

*United In Our Commitment to Excellence in Education*

*The Plymouth Public Schools' mission is to ensure that all students learn to the best of their abilities. We support their growth into knowledgeable, skilled, and contributing citizens capable of succeeding in their work, personal, and family lives.*

PLYMOUTH BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, October 10, 2012  
TERRYVILLE HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA

MINUTES

*Present: Board: Mark Berube, Raymond Engle, Anthony Orsini, Daniel Gentile, Daniel Santorso, Martin Wetzel, Gerard Bourbonniere, Karen Kulesa and Patrick Perugino*

*Administrators: Dr. Distasio, Superintendent of Schools, Robert Parenti, Director of Pupil Personnel & Special Education, Dr. Jodiann Tenney, Director of Curriculum & Instruction, Michael Santogatta, Business Manager and Richard Trudeau, Director of Technology*

1. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

*Mr. Perugino called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. The group joined in the Pledge to the Flag.*

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

*MOTION: To adopt the agenda as presented. Motion **Martin Wetzel**, seconded **Raymond Engle**, motion passed unanimously.*

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

*MOTION: To approve the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of September 12, 2012. Motion **Martin Wetzel**, seconded **Anthony Orsini** motion passed unanimously.*

4. PRESENTATIONS

*Mr. Parenti, Director of Pupil Personnel & Special Education provided the presentation to the Board. The evening presentation focused on the combined efforts of special education, Terryville High School administration and the school-to-career office to develop and implement a transition program for the high school APPLE students, who we are required by law, to provide opportunities for vocational experiences in the work place environment.*

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS

None

6. COMMUNICATIONS

None

7. OLD BUSINESS

None

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. Appointments

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

<i>Linda Farrington</i>	<i>Girls and Boys Intramural Advisor</i>
<i>Christopher Perkins</i>	<i>JV Girls Soccer Coach</i>
<i>Christopher Perkins</i>	<i>Academic Bowl Advisor</i>

*Motion Martin Wetzel, seconded Anthony Orsini motion passed unanimously.*

B. Energy Program GreenQuest

*Mr. Sandshaw, Energy Education Specialist, provided information concerning a free website, GreenQuest, which is a personal energy dashboard that enables community members to track and analyze the energy use for their home or place of business. The website can be accessed via the school web pages.*

C. Plymouth Board of Education Goals

The following are a continuation of the Board of Education Goals from the previous year.

Goal 1: Systematically improve student performance and accelerate academic achievement for all students.

Goal 2: Promote Collaboration among parents/school/community through proactive, ongoing, and open communication.

Goal 3: Integrate technology to enhance instruction, information systems, and resource management.

Goal 4: Develop a business plan that effectively manages district personnel and operations while improving fiscal responsibility.

Goal 5: Implement Scientific Research Based Intervention (SRBI) to ensure that all students are receiving the necessary support and services in the classroom and outside the classroom to achieve mastery of the state and district standards.

MOTION: To approve the Plymouth Board of Education Goals for the 2012 – 2013 school year which are a continuation of the Board of Education Goals from the previous year. Motion **Raymond Engle**, seconded **Anthony Orsini**, motion passed unanimously.

D. CABE Recognition Award Submission

MOTION: To approve the submission of a packet of information on behalf of the Plymouth Board of Education for the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education's Recognition Award. Motion **Martin Wetzel**, seconded **Daniel Gentile** motion passed unanimously.

E. Out-of-State Field Trips

MOTION: To approve the following out of state field trips for grade 11 & 12 high school students:

October 19 – 21, 2012	Mt. Washington, New Hampshire
November 17, 2012	Ellis Island/Statue of Liberty/Museum of Natural History, New York
January 19, 2013	Boston Science Museum, Massachusetts
February 16, 2013	NBC Tour, New York

April 11 – 13, 2013	Washington D.C. 3 days/2 nights
April (Date to be Determined)	Boston, Massachusetts
May 18, 2013	Bronx Zoo, New York
May 31 – June 2, 2013	Niagara Falls, New York

*MOTION: To approve the above field trips. Motion **Martin Wetzel**, seconded **Gerard Bourbonniere**, motion passed unanimously.*

F. Childbearing/Childrearing Leaves

*MOTION: To approve a childbearing leave for **Nicole Walsh**, Language Arts Teacher at Eli Terry Jr. Middle School effective November 5, 2012. Motion **Martin Wetzel**, seconded **Raymond Engle**, motion passed unanimously.*

*MOTION: To approve a childbearing leave for **Shannon Surreira**, Grade 8 Mathematics teacher at Eli Terry Jr. Middle School effective November 12, 2012. Motion **Anthony Orsini**, seconded **Daniel Santorso**, motion passed unanimously.*

G. Resignation

*Dr. Distasio accepted the following resignations: **Jerry Curtiss**, basketball coach, at Eli Terry Jr. Middle School, effective September 18, 2012 and **Catherine Donnelly**, Speech/Language Pathologist at Harry S. Fisher Elementary School, effective October 26, 2012.*

