

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, June 12, 2013
Terryville High School Cafeteria*

MINUTES

Present:

Board: Patrick Perugino, Mark Berube, Raymond Engle, Gerard Bourbonniere, Martin Wetzel, Karen Kulesa and Daniel Santorso

Excused Absence: Anthony Orsini and Daniel Gentile

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

1. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

Mr. Perugino called the meeting to order at 7:10 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 **Daniel Santorso**, motion passed unanimously.*

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

*MOTION: To approve the minutes of the: Regular Meeting, May 8, 2013
Personnel Subcommittee, May 8, 2013
Finance Subcommittee, May 8, 2013
Facilities Subcommittee, May 28, 2013
Facilities Subcommittee, June 4, 2013
Curriculum Subcommittee, June 5, 2013
and to amend the motion by adding the Facilities Subcommittee meeting of June 11, 2013.*

*MOTION: **Martin Wetzel**, seconded **Daniel Santorso**, motion passed unanimously.*

4. PRESENTATION

A. Sam Ferreira and George Andrews, two members of the Terryville High School Wrestling Team addressed the Board with respect to the issue of relocating the wrestling room due to the pieces of equipment received from the PEP Grant.

B. Plymouth's Teacher of the Year – The introduction of Plymouth's Teacher of the Year, George Bikakis, was made by Dr. Tenney, Cynthia Badenhop and John Mordarski.

C. Megan Bourn an 8th grader at Eli Terry Jr. Middle School read the poetry she submitted to the State's Commission on Children which expressed her feelings on the Newtown Tragedy.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS

None

6. COMMUNICATIONS

None

7. OLD BUSINESS

None

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. End of the Year Transfer of Funds

MOTION: To authorize the Superintendent of Schools to make the necessary transfers and expenditures to close the books as of June 30, 2013, and to expend all appropriate funds for the fiscal year 2012 – 2013. Motion **Raymond Engle** seconded **Gerard Bourbonniere** motion passed unanimously.

B. Participation in the National School Lunch Program

MOTION: To approve the authorization of the administration to participate in the National School Lunch Program for the 2013 – 2014 school year. Motion **Daniel Santorso** seconded **Raymond Engle** motion passed unanimously.

C. Authorization to Hire

MOTION: To authorize the Superintendent of Schools to hire personnel, except administrators, during the months of July and August in conjunction with the Personnel Subcommittee Chair. Motion **Martin Wetzel** seconded **Gerard Bourbonniere** motion passed unanimously.

D. Approval of Food Service Provider

MOTION: To approve **Chartwell's Food Service Provider** to again provide the food services operations for the Plymouth Public Schools beginning July 1, 2013 and continuing through June 30, 2014. Motion **Gerard Bourbonniere** seconded **Raymond Engle** motion passed unanimously.

E. Out-of-State Field Trips

MOTION: To approve an out-of-state field trip for students in the 7th and 8th grade Chorus and Band at Eli Terry Jr. Middle School to attend the Great East Festival and Six Flags Park on May 23, 2014 and to approve an out-of-state field trip for grades 9 – 12 students in the Drama Club, Art Club and TV Production at Terryville High School to Disney World Florida on April 11 – April 15, 2014. Motion **Raymond Engle** seconded **Gerard Bourbonniere** motion passed unanimously.

F. Appointments

MOTION: To appoint **Monica Negron** to the position of Spanish Teacher at Eli Terry Jr. Middle School beginning on August 23, 2013. Motion **Martin Wetzel** seconded **Gerard Bourbonniere** motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: To appoint **Kirstin Ondruch** to the position of Family & Consumer Science Teacher at Eli Terry Jr. Middle School beginning on August 23, 2013. Motion **Daniel Santorso** seconded **Martin Wetzel**, motion passed unanimously.

G. Childbearing Leave

MOTION: To approve a request for childbearing leave for **Laura Gagnon**, science teacher at Terryville High School beginning on or about November 22, 2013. Motion **Gerard Bourbonniere** seconded **Martin Wetzel** motion passed unanimously.

