

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, January 9, 2013
Terryville High School Cafeteria*

MINUTES

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

Excused Absence: Mr. Raymond Engle and Mr. Daniel Santorso

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

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. Following the Pledge, Mr. Perugino called for a moment of silence to honor the students of Newtown.

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

*MOTION: To adopt the agenda as presented. Motion **Martin Wetzel**, seconded **Anthony Orsini**, motion passed unanimously*

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

*MOTION: To approve the minutes of the regular meeting of December 12, 2012 with the following correction under Presentations; the donation made by the Terryville Lions Club was \$300.00. Motion **Anthony Orsini**, seconded **Gerard Bourbonniere**, motion passed unanimously.*

4. PRESENTATION

Prior to the Presentation Mr. Perugino welcomed Ms. Cruz to the district. Harry S. Fisher Elementary School provided a presentation on immigration. The unit was aligned to the new common core state standards by having the children integrate information from several texts and sources on the same topic in order to write or speak about the subject knowledgeably.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS

None

6. COMMUNICATIONS

Ms. Cruz informed board members that **CABE** is sponsoring its annual **Day on the Hill** which gives board of education members and legislators an opportunity to discuss critical education issues. All board of education members are invited to attend. It will be held on **March 6, 2013**, at the **Bushnell in Hartford, CT**.

A legislative breakfast will be held on Monday, January 14 at Education Connection in Litchfield @ 7:30 a.m. Ms. Cruz and Mr. Perugino will be attending.

The bus contract has been reviewed and was reviewed through subcommittee.

7. OLD BUSINESS

MOTION: To approve the 2013 – 2014 School Calendar with the following adjustments: August 28, 2013 – School Begins; February 14 & 17, 2014 – February Break; and June 9, 2014 – Last Day of School (provided no emergency closing days). Motion **Gerard Bourbonniere**, seconded **Anthony Orsini**, motion passed unanimously.

Matter of information, the 3 districts, Thomaston, Wolcott and Terryville, met to settle the bus contract so all our dates coincide with each other making it easier for the bus companies.

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. Resignations

Ms. Cruz informed Board Members that she has accepted the resignations of the following individuals:

Tatum Sherwood, Project Director for the Drug Free Community Grant, effective December 22, 2012 and **Stacy Younan**, Cafeteria Aide at Harry S. Fisher Elementary School, effective January 18, 2013.

B. Out-of-State Field Trips

*MOTION: To approve an out-of-state field trip to Boston, Massachusetts for 8th grade students at Eli Terry Jr. Middle School to tour Boston and to visit the Museum of Science on May 17, 2013. Motion **Anthony Orsini**, seconded **Daniel Gentile**, motion passed unanimously.*

*MOTION: To approve an out-of-state field trip to Ocean City, Maryland for grades 9 – 12 Concert Band and Choir Students at Terryville High School to perform on the Ocean City Boardwalk on April 11 – 14, 2013. Motion **Martin Wetzel**, seconded **Mark Berube** motion passed unanimously.*

C. First Reading of Policy 5141.27(a) – Use of Automatic External Defibrillators.

The Policy Subcommittee met on January 2, 2013 and reviewed the new policy on Automatic External Defibrillators. The Board Members were given the first reading of this policy. It will be brought to the February Board Meeting for approval.

D. Childbearing/Childrearing Leaves

*MOTION: To approve the extension of a childrearing leave for **Nicole Walsh**, English Teacher at Eli Terry Jr. Middle School to January 4, 2013. Motion **Daniel Gentile**, seconded **Anthony Orsini** motion passed unanimously.*

*MOTION: To approve the extension of a childrearing leave for **Shannon Surreira**, Math Teacher at Eli Terry Jr. Middle School to March 1, 2013. Motion **Daniel Gentile**, seconded **Gerard Bourbonniere** motion passed unanimously.*

*MOTION: To approve childbearing leave for **MOLLY PALMIERI**, Math Teacher at Terryville High School beginning on or about March 17, 2013. Motion **Daniel Gentile**, seconded **Anthony Orsini** motion passed unanimously.*

9. BOARD MEMBER/COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Curriculum - Mrs. Kulesa, Chair

The Curriculum Subcommittee met on January 2, 2013 and the following items were discussed: (a) Connecticut State Personnel Development Grant (SPDG)- Mr. Travers, Principal of Eli Terry Jr. Middle School gave a presentation about the SPDG which his school received in September. The grant provides professional development and on-site support to implement Scientific-Research Based Interventions (SRBI) with a focus on Positive Behavior Intervention Systems

(PBIS), School-wide Information Systems (SWIS) data collection, and literacy supports. The first year the grant focuses on PBIS and SWIS; and (b) the middle school has put together a PBIS team and the school has begun to examine and further improve its behavior systems using PBIS as a framework. SWIS is data-tracking software provided by the grant which will help keep track of behavioral data.

