meet the remote learning needs but some of these devices will stop updating, i.e. windows updates, etc. at the end of this school year. This connectivity fund award is going to ensure that every student in Plymouth will have a device one to one should the need arise for the district to go remote.

Mr. Falcone

(a) Washington, D.C. Field Trip – This field trip has been cancelled due to: Political Climate, COVID and decrease in student participation. All students received a full refund.

(b) COVID Update

- Approximately 43% of the children between the ages of 12 – 17 are fully vaccinated.
- Close Contact Tracing – When there is a close contact tracing of a situation and there is a need to quarantine students (6 – 12 students on average), please keep in mind this does not mean they are from the same grade level or the same age bracket. Some of these students may have been on buses together and there is some cross contamination with regard to close contact tracing.

(c) Executive Order (since last Board Meeting)

A new Executive Order been put into place. Executive Order 14, which basically states that all of our faculty and staff members are required to be completely vaccinated or they can refuse, have a medical or religious exemption. Currently, in our district we have 13 faculty and staff members that have refused or have a medical or religious exemption. Additionally, the district has 11 faculty members that have had either the first shot of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine or the second of the Moderna or Pfizer vaccines and they are waiting for the two-week period after where they are now cleared. So, in total, the district has 24 people. The process works like this according to the Executive Order and protocols and procedures that he has put in place with the school nurses. By noon on Friday, all of these 24 individuals need to report to the school nurses their test results. If they do not get them in by noon, the responsibility now shifts to him. They need to get him their tests results by 8 p.m. on Sunday night. At 8 p.m. on Sunday night, he looks at who has turned in their result and who has not turned in their results. If he does not have their test results, they cannot come in to work the next day and he needs to communicate with them on Sunday evening. That is the process the district has been following. So far everyone has complied and we have not had an issue. He is seeing, however, the turnaround time on the tests have increased. So, we are recommending that individuals go on Sunday, Monday or Tuesday in order to get those test results in on Friday or at least that Sunday which will give them plenty of time.

Question: If someone does not get their test results to the Superintendent by 8 p.m. on Sunday night and they need to take the next day off, what are their options?

Answer: This will be an unpaid day. Sick time or a personal day cannot be used.

Question: Can testing sites be provided at the schools?

Answer: Not feasible for our district. The district has provided a list of all free testing centers to the faculty and staff. Many are taking advantage of this list.

(a) Reoccurring Software Agreement with Frontline

Mr. Falcone – This agreement addresses a number of human resource concerns and inconsistencies within the district, especially at central office when we are compiling all of this information from all of the different schools. It also moves the district from a paper to an electronic process in hiring and tracking personnel information. By streamlining this process with this online program, we are enhancing the online program we currently have in place and will move the responsibilities from human resources from 4 different people at central office to 1 person. This is a reoccurring software agreement.

After a brief discussion, the following motion was made,

MOTION: To entertain a motion to approve entering into a Reoccurring Software Agreement with Frontline. Motion Mrs. Johnson, second Mrs. Lucian, any discussion, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion carries.

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

None

10. **Unfinished Business**

(a) Board of Education Meeting Dates for Calendar Year 2022

MOTION: To approve the Board of Education Meeting Dates for Calendar Year 2022 as presented. Motion Mrs. Johnson, second Mr. Foote, any discussion, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion carries.

(b) Second Read and Possible Approval of Policy Series 1000 – Community Relations/Use of School Facilities – P1330(a) and Regulation – R1330(a)

MOTION: To entertain a motion to approve revised Policy Series 1000 – Community Relations/Use of School Facilities – P1330(a) and Regulation – R1330(a). Motion Mrs. Lucian, second Mrs. Kulesa, any discussion, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion carries.

(c) Second Read and Possible Approval of Policy Regarding: Administrative Procedures – Limited Exemptions From In-Person and Eligibility for and Provisions of Continued Educational Opportunities During the 2021 – 2022 School Year.

MOTION: To entertain a motion to approve Policy Regarding: Administrative Procedures – Limited Exemptions From In-Person and Eligibility for and Provisions of Continued Educational Opportunities During the 2021 – 2022 School Year. Motion Mrs. Johnson, second Mr. Foote, any discussion, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion carries.

