

## 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  
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2013  
TERRYVILLE HIGH SCHOOL  
AUDITORIUM  
7:00 P.M.

### MINUTES

Present: Board Members – Mr. Melchionna, Mr. Perugino, Mrs. Johnson, Mr. Gentile, Mr. Goodwin, Mr. Orsini, Mrs. Kulesa and Mr. Engle

Excused Absence: Dr. Wheeler

Others: Ms. Cruz, Superintendent, Mr. Parenti, Director of Pupil Personnel, Dr. Tenney, Director of Curriculum & Instruction, Mr. Santogatta, Business Manager and Mr. Trudeau, Director of Technology

1. Call to Order and Pledge to the Flag

Mr. Engle called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. and the group joined in the pledge to the flag.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

MOTION: To adopt the agenda as presented. Motion Mr. Orsini, seconded Mr. Gentile, motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: To Amend the Agenda to table Item I, Retirement Incentive. Motion Mr. Gentile, seconded Mrs. Johnson, motion passed unanimously.

3. Approval of following Minutes

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of November 13, 2013 and the Special Board Meeting of December 5, 2013. Motion Mr. Orsini, seconded Melissa Johnson, motion passed unanimously

4. Presentations

- Terryville High School Chorus and Drumline
- School Performance Index presented by Ms. Cruz
- Assessment Audit presented by Ms. Cruz

5. Public Comment Regarding Agenda Items

Roxanne Perugino, 82 Allen Street, Terryville, CT – expressed some concerns about expenditures incurred and to be incurred with respect to Harvard.

Mark Berube, 48 Ronald Road, Terryville, CT – commented on individuals speaking about money expenditures. Would like to see the Board support the superintendent.

Gerard Bourbonniere, 6 Fairmount Avenue, Terryville, CT – expressed some concerns about the allocation of funds and the appropriation of the monies spent at the CABA/CAPSS Convention.

6. Communications

Ms. Cruz, Superintendent, was informed by the Commissioner of Education, Stefan Pryor that we had four students who achieved at the Advanced Level on all four areas of the Connecticut Academic Performance Test administered last year. Congratulations to:

Natalie Selavka  
Justin Furtado

George Andrews  
Theodore Kramarz

Mr. Engle indicated he has spoken with Dr. Sweeney from Windsor Locks regarding the possibility of sending a delegation from our Plymouth Board of Education sometime in January/February to review their Community Education Program.

7. Old Business  
A. Superintendent's Contract

MOTION: To approve the Superintendent's Contract as presented. Motion Mr. Gentile, seconded Mrs. Johnson, roll vote: Mrs. Johnson, Mr. Melchionna, Mrs. Kulesa, Mr. Orsini and Mr. Gentile all voted in favor of the motion. Mr. Goodwin and Mr. Perugino abstained. 5 yes, 2 abstained, motion passes.

8. New Business  
A. Resignations/Retirement

Ms. Cruz informed the Board Members that she has accepted the following resignations: **Dean Martin** In School Suspension Monitor at Terryville High School, effective December 18, 2013, **Leanne Scaglione** part-time paraprofessional at Terryville High School, effective November 15, 2013 and **David Bernadino** part-time paraprofessional at Eli Terry Jr. Middle School effective January 13, 2014.

I have accepted, for the purpose of retirement, the resignation of **Judith Kosikowski**, library paraprofessional at Harry S. Fisher Elementary School effective at the end of the 2013 – 2014 school year.

B. Wellness Policy

A draft of the Plymouth Public Schools Wellness Policy was included in each Board Members Packet for a first reading.

C. Board of Education Retreat

Board Retreat to be scheduled sometime in January inviting the Board Attorney Rich Mills. Possible items to discuss, Roberts Rules, Freedom of Information Act, etc. Ms. Cruz will e-mail some dates to the Board Members.

D. Guidelines for the Use of Board of Education – Issued Chrome Books

A draft of the Guidelines for the Use of Board of Education-Issued Chrome Books has been included in each Board Members packet for their review.

#### E. Appointments

**MOTION:** To recommend the following appointments: **Dean Martin** to the position of Fitness Supervisor at Terryville High School effective December 19, 2013 for the remainder of the 2013 – 2014 school year effective December 19, 2013; **Linda Farrington**, to the position of Girls’ and Boys’ Intramurals Advisor at Terryville High School for the 2013 – 2014 school year; **Hilda Llanos**, to the position of part-time paraprofessional in the STAR Program at Terryville High School effective December 19, 2013; **Charlotte Jeanner**, to the position of part-time pre-k paraprofessional at Harry S. Fisher Elementary School effective December 19, 2013 and **Tracey Morin** to the position of Literacy Tutor at Plymouth Center School effective December 19, 2013. Motion Mr. Perugino, seconded Mrs. Johnson, motion passed unanimously.