H. Sidewalks

*MOTION: To approve the preliminary plan to install sidewalks on Charles Street from the school property and then north on Hillside Avenue to connect with the sidewalks for Harry S. Fisher Elementary School. This would provide access for middle school students to attend activities that are located at Harry S. Fisher Elementary School (baseball, softball, track, etc.). Motion **Daniel Gentile**, seconded **Martin Wetzel**, motion passed unanimously.*

9. BOARD MEMBER/COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Curriculum – **Karen. Kulesa**, Chair

The Curriculum Subcommittee met on October 3, 2012 and the following items were discussed: (1) CMT, CAPT and DRA Results – **Dr. Tenney** updated the subcommittee on the district-wide data team which met to examine the results of DRA, CMT and CAPT including cohort data from spring of 2012. Areas of strength that were highlighted were: Kindergarten DRA, positive trends for cohort data, Grade 10 Writing. Areas of weaknesses highlighted were: Grade 10 Math, middle school Writing for males and gaps for Special Education and Free/Reduced Lunch students and (2) Teacher and Administrator Evaluation Presentation – **Dr. Tenney** updated the committee on the meeting with administrators and teachers on teacher evaluation and provided information on the state SEED plan and evaluation requirements starting in 2012 – 2013 and presented the presentation from Connecticut SEED.org website.

B. Facilities – **Mr. Engle**, Chair

No Report

C. Finance – **Mr. Bourbonniere**, Chair

**Mr. Bourbonniere** reported that the Finance Subcommittee met prior to the Board of Education Meeting and reviewed the September accounts by facilities report and moved that it be forwarded to the Town of Plymouth Board of Finance.

D. Negotiations – **Mr. Wetzel**, Chair

No Report

E. Personnel – **Mr. Berube**, Chair

**Mr. Berube** reported the Personnel Subcommittee met with the Superintendent prior to the Board Meeting and all items were addressed under New Business.

F. Policy – **Mr. Berube**, Chair

No Report

G. Safety/Transportation – **Mr. Orsini**, Chair

No Report

H. Education Connection – Karen Kulesa

*Mrs. Kulesa reported: Education Connection met on Thursday, October 4, 2012. Plymouth is represented well and is using the services of Education Connection as noted in the monthly program update which was included in the Board Packet. Renovations will be taking place at the office in Litchfield. Education Connection is still continuing to apply for and is receiving large amounts of grants. Education Connection is doing well financially. The remainder of the meeting was held in executive session.*

I. Student Representatives

**Tim King**

*Items Discussed: Vocational Food Class Pie Sale; Nature Trail is adding final touches; Plymouth Community Feed Project*

<i>September 26</i>	<i>School store opened. Days, Monday, Wednesday &amp; Friday from 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.</i>
<i>October 6</i>	<i>Suicide Walk – Rockwell Park</i>
<i>October 13</i> <i>(Senior</i>	<i>King Richard’s Faire (Renaissance Festival) Carver, MA</i>
<i>October 23</i>	<i>Honors English Classes)</i>
<i>October 24</i>	<i>Osborn Correctional Facility in Enfield</i>
<i>October 24</i>	<i>Lincoln Culinary Institute (Vocational Foods Class)</i>
<i>October 30</i>	<i>Walk for Magnum – Eli Terry Jr. Middle School</i>
<i>November 6</i>	<i>First Term Report Cards</i>
<i>November 19</i>	<i>Bake Sale – FBLA – outside of the Lyceum</i>
	<i>Leo Installation Night</i>

**Devyn Oakes**

*Items Discussed: Class Elections took place recently; senior pictures are complete; PTSA Bingo Night – November 9 to benefit seniors and colleges are meeting with seniors.*

**Jonathan Zalaski**

*Items Discussed: Spirit Week – 5 different theme dates – Monday – School Wide Meeting ; Tuesday - Guest Speaker to discuss the effects of drugs and alcohol; Wednesday – Guest Speaker to discuss the effects of marijuana and at night a flag football game, a powder puff football game and a bonfire; Thursday – Pep Rally; Friday – Halloween Dance – During this week there is “Wall Wars” which different groups decorate – Sports teams are working hard and doing well – close of the season is in 2 weeks and the state tournament follows.*

10. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS/REQUESTS/INFORMATION

**Dr. Tenney**, Director of Curriculum & Instruction

Currently, Plymouth is participating in three different interdistrict grant opportunities through Education Connection. These are all science based in the middle school and high school and are targeted for free field trips and free speakers.

**Mr. Parenti** – Director of Pupil Personnel

Mr. Parenti reported he will be attending a 2 day conference beginning on October 11, 2012 for special education directors which will focus on aligning special education with the new common core standards.

**Mr. Trudeau** – Director of Technology

Mr. Trudeau reported: The wireless network was completed over the summer and has been audited. Every building now has wireless for any and all local devices that staff may bring in. This allows staff to use different applications for speech, language arts, etc. The technology support with the Town side is going very well; this includes an on-line help desk, on-line chat, etc.

Mr. Trudeau thanked the crew for the live broadcast.

