

## *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  
REGULAR MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2013*

*TERRYVILLE HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA*

## MINUTES

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

*Excused Absence: Karen Kulesa and Daniel Santorso*

*Administrators: Ms. Cruz, Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Parenti, Director of Pupil Personnel & Special Education, 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. 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 **Mr. Wetzel**, seconded **Mr. Engle** motion passed unanimously.*

### *3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES*

*MOTION: To approve the following minutes: Safety/Transportation Subcommittee, August 12, 2013; Personnel Subcommittee, August 14, 2013; Finance Subcommittee, August 14, 2013; Safety/Transportation Subcommittee, August 14, 2013; Regular Meeting, August 14, 2013; Special Board Meeting, August 28, 2013; Curriculum Subcommittee, September 4, 2013; and Facilities Subcommittee, September 4, 2013. Motion **Mr. Engle**, seconded **Mr. Wetzel** motion passed unanimously.*

*Mr. Gentile, through the Chair, requested a moment of silence on behalf of the victims of 9/11.*

4. PRESENTATIONS

A. *Mr. Marc Fugaro, Director of Dining Services for Chartwells explained the lunch program to the Board Members. The Board was provided with samples of some of the foods served to our students at the subcommittee meeting. Mr. Fugaro commented on how welcoming the community of Plymouth has been and that he takes into consideration the feedback he received from the students on the lunches that are served.*

B. *Ms. Cruz introduced the following new staff to the Plymouth Board of Education: Central Office, Mark Hedrick, Special Education Supervisor; Terryville High School, Gail Duffy, Literacy Coordinator; Lindsay Aronheim, School Psychologist; Linda Konopaske, Secretary; Eli Terry Jr. Middle School, Monica Negron, Spanish Grades 7/8; Kirstin Ondrush, Family & Consumer Science Grades 7/8, Christina Petrow, Special Education (STAR) Teacher; and Harry S. Fisher Elementary School, Jessica Shore, Elementary APPLE Teacher.*

*At this time Mr. Perugino entertained the following Motion:*

*MOTION: To recess at 7:18 p.m. in order for the Board Members to meet the new staff members. Motion **Mr. Berube**, seconded **Mr. Engle** motion passed unanimously.*

*Mr. Perugino entertained the following Motion:*

*MOTION: To resume regular session at 7:30 p.m. Motion **Mr. Wetzel**, seconded **Mr. Gentile** motion passed unanimously.*

C. CMT/CAPT Results

*Ms. Cruz, Superintendent of Schools, spoke on the student achievement and what we hope to achieve as we go forward in the school district. She addressed the Smarter Balance Testing, Indicators for Success, Performance Objectives, Comparison of year to year results, data teams, tiered intervention, PBIS, Accountability, SRBI, NWEA and how the district is putting individuals and resources in place that are necessary as a commitment to improving student outcomes.*

*Mr. Perugino noted on the Hall of Fame at the high school the name of Pete Appleton was omitted. He went on to say that Pete Appleton was born Peter Jablonowski and resided in Terryville, Connecticut. Mr. Jablonowski played professional baseball and was a pitcher in the major leagues. He went to the University of Michigan. He pitched for the Washington Senators and the St. Lewis Browns. Mr. Jablonowski had three younger brothers, Joe, John and Alec. He was born in 1904 and died in 1974.*

*Mr. Perugino, presented Mr. Falcone with a Board of Education minute book dating back to 1899 through 1944/1945 and requested that it be placed under glass and displayed.*

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS

None

6. COMMUNICATIONS

None

7. OLD BUSINESS

A. Teacher Evaluation Document

*At the May 8, 2013 Board Meeting, the Board approved a draft of the teacher evaluation document based on the Connecticut State SEED Model with the understanding that the document would be further revised and brought to the Board for final approval.*

*Due to some needed noted changes, Ms. Cruz asked that the Teacher Evaluation document be tabled until the October 9, 2013 Board of Education Meeting. Therefore, the following motion was made:*

*MOTION: To table the final approval of the Teacher Evaluation Document based on the Connecticut State SEED until the October 9, 2013 Board of Education Meeting. Motion **Mr. Berube**, seconded **Mr. Orsini**, motion passed unanimously.*

