

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, March 13, 2013
Terryville High School Cafeteria

MINUTES

Present: Board: Mr. Raymond Engle, Mr. Anthony Orsini, Mr. Martin Wetzel, Mr. Gerard Bourbonniere, Mr. Daniel Santorso, Mr. Mark Berube, Mr. Daniel Gentile, Mrs. Kulesa and Mr. Patrick Perugino

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

Ms. Cruz, Superintendent excused absence.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

Mr. Perugino called the meeting to order at 7:03 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 following minutes:

Regular Meeting February 13, 2013
Personnel Subcommittee Meeting February 13, 2013
Finance Subcommittee Meeting February 13, 2013
Finance Subcommittee (Budget Workshop). February 20, 2013
Special Board Meeting February 27, 2013
Finance Subcommittee (Budget Workshop). March 6, 2013
Curriculum Subcommittee Meeting March 6, 2013

Motion: **Mr. Engle**, seconded **Mr. Santorso**, motion passed unanimously.

4. PRESENTATION

(a) *Plymouth Center School – This month’s presentation featured the Plymouth Center School P.A.L. (Principal’s Advisory League), which is a school-wide representative group of students who meet with the Principal on a regular basis to discuss strategies to improve our schools.*

(b) *Board of Education Appreciation Month- The art teachers from each of the schools submitted art work done by their students to be placed in a paperweight for each Board Member in recognition of Board Appreciation Month.*

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS

None

6. COMMUNICATIONS

None

7. OLD BUSINESS

*MOTION: To approve the 2013 – 2014 Budget at a .53 % increase over last year’s budget. Motion **Mr. Engle**, seconded **Mr. Orsini**. At this time the Chair called for a roll vote: Mr. Santorso, “yes”; Mr. Gentile, “yes”, Mr. Wetzel, “no”; Mr. Bourbonniere, “yes”; Mrs. Kulesa, “yes”; Mr. Berube, “no”; Mr. Engle, “yes”; Mr. Orsini, “yes” and the Chairman cast a “yes” vote. Vote, 7 yes, 2 no, motion passes.*

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. Resignations

*Mr. Santogatta informed the Board of the following resignations: **Susan Leigh**, JV Girls’ Softball Coach at Terryville High School effective February 26, 2013 and **Stephanie Fletcher**, Special Education Teacher at Harry S. Fisher Elementary School effective June 30, 2013.*

B. Addendum to Agreement for Child Nutrition Programs (ED-099)

Public Act 06-63, An Act concerning Healthy Food and Beverages in Schools, requires that all Connecticut Public School Districts that are eligible to participate in the healthy food certification take action to certify whether all food items sold to students will or will not meet Connecticut Nutritional Standards.

*MOTION: In accordance with Public Act 06-63 of the Connecticut General Statutes, the Plymouth Board of Education hereby authorizes the Chairperson of the Board to execute the Addendum to Agreement for Child Nutrition Programs (ED-099) and to execute any claims for reimbursement. Motion **Mr. Santorso**, seconded **Mr. Gentile**, motion passed unanimously.*

Certification Statement

*MOTION: Pursuant to section 10-215f of the Connecticut General Statutes, the Plymouth Board of Education, hereby certifies that all food items offered for sale to students in the school(s) under its jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education **will** meet said standards during the period of July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014. Such certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, and any fundraising activities on school premises, whether or not school sponsored. Motion **Mr. Bourbonniere**, seconded **Mr. Engle**, motion passed unanimously.*

Exemption Statement

*MOTION: Pursuant to section 10-215f of the Plymouth Board of Education hereby acknowledges that the Board of Education or governing authority **will** exclude from certification food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards, provided that (1) such food is sold in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend, (2) such sale is at the location of the event, and (3) such food is not sold from a vending machine or school store. Motion **Mr. Wetzel**, seconded **Mr. Santorso**, motion passed unanimously.*

Amendment to Agreement for Child Nutrition Programs (ED-099)

*MOTION: Pursuant to section 10-215f of the Connecticut General Statutes, the Agreement for Child Nutrition Programs (ED-099) with the Plymouth Board of Education is hereby amended to include the above certification statement of compliance with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards and application for funding related to those standards. This addendum covers the period from July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014. Motion **Mr. Orsini**, seconded **Mr. Engle**, motion passed unanimously.*