H. Strategic School Profile

Ms. Cruz informed the Board Members that the State Department of Education has released the Strategic School Profiles for the 2010 – 2011 school year. The profiles are available on the district website as well as in each individual school for parents or the community. The Strategic School Profiles were reviewed by the Curriculum Subcommittee at the June 5, 2013 meeting.

I. Security Task Force

Ms. Cruz update the Board Members with regards to the Security Task Force indicating the next meeting is scheduled to take place on June 24, 2013. At that time, the task force will finalization its recommendations to the Board. A full report will be discussed at the August Board Meeting and will include an update on the security upgrades that have already taken place and are planned for completion this summer. Information cards for parents and staff were shared with Board Members at the meeting.

9. BOARD MEMBER/COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Curriculum – Mrs. Kulesa, Chair

Mrs. Kulesa reported on the following:

The Curriculum Subcommittee met on June 5, 2013 at 5:30 p.m. The following items were discussed: (1) Carol W. White Physical Education Program (PEP) Grant Update – Lisa Daly, the PEP Grant Coordinator provided an update on this year's accomplishments through the PEP grant. The accomplishments mentioned were: the School Health Survey Index; the middle and high schools receiving wellness centers this summer; purchase of kinesiology tables for the elementary schools; outdoor bicycles for the middle school which will be used during PE classes; after school fitness classes at the elementary schools, i.e. cardio fitness and running clubs; physical education and health curricula updates; implementation of fitness testing standards; and reinstatement of the Wellness Committee; (2) **2010-2011 Strategic School Profiles** – Some areas for future consideration were highlighted by Ms. Cruz, i.e. the identification of gifted students; the variation in student performance school to school; and the district identification rate for special education which is above the state average.

B. Facilities – Mr. Engle, Chair

The Facilities Subcommittee meetings:

May 28, 2013: Solar Panel Project – Installation of an 8 acre solar farm; 20 year project; a guaranteed reduction in the electrical rate; virtual savings passed onto the rest of the town; grant needs to be submitted by June 23; and Town Council needed to approve this request which they did on June 5, 2013.

June 4, 2013: Miscellaneous Matters: Kangaroo Mascot, weighted and bolted down and stands at the entrance of Terryville High School; benches to be installed in front of the high school; reviewed the possibility of renovating the house on Harwinton Avenue, this project is in the early stages, nothing is concrete, it would house Central Office.

June 11, 2013 – The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the relocation of the wrestling room due to the equipment received from the PEP Grant which needs to be stored in the fitness room. Three members of the wrestling team attended the meeting. The three major options were: (1) use of the cafeteria in the high school for practice; (2) the gymnasium at the high school; and (3) Main Street School. Mr. Engle read the following motion: Motion: To explore the following options: (1) to have a feasibility study done with respect to installing showers in the girls' bathroom at Main Street School and (2) to have a feasibility study done for a 100' x 150' addition located off of the gymnasium wing (south) for multiuse for the community and fitness center. These motions were passed at the Facilities Subcommittee Meeting of June 11, 2013. However, there is nothing concrete at this time.

Mr. Engle brought the following motion to the full Board for their approval.

MOTION: To explore the following options: (1) To have a feasibility study done with respect to installing showers in the girls' bathroom at Main Street School and (2) To have a feasibility study done for an addition to the south side of the gymnasium wing of a size of approximately 100 x 150 for multiuse as a community and fitness center. Motion **Mr. Bourbonniere** seconded **Mrs. Kulesa** motion passed unanimously.

The projected time frame for the feasibility study to be done is by August. Quotes are to be submitted by the end of June. Once feasibility is done, it would go to referendum. Time frame would be from 2 to 4 years. Mr. Engle also stated that it is our intention that at the current time that this is

a free use community fitness center. There would be no charge. Long term goal is to have the fitness equipment moved to the new area and the room would return to the wrestling room. With respect to transportation, Ms. Cruz indicated we would be in contact with the bus company but foresee no issue with transportation at this time. A facilities capital improvement list was discussed and the committee is in the process of prioritizing.

C. Finance – Mr. Bourbonniere, Chair

The Finance Subcommittee met prior to the Board of Education Meeting and reviewed the accounts by facilities report for the month of May and moved that it be forwarded to the Town of Plymouth Board of Finance.