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. Appointments

*MOTION: To approve the appointment of **Linda Konopaske**, as Secretary at Terryville High School, effective September 12, 2013. Motion **Mr. Orsini**, seconded **Mr. Engle**, motion passed unanimously.*

*MOTION: To approve the appointment of **Lori Lusitani**, to the position of Co-Senior Class Advisor at Terryville High School for the 2013 – 2014 school year. Motion **Mr. Gentile**, seconded **Mr. Bourbonniere**, motion passed unanimously.*

*MOTION: To approve the appointment of **Mary-Lynn Currier**, to the position of part-time paraprofessional for the Apple Program at Eli Terry Jr. Middle School, effective August 28, 2013. Motion **Mr. Gentile**, seconded **Mr. Orsini**, motion passed unanimously.*

*MOTION: To approve the appointment of **Leanna Scaglione**, to the position of part-time paraprofessional for the STAR Program at Terryville High School, effective August 28, 2013. Motion **Mr. Gentile**, seconded **Mr. Engle**, motion passed unanimously.*

*MOTION: To approve the appointment of **Patricia Borda**, to the position of Transitional Coordinator at Terryville High School, effective September 12, 2013. Motion **Mr. Orsini**, seconded **Mr. Bourbonniere**, motion passed unanimously.*

B. Board of Education Meeting Dates for the Calendar Year 2014

*MOTION: To approve the Board of Education Meeting Dates for the Calendar Year 2014 as presented. Motion **Mr. Gentile**, seconded **Mr. Engle**, motion passed unanimously.*

C. Out-of-State Field Trip

*MOTION: To approve the out-of-state field trip for students in the Music Department in grades 9 – 12 at Terryville High School to attend the Eastern States Exposition in Agawam, MA on September 20, 2013. Motion **Mr. Gentile**, seconded **Mr. Bourbonniere**, motion passed unanimously.*

D. Resignations

*Ms. Cruz informed Board Members that she has accepted the following resignations: **Kathryn Stafford**, part-time pre-k Paraprofessional at Harry S. Fisher Elementary School effective, August 23, 2013; **Philip Pagnon**, SWAT Tutor for the Alternative Education Program at Terryville High School, effective immediately; **Kelly Robideau**, Title I Tutor at Plymouth Center School, effective immediately; **Lisa Lickwar**, Hall Monitor at Eli Terry Jr. Middle School effectively immediately; and **Danielle Senetcen**, Title I Tutor at Terryville High School, effective August 27, 2013.*

9. BOARD MEMBER/COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

*In lieu of **Mrs. Kulesa's** absence, Mr. Orsini reported the Curriculum Subcommittee met on September 4, 2013 and discussed the following: (1) Elementary Math Curriculum and Assessments (**Dina Schaffrick**, **Elementary Math Coach**) – Ms. Schaffrick presented revised CCSS-aligned K-5 Math curricula and showed the subcommittee members how teachers access the curricula electronically through Google Docs and Google Sites. Revised CCSS- aligned Math benchmarks have been created for grades K-5 as well as unit assessments for each unit per grade level. There has been participation in Math PLC with other districts to share ideas and assess progress to CCSS alignment; (2) NWEA- Northwest Evaluation Assessments in grades 6-12 will be in use beginning in November. Teachers, instructional coaches and principals will be trained on how to use the data so that teachers can better target instruction for student based on individual needs; (3) CMT/CAPT Results - Ms. Cruz will present CMT and CAPT results to the entire Board and community at the September Board of Education Meeting; and (4) AP Textbooks – Dr. Tenney shared three new high school texts that were selected by the high school teachers for three new courses that were approved in the spring.*

At this time, Mr. Orsini asked for the following motion:

*MOTION: To approve the following new high school textbooks: (1) **Course: AP Biology** Text: Campbell Biology: 9<sup>th</sup> AP Edition, Reece, Urry, Cain, Wasserman, Minorsky, and Jackson (2010); (2) **Course: Forensics** Text: Forensic Science: Fundamentals and Investigations 2012 Update, Bertino, (2011) and (3) **Course: AP Psychology** Text: Meyers Psychology: 1<sup>st</sup> AP Edition, Meyers (2010). Motion **Mr. Bourbonniere**, seconded **Mr. Gentile**, motion passed unanimously.*