#### F. Destruction of Outdated Textbooks

Ms. Cruz informed the Board that rather than destroying the text books, Dr. Tenney has indicated they will now be donated.

**MOTION:** To approve the modification from destruction to the donation of the following outdated textbooks: Social Studies – Silver Burdett & Ginn – People in Time and Place: Comparing Regions 1991 (approximately 75 student editions) and Science – Scott, Foresman – Discover Science – 1991 (approximately 75 student editions). Motion Mrs. Johnson seconded Mr. Melchionna, motion passed unanimously.

#### G. Addenda for the Teacher and Administrator Evaluation Documents

**MOTION:** To approve the following three addenda be added to both the teacher evaluation plan and the administrator evaluation plan as Plymouth will be conducting Smarter Balanced Field Testing in English Language Arts and Math, in lieu of CMT and CAPT, in the spring of 2014.

#### Addendum #1 for Teacher Evaluation Plan:

Pending U.S. Department of Education’s approval of CT’s request for flexibility on the use of student test date in 2013-2014, the Plymouth Public Schools will not require that 22.5% of a teacher’s summative rating incorporate state test data. Alternatively, the 45% student growth and development component will be composed of 22.5% standardized assessments

for those grades and subjects where available and appropriate and the other 22.5% will be based on a minimum of one non-standardized indicator and a maximum of one additional standardized indicator (in accordance with the Guidelines). If there are no standardized assessments available and/or appropriate, then the educator's entire 45% student learning outcomes component would be based fully on non-standardized indicators in the 2013-2014 year.

Addendum #2 for Teacher Evaluation Plan:

Pending U.S. Department of Education's approval of CT's request for flexibility on the use of student test data in 2013-2014, the Plymouth Public Schools will not require that the teacher's student learning component incorporate SPI progress. In lieu of the use of the SPI for elementary teachers, the SPI rating (5%) will be the same as the teacher's SLO rating (on a scale of 1-4).

Addendum for Administrator Evaluation Plan:

Pending U.S. Department of Education's approval of CT's request for flexibility on the use of student test data in 2013-2014, the Plymouth Public Schools will not require that 22.5% of the administrator's student learning component incorporate SPI progress. Given this adjustment, the entire 45% of an administrator's rating on student learning shall be based on locally-determined indicators.

Motion Mr. Perugino, seconded Mr. Orsini, opposed Mr. Gentile, motion passes.

**H. Out of State Trip to Japan – MOTION ITEM**

MOTION: To approve the out-of-state trip to Japan from April 9 – April 19, 2014. Motion Mrs. Johnson, seconded Mr. Goodwin, motion passed unanimously.

There will be no cost to the Board for the trip to Japan. Money will be raised via fundraisers, grants, and working with the travel agency.

I. Proposed Retirement Incentive – Item tabled until January 6, 2014 Finance Subcommittee Meeting.

**9. Board Member / Committee Reports**

Curriculum – Mrs. Kulesa

The Curriculum Subcommittee met on December 4, 2013 and reviewed the following items: Japanese Initiative; District Improvement Plan; Assessment Audit; and the School Performance Index.

- A. **MOTION:** To add a course to the World Language Program, Japanese, for the 2014 -2015 school year. Motion Mrs. Kulesa seconded Mr. Orsini, roll vote: Mr. Melchionna, Mr. Perugino, Mrs. Johnson, Mr. Gentile, Mr. Orsini, Mr. Goodwin and Mrs. Kulesa all voted in favor of the motion, motion passed unanimously.
- B. Facilities – will meet in the month of January
- C. Finance – No Meeting
- D. Negotiations – (**Mr. Gentile**)
  - Mediation will be held on January 7, 2013 at 6 p.m. with Local UAW 376, secretaries and paraprofessionals.
- E. Personnel – (**Mr. Goodwin**) Items addressed under New Business
- F. Policy - (**Mr. Goodwin**) Items addressed under New Business
- G. Safety/Transportation – Meeting to be held in January, 2014
- H. Education Connection – **Mrs. Kulesa**  
No Report
- I. Student Representatives

**Alexandra Bellanger**- reported on the following:

The Girls' Basketball team has played 2 games thus far; The Boy's played their first basketball game on Wednesday December 18<sup>th</sup> and it was an away game. Their first home game is on December 20; the wrestling team had its first meet on December 18; THS vs Thomaston – January 17; and the wrestling time practice at MSS is working out perfectly.

