



**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  
**TERRYVILLE HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA**  
33 NORTH HARWINTON AVENUE  
TERRYVILLE, CT 06786

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8, 2022

7:00 P.M.

MINUTES

Present: Mr. Seaman, Mrs. Kulesa, Mrs. Lucian, Mr. Showers, Mrs. Fusco, Mr. Foote, Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani, Mr. Perugino

Absent: Mr. Zbuska

Also Present: Mr. Falcone, Superintendent, Mrs. Mozak-Pezza, Director of Curriculum & Instruction, Mrs. Melillo, Director of Pupil Personnel & Special Education Services, Mr. Tencza, Business Manager, Mr. Trudeau, Director of Technology

1. Call to Order & Pledge to the Flag

Mr. Seaman called the special meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7 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. Showers, second Mr. Foote, any discussion, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion carries.

3. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: To entertain a motion to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of the Plymouth of Education Retreat of May 11, 2022. Motion Mrs. Lucian, second Mr. Showers, any discussion, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions (Mrs. Fusco abstains), motion carries.

MOTION: To entertain a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Plymouth Board of Education of May 11, 2022. Motion Mr. Foote, second Mr. Showers, any discussion, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions (Mrs. Fusco abstains), motion carries.

4. Presentation

\* Teacher of the Year – Matthew Bossi, Language Arts Teacher at Eli Terry Jr. Middle School – Mrs. Mozak-Pezza, Director of Curriculum & Instruction

\* Recognition of Retiring Teachers

Candace Clukey	Grade 5	Harry S. Fisher Elementary School
Deborah Grosop	Grade 5	Harry S. Fisher Elementary School
Dina Schaffrick	Grade 4	Harry S. Fisher Elementary School
Bonnie Scappaticci	Grade 1	Plymouth Center School
Jane Rossi	ELA Interventionist	Plymouth Center School

Mr. Falcone indicated these 5 teachers have 160 years of combined service to the Plymouth Public Schools. We have a token of appreciation for their service which he will be delivering to each of them next week.

\* Recognition of Graduating Student Representatives

Matthew Elwell  
Rebecca Dorsey

5. Recess

MOTION: To entertain a motion to recess at 7:08 p.m. in recognition Teacher of the Year, Retiring Teachers and Graduating Student Representatives. Motion Mr. Showers, second Mr. Foote, all in favor, motion carries.

6. Resume Regular Session

MOTION: To resume regular session at 7:13 p.m. Motion Mr. Showers, second Mr. Foote, all in favor, motion carries.

7. Student Representatives

Matthew Elwell – Sports, etc.

- \* Nick Fusco and Katie DeForest (Cross Country/Track) have dominated the Cross Country and Track competition and competed at the collegiate level.
- \* Jared Rheault – (Baseball) competed at the collegiate level.
- \* AP Exams – 9 courses at Terryville High School – 115 Students

Rebecca Dorsey

- \* Art Show – by Gina Ritchie, Art teacher at the high school
- \* June 7 – Senior Class Night/Distribution of Yearbooks
- \* May 13 – Prom Night at the Grand Oak Villa
- \* June 2 – Academic Awards Ceremony
- \* May 27 – Senior Class Trip to Holiday Hill
- \* May 26 – Scholarship Night – 120 scholarships awarded for a total of \$246,195
- \* June 14 – Graduation @ 6 p.m. outdoors with a rain date of June 15, 2022 @ 6 p.m.

Zachary Oemcke

- \* June 6 – Senior Band and Chorus Members – Dinner and Awards
- \* 2 weeks ago – Band and Chorus Trip to New Jersey for a music festival. Both Band and Chorus scored in the high 90 percentiles out of 100 earning the rank of superior. Then the group was off to Six Flags Great Adventure for a fun time
- \* 2 weeks ago – Spirit Week with many themes and a Pep Rally

Mr. Seaman, thanked all of the student representatives for their participation on the Board. Students were dismissed.

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

Randy Picard, 140 Old Waterbury Road, Terryville – Update on Terryville Public Library; Congratulated Mr. Bossi, Teacher of the Year and Recognized the Retiring Teachers.

9. **Superintendent's Update**

The Tooth Fairy Trap

\* Plymouth Center School was awarded the Phyllis Corsetti Grant from the Terryville Public Library in the amount of approximately \$1,600 for their One School, One Book Program. This grant was written by Mrs. Worhunsky.

