

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, August 14, 2013
Terryville High School Cafeteria*

MINUTES

Present: Board: Patrick Perugino, Mark Berube, Anthony Orsini, Daniel Santorso, Gerard Bourbonniere , and Martin Wetzel

Excused Absence: Raymond Engle, Karen Kulesa 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 7:18 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.Santorso, motion passed unanimously.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the:

*Facilities Subcommittee, June 11, 2013
Personnel Subcommittee, June 12, 2013
Finance Subcommittee, June 12, 2013
Regular Meeting, June 12, 2013
Ad Hoc Subcommittee, June 18, July 1,
And July 15, 2013
BOE Subcommittee – July 24, 2013
(Special Meeting)
Ad Hoc Subcommittee – August 1, 2013*

MOTION: Mr. Wetzel, seconded Mr. Orsini, motion passed unanimously.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS

None

5. COMMUNICATIONS

None

6. OLD BUSINESS

None

7. NEW BUSINESS

A. Resignations

Ms. Cruz accepted the following resignations: **Jeff Telke**, Technology I Specialist, District Wide, effective July 9, 2013; **Mary Lou Marion**, Guidance Secretary at Terryville High School effective August 16, 2013; **Tyson Stoddard**, Special Education Coordinator, District Wide, effective July 1, 2013; **Linda Farrington**, Varsity Volleyball Coach at Terryville High School effective immediately; **David Bernadino**, part-time paraprofessional at Eli Terry Jr. Middle School effective immediately; **Kyla Elliot**, part-time paraprofessional at Terryville High School effective immediately; **Alaina Haley**, Special Education Teacher at Harry S. Fisher Elementary School effective August 28, 2013; and **Damian Coggs**, J.V. Volleyball Coach at Terryville High School effective immediately.

B. Appointments

MOTION: To approve the summer appointments and new hires as discussed in Personnel Subcommittee. Motion **Mr. Berube**, seconded **Mr. Orsini** motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: To approve the appointment of **Mark Hedrick** to the position of Special Education Supervisor effective August 15, 2013. Motion **Mr. Bourbonniere**, seconded **Mr. Santorso**. At this time, the Chair called for a roll vote: Mr. Berube, Mr. Orsini, Mr. Santorso, Mr. Wetzel, Mr. Bourbonniere and the Chair all vote in favor of the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: To approve the appointment of **JESSICA SHORE** to the position of Elementary APPLE Teacher at Harry S. Fisher Elementary School effective August 23, 2013. Motion **Mr. Berube**, seconded **Mr. Wetzel** motion passed unanimously.

C. Organizational Chart

MOTION: To approve the Organization Chart included in the Board of Education Packet. Motion **Mr. Santorso**, seconded **Mr. Bourbonniere** motion passed unanimously.

D. Childbearing/Childrearing Leaves

MOTION: To approve a childbearing/childrearing leave beginning on or about October 15, 2013 and for the remainder of the 2013 – 2014 school year for **Jennifer Briley**, Geography Teacher at Eli Terry Jr. Middle School. Motion **Mr. Berube**, seconded **Mr. Santorso** motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: To approve a childrearing leave until or on about September 30, 2013 for **Kathy Clark**, kindergarten teacher at Harry S. Fisher Elementary School. Motion **Mr. Orsini**, seconded **Mr. Bourbonniere** motion passed unanimously.

E. Out-of-State Field Trip

MOTION: To approve an out-of-state field trip to the Big E, Agawam, Massachusetts for grade 9 – 12 students in the STAR Program for September 20, 2013. Motion **Mr. Wetzel**, seconded **Mr. Berube** motion passed unanimously.

F. Cost of School Lunches

MOTION: To approve the following increase in the cost of school lunches in order to cover the expenses of the lunch program and to comply with Federal Lunch Program Guidelines.

The recommended increases are as follows:

	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
Elementary School	\$2.35	\$2.45
Middle School	\$2.60	\$2.75
High School	\$2.60	\$2.75

Motion **Mr. Wetzel**, seconded **Mr. Santorso** motion passed unanimously.

G. Strategic Plan and Board of Education Goals

MOTION: To approve the new Mission Statement and Board of Education Goals as developed by the Strategic Task Force.

