

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, February 13, 2013
Terryville High School Cafeteria

MINUTES

Present: Board: Mr. Raymond Engle, Mr. Anthony Orsini,
Mr. Daniel Santorso, Mr. Wetzel, Mrs. Karen Kulesa,
Mr. Gerard Bourbonniere, and Mr. Patrick Perugino

Excused Absence: Mr. Mark Berube and Mr. Daniel Gentile

Administrators: Ms. Eleanor Cruz, Superintendent; Dr. Jodiann Tenney,
Director of Curriculum & Instruction; Mr. Michael Santogatta, Business
Manager; Mr. Robert Parenti, Director of Pupil Personnel & Special
Education and Mr. Richard Trudeau, Director of Technology

1. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

Mr. Perugino called the meeting to order at 7:03 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 following minutes:

Regular Meeting January 09, 2013
Personnel Subcommittee Meeting January 09, 2013
Finance Subcommittee Meeting January 09, 2013
Finance Subcommittee Meeting January 23, 2013
(Budget Workshop)
Finance Subcommittee Meeting.....February 05, 2013

Motion **Martin Wetzel**, seconded **Anthony Orsini**, motion passed with
Daniel Santorso abstaining.

4. PRESENTATIONS

Dr. Tenney, Director of Curriculum & Instruction presented this month's presentation to the Board. It addressed the implementation of the Student Success Plans at the middle and high schools focusing on college and career readiness and social, emotional and academic support.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS

None

6. COMMUNICATIONS

The National High School Athletic Coaches Association officially notified Mrs. Farrington of her selection as a 2013 National Coach/AD of the Year Finalist. Mrs. Farrington will be honored at the National Awards Banquet at the Holiday Inn in Des Moines, Iowa on Wednesday, June 26, 2013.

The annual CAFE Day on the Hill will be held on Wednesday, March 6, 2013 from 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. If you have not already done so and are planning on attending, please let my secretary know by Wednesday, February 20th.

7. OLD BUSINESS

A. Policy 5141.27(a) – Use of Automatic External Defibrillators

MOTION: To approve Policy 5141.27(a) – Use of Automatic External Defibrillators. Motion **Raymond Engle**, seconded **Daniel Santorso** motion passed unanimously.

8. NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Cruz accepted the following resignations:

A. Resignations

Ms. Cruz informed the Board that she has accepted the resignations of the following individuals: (a) **Heather Erha**, Title I Tutor at Plymouth Center School effective January 7, 2013; (b) **Cheryl Strahowski**, part-time paraprofessional at Eli Terry Jr. Middle School, effective January 23, 2013; (c) **Peter Tunila**, for the purpose of retirement, grade 4 teacher at Harry S. Fisher Elementary School (d) **Joseph Stefanski**, for the purpose of retirement, Math Teacher at Terryville High School and (e) **Janice Levandoski**, Title I Tutor at Harry S. Fisher Elementary School effective February 13, 2013.

B. Appointments

MOTION: To appoint **Chris Perkins**, to the position of Drug Free Communities Grant Project Director effective January 25, 2013. Motion **Martin Wetzel**, seconded **Raymond Engle**, motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: To appoint **Julie Tracy**, to the position of District Library Media Specialist effective April 1, 2013. Motion **Anthony Orsini**, seconded **Gerard Bourbonniere**, motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: To appoint **Lisa Jasnow**, to the position of Speech & Language Pathologist at Harry S. Fisher Elementary School effective February 19, 2013. Motion **Daniel Santorso**, seconded **Gerard Bourbonniere**, motion passed unanimously.

C. Budget Approval

MOTION: To table the approval of the 2013-2014 Budget until the March 13, 2013 Board of Education Meeting. Motion **Raymond Engle**, seconded **Martin Wetzel**, motion passed unanimously.

There will be a Finance Subcommittee Meeting on Wednesday, February 20, 2013 at 6 p.m. in the Conference Room at the Board of Education. The item on the agenda will be Budget Workshop.