About the Project:

- \* Each classroom received a book, The Tooth Fairy Trap which the teacher read aloud to the children.
- \* The author of the book visited the school.
- \* 212 students participated in a STEM activity by designing their own Tooth Fairy Trap from recyclables from home.
- \* Overnight, the Tooth Fairy visited Plymouth Center School and left a message behind for each student in each of the Tooth Fairy Traps.

Mrs. Worhunsky (Plymouth Center School)

Mr. Falcone expressed how grateful he was to Mrs. Worhunsky for stepping into the principal position at Plymouth Center School in our time of need. She is an amazing leader and individual. This district cannot thank her enough for all she has accomplished for the faculty, staff, parents, and children in our district.

Dr. Bonnie Doughty-Jenkins (Eli Terry Jr. Middle School)

Mr. Falcone thanked Dr. Bonnie Doughty-Jenkins for the time and effort she put in before, during and after school working with our students. She trained the entire 8<sup>th</sup> grade class in "Hands-Only" CPR and helped 12 students receive their CPA, AED and First Aid certifications.

Scholarship Night

Annual Scholarship Night took place on May 26, 2022 at Terryville High School. Mr. Falcone thanked our local businesses, community members and organizations for their support and investments in our students. All totaled, our seniors received approximately \$250,000 in one time and renewable scholarships.

Exiting of the State Partnership Insurance Plan

The district is in the process of looking to exit the State Partnership Plan. We have entered an RFP with 6 other organizations and found that United HealthCare can match our current benefit program.

Cost Savings: The State Plan is increasing 10% next year while the United Plan would only increase 6.47% and would be capped at 8% the following year.

Mr. Tencza indicated the following organizations have entered an RFP:

- Oxford Town and Board of Education
- Monroe Town and Board of Education
- Trumbull Board of Education
- Preston Town and Board of Education
- Easton and Ridgefield, Town Side

Again, Mr. Falcone indicated that he and Mr. Tencza will be sharing more specific information with the Board at the August meeting.

In conclusion, Mr. Falcone, based on the horrific situation that occurred in Texas, assured the Board and parents that the district will continue to focus on our number one priority, the safety and wellbeing of our faculty, staff and students. The district will focus on purchasing additional resources and modifying protocols and procedures to keep our schools safe.

Mr. Falcone thanked the Board and the community for their support in his first year as superintendent. It has been an interesting year. As a Board much was accomplished this year and the district is moving in an unbelievable direction. The Board should be proud of their accomplishments and he is proud to be a part of this team. Wishes for a nice, long relaxing summer.

10. **New Business**

A. **Out of State & Out of the Country Field Trips**

MOTION: To entertain a motion to approve an out of the country field trip to Iceland to provide students in grades 10 – 12 an opportunity to participate in the Explore Iceland Tour with the EF Tour Company.

Motion: Mr. Showers, second Mrs. Fusco, any discussion.

The group will travel to two cities in Iceland with an expert tour guide over a span of 7 or 8 days. The students will learn about tectonic plates, geothermal energy, visit a Viking town, and walk on a glacier. The proposed trip will take place either April vacation of 2023 or June of 2023. Minimum number of students 6, maximum 24 (without adding another chaperone). Departments: Special Education, Art, Mathematics, and Family & Consumer Science, any further discussion all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion.

MOTION: To entertain a motion to approve an out of state field trip to Walt Disney World Resort in Orlando, Florida for high school band and chorus students in grades 9 – 12 from March 23, - March 26, 2022.

Motion Mrs. Lucian, second Mr. Foote, all in favor, any opposed, motion carries.

B. **Authorization to Hire** (Not Acted Upon)

Mr. Perugino – I have something for New Business. He was mowing his lawn today and someone asked me about cafeteria workers getting a bonus. Is that true or not?

Mr. Seaman – We're going to talk about that in the finance section.

Mr. Perugino - Okay

11. **Board Member/Committee Reports**

A. **Finance/Operations** - Mr. Tencza, Business Manager

- Included in the packet are the following: Accounts by Facilities Report for May 2022 and 5 different submissions; (1) Business Office Activity Report; (2) Board of Education Budget Summary through May, 2022 Report; (3) Cumulative Total Board of Education Budget % by Month; (4) Food Service Report; and (5) Capital Improvement Plan 2021 - 2030.
- The Accounts by Facilities Reports will be forwarded to the Town of Plymouth Board of Finance

Mr. Tencza apologized for the typos in his report. He then addressed the cafeteria price increases. After discussions with Mr. Falcone and the Food Service Director, it was felt it is in the best interest of families not to have a price increase for the school lunches at this time. With the rising cost of inflation, we, as a district, do not want to add another burden to the families. However, he indicated he has heard the State is going to allocate \$30 million for free meals in 2022 and 2023, but feels the amount the district will receive will not cover the entire school year but will help.