*B. Facilities – **Mr. Engle**, Chair*

*Mr. Engle reported the Facilities Subcommittee met on September 4, 2013. The following items were discussed: (1) **Solar Project** – Wayne Moore and John Millard from Phos Energy submitted proposals for all of the schools and as of this meeting, all four schools have now been accepted. The four school sites are large enough to supply the entire Board's needs. One hundred (100%) percent of the Board's electrical costs will be covered and with new state legislation (virtual metering), other areas of the town could be covered as well. **Recommended Outcomes:** (i) a "Working Group" was established to develop the Solar Power Purchase and Sale Agreement; (ii) the need to attend Planning & Zoning Meetings as moral support for the project; (iii) the Working Group to meet weekly in order to work on the Solar Power Purchase and Sale Agreement which is to be completed by the end of October; and (iv) the attorney and the Working Group will review the document prior to the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting with Phos Energy on September 17<sup>th</sup>. (the meeting date has been changed to September 18<sup>th</sup>, 6 p.m. in the conference room at the Board of Education Offices.*

*2. **Alternative Area for Fitness** – Todd Clark from Blue Moon Design shared a design of the Alternative Fitness Room at Terryville High School. This will be presented to the full Board at the October 9, 2013 Board Meeting.*

*3. **Fisher Lobby**– The group discussed the Fisher Lobby renovations necessary for security reasons. The committee recommended an architectural design be presented at the October/November Board of Education Meeting, dependent upon completion of the design.*

*Mr. Engle made the following motion:*

*MOTION: To approve the hiring of Blue Moon Architectural Design, LLC to do a design of the renovation of the lobby at Harry S. Fisher School for the purposes of our review and to incorporate as many safety items as possible. Motion **Mr. Bourbonniere**, seconded **Mr. Wetzel**, motion passed unanimously.*

*4. **Relocation of Board of Education Offices** – Roxanne Perugino will present a rough design to the Board of Education in November. The design is a renovation of the house. Mrs. Perugino did this work for the Board gratis.*

*5. **Boiler Project** - The boilers will be fired up on Friday, September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2013.*

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

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

*MOTION:* To approve the transfer of \$18,788 from the unemployment compensation fund to the summer school fund to cover the overage in the summer school account. Motion **Mr. Wetzel**, seconded **Mr. Gentile**, motion approved unanimously.

*MOTION:* To approve the request for a Pre-School Sliding Tuition Scale in order to help parents that are having a difficult time economically. Motion **Mr. Wetzel**, seconded **Mr. Orsini**, motion passed unanimously.

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

Mr. Wetzel reported that mediation with the UAW 376, secretaries and paraprofessionals took place on August 21, 2013. The next meeting is scheduled for October 8, 2013 at 5:30 p.m. at the Board of Education Offices.

E. Personnel – **Mr. Berube**, Chair

Mr. Berube reported the Personnel Subcommittee met with the Superintendent prior to the Board Meeting and all items, i.e. appointments and resignations were addressed under New Business. At the end of the subcommittee meeting, a discussion was held with respect to the kindergarten situation at Harry S. Fisher Elementary School. The enrollment in the 3 kindergarten classes are: 20, 20 and 21. Request for additional staff was entertained by the Personnel Subcommittee. After a brief discussion, the members agreed to bring forth the following motion before the full Board.

*MOTION:* To approve the hiring of 3 full time Tutors for Harry S. Fisher Elementary School due to the increased enrollment in kindergarten. Motion **Mr. Wetzel** seconded **Mr. Bourbonniere**, motion passed unanimously.

F. Policy – **Mr. Berube**, Chair

Mr. Berube reported the Policy Subcommittee will be meeting on September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at 5:30 p.m. at the Board of Education Offices.

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

Mr. Orsini reported that since the last Board Meeting and the opening of the school year, everything is running very safely and smoothly and he hopes it continues to do so.