The Finance Subcommittee approved forwarding a transfer in the amount of \$35,000 to the full Board for their approval. The following motion was made:

Mr. Bourbonniere entertained the following motions:

MOTION: To approve the transfers to accounts for Terryville High School Building Maintenance and Certified Substitute as discussed during the Finance Subcommittee Meeting. Motion **Martin Wetzel** seconded **Raymond Engle**, motion passed unanimously.

D. Negotiations – Mr. Wetzel, Chair

There will be a Labor Hearing with regards to the UAW Local 376 on Friday, June 14, 2013 at 2 p.m. at the Board of Education Offices.

E. Personnel – Mr. Berube, Chair

Mr. Berube reported all items were addressed under new business.

F. Policy – Mr. Berube, Chair

No Report

G. Safety & Transportation – Mr. Orsini, Chair

Excused Absence

H. Education Connection - Mrs. Kulesa

No regular meeting, however, will meet on Monday, June 17, 2013.

I. Student Representatives

Mr. Perugino announced the student representatives for 2013 – 2014. They are seniors, Jonathan Zalaski and Sazan Dauti and junior, Alexander Belanger.

10. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS/REQUESTS/INFORMATION

Mr. Parenti, Director of Pupil Personnel

This is a very busy time of the year in the special education department. He thanked his team of Jan Basoli and Tyson Stoddard. Staffing is being finalized for next year. Mr. Parenti has been working with Dr. Tenney on the summer program. With respect to unified sports, Wolcott does not have a high interest; however, Plymouth will be going forward with unified sports. Soccer will take place in the fall and track will take place in the spring.

Dr. Tenney – Director of Curriculum and Instruction/District
Administrator In Charge

Congratulations again to George Bikakis. Dr. Tenney encouraged him to apply for State Teacher of the Year.

Dr. Tenney spoke about the summer programs and trying to encourage students to continue to learn over the summer. The goal is for students to become lifelong learners. The elementary academy has been expanded to five weeks. Plymouth has partnered up with Education Connection. The first 2 weeks will be sponsored by Education Connection. Summer reading packets will be distributed to elementary students shortly. The middle school will be establishing a book club. There is also a plan on organizing our summer work schedule in terms of curriculum revision and assessment revision to be aligned to the new tests coming out.

Mr. Trudeau, Director of Technology

Mr. Trudeau acknowledged Mr. Bikakis and the work he's doing with the students. He thanked tonight's team, Jeff, Connor, and Mr. Maslak. The technology department is preparing for the summer and will be working hand in hand with maintenance as they work in the rooms, waxing the floors, etc. and equipment has to be moved. Mr. Trudeau has met with Mr. Santogatta and Mr. Lorenzetti and to date 5 phone vendors who have been proposing various solutions. The end of the year procedures are beginning to take place.

Mr. Sangotatta, Business Manager

Mr. Santogatta thanked the Facilities Subcommittee for their support with respect to the Solar Project, the Mayor and the Town Council for placing the matter on the Agenda. Winding down the fiscal year, it was a successful year, \$100,000 in cost savings.

On the facilities side: problems with the air conditioning system at Terryville High School (corrected); air exchange units at the high school; boiler burners down and disconnected at the middle school and electrical has been removed. Total projection for the boilers at the middle school is approximately \$450,000 with a cost savings of approximately \$50,000.

Ms. Cruz, Superintendent

Ms. Cruz reported the following:

The Annual Scholarship Night was held on May 30, 2013 at Terryville High School. The sum of \$230,000 was awarded to Plymouth students in the form of scholarships. Ms. Cruz thanked the community for their generosity and congratulations went out to the students receiving the scholarships.

Ms. Cruz thanked the administrators and teachers for a wonderful and productive year and for their instructional leadership.

A happy and healthy summer to the students and staff.

Thank you to the Board for their continued support and encouragement. Best wishes for a restful and enjoyable summer break.

The last day of school is on Friday, June 21st. Promotion exercises at Eli Terry Jr. Middle School will be held at 10 a.m. while the graduation ceremony will be held at 7 p.m. at Terryville High School.

11. PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING AGENDA/NON AGENDA ITEMS

Devlin Toth, 31Eastview Road, Terryville, CT – Requested that the Board consider putting together a committee to allow students to attend a school outside of where they reside. Felt he was done a disservice by not being told his daughter was going to be attending Plymouth Center after FRC.