Mr. Seaman – Mr. Seaman felt the right decision was made.

Mr. Perugino – The meals some of the students receive at school is possibly the only healthy meal they will eat all day. He is happy there will be no price increase.

Mr. Seaman – The cafeteria workers in all of our schools, even thru COVID, really stepped up and went above and beyond their job. Mr. Perugino, you had a question earlier. Did we answer that for you?

Mr. Perugino – I had a question regarding bonuses. Were the cafeteria workers given a bonus?

Mr. Seaman – Mr. Tencza was asked to comment on this.

Mr. Tencza – Mr. Tencza explained that based on the success of the program, the district was only allowed to carry over so much money. It was obligated to reinvest back into the program. This was done through the purchase of new equipment, trying to do some things for the cafeteria workers for their facilities and so forth. During a conversation with Mr. Falcone, Mr. Tencza indicated there was still some money left over.

While purchasing a piece of equipment would be great, he suggested why not invest in our cafeteria workers. These individuals are the lowest paid employees in the district. Mr. Falcone was in agreement. It was proposed to give our cafeteria workers a bonus which amounted to essentially, for this year \$50 a month. If done over the course of 2 years this would amount of \$25 per month. Both Mr. Falcone and Mr. Tencza informed Mr. Seaman who agreed and felt the district should take care of its people, if we can. But they also need to understand that the district is not able to do this all of the time.

Mr. Perugino – Mr. Perugino explained he had no problem with taking care of the district’s workers, however, he indicated he would have probably brought this to the Board. By doing so, if any Board Member was approached regarding this matter, they would be able to respond. He was thankful and appreciative for the information.

Mr. Tencza (to Mr. Seaman)– Front sidewalks – The day before yesterday, he heard it was assigned to a contractor and they will begin work. That was his understanding. It came from the town.

Mr. Seaman – We will talk about that after.

B. Personnel Report

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

None

13. Board Liaison Reports

Mr. Perugino -- Harry S. Fisher Elementary School

- \* June 7 - He attended the Spring and Chorus Concert and Art Show
- \* Book Fair
- \* June 13 @ 9:30 a.m. Grade 5 Promotion
- \* June 14 – Field Day
- \* June 15 – Grade 5 Picnic

Mr. Zbuska -- Plymouth Center School

Absent

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

- \* Shirts were purchased for every child and staff member whether they were going on a field trip.
- \* Every student was given a pre-filled \$20 gift card for the field trip to Lake Compounce. If an 8<sup>th</sup> grader was absent or not going on the trip, they still received a prefilled \$20 visa gift card.
- \* PTA helped pay for CPR cards.
- \* PTA helped Ms. Suffridge with getting awards for the testing period.
- \* Plymouth Center, Harry S. Fisher Elementary and Eli Terry Jr. Middle Schools – gifts were purchased for the bus drivers and crossing guards.
- \* Ms. Suffridge’s last year as principal of the middle school was given a good bye party.
- \* Officers have been elected for next year. Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani will be treasurer.

Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani -- Booster Club

- \* Meeting was cancelled
- \* Sports Awards
- \* New officers elected for next year
- \* Urged parents to please get involved in the Booster Club

Mrs. Kulesa -- Terryville High School

No Report

Mr. Perugino -- CABE

- \* Robert Rader, Executor Director is retiring after 26 years.
- \* Patrice McCarthy, General Council will become the new Executor Director.
- \* Upcoming Workshops – Mr. Perugino is interested in School Safety Workshops

Mrs. Fusco

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EdAdvance

- \* Head Start was unanimously approved for prenatal for the rest of this school year and 2022 – 2023.
- \* SNAP will now be recognized as a form of public assistance to determine recipients who will be Eligible for that program.
- \* State Officers were elected for 2022 – 2023.
- \* Approved Executive Director Evaluation and contract extension – new 3-year agreement from July 1, 2022, June 30, 2025.
- \* Wellness Committee and Events Planning Team organized a Summer Food Truck Festival which was a success.
- \* Open enrollment for Health Benefits held, in the process of revamping their agency committee structure. Smaller committees will be under one single umbrella.