(d) Code of Conduct for the Middle and High Schools

After a brief discussion, i.e. hiring a part-time human resource person, the following motion was made,

MOTION: To entertain a motion to approve the Code of Conduct for Eli Terry Jr. Middle School and Terryville High School as presented. Motion Mr. Showers, second Mrs. Lucian, any discussion, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion carries.

11. **New Business**

(a) Board of Education Goals

MOTION: To entertain a motion to approve the Board of Education Goals for the 2021 – 2022 school year, as presented. Motion Mr. Showers, second Mr. Foote, any discussion, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion carries.

12. **Board Member/Committee Reports**

A. Finance/Operations – Mr. Falcone, Acting Superintendent

- Included in the packet are the following; Accounts by Facilities Report for September, 2021 and 3 different submissions: (1) Business Office Activity Report; (2) Board of Education Budget Summary through September, 2021 Report; and (3) Cumulative Total Board of Education Budget % by Month.
- The Accounts by Facilities Reports will be forwarded to the Town of Plymouth Board of Finance
- Approval of RFP (Request for Proposal) for Landscaping

MOTION: To entertain a motion to approve the RFP (Request for Proposal) for Landscaping. Motion Mr. Showers, second Mrs. Lucian, any discussion, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion carries.

B. Personnel Report – Mr. Falcone, Acting Superintendent

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

None

14. **Board Liaison Reports**

Mr. Seaman -- Harry S. Fisher Elementary School
No Report

OPEN -- Plymouth Center School

Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani -- Eli Terry Jr. Middle School
Actively seeking PTA Members - \$10.00
Fundraisers waiting approval

Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani -- Booster Club
Getting ready for calendar fundraiser – tickets \$5.00 – sales during the month of November and giveaways in the month of December.
IGA Round Up – November 7 – 13
Town of Plymouth Block Party – October 16th 12 p.m. – 4 p.m., food, entertainment and activities

Mrs. Kulesa -- Terryville High School
No Report
Possible Meeting – October 21
Meeting – November 18

Mr. Foote -- SEPTA
No Report

Ms. Roth -- CABE

Mrs. Johnson -- EdAdvance
This was EdAdvance’s Annual Meeting. It was more of a presentation of all their administrators. Their budget was finalized. The last two years, EdAdvance has not had to go into their reserve. They have been doing great. Jeff stated the pandemic has actually made EdAdvance more relevant to most of the districts because they have been doing a lot more work.

Mrs. Johnson expressed that it was an amazing experience to be with EdAdvance and she will miss their Board. She also indicated EdAdvance’s overall budget, only 9% - 10% of their overall budget was the agency costs. Everything else went right back to the district. She feels it is very relevant that Plymouth remain a member of EdAdvnce.

Since this was Mrs. Johnson’s last meeting at EdAdvance, Mrs. Lucian indicated that she would like to be her replacement.

Mr. Showers --- District Safety Committee
No Report

15. **Board Comments**

Ms. Roth – Thank you to Melissa for her service. She indicated she has not been a Board Member for very long but has been aware of Melissa as a Board Member for a while. (Rest of her comment was not audible.)

Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani -- Movie Night at the high school was enjoyed by the children. It was nice to hear there will be a homecoming and other activities taking place. To Melissa, Enjoy your new endeavors.

Mrs. Lucian – Thanked Melissa for her years and leadership. She has learned a lot and wishes her well. She was very happy to see the Code of Conduct Document and SRBI.

Mrs. Kulesa – Thanked Mr. Falcone for his direction and focus on items that are most important to the district. She really appreciated him putting his heart into it. It is very

obvious. The Board can tell that is where his direction and leadership is coming from. She also indicated he has a wonderful team which she knows he appreciates. She feels the district has the hardest working administrative team in possibly the entire state. She indicated she is always pulling for him, so keep that in mind.

As for Melissa, she was not going to give her a big lengthy, “good bye” because they are both very good friends and will see each other often.

Mr. Showers – He wished Melissa good luck in whatever she plans on doing. He wished all the candidates who are up for re-election in November “good luck”.

