#### 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, June 11, 2014 Terryville High School Cafeteria

#### **MINUTES**

Present:

Board: Mr. Melchionna, Mr. Perugino, Mrs. Johnson, Mr. Gentile, Mr. Orsini, Ms. McCann, Mrs. Kulesa and Mr. Engle

Absent: Mr. Goodwin

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. Engle 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. Orsini seconded Mr. Gentile, motion passes unanimously.

# 3. <u>CAUCUS FOR NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF PLYMOUTH</u> BOARD OF EDUCATION SECRETARY

MOTION: To convene for the purpose of caucus at 7:05 p.m. Motion **Mrs. Johnson**, seconded **Mr. Perugino** motion passes unanimously.

MOTION: To reconvene after caucus at 7:10 p.m. Motion Mrs. Johnson, seconded Ms. McCann motion passes unanimously.

#### 4. NOMINATIONS AND ELECTION OF SECRETARY

Nominations for Secretary: **Mr. Orsini**, nominated by Mrs. Kulesa and Mr. Perugino. **Mrs. Johnson**, nominated by Mr. Gentile and Mrs. McCann. Since there were no more nominations, Mr. Engle closed nominations. There being no further nominations, paper ballots were distributed to the Board of Education Members. After and collection of

PLYMOUTH, CT TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE RECEIVED FOR RECORD 14 JULI 18 AM 9: 03 14 JULI 18 AM 9: 03 TOWN CLERK the ballots, five (5) votes were cast for Mrs. Johnson and three (3) votes were cast for Mr. Orsini. Mrs. Johnson was selected Secretary of the Plymouth Board of Education by a vote of 5 to 3. (copies of ballots attached)

#### 5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: To approve the minutes of: Regular Meeting, May 14, 2014 Special Board Meeting, May 22, 2014

MOTION: **Mr. Perugino**, seconded **Mr. Melchionna**, motion passed unanimously.

#### 6. PRESENTATION

- A. <u>Plymouth Teacher of the Year</u> Alex Maslak was named Plymouth Teacher of the Year. The introductions were made by Mrs. Radke, Assistant Principal of Terryville High School, Dr. Tenney and Ms. Brooke Matuszczak.
- B. <u>Dr. Deborah Wheeler</u> Mr. Engle announced that Dr. Wheeler has resigned her seat on the Plymouth Board of Education. She has accepted the position of Superintendent of Schools for the school district of Upper Dublin, Pennsylvania. The Board wishes Dr. Wheeler the best in her new position.
- C. <u>Terryville High School</u> This month's presentation was made by Mrs. Prescott and Mrs. Duffy. It informed the Board and the Community about the Terryville High School Literacy Initiative. The presentation included a brief description of the school improvement plan as it pertains to literacy and the library and literacy labs role in the process. The presentation also shared some student literacy performance data.
- D. Mr. Sandshaw End of the Year Energy Update Mr. Sandshaw reported on what has been accomplished this fiscal year. He showed the Board a slide presentation which is available using the ON LINE version of our data reporting system.

#### 7. PUBLIC COMMENT

Melanie Church, 328 Main Street, Terryville –If a retreat is planned, she hoped that this Board would take a stand and save money for the kids; what this Board has proclaimed is that the most important thing is the kids.

Robin Graham, 232 Scott Road, Terryville – representing the Friends of Music and having been involved with the group for 6 years, and for the past 2 years as president, she expressed her concern on the Board's decision to cut a full-time music position at the middle school. She feels this will cut the program by 50% and have a devastating effect in a thriving music program in Terryville. Ms. Graham urged the Board of reinstate the music position at the middle school for the 2014 – 2015 school year.

<u>Julie Kozikowski</u>, 4 Park Street, Plymouth – as a concerned parent, taxpayer and part of the Friends of Music at the high school, she presented a petition of over 170 signatures of town residents who are concerned with the cut of the music position and asks the position be reinstated. Ms. Kozikowski gave sites where she obtained information on percentages of student success who participate in music programs.

<u>Cindy Roberts</u>, 15 Ellen Drive, Terryville – she is a paraprofessional at the middle school and is involved in Friends of Music at the high school. Ms. Roberts fells that with two teachers at the middle school, it will allow for more extracurricular music activities. With only one teacher for music and band, the town wide program will suffer and will affect the high school program in years to come.

Brenton Ridgeway, 70 Minor Road, Terryville – he has 2 children in the district who are involved in the band at both the middle and high schools. As a music teacher in another district, he is asked to provide rigorous instruction to students which challenge them to use their minds and builds children into being the best individuals they can be. Mr. Ridgeway was impressed by both the middle and high school concerts. He feels the Board is cutting valuable education for the children. Music offers teamwork and hopes the Board will reverse their decision.