B. Facilities – Mr. Engle, Chair

Excused Absence

However, Mr. Perugino reported the buildings are being audited after the disaster at Sandy Hook. Recommendations are being formed and there is ongoing work on security.

C. Finance – Mr. Bourbonniere, Chair

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

D. Negotiations - Mr. Wetzel, Chair

No Report

E. Personnel – Mr. Berube, Chair

All items were discussed in subcommittee and were handled under New Business.

F. Policy - Mr. Berube, Chair

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

G. Safety & Transportation – Mr. Orsini, Chair

On Monday, January 7, 2013, Ms. Cruz, Mr. Perugino, Mrs. Radke, and Ms. Suffridge, Officer Walsh, the Plymouth Town Detective and Mr. Orsini, attended an all-day symposium at the Aqua Turf in Southington. The focus of the symposium was (1) to review the best practices for securing school buildings; (2) to review steps that should be taken at the local level related to school security; and (3) to review designs for building security and review the legal and policy implementations for implementing effective school security. Ms. Cruz has been very busy reviewing the districts security plans and going through each building with a fine tooth comb. At some point, she will provide a detailed report.

The Town's Safety Committee will be meeting next Wednesday to review security in all town owned buildings. In addition, Plymouth's Emergency Management Unified Command will be meeting with the Superintendent, the Board of Education Business Manager, and the Board of Education Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds later this month to review all building security in Plymouth to make certain all our schools are a safe haven for all of our children.

At the Board Meeting last month, Dr. Distasio informed the board members that there was an agreement with a company with respect to cameras on buses for the protection and safety of the children and was signed by the Board of Education, the Police Chief, and now is in the hands of the Town Council. The Town Council met on December 17th to take action on the smart bus cooperative agreement. The Waterbury paper reported that the Town Council rejected the plan. This was a disappointment. Mr. Orsini met with Mayor Festa on the afternoon of January 9th and was informed that this item would be placed on the council agenda for the Feb 5th meeting which will take place at 7 p.m. at Town Hall in the community room. Mr. Orsini urged Board Members, School Administrators & parents to attend this meeting.

Mr. Perugino thanked the Aqua Turf for donating their building for this symposium.

H. Education Connection - Mrs. Kulesa

No Report

I. Student Representatives

Timothy King - Welcomed Ms. Cruz.

Nov. 28	<i>The Leo's went ice skating at Bushnell Park and went shopping at Blue Back Square in West Hartford and drove through the Fantasy of Lights</i>
Jan. 19	<i>Northeast Regionals @ New Britain High School</i>
Feb. 2	<i>Leo's to attend a state-wide conference on leadership</i>
Feb. 17	<i>Exams begin</i>
Feb. 18, 22, & 23	<i>Half Days</i>
Feb. 23	<i>Second Term Ends</i>

Other items: (1) Student Council Blood drive this past December and raised over 40 pints of blood; (2) First week of February is the elective fair for the freshmen, sophomore and junior classes to help them choose what electives they would like to choose for next year; (3) Class rings will be coming in at the end of the month for the sophomore class; (4) Vocational Foods raised over \$500 during the holiday pie sale and they will be hosting a luncheon for teachers the first Friday in February.

Devyn Oakes

December Preparation for graduation began, i.e. search for guest speaker
December 19 Seniors fitted for caps and gowns
January 9 Senior class was visited by Terryville High School Alumni and they spoke about post high school experiences and how to plan for the unexpected.
February 8 Terryville/Thomaston Basketball Game at THS

Jon Zalaski

Mr. King distributed passes for the 2013 sports season. Everyone enjoyed the Winter Pep Rally. The wrestling team is undefeated. The Boys' Basketball Team suffered one loss, but did beat Thomaston. The Girls' Basketball Team has the chance to make it to the tournament. The Indoor Track Team had their first meet two weeks ago. Mrs. Farrington, Athletic Director, organized an anonymous "Adopt a Family" at Christmas time. All athletic teams were involved.

10. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS/REQUESTS/INFORMATION

Mr. Trudeau, Director of Technology

During the holiday break approximately 13 staff members attended a workshop on Microsoft Word and Office 2010. Mr. Trudeau received positive feedback. He also thanked, Jason, Connor and Mr. Maslak for tonight's live broadcast.

Mr. Parenti, Director of Pupil Personnel

Mr. Parenti reported on the following: (1) he is beginning to enter into discussions with Ed Connection regarding sharing resources for Special Education within our district. Ed Connection is looking to get a program similar to our new bus contract for our whole RESC area. and (2) Both Apple teachers at the elementary schools applied for and received Grants for i-Pads through Autism speaks.

Dr. Tenney – Director of Curriculum and Instruction

Dr. Tenney reported: (a) Thank you to Ms. Clukey for a wonderful presentation; (b) pleased with how the teachers have embraced the common core; (c) update on several grants that relate to wellness, i.e. Physical Education Grant; Drug Free Grant (a Wellness Committee has been reinstated to bring these together); Early Childhood Council (focuses on birth – 8 and health is a component of this grant), (c) thanked parents who are helping with data collection and (d) there is a program coming up during April vacation that is covered by one of these grants.