Mr. Foote – Wished Melissa all the best. She has pulled his irons out of the fire more than once and he thanks her for that. He wished everyone good luck in the upcoming elections.

Mr. Seaman – He expressed his feeling regarding Melissa in his presentation. It is October and the amount of work the administrative team has accomplished, i.e. Code of Conduct, and Policy. Direction is something that, in his opinion, has been lacking. He realizes how hard Brian works and speaks to him approximately two hours a day. Mr. Seaman indicated he is very happy. The district has spent a good year putting a good team in place. He is very excited and looking forward to seeing where the district is headed and feels it is headed in the right direction and is happy about that.

Mr. Falcone -- comment – Mr. Falcone indicated this is all about a team. We do everything as a team. It is all about leadership from the middle and improving schools. Working with our leadership team here at Central Office and our leadership teams in the buildings. The presentation he gave to the Board tonight was not just him, but it was done together.

With respect to Melissa Johnson, prior to her getting on the Board, she was making a difference in our schools. Back 17 – 18 years ago when he was in the district, she was making a difference with her boys which impacted an entire group of other students who have passed through the district. Melissa has created a legacy in Plymouth. She’s done some amazing work for children and we thank her.

Mrs. Johnson – This experience has been amazing for her. She’s had a lot of support on the Board for many, many, many years. Being Chair has opened up her eyes to a lot. There were many individuals who said she and Walt would never be friends or work together and this is absolutely false. Karen was always her left hand person. She could not have done this without her. She recognized Gerry Bourbonniere who was in the audience. He kept her on her toes. She indicated the experience was amazing and she will continue to be an advocate even though her children are no longer in school. She thanked Mr. Seaman for the citation and wished everyone success and luck. She will be watching.

16. **Next Board Meeting** –The next Regular Meeting of the Plymouth Board of Education is on Wednesday, November 10, 2021 at 7 p.m. in the cafeteria at Terryville High School.
17. **Executive Session** (to discuss personnel related matter; and Memorandum of Agreement - Live Stream Instruction; ESSER Funds Reallocation; Shipman & Goodwin Board Policies and PSAA Contract)

MOTION: To entertain a motion to enter into Executive Session at 8:53 p.m. to discuss personnel related matter and Memorandum of Agreement - Live Stream Instruction; ESSER Funds Reallocation and proposed contract for the PSAA (Plymouth School Administrators Administration). Motion Mr. Showers, second Mr. Foote, all in favor, motion carries.

18. **Resume Regular Session**

MOTION: To entertain a motion to resume regular session at 9:27 p.m. Motion Mr. Showers, second Mr. Zbuska, all in favor, motion carries.

19. **Possible Action From Executive Session**

MOTION: To entertain a motion to approve the Memorandum of Agreement - Live Stream Instruction as discussed in executive session. Motion Mrs. Lucian, second Mr. Showers all in favor, Mr. Foote abstains, any opposed, motion carries.

MOTION: To entertain a motion to allow the Plymouth Board of Education to move forward with coming to an agreement with the law firm of Shipman & Goodwin regarding policies. Motion Mrs. Johnson, second Mr. Showers, all in favor, any opposed, Mr. Foote abstains, motion carries.

MOTION: To entertain a motion to approve the contract for the PSAA (Plymouth School Administrators Association) beginning July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2026 as submitted during executive session. Motion Mr. Showers, second Mrs. Lucian,

ROLL VOTE: Mr. Showers - yes Mrs. Johnson - yes Mr. Foote - abstains

Mr. Zbuska - yes Ms. Roth - yes Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani - yes

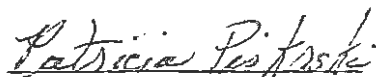
Mrs. Lucian - yes Mrs. Kulesa - yes

Vote: For - 7 Opposed - 0 Abstentions - 1 Motion carries

20. **Adjournment**

MOTION: To entertain a motion to adjourn at 9:30 p.m. Motion Mrs. Kulesa, second, Mrs. Lucian all in favor, motion passes.

Respectfully Submitted



Patricia Piskorski
Recording Secretary
Plymouth Board of Education