**Mr. Santogatta** – Business Manager

Mr. Santogatta reported: The September expenditures were reviewed. The year-to-date budget looks great.

**Dr. Distasio** – Superintendent

Dr. Distasio reported on the following: On September 28, the students in **Mr. Bikakis'** Social Studies class interviewed **Mr. Ray Zukowski**. Both **Mr. Zukowski** and **Mr. Banas** are strong supporters of the students of Terryville and we thank them both for their taking time from their very demanding schedules to spend time with our students.

11. PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING AGENDA OR NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None

12. BOARD LIAISONS TO SCHOOLS

**Harry S. Fisher Elementary School – Mr. Perugino**

*Some of the events taking place during the month of October are:*

October Events

October 17, 18, 19      *Parent/Teacher Conferences (day and evening)*  
October 22              *Town Meeting @ 2:15 p.m.*  
October 26              *Halloween Party & Officer Phil Program*

*Next week spirit week items will be for sale and the Enrichment Program – feedback forms will be passed out to teachers for their feedback.*

**Plymouth Center School – Mr. Engle**

*No Report*

**Eli Terry Jr. Middle School – Mr. Orsini**

September 14              *Hospitality Committee – Grade 6 ice cream party*  
September 27              *School/Student Pictures*  
October 1<sup>st</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup>              *Spirit wear Committee – items to go on sale. A discussion on worldwide hunger was led by Chris Ieronimo*  
October 4                      *Grade 6 – Group 1 students to Winding Trails*  
October 5                      *Grade 6 – Group 2 students to Winding Trails*  
October 8                      *No School in observance of Columbus Day*  
October 19 – 26              *Red Ribbon Week*  
October 24                      *Next PTA Meeting @ 7 p.m.*

*PTA Meeting dates for 2012 – 2013*

*October 24, November 28, January 30, February 27, March 27, April 24 and May 29.*

*Items discussed by Mr. Travers, Principal: (1) reported on the CMT; September 4<sup>th</sup> open house was well attended; Update on Student Success Plan and SRBI (Scientific Research Based Intervention) Grant; teachers have completed Bench Mark Assessments*

**Terryville High School – Mr. Bourbonniere**

September 22              *Touch a Truck w/helicopter landing*  
October 11                      *Next Meeting @ 7 p.m.*  
November 9                      *Bingo*



**SEPTA – Mr. Berube**

October 18 Meeting at Eli Terry Jr. Middle School @ 6:30 p.m

**PTSA Council – Dr. Distasio**

The PTSA Council met on September 19 and Dr. Distasio introduced Ms. Cruz to the PTSA Council.

Some of the upcoming events for the aftergrad committee:

February (TBA)	McDonald's Night
March 23	Bottle Drive
April 5	Bingo
April – May	Flocking
May (TBA)	Car Show
May (TBA)	Mother's Day Flower Sale

**CABE – Mr. Santorso**

At the September meeting in attendance were some State Board of Education Members, Patricia Luke, Stephen Wright, Diane Coleman, and Stefan Pryor, State Commissioner of Education. Common Core Standards and the new administrator and teacher evaluation. CABE is distributing communication committee surveys to see how CABE can best communicate to the various Boards of Education. The Lydia Tedone, President of CABE is a candidate for National School Board Association Regional Director in the Northeast. Day on the Hill will be discontinued due to the amount of participation. Legislative Breakfasts may replace Day on the Hill. The next meeting is scheduled for October 25<sup>th</sup> @ 5 p.m. in Wethersfield.

13. FINAL BOARD COMMENTS

**Mr. Gentile** – Congratulations to Ms. Farrington on her 300<sup>th</sup> win. Excellent presentation on the special education school store.

**Mr. Santorso** – Happy Birthday, Karen

**Mr. Bourbonniere** – Congratulations to Mr. Parenti on his presentation to the Board. Congratulations to Mr. Sandshaw for saving the district money. Congratulations to Mrs. Farrington.

**Mrs. Kulesa** – Thank you to the Terryville High School Bake Shop for their lovely happy birthday note and the cake.

**Mr. Berube** – Requested some information from Mr. Parenti regarding the evaluation tools he used for the Apple students participating in the school store.

**Mr. Orsini** – Mr. Parenti, great job with the Apple students; Karen, happy birthday, Mr. Sandshaw, great job; this week is National Fire Prevention Week and the fire department visited both elementary schools; October 11, Operation Edith (exit drill in the home); community fire drill in the home. Please practice because you never know when an emergency will occur. Refrigerator magnets were also passed out.

**Mr. Perugino** – Mr. Sandshaw, great job; students really enjoyed the fire trucks and the men do a great job. Everything is going well and in good shape.

14. NEXT REGULAR BOARD MEETING

**Mr. Perugino** stated that the next regular Board of Education Meeting will be held on November 14, 2012 at 7 p.m. at Terryville High School.

15. ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION:** To adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m. Motion **Martin Wetzel**, seconded **Anthony Orsini** motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

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Gerard Bourbonniere  
Secretary