Jennifer Benson, 79 North Street, Plymouth – her son will be entering middle school in the fall which is one of the reason he goes to school. Music is an incredible motivator and broadens the mind. It is alarming for one teacher to service over 200 students. Ms. Benson advocates for reinstating the position of find the funds to do so. She feels every option should be available for the kids; that is our mission and our job.

Michael Russo, 262 Todd Hollow Road, Plymouth –presented files to the Board of Education Chair. Mr. Russo was at the meeting on behalf of 14 parents in demanding the resignation or removal of the varsity softball coaches. He read into the record his own letter which was in the packet given to the Chairman. Mr. Russco indicated more signatures would have been obtained had it not been for fear of retaliation. He indicated to the Board the need for a formal open investigation in the posting of this job. Terryville is a great town, with numerous travel teams, with good softball tradition and good coaches who encourage children.

Bryan Martin, 1 George Street, Terryville – he has a son who graduated 2 years ago and was involved with program for 4 years. Mr. Martin feels the music program will suffer with only one educator in the middle school. Eliminating one position is a huge mistake and he hopes the Board will change its decision.

Oscar Suarez, 3 East Minor Road, Terryville – his attendance at the board meeting was to support the parents with respect to the varsity high school softball coaches. His opinion is that the coaches have good intentions but no knowledge of how to coach. He commented on his daughter being injured and the coaches having no concern for the kid's well being. He feels his daughter has been retaliated on. Mr. Suarez asked the Board to look it over and readdress.

Mark Berube, 48 Ronald Road, Terryville – he supports everyone that spoke at the Board meeting with respect to the music teachers. When asked about the number of positions being lost for next year, the answer was 19. Mr. Berube's suggestion was to go to the Board of Finance and the Mayor. After all, the Mayor ran on a platform of a zero percent increase. The Board has to make difficult decisions. Mr. Berube encouraged the Board to look at saving quality people. The Town needs to fund the school system.

<u>Diane Luba</u>, 37 Meghan Boulevard, Plymouth – Affirmed the fact that her senior daughter plays softball and they did not sign the petition. But this does not mean she does not support those parents that did. Ms. Luba indicated she does have some issues and will be filing a formal complaint against the athletic department. She indicated she will being it forward but is waiting for her daughter to graduate so there is no further retaliation.

Mike Luba, 37 Meghan Boulevard, Plymouth – he indicated he has a few issues to address with the Board but will do so at a later date regarding the softball program. He did inform the Board that on the Terryville High School website the roster was for the year 2013 and on the CIAC website there was a roster for every school in the Berkshire League but Terryville High School. He indicated our kids need better.

<u>Deb Suarez</u>, 3 East Minor Road, Terryville – her daughter was asked last year by Coach Konopaske to make a commitment to the school and team to get pitching lessons to help the team as they were losing their star pitcher. The commitment was made and thousands of dollars were spent, however, but the coach did not follow through on her commitment. When her daughter was injured, not one coach went up to her daughter. Her daughter was not allowed to play even with a clearance letter from the pediatrician. Ms. Suarez feels the entire season was one big disappointment. If Ms. Konopaske will be coaching next year, her daughter will not be playing softball.

<u>Jen Luba</u>, Meghan Boulevard – Jen was the lone senior on the softball team. The complaints that were heard were from the parents and

players perspective. She knows what it feels like to be retaliated against from the coaches because she's had to deal with it her senior year. She played for the girls and not for the coaches and all she wants is what is best for next year.

#### 8. COMMUNICATIONS

None

#### 9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

MOTION: To approve Policy Series 2000 – Administration as written. Motion **Mr. Gentile**, seconded **Mr. Orsini** motion passes unanimously.

#### 10. NEW BUSINESS

#### A. Appointments

MOTION: To approve the following appointments: Laura Gagnon, to the position of Summer School Program Coordinator effective June 12, 2014 and ending August 1, 2014; John Haviland to the position of Pre-K – 8 and Apple Summer School Coordinator effective June 12, 2014 for the 2014 Plymouth Summer School Academy; Judith Cumiskey, Writing Coach at Harry S. Fisher Elementary School and Plymouth Center School (.45%) effective for the 2014 – 2015 school year; Nicole Levesque, Literacy Coach effective for the 2014 – 2015 school year; Mary Connolly, Reading Consultant at Plymouth Center for the 2014 – 2015 school year; Shannon Surreira, middle school Mathematics Coach effective for the 2014 – 2015 school year; and Mark Hedrick, Assistant Principal at Eli Terry Jr. Middle School effective July 1, 2014. Motion Mrs. Johnson, seconded Mr. Gentile, motion passed unanimously.

