



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

SPECIAL MEETING

BOARD OF EDUCATION
TERRYVILLE HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA
33 NORTH HARWINTON AVENUE
TERRYVILLE, CT 06786

IN-PERSON MEETING WITH THE PUBLIC
PER ADVICE FROM THE TORRINGTON AREA HEALTH DEPARTMENT
THE FOLLOWING MUST BE IMPLEMENTED

1. Maintain Social Distance
2. Everyone must wear a mask
3. A list is to be collected of everyone in attendance (name, address and phone number) in the case of contact tracing.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 9, 2021

7:00 P.M.

MINUTES

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

Others Present: Mrs. Turner, Interim Superintendent of Schools, Mrs. Mozak-Pezza, Director of Curriculum & Instruction, Ms. Aronheim, Director of Pupil Personnel & Special Education Services, Mr. Tencza, Business Manager and Mr. Trudeau, Director of Technology

1. Call to Order & Pledge to the Flag

Mr. Seaman called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. The group joined in the Pledge to the Flag.

PLYMOUTH, CT
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
2021 JUN 15 AM 11:59
Erika Calvita
TOWN CLERK

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 passes

3. **Approval of Minutes**

MOTION: To entertain a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 12, 2021.

Motion Mr. Showers, second Mr. Foote, any discussion, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions (Mrs. Lucian abstains) motion passes.

4. **Presentation**

* Teacher of the Year /Shannon Erickson, Terryville High School –

Mrs. Mozak-Pezza, Director of Curriculum & Instruction

* Recognition of Graduating Student Representatives –

Mrs. Turner, Interim Superintendent and Mr. Seaman, Board Chair

Tyler Mendela

Lilyana Ricardo

Gena Buckley

* Introduction of the Acting Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Brian Falcone, for the Plymouth School System – Mr. Seaman, Chair Plymouth Board of Education

Prior to calling for the recess, Mr. Seaman thanked Mrs. Turner for stepping in to the position of Interim Superintendent for the system and indicated she handled the position professionally and with grace.

Recess

At this time the Chair called for the following:

MOTION: To entertain a motion to recess at 7:20 p.m. in order to give the public and Board an opportunity to meet the Acting Superintendent of Schools for the Plymouth Public School System, Recognition of Teacher of the Year and Graduating Student Representatives.

Motion Mr. Showers, second Mr. Foote any discussion, all in favor, any opposed, motion passes.

Resume Regular Session

MOTION: To entertain a motion to resume regular session at 7:46 p.m.

Motion Mrs. Lucian, second Mrs. Kulesa, all in favor, motion passes.

MOTION: To entertain a motion to move Item #6 before the Superintendent's update due to a previous engagement of the Student Representatives. Motion Mrs. Johnson, second Mr. Foote, all in favor, any opposed, motion passes.

6. **Student Representatives**

- * Tyler Mendela – portions of Tyler's report was inaudible
Seniors were able to participate in a full day of games
Underclassmen also had their own field day
Thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve as one of the student representatives
Thanked the Board for all they have done to keep the students safe during the year
Attending the University of Hartford, Majoring in Biology
- * Gena Buckley – portions of Gena's report was inaudible
Reported on Memorial Day Parade
Learned a lot as a student representative
- Lilyana Ricardo – Absent (report given by Gena, however, portions of the report was inaudible)
Recognized Katie DeForest and another student regarding Track & Field
Grateful for her experience on the Board

5. **Superintendent's Update**

Mrs. Turner announced the following Student Representatives on the Board of the 2021 – 2022 school year. Matthew Elwell; Rebecca Dorsey; and Zachary Oemcke.

Using a powerpoint presentation Mrs. Turner reviewed: The Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan Template – CSDE ARP ESSER with the Board Members.

Ms. Aronheim, Director of Pupil Personnel & Special Education Services – The district allowed her to grow and flourish and to step into her role as Director of Pupil Personnel & Special Education Services with a lot of support which has helped her to become the educator that she is today. So, thank you.

Mrs. Mozak-Pezza, Director of Curriculum & Instruction – Regular Education Summer School is well underway. Most of the staff is in place and between the three buildings there are approximately 65 students who have signed up for summer school. The teachers will begin next week writing up the curriculum for the three weeks in July. We are in the process of interviewing positions. Some good candidates have applied.

Ms. Aronheim – In the next week or two, we will be posting for a lot of para positions. If you know of anyone that would be interested, please encourage them to apply.

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

Mr. Randy Picard, 140 Old Waterbury Road, Terryville – Update on events and happenings at the Terryville Library in the summer.

8. **Unfinished Business**

- (a) * Policy Series 3000 Business – Purchasing
- * Code of Conduct Governing Procurements Under A Federal Award

MOTION: To entertain a motion to approve the (a) Policy Series 3000 Business – Purchasing and (b) Code of conduct Governing Procurements Under A Federal Award. Motion Mrs. Lucian, second Ms. Roth, any discussion,

Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani – Why did this particular policy come forward?