*Motion **Mr. Bourbonniere**, seconded **Mr. Berube**, motion passed unanimously.*

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.*

Goals:

- *Students will demonstrate a mastery of core subject matter and supply their essential learning and critical thinking skills to achieve academic excellence.*
- *Students will demonstrate mastery of all essential skills, needed to participate successfully in the 21st global economy.*
- *Students will exhibit healthy life choices (wellness).*
- *Students will use technology as a tool to research, organize, evaluate and communicate effectively, both orally and in writing, for a variety of purposes.*
- *Students will demonstrate social responsibility by providing for the needs of the greater community and by developing civic literacy.*
- *Students will be able to understand negotiate and balance diverse views and beliefs in order to reach workable solutions.*
- *Students will demonstrate the ability to manage goals and time, work independently, and be self-directed learners.*

Ms. Cruz, recognized the following individuals in the audience who were participants in the Strategic Plan Task Force: Kim Jobbagy, Vicky Carey, Board of Finance, Amy Battisto, teacher at Harry S. Fisher and members of the Board who sat on the committee.

She explained the goals are a launching pad for the accountability measures that we need to have in place to show, in fact, that our tax payers' dollars are being well spent and that our student accountability measures and our student achievement is directly correlated to the goals.

Within the next two days, the administrators will begin to develop indicators. The schools will then take these indicators and develop school improvement plans and the teacher will use this to develop their objectives for their work over the course of the year.

Comments:

Amy Battisto, grade 1 teacher at Harry S. Fisher - Every meeting was very productive, the goals will give the teachers great direction and they can write their goal, how the teachers can best meet the needs of the children. Eventually, all the pieces will fit together and it's nice to see some type of direction happening.

Vicky Carey, Plymouth Board of Finance – Hopefully, the students will be able to progress further. Her question at the end was: (a) How much was it going to cost the Town? (2) Was there going to be an increase in the Boards' budget? (3) When would we be able to see the goals met on the students and (4) How long would it be before we were able to see any of that productivity from the goals that we have established? Meetings were intense. One was able to think out of the box.

Ms. Cruz indicated these were difficult questions to answer. There will be a report made to the Board in September. She indicated clear direction will be given to the Board of Finance and Community as to how the goals will be reported; and what goals are achievable in a short period of time since some goals may be long term. As Ms. Cruz stated this will be the underpinnings on how the budget will be developed.

Mr. Berube – It was nice to see a variety of individuals who participated in the process. It was a collective effort, the goals now need to be implemented and accomplished.

Mr. Bourbonniere – Seventeen people can compromise and come up with goals.

9. BOARD MEMBER/COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Curriculum – Mrs. Kulesa, Chair

Excused Absence – No August meeting

B. Facilities – Mr. Engle, Chair

Excused Absence

C. Finance – Mr. Bourbonniere, Chair

*MOTION: To approve applying for the Connecticut State Department of Education Technology Grant. Motion **Mr. Wetzel**, seconded **Mr. Santorso** motion passed unanimously.*

The Finance Subcommittee met prior to the Board of Education Meeting and reviewed the final accounts by facilities report 2012 – 2013 and the accounts by facilities report for the month of July and moved that it be forwarded to the Town of Plymouth Board of Finance. Approximately \$112,000 was returned to the Town with \$72,000 placed in the sinking fund.

D. Negotiations – Mr. Wetzel, Chair

A meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 21, 2013 at 4:30 p.m. in the conference room at Central Office.

E. Personnel – Mr. Berube, Chair

The Personnel Subcommittee discussed the hiring of Mr. Hedrick and Mr. Berube reported all items were addressed under new business.

F. Policy – Mr. Berube, Chair

No Report

G. Safety & Transportation – Mr. Orsini, Chair

The Safety & Transportation Subcommittee met on August 12, 2013 and again on August 14, 2013 with respect to a request from a parent that the child's bus stop be changed. Considerable time was spent researching and investigating this matter, many options were brought forward to the parent who seemed to be receptive. However, more time is needed to come to a resolution. As soon as the superintendent, business manager and parent come together, will we have resolution and the problem will be solved.

H. Education Connection - Mrs. Kulesa

Excused Absence.

I. Student Representatives

Excused Absence

10. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS/REQUESTS/INFORMATION

Mr. Parenti, Director of Pupil Personnel

Congratulations to Mark on his appointment. Enjoyable experience working on the Strategic Plan. Great to include special education in the planning in order that all students are achieving regardless of label or disability. Working hard, getting ready for the school year.