#### B. Non-Renewals

Due to a third grade teacher's appointment as Literacy Coach for the 2014 – 2015 school year, Ms. Cruz requested a teacher to be recalled. Therefore the following motion was made:

MOTION: To approve rescinding one of the non-renewals for budget reduction and assign that individual as a third grade teacher at Harry S. Fisher Elementary School. Motion **Mrs. Kulesa**, seconded **Mr. Orsini**, motion passed unanimously.

#### C. Resignations

Ms. Cruz, Superintendent, informed the Board of the following resignations: Charlotte Jenner, Part-time Paraprofessional in the Pre-School Program at Harry S. Fisher Elementary School effective May 9, 2014; Elaine Dobson, Speech/Language Pathologist Assistant at Plymouth Center School effective May 28, 2014; Debra Cook, Guidance

Secretary at Terryville High School effective at the end of the 2013 – 2014 school year; Elizabeth Houle, Secretary at Plymouth Center School effective at the end of the 2013 – 2014 school year; Doris Mozelak, Library Secretary at Terryville High School effective at the end of the 2013 – 2014 school year; Judith Pavelec, Guidance Secretary at Eli Terry Jr. Middle School effective at the end of the 2013 – 2014 school year; Laura Como, Part-time Paraprofessional at Harry S. Fisher Elementary School effective at the end of the 2013 – 2014 school year; Aimee Schapp, Psychologist at Plymouth Center School and Eli Terry Jr. Middle School effective at the end of the 2013 – 2014 school year; and Brian Falcone, Principal of Terryville High School effective June 30, 2014.

#### D. Childrearing Leave

MOTION: To approve the request for childbearing leave for **Kathleen Trotochaud**, grade 6 Science Teacher at Eli Terry Jr. Middle School effective May 21, 2014 and for the remainder of the 2013 – 2014 school year. Motion **Mrs. Johnson**, seconded **Mr. Melchionna**, motion passed unanimously.

#### E. End of the Year Transfer of Funds

MOTION: To authorize the Superintendent to work with the Director of Finance in order to make the necessary transfers and expenditures to close the books as of June 30<sup>th</sup> and to expend appropriate funds for the fiscal year 2013-2014. Motion **Mrs. Kulesa**, seconded **Mr. Orsini**, motion passed unanimously.

# F. <u>Authorization to Participate in the National School Lunch</u> <u>Program</u>

MOTION: To authorize the administration to participate in the National School Lunch Program for the 2014 – 2015 school year. Motion **Mr. Perugino**, seconded **Mr. Melchionna**, **Mr. Gentile** voted "no", motion passes.

#### G. Authorization to Hire

MOTION: To approve the authorization for the Superintendent of Schools to hire personnel, except administrators, during the months of July and August in conjunction with the Personnel Subcommittee Chair. Motion **Mr. Orsini**, seconded **Mrs. Johnson**, motion passes unanimously.

#### H. Approval of Food Service Provided

MOTION: To table this item until the August Board Meeting as the food service provider is currently out to bid. Motion **Mrs. Johnson**, seconded **Mr. Perugino**, motion passes unanimously.

#### I. Disposal of Textbooks

Disposal of the following textbooks:

- South-Western, Century 21, Accounting, Advanced/Copyright 2000/4 copies; seventh edition
- South-Western, Century 21, Accounting, General Journal/Copyright 2000/18 copies/seventh edition
- South-Western, Automated Accounting 7.0 (Windows 3.1 Windows 95)/Copyright 1999/26 copies
- Concepts and Challenges Physical Science By Pearson Learning Group/Copyright 2003/15 copies
- Holt Environmental Science/Copyright 2000/63 copies
- Harcourt Math Textbooks/2007/plus teacher manuals/66 copies
- Harcourt Brace Signatures Reading Textbooks/1999/22 copies
- Algebra 1, An Integrated Approach/McDougal, Littell & Company/1991/35 copies

Mr. Perugino asked about donating the books. Dr. Tenney will see him regarding the individual to contact. The Board will not pay for the shipping cost of the books.

MOTION: To amend the motion from disposal of textbooks to donation of textbooks. Motion **Mr. Perugino**, seconded **Mr. Orsini**, motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: To recommend the donation of the books as stated by the Superintendent. Motion **Mr. Melchionna**, seconded **Mr. Gentile**, motion passed unanimously.

#### J. Early Retirement Incentive for Non-Bargaining Staff

MOTION: To approve the Early Retirement Incentive for Non-Bargaining Staff as presented by the Superintendent. Motion Mr. Perugino, seconded Mr. Melchionna, motion passed with Ms. McCann abstaining.