Mr. Santogatta, Business Manager

Mr. Santogatta reported: The Finance Subcommittee met prior to the Board Meeting and reviewed this year's budget. He informed the board that the 2013 – 2014 budget is 95% complete and both he and the superintendent will be meeting with the principals and administrators over the next couple of days to finalize the budget.

Ms. Cruz, Superintendent

Ms. Cruz reported she's had a wonderful beginning in Plymouth. She's been visiting the schools, meeting staff and students, attending sports events and concerts, joined the Rotary Club, have spoken to the Terryville Women's Club and at the Parent Leadership Training Institute. Ms. Cruz looks forward to working with the Board and the School Community.

Ms. Cruz reminded parents that school closings, late openings, and early dismissals will be broadcast over cable Channel 16 and the major Television and Radio Stations. Parents and staff will receive a call from the AlertNow automated emergency system. Calls for staff will be made at approximately 5:15 a.m. and to parents at 5:45 a.m.

She also informed members and the public that the first budget workshop will be held on **Wednesday, January 23, 2013 at 6 p.m.** at the Board of Education offices in Main Street School. All are invited to attend.

Happy New Year to All.

11. Public Comments Regarding Agenda or Non-Agenda Items

None

12. Board Liaisons to Schools

Mr. Perugino – Harry S. Fisher Elementary School

The date of the PTA Meeting will take place on January 15, 2013.

January 17 Winter Concert @ 1:45 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Mr. Engle – Plymouth Center School

No Report – Excused Absence

Mr. Orsini – Eli Terry Jr. Middle School

No Report – No December Meeting

January 30 Meeting @ 7 p.m. at Eli Terry Jr. Middle School

Mr. Bourbonniere – Terryville High School

No December Meeting

January 10 Meeting 7 p.m. Terryville High School Cafeteria

Mr. Berube - SEPTA

No Meeting in December.

January 17 Meeting, Eli Terry Middle School in the upper library at 7 p.m.

Mr. Santorso - CAFE

No Report – Excused Absence

Ms. Cruz – PTA Council

Ms. Cruz reported that the PTSA Council did not meet last month. The next meeting is scheduled for January 16, 2013 @ 7 p.m. in the library at Eli Terry Jr. Middle School.

13. Final Board Comments

Mr. Berube: Welcomed Ms. Cruz; commented on how Mrs. Worhunsky is a great representative of what our kids do in the entire school system; wonderful presentation by Harry S. Fisher Elementary School; requested a copy of the night's presentation and also echoed Dr. Tenney in commenting that the Common Core is not something to be afraid of.

Mr. Orsini: Welcomed Ms. Cruz to the Plymouth School District and the Town of Plymouth; congratulated Mrs. Worhunsky, Ms. Clukey and their students on an outstanding job, the music selection was perfect.

Mr. Gentile: Welcomed Ms. Cruz; presentation was fantastic; and Happy New Year to everyone.

Mr. Wetzel: The presentation was fantastic; welcomed Ms. Cruz.

Mr. Bourbonniere: Congratulations to Mrs. Worhunsky and students; Ms. Cruz welcome to the district; your journey has just begun, "Life's a Journey so enjoy the ride", hopefully your ride here will be good and Happy New Year to everyone.

Mrs. Kulesa – Nothing to add.

Mr. Ferreira, Liaison – Addressed the issue of cameras on the school buses that went before the Town Council at their last meeting. The Town Council voted 4 to 1. The contract was voted down. Members had questions on some items contained in the literature. These questions could not be addressed because a representative from the company was not present at the meeting. A suggestion for the February 15th meeting is to have a representative from the company attend the February meeting to answer questions from the Town Council about the details in the packet that was submitted. Mr. Perugino indicated members of the Board along with the bus companies.

Mr. Perugino – Nice presentation on the sign at Plymouth Center School; welcomed Ms. Cruz; excellent job by Ms. Cruz and staff on the handling of the situation with respect to Sandy Hook incident; Mrs. Worhunsky the presentation was out of this world; and the Plymouth Board of Education received the Board of Distinction Award Student Achievement, Professional Development Policy, Community Relations and Organizational Leadership award. Mr. Perugino thanked Pat for preparing all the paperwork. The plaque will be displayed on the wall in the hallway across from the superintendent's office.

14. Next Regular Board Meeting

Mr. Perugino stated that the next regular Board of Education Meeting will be held on February 13, 2013 at 7 p.m. at Terryville High School.

15. Adjournment

MOTION: *To adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m. Motion **Anthony Orsini**, seconded **Martin Wetzel**, motion passed unanimously.*

Respectfully submitted,

*Gerard Bourbonniere
Secretary*