Dr. Tenney – Director of Curriculum and Instruction

Welcomed Mr. Hedrick. She is very excited to start the school year with Ms. Cruz. CMT and CAPT scores have been published and will be on the agenda during their retreat. The State has applied for a Waiver for the Federal Government to try to implement the Smarter Balance Assessment.

Mr. Trudeau, Director of Technology

Thank you to Greg, Jay, Connor and Matt for working on tonight's video production. The grant will be going to video equipment across the district. August 21st will be the final decision with respect to the grant mentioned by Mr. Bourbonniere. A phone system operation is still being explored across town. The technology crew is busy getting prepared for the new school year.

Mr. Sangotatta, Business Manager

As reported earlier, the last fiscal year closed out with a surplus. Everyone did a nice job to manage the budget and assist the business office. July looks good, no problems thus far. The solar grant from CL&P for Eli Terry Jr. Middle School and Terryville High School has been approved. Electricity was purchased for 3 months. Thanks to the custodial and maintenance staff, the buildings look great. Encouraged the Board to visit Plymouth Center and walk through the front door; in the process of changing out the boilers at Eli Terry Jr. Middle School which should be completed by October 15th; and we have been working very closely with the town on a new phone system. Thank you to Rich Trudeau for doing 95% of the work.

The Grant for the Solar needed to be presented by July 19th. Proposals were submitted for all four schools. The high school and middle school were approved. The elementary schools are farther down the list. There is an outside possibility they will be approved.

Also the security grant was applied for and acknowledgment was made that it was received. We are just waiting for a reply. Priority school districts have first choice. If received, we can recoup all the costs expended at Plymouth Center School.

Ms. Cruz, Superintendent

On August 23, 2013, we will host Convocation for all staff. All board members were invited to attend. Staff will be participating in writers workshop; a representative from Shipman & Goodwin will speak on mandated reporting, bullying and school climate; first aid; Mr. Parenti is planning some CPI training. Thank you to the custodians and secretarial staff for the fine work they have done this summer. Thank you to the technology staff for their patience.

*Our first day of school with students is **Wednesday, August 28, 2013**. We are looking forward to another exciting and productive school year in the Plymouth School District.*

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING AGENDA/NON AGENDA ITEMS

Melanie Church, 328 Main Street, Terryville, CT – In reading the June minutes, the Superintendent's contract indicated an extension for an additional 6 months which would be 2 ½ years. However, the contract recorded at the Town Clerk's office indicates 3 years. Question: How did it get changed, which one is legitimate, and is it a 2 ½ contract or a 3 year contract? Ms. Church feels this is a concern, because the minutes do not match the contract. She has brought this to the Board's attention and realizes an answer cannot be provided this month but will look for response from the Board at next month's meeting.

11. BOARD LIAISONS TO SCHOOLS – (The same liaisons will remain the same until after the November election)

Harry S. Fisher Elementary School – Mr. Perugino

No Report

Plymouth Center School – Mr. Engle
Excused Absence

Terryville High School – Mr. Bourbonniere

The fair is August 23, 24 & 25.

Eli Terry Jr. Middle School – Mr. Orsini

The meeting date has been changed from Wednesday to Thursday and will be the 4th Thursday of the month. First Meeting, August 22, 2013.

SEPTA – Mr. Berube

No Report

CABE – Mr. Santorso

No Report

PTSA COUNCIL – Ms. Cruz, Superintendent

No Report

Mr. Ferreira – Board Liaison

No Report

12. **EXECUTIVE SESSION** (Security Measures)

MOTION: To adjourn into Executive Session at 7:53 p.m. to discuss security measures inviting the following individuals. All Board Members, Ms. Cruz, Superintendent and Mr. Santogatta, Business Manager. Motion **Mr. Berube**, seconded **Mr. Bourbonniere** motion passed unanimously

MOTION: To resume regular session at 8:55 p.m. Motion **Mr. Wetzel**, seconded **Mr. Berube** motion passed unanimously

13. **FINAL BOARD COMMENTS**

No Comments

14. NEXT REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Mr. Perugino stated the next Regular Board of Education Meeting will be held on the September 11, 2013 at 7 p.m., Terryville High School cafeteria.

15. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 8:57 p.m. Motion **Mr. Orsini**, seconded **Mr. Bourbonniere** motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Gerard Bourbonniere
Secretary