Mr. Showers

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District Safety Committee

Next meet scheduled for August

Mr. Seaman believes this date will be moved up. He went on to say the safety of our students has and always will be the district's number one priority. These meetings are very involved. Plans are sent to the State and reviewed. Some agencies on the District Safety Committee are: Ambulance Corps, Emergency Management, Police Department, School Administrative Team and Fire Department.

In view of the recent incident in Texas, Mr. Falcone indicated he has received phone calls from a number of parents and community members regarding safety. Some questions were: Does the district meet and do we practice safety procedures. Mr. Falcone indicated his answers were very vague because all information is not shared intentionally. Mr. Falcone indicated he has taken and returned all calls. Individuals are very understanding and relieved to know that we all are prepared for whatever may come our way.

Mr. Perugino indicated legislators are speaking about one door. They do not realize that more than one door is needed for egress for safety purposes.

Mr. Seaman indicated as a district we need to make educated and informed decisions. Things need to be sustainable.

14. **Board Comments**

Mr. Perugino – Enjoyed the Art Show. Pleased with the contracts for the Superintendent and Business Manager. The district has more work to be done. He is happy the students will be graduating as a group this year. Congratulated the Teacher of the Year, Matthew Bossi.

Mrs. Candrea-Florenciani – She loves this time of the year. She commented on the following: graduation, end of the year activities, upcoming staff changes, monies raised for field trips this year, 5<sup>th</sup> grade party entertainment and food. Great job by the PTA in raising money. Thanked everyone for their help.

Mrs. Lucian – Wished families and students a nice, happy and safe summer.

Mrs. Kulesa – Congratulations to our graduating seniors, happy retirement our retirees, and congratulations to the Teacher of the Year.

Mr. Foote – Expressed his views to the Board in a written presentation with respect to the tragedy in Texas.

Mrs. Fusco – passed

Mr. Showers – No comment

Mr. Seaman – Expressed his disappointment in Mr. Foote's written presentation. Everyone has views and has a right to those views, however, this was not the forum to bring this up at.

Congratulated Mr. Bossi, Teacher of the Year, thanked the Administrative Team, Central Office, and Teachers. Good people are being hired. We are moving and will continue to move in a good direction. To our graduates, this is not an ending but only just a small step going forward for the rest of your lives. Best of Luck



15. **Next Board Meeting** –The next regular meeting of the Plymouth Board of Education will be on Wednesday, August 17, 2022 (which is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month) at 7 p.m. in the cafeteria at Terryville High School.

16. **Personnel-Related Matters** (Executive Session Anticipated)

MOTION: To entertain a motion to enter into executive session at 8:03 p.m. to discuss the following Personnel-Related matters inviting Mr. Falcone, Superintendent of Schools into executive session.

- a) Transfer of Administrator's position.
- b) Address the current agreement on the number of Assistant Principal contractual work days.
- c) Athletic Director
- d) High School Department Leader MOU

Motion Mr. Showers, second Mrs. Lucian, any discussion, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion carries.

17. **Resume Regular Session**

MOTION: To entertain a motion to resume regular session at 8:37 p.m. Motion Mr. Foote, second Mr. Perugino, any discussion, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion carries.

18. **Possible Action on Personnel-Related Matters**

MOTION: To entertain a motion to approve the transfer of Administrator's position as discussed in executive session. Motion Mrs. Lucian, second Mr. Showers, any discussion on the motion, hearing none, all in favor, opposed, abstentions, motion carries.


MOTION: To entertain a motion to approve the number of Assistant Principal contractual work days as discussed in executive session. Motion Mr. Showers, second Mrs. Fusco, any discussion on the motion, hearing none, all in favor, opposed, abstentions, motion carries.

MOTION: To entertain a motion to approve the Athletic Director for the Plymouth School District as discussed in executive session. Motion Mr. Showers, second Mrs. Fusco, any discussion on the motion, hearing none, all in favor, opposed, abstentions, motion carries.

MOTION: To entertain a motion to approve the High School Department MOU as discussed in executive session. Motion Mrs. Fusco, second Mr. Perugino, any discussion on the motion, hearing none, all in favor, opposed, abstentions, motion carries/motion fails.

19. **Adjournment**

MOTION: To entertain a motion to adjourn 8:39 p.m. Motion Mr. Perugino, second, Mrs. Fusco, all in favor, motion carries.

  
Patricia Piskorski  
Recording Secretary  
Plymouth Board of Education