Ms. Cruz (response) – Ms. Cruz informed Mr. Toth that quite a few parents have approached her and building administrators as to where they would like their child to attend school. She explained that unfortunately, if we were to allow one student to attend a different school it would open the door for any parent to come forward. This would set a precedent. Ms. Cruz went on to explain that although this is obviously not a problem for the middle or high schools it does pose some really significant challenges for the 2 elementary schools. She went on to explain she believes it would be unfair to allow one family a waiver and say “no” to another family. This decision is not made in isolation. Building administrators and sometimes staff, are consulted. Ms. Cruz spoke to Mr. Perugino, Board Chair and indicated there are some concerns and he was not the first parent to come forward. She indicated that he brought up a good point and indicated Mr. Berube is Chair of the Policy Subcommittee and we certainly can revisit our policy and bring it to the Board and see if this is something that can be reconsidered for families going forward. But currently, this is the process we have in place and in all fairness to all of the families she has met with in the last couple of months those had to be the decisions. Communication is key and we can certainly work with FRC and be able to communicate that with parents so that you would have had different choices or options available to you before you enrolled your daughter.

Mr. Berube – Thanked Mr. Toth for coming forward and bringing this matter to the Board’s attention. The policy subcommittee will at least review the policy again and bring it to the Board.

12. BOARD LIAISONS TO SCHOOLS

Mr. Perugino– Harry S. Fisher Elementary School

No Meeting

June 13	State Fair – 9 a.m. – 11 a.m.
June 18	DARE Graduation – 5 th gr picnic beginning at 9:30 a.m.
June 19	Field Day
June 21	Last Day of School
August 28	First Day of School for Students

Mr. Engle – Plymouth Center School

No Report – unable to attend due to a conflict of meetings.

June 13 Grade 5 Awards
June 17 Field Day
June 18 Kindergarten Picnic

Mr. Bourbonnire – Terryville High School

The Aftergrad meeting is on June 13, 2013. Seniors will be graduating on June 21st. They will be a dance after graduation. Aftergrad party will take place on June 22, 2013. Outstanding job done by the parents.

Mr. Orsini– Eli Terry Jr. Middle School

No Report – Excused Absence

Mr. Berube – SEPTA

No Report

Mr. Santorso – CABE

CABE will be meeting on June 13, 2013.

Ms. Cruz – PTSA Council

Ms. Cruz reported that the PTSA Council met on May 15, 2013. However, she was unable to attend due to a scheduling conflict. At the meeting the PTSA discussed a bullying program the PTA would like to sponsor this fall. Ms. Cruz indicated she would be working with Lisa Jaworski and the PTA's on scheduling Jo Ann Freiberg, State Department of Education Consultant on school climate and bullying to speak with the community. She thanked the PTSA Council and all of the PTA's for the work they do in supporting the children. Ms. Cruz encouraged parents to get involved with their child's PTA.

13. FINAL BOARD COMMENTS (if any)

Mr. Berube – Mr. Bikakis great honor, congratulations for you are the type of individual we need in our school system. Wrestling team showed much class over the last few days. Thanked the administrators for all they do for the school system. Thanked the Board Members.

Mr. Engle – Thanked everyone for all of their hard work, administrators and teachers. Congratulations Mr. Bikakis. Thanked Mr. Toth for bring the matter to our attention.

Mr. Santorso – Looks forward to the Policy Subcommittee Meeting. Impressed how Sam Ferreira was able to carry himself and the manner in which he spoke on behalf of the wrestling team. George Bikakis we are all very proud of you. To Megan Bourn, the articulation you showed in your poem was great.

Mr. Wetzel – Poem was fantastic. George congratulations on being nominated Teacher of the Year. This is a great honor.

Mr. Bourbonniere – Thank you to Ms. Cohen's food class for the assortment of cookies at each Board Meeting. Mr. Bikakis, you really are a testament to the school system and the community. To the student representatives, you should be really proud of your children. They were courteous, elegant and dressed professionally and presented themselves in a professional manner. To the Terryville High School Girls' Softball Team and Ms. Konopaske you should be proud of yourselves. To the administrators and staff thank you for all you do for this town. To all the graduating seniors, good luck into whatever endeavor you choose.