A questioned was asked about the busing situation with respect to Cardinal and Worhunsky. Ms. Cruz indicated that with any transition, it certainly has had its set of challenges. A meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 12<sup>th</sup> with Mr. Worhunsky, Mr. Santogatta, Mr. Parenti and herself to smooth out some issues. The Superintendent and Business Manager along Worhunsky Corp. were able to resolve some difficult situations.

H. Education Connection – Mrs. Kulesa (excused absence)

No report

I. Student Representatives

**Alexandra Belanger** – reported on the following items:

Sports

September 23                      Mandatory sports meeting @ 6:30 p.m. in the auditorium at the high school. Student athletes, parents and coaches must attend.

Volleyball                         First year Mrs. Farrington will not be coaching. The new coach, Mr. Coggshall. Everyone is looking forward to an exciting year.

Girl's Soccer                      Girls' won their 1<sup>st</sup> varsity game in three years; the soccer team is co-opting with Thomaston

Boy's Soccer                        Boys' Soccer team won in double overtime

Cross Country                      New members. Looking forward to a very successful season

Mrs. Farrington sent her thank you to the Board of Education for providing an Athletic Trainer, Emily Santacroce, for student athletes. Ms. Santacroce is available every day from 1:30 p.m. – 6 p.m.

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

New Courses                        UConn – Individual & Family Development  
   Tunxis – Accounting, Computer Graphics and Communications  
   Lincoln College – Introduction to Nutrition, English Composition and Algebra  
   New AP Classes @ THS – AP English, AP Biology and AP Psychology

71 students are receiving AP College Credits; 51 students are receiving UConn College Credits; 67 students are receiving Tunxis College Credits and 60 students are receiving Lincoln College Credits = a total of 249 college credits being distributed.

September 14                        Family Fun Day with an appearance from the Kangaroo Mascot from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

September 19                    *Open House at 7 p.m.*  
September 11                    *Advisory Day – 2 Wednesdays a month. (1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday – students in extended homerooms will learn about careers, and things that will help them to get along in life and 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday – Fresh Start – Juniors and Seniors to make the school environment more friendly for underclassmen.*  
September 27                    *1<sup>st</sup> progress reports*

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

*Reminder for students to pay their dues.*

September 5                    *Information Meeting with respect to a trip to Disney in April (Band, Chorus, T.V. Production Class and Art Club)*  
September 13                    *School Pictures*  
September 16                    *Senior Pictures by appointment only*

*139 Students devoted their time at the Terryville Fair. Class of 2012 purchased a kangaroo statute which is displayed in front of the building thanks to Mr. Lou Zbuska and Mr. Ray White who were able to modify the statute.*

*November 14, 15 & 16 - Comedy – Noises Off*

*Yearbook is now a class which will help to focus on details. All students will learn about design aspect which will help them to learn the software.*

*Mr. Bourbonniere welcomed the student representatives.*

#### 10.     ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS/REQUESTS/INFORMATION

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

- *CMT/CAPT results will be going home to parents this month*
- *Renewed for another 5 years for the Drug Free Communities Grant which is \$125,000 a year for 5 years.*
- *Year Long Awareness Campaign – Understanding Differences – Community Read*

**Mr. Trudeau** – Director of Technology

- *Thanked tonight's crew for the live broadcast (included members of Mr. Mazlak's visual media class;*
- *Very busy year, maintaining of computers and installing new programs new technology.*
- *New Phone System – need acceptance of contract and then move forward with installation*



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

- Thanked Jan and Mark for getting the year off to a great start
- Community Read to be tied into the unified sports program
- Sliding Scale Pre-School Tuition
- De-escalation Training for Special Education Staff, etc. (80 staff total trained by the end of the month)

Mr. Bourbonniere suggested that once the Unified Sports Program begins to possibly get some media coverage.

**Mr. Santogatta** – Business Manager

- School opening was smooth, thank you to the custodial and maintenance staff
- Issues – Climate Control Issues at Terryville High School
- Boilers at Eli Terry Jr. Middle School to be fired up
- Financial Meeting – everything looks fine thus far for this year. There is some concern with respect to some line items that were mentioned at the subcommittee meeting which we will continue to monitor.