C. Appointments

MOTION: To approve the appointments of the following coaching positions for the spring of 2013:

Terryville High School:

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| Brian Rosano | J.V. Baseball |
| Tom Morgan | Golf |
| Jeff Foulds | Boys Track |
| Christopher Perkins | Girls Track |
| Stephanie Konopaske | Varsity Softball |
| Justin McDermott & Briana Daniele | J.V. Softball (co-coaches) |

Eli Terry Jr. Middle School

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| Mark Sconziano | Girls' Softball |
| Paul Schwanka | Boys' Track |
| Matthew Brintle | Baseball |
| Ashley Wagoner | Girls' Track |

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

9. BOARD MEMBER/COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Curriculum - Mrs. Kulesa, Chair

The Curriculum Subcommittee met on March 6, 2013. The following items were addressed: The Elementary DRA2 Results for winter – Ms. Holleran, Instructional Support Specialist, presented a cohort comparison on DRA2 reading results for May 2012, September 2012 and January 2013 with the overall trend showing summer loss in each grade level and progress from fall to winter. A more detailed analysis was presented using Inform, an on-line system used by teachers to gather data, shared some of the interventions that the schools are using with at risk readers, i.e. LLI Kids and Reading a-z Kids and how the data is used to regroup students into level intervention groups.

B. Facilities – Mr. Engle, Chair

A new dishwasher will be purchased for Harry S. Fisher Elementary School to replace a 20+ year one that has since broken down.

C. Finance – Mr. Bourbonniere, Chair

The Finance Subcommittee met prior to the Board Meeting and reviewed the accounts by facilities report for the month of February and will forward the same to the Town of Plymouth Board of Finance.

The subcommittee reviewed this year's budget proposal for next year's school budget. A joint meeting with the Plymouth Board of Education and the Town of Plymouth Board of Finance will take place on March 21, 2013 at 7 p.m. in the Community Room at Town Hall to present their proposed budget for the 2013 – 2014 fiscal year.

D. Negotiations - Mr. Wetzel, Chair

No Report

E. Personnel – Mr. Berube, Chair

All items were discussed under New Business

F. Policy - Mr. Berube, Chair

No Report

G. Safety & Transportation - Mr. Orsini, Chair

At the March 5th Town Council Meeting, the Town Council passed the Smart Bus Agreement by a 3 to 2 vote. External cameras will be placed on school buses.

School Security and Task Force Committee will be meeting on Thursday, March 14th at Central Office at 9:30 a.m. to continue discussion on school safety.

We are moving very smoothly and safely with our buses and hopes this continues through the balance of the school year.

H. Education Connection - Mrs. Kulesa

A teleconference meeting took place on March 7th wherein the minutes, financial and personnel reports were approved. Education Connection is seeking nominations for their executive board.

I. Student Representatives

Devyn Oakes reported on the following:

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| March 5 – 15 | CAPS Testing |
| April 3 | College Knowledge Breakfast |
| April 5 | PTSA Bingo Night @ THS 5:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. |
| April 11 – 14 | THS Field Trip Band – Ocean City, Maryland |

Boys' Basketball made the state quarter finals for the first time since 2009.
Elliott Wilion was named state wrestling champion.
Tyler Trillo made his 1,000 point in the last game of the season.
Mr. Peter Veleas was named Class S wrestling coach of the year.
The wrestling team was the Berkshire League Champions this year.
Spring sports begin on Monday, March 18th.

Tim King reported on the following:

The THS Band performed in the New Haven St. Patrick's Day Parade and placed second overall out of 15 teams.