**Sazan Dauti** - reported on the following:

December 18 – Student Council Blood Drive  
December 19 - Ugly Christmas Sweater Day  
December 20 - Board & Chorus Concert at 7 p.m.

**Jonathan Zalaski** – reported on the following:

November 21 – midterms begin

December 18 – Cookies with Santa in the THS cafeteria

December 19 – Drama Club Cast List for the spring musical to be posted.

January 14 – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade orientation with parents meeting @ 7 p.m.

10. Administrative Reports / Requests / Information

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

No report

**Mr. Trudeau**, Director of Technology

Mr. Trudeau thanked the crew for the night's broadcast; updated the Board on the new telephone system and the educational technology grant.

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

Mr. Parenti addressed: the special education department and its achievements; budget; raising test scores; co-teaching model for the next school year and reinstatement of the IDEA Grant reduction due to sequestration.

**Mr. Santogatta**, Business Manager

Mr. Santogatta addressed: the special education tuition account and transferring money from the public account to the non-public account to cover some out of district tuitions; medical accounts; payroll accounts, 2014-2015 budget, utility accounts and the healthcare fund.

**Ms. Cruz**, Superintendent of Schools

Ms. Cruz shared a brief video highlighting the administrator's trip to Harvard. The video showed how this visit helps to develop instructional leaders. Mrs. Radke, Dr. Tenney and Mr. Parenti shared their personal experiences with respect to Harvard.

11. Public Comments Regarding Agenda or Non-Agenda Items

Gerry Bourbonniere, 6 Fairmount Avenue, Terryville, CT – shared the Connecticut section of the December 6 edition of the Hartford Courant regarding school scores; and expressed his feeling with respect to the cost of the new boilers at Eli Terry Jr. Middle School and Harry S. Fisher Elementary School.

Christopher Simo-Kinzer, 52 Old Farm Road, Terryville, CT – spoke on the Common Core State Standards

Roxanne Perugino, 82 Allen Street, Terryville, CT – commented on the administrators attending Harvard. Not against the administrators receiving more information but just in a less expensive manner.

Mark Berube, 48 Ronald Road, Terryville, CT – commented on the administrators attending Harvard and its importance; school scores; and the district changing its focus.

Bill Heering, 17 Prospect Street, Terryville, CT – introduced himself as the Board Liaison; commented on the importance of being an elected official; Roberts Rules of Order; FOI; and changing the agenda for a special meeting.

Pattie DeHuff , 20 Lynn Avenue, Terryville, CT – addressed the trip to Japan and the Board Chair asking for a reason why a Board member(s) chose to abstain.

12. Reports of Board Liaisons to Schools

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

No Report

Plymouth Center School – **Mr. Melchionna**

No Report

Eli Terry Jr. Middle School – **Dr. Wheeler**

Excused Absence

Terryville High School – **Mr. Goodwin**

No Report – will be scheduling a tour of the high school with Mr. Falcone

Special Education PTA – **Mrs. Johnson**

**SEPTA** had its Christmas Pot Luck Supper  
There was a representative speaker from Connecticut Arc who spoke on transitional services and beyond; funding or lack thereof; where funding and services come; and working with the Department of Developmental Services

PTA Council – **Ms. Cruz, Superintendent**

No Report

CABE – **Mr. Gentile**

No Report

13. To discuss and take possible action on the appointment of a principal at Eli Terry Jr. Middle School. (NOTE: The discussion regarding these items may occur in executive session).

No Action taken

14. Final Board Comments (If necessary)

Mr. Perugino – Band and Drumline presentation tremendous.

Mrs. Johnson –commented on the need to quorum on both the Board and Public side; following Roberts Rules of Order and Board Rule Policies; and to focus on what is important “the kids”.

Mr. Gentile – commented on the evening; Roberts Rules of Order and to focus on the kids.

Mr. Orsini – Thanked Mr. Keene and the students for the fantastic performance and to his dedication to students.

Mr. Goodwin – requested the Board review the Wellness Policy and provide comments. The foundation is to have healthy and safe children.

Mrs. Kulesa – thanked everyone who came to the podium to speak as she enjoys hearing professional discourse although we may not agree. Looks forward to any presentations brought to the Board by the students. Happy & Healthy Holiday Season.

15. Next Regular Board Meeting – January 8, 2014

16. Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn at 9:22 p.m. Motion Mrs. Johnson seconded Mr. Orsini, motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dr. Wheeler  
Secretary  
Plymouth Board of Education