Mr. Tencza, Business Manager – This policy revision was brought forth because it was an audit finding on the last two audits by the State that the district was not in compliance with the new Federal Guidelines that came out two years ago. All this policy does is it puts the district in compliance and takes care of that audit issue. It has nothing to do with another policy which will be under review by the Board at some point. This is simply so the district is within Federal Guidelines with purchasing, especially because the district is receiving so much Federal Funding.

all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion passes.

9. **New Business**

- (a) End of the Year Transfers

MOTION: To entertain a motion to authorize the Interim Superintendent of Schools to work with the Business Manager in order to make the necessary transfers and expenditures to close the books as of June 30, 2021 and to expend funds for the fiscal year 2020 – 2021. Motion Mr. Showers, second Mr. Foote, any discussion,

Mrs. Johnson – Typically, we do a motion at the last meeting to get us through the whole summer if there are any expenditures after the new fiscal year. So, why don't we have that on our agenda? This only gives authority to the 30th of June but we have expenditures that we may have from the 1st of July to the middle of August and we always give the authority to the Superintendent.

Mr. Tencza, Business Manager – So those expenditures are for 2021 – 2022?

Mrs. Johnson – I understand that but, we still give the authority because we are not meeting in July. We always give the authority to the Superintendent and Business Manager to provide service if you need it after that time without the Board because we are not here. That's my only concern because we're not here. That's my only concern because we don't have it.

AMENDED MOTION: To entertain a motion to authorize the Interim Superintendent of Schools to work with the Business Manager in order to make the necessary transfers and expenditures to close the books as of June 30, 2021 and to expend funds for the fiscal year 2020 – 2021 and also be able to utilize the budget 2021 – 2022 to authorize the Superintendent and Business Manager to expend those funds as needed until the August meeting of the Plymouth Board of Education. Motion Mrs. Johnson, second Mr. Foote, any discussion, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion passes.

10. **Board Member/Committee Reports**

A. Finance/Operations - Matthew Tencza, School Business Manager

- Included in the packet are the following; Accounts by Facilities Report for May, 2021 and 3 different submissions: (1) Business Office Activity Report; (2) Board of Education Budget Summary through May, 2021 Report; and (3) Cumulative Total Board of Education Budget % by Month.

Mr. Tencza indicated this was his first time he had an opportunity to run through a school year closing and he wanted to thank everyone for this support, especially Mrs. Turner and the administrators that have been patient with him as he learned his way through the process.

He indicated things were going well as far as closing was concerned. He is looking forward to having all expenses finalized by June 18th which is ahead of schedule, with the exception of the final payroll, but we are on the way to do that. He opened up the 2021 – 2022 budget year to the administrators so they are able to begin placing in their requests for next year. By doing this, they would have their requisitions submitted.

Some of the other items Mr. Tencza touched upon regarding his Activity Report were: (a) Restructuring Plan – packing is underway, and he anticipates materials to be moved between schools the week of June 21 to June 25. Packing materials have been supplied to the individual schools and he has contracted with Siracusa Movers to move the materials between schools; (b) LED Lighting Program – the lighting program is well underway. At this point Plymouth Center School and Harry S. Fisher Elementary School are essentially complete. Both Eli Terry Jr. Middle School and Terryville High School are well underway. He expects the project to be completed somewhere around June 21st; and (c) Food Services – We will have limited exposure to a budget deficit in 2020 – 2021. It appears the Plymouth Public Schools will be at break-even or very close. The program will wrap up on June 14th after which he will prepare the final tabulation, but currently it looks pretty good. Congratulations to Alicia DaPonte and her entire staff on a job well done. There will be a summer feeding program beginning on July 1, 2021, operating out of Eli Terry Jr. Middle School. The district will provide the equivalent of 7 days of meals to families that have signed up for the summer feeding program. Each Thursday the meals can be picked up at Eli Terry Jr. Middle School. This will afford the food services program an opportunity to earn some additional revenue, with limited labor expense. Currently, there are 70 families, over 100 students signed up for this program.

- The Accounts by Facilities Report will be forwarded to the Town of Plymouth Board of Finance

B. Personnel Report – Mrs. Turner, Interim Superintendent

There were no questions or comments.

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

None

12. **Board Liaison Reports**

Mr. Seaman -- Harry S. Fisher Elementary School

Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani: Summary: As with all schools, getting ready for the end of the year, field day, activities, promotions, new Fisher Board members, amazing job at fundraising at this school, and everything is paid now it is time to party.

Mr. Elsaghir -- Plymouth Center School

Summary: Spring Book Fair went well; 5th grade end of the year celebration, Friday, June 11; and celebratory staff planned; walk around Whitney Court, etc.

Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani -- Eli Terry Jr. Middle School

Summary: 8th grade social; Frankies, etc.; Many 8th grade parents worked hard to get decorations, etc. for the ceremony; and window markers still for sale at a cost of \$20 per pack.

Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani -- Booster Club

Summary: Sports award took place; summer conditioning will again take place. Tentatively set for Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 3 p.m. – 5 p.m. Great opportunity for children to go into the weight room, do cardio, etc. when the sports season begins, totally free to families and paid for by the Booster Club.

Mrs. Kulesa -- Terryville High School

Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani: Summary: PTSA – Able to do traditional Sports Center with 60 students registered. Totally free prize to every student who attends. Transportation by school bus from school to Sports Center and back. Permission slips still being accepted.

Mr. Foote -- SEPTA

No Report

Ms. Roth -- CABE

Summary: Thursday, August 5 in Westbrook 11th Annual CABE Conference; June 14, Legislative Wrap-Up re: 20 – 21 Legislative Session Diversity Equity Inclusion; Survey for members to complete to better understand the demographics of our Boards and programs they can offer to members as well.

Mrs. Johnson -- EdAdvance

No Report

Mr. Showers -- District Safety Committee

No Report

13. **Board Comments**

Mr. Elsaghir - Summary – This is his last meeting as he will be attending law school at the University of Florida; thanked everyone, everyone has helped him grow in some way. He will take what he has gathered as a Board Member onto future steps in life. He hopes he has done some type of good while he's been on the Board. Stated, one never knows what type of legacy one is going to leave.

Ms. Roth – Summary - Wished Josiah the best in the future. And thanked everyone ...inaudible.

Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani – Question Regarding Summer School Program

Mrs. Mozak-Pezza – Three programs. (1) ESY – program run by Special Education; (2) Grant Funded Program for the elementary and middle schools and smaller program for the high school; and (3) Credit Recovery Program at the high school. Indicated Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani was probably thinking of the Grant Funded Program which is mostly regular education students from 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani – Summary – Some parents expressed to her that 3 hours was a long time. She feels it would be really good for kids to be able to go and be around a couple of their friends and be able to get a head start for next year. She is glad this program is being offered. Suggested maybe parents can partner with one another, i.e. car pool.; She thanked all the staff for the upcoming ceremonies and all the different field days, and promotions; and also thanked the 3 student representatives on the Board; commented on the Mock Car Crash her daughter was a participant in.

Mrs. Lucian – Summary – Good luck to Josiah. He will be missed. Thanked Mrs. Turner for stepping in and doing a terrific job especially with the Covid tracking.

Mrs. Kulesa – Summary – Congratulations and Best Wishes to all our members who are moving on or stepping back in. Your contribution is really appreciated to our district. Josiah, we have learned from you as well. A big congratulations to our high school seniors this year and hopes that your year ends more normally than when it began. Best of Luck to all.

Mr. Showers – Summary – Thanked Mrs. Turner who did a fantastic job for the district. Lindsey you will be missed. Josiah, Good Luck.

Mrs. Johnson – Summary – Congratulations to Mrs. Erickson, she is fantastic, outstanding and goes above and beyond her role. Welcome back to Mr. Falcone, we are so excited. Congratulations to all of the student representatives especially Tyler who will have a special place in her heart as he was a representative when she was Board Chair. Thank you to Sherri from the bottom of our hearts. Lindsay, I can't say good bye.

Mr. Foote – Summary – Thank you to Mrs. Turner. It's been a difficult year you stepped into and we're still here. Thank you to Lindsay and Josiah, Good Luck to you both and Brian I look forward to working with you.

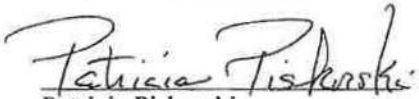
Mr. Seaman – Summary – Mock Car Drill valuable tool; Firefighting Program at the high school instrumental; community would benefit with more programs like that, including an EMS Program. Josiah, you ran on “No” to raising anything while you were in office and you stuck to your word which shows your character. You are a man of your words. Good Luck in law school but remember to come home. Thank you to Mrs. Holleran for stepping up and doing an amazing job, keeping the school going for this year and for that he thanks you. As we close out the school year, this has been a difficult year for everyone, parents, teachers, administrators and what we do on the Board is not really a fraction of what these individuals do in the trenches every day. There have been tragedies this year, but it was good to see Community Pride and sense of community, everyone coming together. Graduation is Monday, June 14th at around 5:30 p.m. Hopefully, Board Members will be able to attend. Have a fun summer.

14. **Next Board Meeting** –The next Regular Board of Education scheduled for the 3rd Wednesday which is August 18, 2021. There is no July Board of Education Meeting.

15. **Adjournment**

MOTION: To entertain a motion to adjourn at 8:33 p.m. Motion Mr. Showers, second Mr. Foote, all in favor, motion passes.

Respectfully Submitted


Patricia Piskorski
Recording Secretary
Plymouth Board of Education