9. BOARD MEMBER/COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Curriculum – Mrs. Kulesa, Chair

Mrs. Kulesa reported the Curriculum Subcommittee met on February 6, 2013. The following items were addressed: (a) Elementary Report Card – The report cards for grades K-5) were revised to align subjects to the Common Core State Standards in Math for all grades and in Literacy for grades K-2. Technology and 21st Century Skills were also added to the report card. Social Studies and Science will need to be updated as new standards are published. A copy of the report card will be forwarded to Linda Yoder with inquiries about report cards for students with IEP's.; (b) K-5 Math Fluency Philosophy and Expectations – K-5 Math Fluency Targets and Expectations were presented and will be posted on the website.; (c) K-5 Technology Expectations – K-5 Technology Expectations have been created and teachers are using the labs with the students on a regular basis. Students are using *Type to Learn* in grades K-5. (d) Writers Workshop – The implementation of a Writer's Workshop will be implemented at the elementary schools next year. This is a framework for teacher writing. Mentor texts have been purchased for Kindergarten and more mentor texts will be purchased to support the implementation of Writer's Workshop.

B. Facilities – Mr. Engle, Chair

No Report – However, the district is exploring ways to improve its security system.

C. Finance – Mr. Bourbonniere, Chair

The Finance Subcommittee met prior to the Board Meeting and reviewed the accounts by facilities report for the month of January and will forward the same to the Town of Plymouth Board of Finance.

D. Negotiations – Mr. Wetzel, Chair

Negotiations with the Paraprofessionals and Secretaries Union will begin within the next couple of months.

E. Personnel – Mr. Berube, Chair

In lieu of Mr. Berube's absence Mr. Perugino reported that all items were addressed under new business.

F. Policy - Mr. Berube

Excused absence

G. Safety & Transportation – Mr. Orsini, Chair

Mr. Orsini reported the following:

- The District's Security Task Force met on January 28, 2013 to review the district's emergency and safety protocols.
- Central office administration, district administrators, police department chief officers, the local EMD and the local fire marshal were in attendance.
- The following subcommittees were established: Security Technology/Equipment Committee; Emergency Handbook & Protocols Committee and Training, Communication & Recovery Committee.
- The next Task Force Committee will be held after February vacation.
- On February 5, 2013, Plymouth's Emergency Management Team met with Superintendent Eleanor Cruz and Business Manager, Michael Santogatta to review school security and the new protocols being put into place.
- The next Emergency Management Team Meeting will be scheduled after the Task Force subcommittees have met which will be at the end of March.

H. Education Connection – Mrs. Kulesa

Mrs. Kulesa reported: Education Connection continues to be financially sound. They are working towards goals to improve service to all of their districts. Some of that work includes regionalization which has been a very hot topic amongst education these days due to declining enrollment of student population which is effecting everyone.

I. Student Representatives

Timothy King – Excused absence

Devyn Oakes – Excused absence

Jon Zaleski – Excused absence

10. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS/REQUESTS/INFORMATION

Dr. Tenney – Director of Curriculum and Instruction

CMT and CAPT testing will be taking place in March.

Mr. Trudeau - Director of Technology

Thank you to Jeff, Matt and Mr. Falcone for running the cameras.

Mr. Parenti - Director of Pupil Personnel

The majority of his time has been spent with the budget.

Mr. Santogatta - Business Manager

This year's budget was reviewed by the Finance Subcommittee earlier in the evening prior to the Board Meeting.

During the cold spell the past week, the staff was commended to keeping classroom doors closed, enabling the classrooms to keep warm. Thank you to the custodial and maintenance crews for all of their help and countless hours of time during and after the blizzard. Thank you to Mr. Orsini, the Mayor, and the public works office for all of their assistance. The bid document has been received for the boilers and burners at Eli Terry Jr. Middle School and is being reviewed and will be placed in the newspapers within the next couple of weeks.

Ms. Cruz, Superintendent

Ms. Cruz reported on the following: (a) Thank You to Mr. Orsini, Town Hall, Mr. Santogatta, Dennis Klimkewicz and Joe Dennis for all of their help during and after the blizzard. (b) Happy Valentine's Day to all and (c) February break will be held on Thursday and Friday, February 14 & 15 and Monday, February 18. Classes will resume on Tuesday, February 19.