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| March 16 | Academic Bowl – Lewis Mills High School – 12 p.m. |
| March 18 | Blood Drive |
| March 22 | THS/Thomaston Faculty Basketball Game 7 p.m. @ THS |
| March 26 | United Way Youth Leadership Forum Dinner @ Nuchies topic: Suicide Awareness |
| March 24 | Annual Easter Egg Hunt 12 p.m. THS Back Field |
| April 4 | Drama Club Play "Annie" 6 p.m. |
| April 5 | Drama Club Plan "Annie" 7 p.m. |
| April 6 | Drama Club Play – 1:30 p.m. & 7 p.m. Tickets - \$8 for students & senior citizens; \$10 for adults Leo Club Pasta supper – 7 p.m. THS Cafe |

Jonathan Zalaski – excused absence

10. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS/REQUESTS/INFORMATION

Dr. Tenney, Director of Curriculum & Instruction

Dr. Tenney reported on the following: The district is midway between CMT and CAPT Testing; Schools will be piloting the Smart Balanced Assessments which are all on line and are being done in preparation for the new assessments that will begin in 2014 & 2015; Teacher Evaluation Committee is in the process of preparing

a draft of the new teacher evaluation plan and should be presented sometime in June; exploring integrating writers workshop in the elementary schools; and reapplying for the Drug Free Communities Grant which is due at the end of March.

Mr. Trudeau, Director of Technology

Mr. Trudeau reported on the following: thank you to tonight's crew, Jeff, Matt, Jason and Mr. Maslak; on-line testing; the growing of mobile devices; and the technology department is operating at peak levels between the school district and the town.

Mr. Berube: Question: What is meant by peak levels?

Mr. Trudeau: Answer: The using of a help desk system. Each technology individual has a task every minute of the day whether those individuals(s) are at Water Pollution Control, the high school or the Board of Education.

Question: Mr. Berube - Do we have tech people solving the town problems?

Answer: Mr. Trudeau - Yes

Question: Mr. Berube - Do you know who pays those techs?

Answer: Mr. Santogatta – The district has a financial arrangement with the town. A technology position was added, presented to the Board last June and is funded by the town.

Mr. Parenti – Director of Pupil Personnel

Mr. Parenti reported on the following: Districts are now required to input on a data warehousing system all restraint seclusion data going back to July of 2012; looking at projecting enrollment for next year, staffing needs and the extended school year program for students in order to maximize dollars; and assisting Dr. Tenney with CMT and CAPT for special education students.

Question: Mr. Engle - On the extended summer school program, how many districts have been invited to defray costs?

Answer: Mr. Parenti – Thomaston because of the bus contract. The goal is to begin after July 1 since transportation between the 2 towns will be free. Ed Connection has also been contacted regarding putting together a more comprehensive special education program for districts in the area where they would cover transportation.

Question: Mr. Bourbonniere – Program at the high school with respect to the school store.

Answer: Mr. Parenti - Students are doing phenomenal at the school store which has a website; students from the high school are going to Fisher to help with the mail, etc. and hoping to expand the program to include Thomaston and Wolcott.

Mr. Santogatta, Business Manager

Mr. Santogatta reported: The Finance Subcommittee met prior to the Board Meeting and reviewed the accounts by facilities report for February. The Budget was approved and will be forwarded to the Town of Plymouth Board of Finance on Friday, March 15th.

Ms. Cruz, Superintendent - Excused Absence

In lieu of Ms. Cruz's absence, Mr. Santogatta, reported the following:

(a) The Academic Bowl will be held on Saturday, March 16, 2013 at 12 p.m. at Lewis S. Mills High School in Burlington. Best Wishes to our academic team.

(b) On **March 21, 2013 at 7 p.m.** at Town Hall, there will be a joint meeting between the Town of Plymouth Board of Finance and the Plymouth Board of Education to discuss the proposed budget for the next fiscal year. The Board of Education approved an increase of .53% (one half of one percent) for next year. The public was encouraged to attend. Lastly, the budget was put together with the assistance of a collaboratively talented group of administrators.

11. Public Comments Regarding Agenda or Non-Agenda Items

None

12. Board of Education Liaisons

Mr. Perugino – Harry S. Fisher Elementary School

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| March 20 - 22 | Parent Conferences (early dismissal) |
| March 18 – 22 | Book Fair |
| March 22 | Report Cards Issued |
| March 25 | Kindergarten Field Trip |

Mr. Engle – Plymouth Center School

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| March 15, 2013 | Prime Time Reading @ 6 p.m. |
| March 27 – 28 | Kindergarten Registration |
| March 29 | No School |

Mr. Berube – SEPTA

No Report – Next Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 21st at 6:30 p.m. @ Eli Terry Jr. Middle School and the topic will be High School Transition.