**Ms. Cruz** - Superintendent

Ms. Cruz indicated the following: (a) it was an exciting opening of school. Our enrollment is up. People are enthusiastic. The district had a wonderful Convocation. Plymouth's Teacher of the Year, **George Bikakis**, shared an inspirational message to the staff and a welcoming speech was given by **Mrs. Kim Jobbagy**, PTSA Council President. (b) work is continuing on the district's strategic plan and goals and indicators and she hopes to bring that work forward in October to speak with the Board more specifically on this matter. (c) Ms. Cruz also indicated that she will begin to mentor a middle school male student. (d) reminded parents and students of the importance of bus and bicycle safety.

11. PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING AGENDA OR NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Melanie Church – 328 Main Street

Addressed the Board with respect to a question she brought forward last month regarding the Superintendent's Contract. Noted there was an executive session, but indicated when the Board reconvened there was no comment. Ms. Church asked if this was an error or was she still not going to receive an answer.

Mr. Perugino indicated the reason for executive session was to discuss a different matter. However, Mr. Wetzel indicated under negotiations that a meeting is scheduled for October 8<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. at the Board of Education Offices.

Ms. Church then asked if she would receive her answer then.

Mr. Perugino indicated: Yes, that's when that meeting will be.

Ms. Church asked the time and place of the meeting. At which time, Mr. Perugino indicated it would take place at 5:30 at the Board of Ed Office.

12. BOARD LIAISONS TO SCHOOLS

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

September 10	PTA Meeting – well attended started with 92 members + 2 new members
September 13	Open House/Welcome Back @ 6 p.m.
September 13	Bus Evacuation Drill
September 20	Bullying Program
September 30	Picture Day

PTA's are looking to having a men's club during the day time.

**Plymouth Center School – Mr. Engle**

September 10	PTA Meeting – 86 members – ice cream social went well
September 12	Open House
September 13	Second Step Program
October 3	School Pictures
October 15	Enrichment Program with author Patricia Palaco
October 16	Clothing Drive

Grant Announcement - \$1,800 9 smart grant pens

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

No August Meeting

September 26 Meeting 7 p.m. at the middle school

**Terryville High School – Mr. Bourbonniere**

PTSA After Grad meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month. Mr. Falcone indicated there is a change. Meetings will take place during the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month. PTSA one month and the After Grad the second month.

The Terryville High School Leo Club, in remembrance of 911, did some community service work today. Ten members went up to the Terryville Fair Grounds and helped clean up after the fair. A great job was done in the kitchen and was supervised by Dave Barbieri. Thank you to the Terryville High School Leo Club.

**SEPTA – Mr. Berube**

The first meeting of SEPTA is scheduled for 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of October, which is October 17<sup>th</sup> at Eli Terry Jr. Middle School at 6:30 p.m.

**CABE – Mr. Santorso (excused absence)**

Mr. Perugino reported that 10 spots have been reserved at the CABE/CAPSS Convention for this year.

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

Meetings will be held on Thursday evenings in the upper library at Eli Terry Jr. Middle School at 7 p.m.

September 19                      1<sup>st</sup> meeting

Some of the things that the PTSA is looking into: (a) planning a parent forum this fall for security and safety so that we can talk in broad terms about some of the safety measures that are in place at the schools and things that are planned for the schools and (b) Dr. JoAnne Freiberg State Department Consultant to speak about school climate and bullying issues.

**13. Executive Session – Discussion of Contract Agreement with Administrator**

**MOTION:** To enter into executive session at 8:50 p.m. inviting the full Board and Ms. Cruz, Superintendent. Motion **Mr. Berube**, seconded **Mr. Orsini**, motion passed unanimously.

**MOTION:** To resume regular session at 9:15 p.m. Motion **Mr. Engle**, seconded **Mr. Orsini**, motion passed unanimously.

**14. FINAL BOARD COMMENTS**

No final comments made

**15. NEXT REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

Mr. Perugino stated that the next regular Board of Education Meeting will be held on October 9, 2013 at 7 p.m. at Terryville High School.

16. *ADJOURNMENT*

*MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 9:10 p.m. Motion **Mr. Engle**, seconded **Mr. Orsini**, motion passed unanimously.*

*Respectfully submitted,*

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*Gerard Bourbonniere  
Secretary*