11. Public Comments Regarding Agenda or Non-Agenda Items

None

12. Board Liaisons to Schools

Mr. Perugino – Harry S. Fisher Elementary School

PTA currently has 94 Members

March 18 – 27	Book Fair
April 4	Spelling Bee
April 24	Craft Fair (venders needed)

Again, the local PTA is sponsoring bricks for the walkway. Bricks are on sale for \$25.00. There are 3 choices. All profits will be donated to Sandy Hook.

Mr. Engle – Plymouth Center School

No Report

Mr. Orsini – Eli Terry Jr. Middle School

PTA met on January 30, 2013 and the following are the highlights of that meeting:

- Fundraising Committee is planning a McDonald's Night in May
- Hospitality Committee will be sponsoring a teacher appreciation breakfast on May 2nd.
- Highlights from Ms. Suffridge, Assistant Principal
 - Honor Roll Ice Cream Social held on February 1st
 - Student/Faculty Basketball Game February 7th
 - Teachers continue to work on reorganizing the curriculum to the common core standards.

Mr. Mordarski, math teacher, addressed some of the possible reasons why the middle school students are not performing well on the CMT. (1) students do not understand some of the math and (2) students do not follow the directions on the CMT. CMT's will be administered in March. Kickoff is scheduled for Friday, March 1st with a school dance that evening. Grade 6 Dance from 2:30 p.m. – 4:30p.m. and Grades 7 & 8 dance from 6:30 p.m. – 9 p.m. On March 5 – 8 grades 6 – 8 students will be taking 2 tests per day. Grade 8 students will be taking the science portion of the CMT on Tuesday, March 12th. The SPDG Welcome Walkthrough will take place on Thursday, February 28th from 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Winter Break, Thursday, February 13 – Monday, February 18.

The next PTA Meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 27, 2013 at 7 p.m.

Mr. Bourbonniere – Terryville High School

No Report

Mr. Berube - SEPTA

Excused absence

Ms. Cruz – PTSA Council

Ms. Cruz reported that the PTSA Council met on January 24, 2013 and reported on the following: (a) The PTA is sponsoring the Reflections Program. They currently have 58 entries from both elementary schools and middle school. State winners will be announced at the end of February. (b) The awards ceremony will be held on April 23rd at 6:30 p.m. at Terryville High School. (c) The 2013 Terryville-Plymouth 5th Grade Spelling Bee will be held on April 4th at 6:30 p.m. in the Plymouth Center School Gym. (d) Ms. Cruz indicated she will be reporting to the PTSA Council in February the outcome of the Security Task Force work.

The next PTSA Council Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 20, 2013 at Eli Terry Jr. Middle School.

Mr. Santorso – CABE

CABE "Day on the Hill" will be held on March 6th at the Bushnell in Hartford. Some of this year's legislative initiatives are: to maintain funding to local communities, fully fund the special education excess costs grant and to remove the mandates that do not support student achievement. Next meeting on March 27th in Wethersfield.

13. Final Board Comments

Mr. Engle – With respect to cameras on our school buses he urged the public, parents, PTA Members who have concerns about the safety of their children riding the school bus to attend the Town Council Meeting 1st Tuesday in March to show their support.

Mr. Orsini – Thanked Dr. Tenney and her students for an enlightened program. Commended and thanked Superintendent Cruz, Business Manager Santogatta, Dennis Klimkewicz and Joe Dennis for being there for the Town, Board and all of us. The highway department did an outstanding job of opening the roads. The safety of all the children was considered in closing the schools.

Mr. Bourbonniere – Nice presentation Dr. Tenney. Best of Luck to Mrs. Farrington, National Coach/AD of the year finalist.

Mr. Perugino - Dr. Tenney and Lisa great presentation. Thank you to the entire staff for all of the work they have done during the blizzard. An Ad Hoc Committee has been formed "Planning for the Future" which consists of Mr. Perugino, Mr. Engle, Mr. Gentile, Ms. Cruz, Mr. Falcone and Mr. Santogatta. Thank you to Ms. Cruz, Mr. Parenti and Mr. Falcone for their work on the project. More information to follow.

14. Next Regular Board Meeting

Mr. Perugino stated that the next regular Board of Education Meeting will be held on March 13, 2013 at 7 p.m. at Terryville High School.

15. Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m. Motion **Anthony Orsini** seconded **Raymond Engle** motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Gerard Bourbonniere
Secretary