Mr. Bourbonniere - Terryville High School After Grad

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| March 14 | Meeting, 7 p.m. THS Cafeteria |
| April 5 | Bingo Night |
| June | Car Show, Rain Date: June 9 th |

Bottle Drive to take place at the end of the month at Terryville Congregational.

Mr. Orsini – Eli Terry Jr. Middle School

Last meeting took place on February 27, 2013 but Mr. Orsini was unable to attend due to the Special Board Meeting. Next meeting is scheduled for March 27th at 7 p.m. at Eli Terry Jr. Middle School.

13. Final Board Comments

Mr. Berube – Unprecedented input by the Administrators on the budget. Suggests that the Board hear from the administrators either before or after a meeting to sit down and get an idea from them of what is happening at their school. The more informed we are as Board Members the more we can make informed decisions on what we are doing. Mrs. Collins, your students did an unbelievable job this evening.

Comment:

Mr. Berube asked about the progress of the audit. If there was a time frame as to when the audit would be completed. When the audit is completed, will the Board meet to discuss the results and will the results be sent to Board Members in a timely manner?

Mr. Perugino indicated that both he and Attorney Mills reviewed 5 companies for the audit. Most firms could not begin until mid-April. However, the accounting firm of Marcum indicated they could begin immediately. A boiler plate of 7 pages was sent which listed items that the Board did not request to be done; this was scaled back to 4 pages and was accepted by Marcum. Mr. Santogatta forwarded the information that was requested. There is no time frame. The fee is on an hourly basis and billable hours. When the audit is completed, each Board Member will be presented a copy and this will be done in a timely manner. Mr. Perugino indicated that both he and Attorney Mills have been working weekends on this matter.

Mr. Engle

Mrs. Collins, great job. Congratulations to all of our sports programs, basketball and wrestling. Congratulations to the band. He will probably attend the Academic Bowl.

Mr. Orsini

Mrs. Collins outstanding job. Thank you for the official membership in the Principal's Advisory League, Honorary Member. The students did a great job, well spoken.

Mr. Gentile

Thank you to Mrs. Collins and all of the students for an excellent presentation. CABE's theme this year is To Support the Future. Mr. Orsini, Mr. Santorso, Mr. Perugino, and Mr. Gentile chanted to support our future for the children. Thank you to all of the administrators and teachers and the Board for their effort and time in compiling next year's budget. Let your representatives know your feelings about unfunded mandates. Thank you to Mr. Santogatta for his help with the district these past few weeks. Everything is running as smooth as silk.

Mr. Santorso

CABE has some members attending the Common Core Standards Info Session on April 2nd. The next meeting is March 27th in the Wethersfield Office.

Mr. Wetzel

Great presentation Mrs. Collins. Administrators worked very hard on the budget and did a great job. Mr. Santogatta you've done a great job filling in and we appreciate it.

Mr. Bourbonniere

Thank you to Mrs. Collins. Your students did a wonderful job. Congratulations to the wrestling team and Elliott Wilion. Congratulations to the boy's basketball team. Dr. Doughty-Jenkins for bringing the first-aid course program to the middle school. Because of this program, Mikaela Corsi, who took Dr. Doughty-Jenkins first-aid course, was able to assist another student who was choking on a piece of pizza during lunch in the cafeteria. Thank you to the administrative team for the work on the budget. Thank you to Mr. Santogatta for doing an awesome job. Lastly, on April 6th the Leo Club will be hosting its annual pasta dinner in conjunction with the play from 4 p.m. – 7 p.m. Tickets are available at the high school.

Mrs. Kulesa

Agreed with everything that was said this evening. She attended the New Haven St. Patrick's Day Parade on Sunday and THS did a fabulous job.

Mr. Perugino

Mrs. Collins the students were great. Thank you to Mr. Bourbonniere and Mr. Santorso for taking the day off from work to attend CABE, "Day on the Hill". The group had the pleasure of speaking with the Governor.

14. Executive Session – personnel matters (if necessary)

None

15. Next Regular Board Meeting

Mr. Perugino stated that the next regular Board of Education Meeting will be held on April 10, 2013 at 7 p.m. at Terryville High School.

16. Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 8:23 p.m. Motion **Mr. Engle**, seconded **Mr. Orsini**, motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Gerard Bourbonniere
Secretary