Mrs. Kulesa – Thank you to everyone who came up to the podium this evening.

Mr. Perugino – Mr. Bikakis congratulations. You do a tremendous job for the school system. Megan for your poetry to be preserved at the state library in the legislative office building is an honor. Congratulations to you and your teachers. Mr. Perugino also commented on an article that appeared in the Hartford Courant. Students from the Digital Media Movie Making group at Terryville High School took home the Director's Award with their campaign, titled "THS United Vision," at the 2013 Student Innovation Exposition on May 4 at the Connecticut Convention Center in Hartford. Students pictured with the award were Jake Pray and Ricky Geddes. We are very proud of our students and the teachers that word with our students. Mr. Perugino attended class night for the seniors.

Mr. Ferreira – Town Council Liaison To the Board of Education

When he represents and presents what happens at the Board of Education to the Town Council, he usually presents the notes that he takes at the Board Meeting and incorporates them with the minutes he receives by e-mail. If the Board would like him to stress or bring forward any item to the town council at any time please feel free to contact him. The entire Town Council along with Mr. Ferreira was very intrigued with the Solar Energy Grant. With respect to the installation of the cameras on the school buses; two permanent cameras have been installed and two temporary cameras have been installed since March.

14. EXECUTIVE SESSION

*MOTION: To adjourn into executive session at 8:43 p.m. for the purpose of discussing the Superintendent and Business Manager's contract. Motion **Raymond Engle**, seconded **Martin Wetzel** motion passed unanimously.*

15. ACTION AS A RESULT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION

*MOTION: To resume into regular session at 10:25 p.m. Motion **Mark Berube**, seconded **Raymond Engle**. Motion passed unanimously.*

Mr. Perugino asked for the following motions:

*MOTION: To extend the Business Manager's Contract to 2017 as proposed in the draft with the minor gender changes. Motion **Martin Wetzel**, seconded **Mrs. Kulesa**.*

Comment by Mr. Santorso: He really believes that Mr. Santogatta is extremely valuable for the finances of the Board and continues to defend the best interests of our students. However, Mr. Santorso thinks that among workers with merit, among qualified workers, he understands the difference in values of the wages with responsibility but feels the wage gap should not be increased disproportionately, and feels it creates an imbalance in the school system to increase wages disproportionately.

At this time, the Chair called a roll vote: Mr. Berube, Mr. Engle, Mr. Wetzel, Mr. Borbonniere, Mrs. Kulesa and the Chair voted in favor of the motion. Mr. Santorso voted against the motion. Motion passed 6 "yes" and 1 "no".

*MOTION: To extend Ms. Cruz's contract for another 6 months in order to return to a 3 year cycle like everyone else and there will be no raise increase. Motion **Mr. Wetzel**, seconded **Mrs. Kulesa**. At this time the Chair called for a roll vote: Mr. Berube, Mr. Engle, Mr. Santorso, Mr. Wetzel, Mr. Bourbonniere, Mrs. Kulesa and the Chair all cast a "yes" vote. Motion passed unanimously.*

*MOTION: To hire a Special Education Supervisor with a salary of \$97,000 for 214 days. Motion **Mr. Wetzel**, seconded **Mr. Engle**. At this time the Chair called for a roll vote: Mr. Berube, Mr. Engle, Mr. Santorso, Mr. Wetzel, Mrs. Kulesa, and the Chair all cast "yes" votes. Mr. Bourbonniere cast a "no" vote. Motion passed 6 "yes" and 1 "no".*

The Board also directed the Business manager to send \$102,000 back to the Town with a request to place \$72,000 into the sinking fund.

14. NEXT REGULAR BOARD MEETING

***Mr. Perugino** stated the next Regular Board of Education Meeting will be held on the August 14, 2013 at 7 p.m., Terryville High School cafeteria.*

15. ADJOURNMENT

*MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 10:35 p.m. Motion **Mr. Wetzel**, seconded **Mrs. Kulesa**, motion passed unanimously.*

Respectfully submitted,

*Gerard Bourbonniere
Secretary*