#### K. Contract for Director of Technology

After their meeting tonight, the Negotiations Subcommittee moved that the Contract for the Director of Technology be presented to the full Board of their approval.

MOTION: To approve the Contract for the Director of Technology as discussed at the Negotiations Subcommittee and as presented to the Board. Motion **Mr. Gentile**, seconded **Mr. Perugino**. At this time, the Chair took a roll vote: Mr. Melchionna, Mr. Perugino, Mrs. Johnson, Mr. Gentile and Mrs. Kulesa all voted in favor of the motion. Ms. McCann abstained. Motion passes

#### 11. BOARD MEMBER/COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Curriculum - Mrs. Kulesa, Chair

No Report

B. Facilities - Mr. Goodwin, Chair

In lieu of Mr. Goodwin's absence, Mr. Orsini reported: The Facilities Subcommittee met on May 13, 2014 and discussed the following items: (a) The bid for Harry S. Fisher Elementary School was postponed pending a more detailed plan; (b) Continued discussion regarding the Development of the Capital Improvement Plans; (c) The Mayor's proposal for Main Street School; and (d) The egress proposal for Eli Terry Jr. Middle School.

Mr. Perugino questioned: If the town renovates Main Street School, will the Board of Education be leasing? Mr. Engle indicated currently there are many hypotheticals being explored.

#### C. Finance - Mr. Melchionna, 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.

MOTION: To approve transfers totaling \$167,000 as discussed at the Special Finance Subcommittee Meeting. Motion **Mr. Melchionna**, seconded **Mr. Gentile**, motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: To approve applying the excess funds from last years budget of up to \$40,000: (a) in the Board of Education Sinking Fund; (b) to purchase chrome books for the middle school; and (d) funds to complete the curriculum on the common core. Motion **Mr. Melchionna**, second **Mr. Gentile**, motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: To approve the adjustments to the 2014 - 2015 Budget as discussed at the Special Finance Subcommittee Meeting. Motion **Mr. Melchionna**, seconded **Mr. Perugino**, motion passed unanimously.

#### D. Negotiations - Mr. Gentile, Chair

The Negotiations Subcommittee met prior to the Board meeting and moved that the contract for the Director of Technology be presented to the full Board for their approval.

#### E. Personnel - Mr. Goodwin, Chair

In lieu of Mr. Goodwin's absence, Mrs. Kulesa, Vice-Chair of the Personnel Subcommittee reported that all items were handled under New Business.

#### F. Policy - Mrs. Johnson, Chair

Item was covered under Unfinished Business. The subcommittee is looking to schedule a meeting some in the month of July in preparation for work to be done in August.

#### G. Safety & Transportation - Mr. Orsini, Chair

The Safety & Transportation Subcommittee will be meeting on Tuesday, June 17, 2014 at 7 p.m. at Central Office.

#### H. Education Connection - Mrs. Kulesa

No report

#### I. Student Representatives

Mr. Engle announced the student representatives for 2014 – 2015. They are Allison Smith, George Andrews and Halley King.

#### 12. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS/REQUESTS/INFORMATION

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

No Report

#### Mr. Trudeau, Director of Technology

Mr. Trudeau acknowledged the camera crew along with Mr. Falcone. He wished Mr. Falcone the best in his new position. Mr. Trudeau indicated that focus is being placed on to summer maintenance and preparing all of the technology for next year.

#### Mr. Parenti, Director of Pupil Personnel

This is a very busy time of the year in the special education department, i.e. finalizing year end PPT's, staffing and getting ready for the summer school program. He thanked his team of Jan Basoli and Mark Hedrick. He wished Mark the best of luck in his new endeavors next year. He will truly be missed. Summer school is from 4 to 6 weeks.

#### Mr. Sangotatta, Business Manager

Mr. Santogatta thanked Mr. Sandshaw for his presentation and for the tremendous job he has done. Currently, Mr. Santogatta reported he is winding down this year's budget with the appropriate transfers. The district will not be in a deficit position. Balloon checks have been prepared for the staff. The breakfast program was launched in mid-May at the other schools. Plymouth Center School is averaging over 70

breakfasts a day which is over 20% of the enrollment. Lisa Daly, the food director and the administrators have done a great job. Equipment has been purchased through grants applied for by Lisa Daly and we thank her for all of her hard work.

On the facilities side: We are preparing for summer projects. Bids are to be opened next week for the entry way at Harry S. Fisher Elementary School. Mr. Santogatta indicated he will send an e-mail to Board Members as to the date and time of the bid opening.

#### Ms. Cruz, Superintendent

Ms. Cruz reported the following:

The Annual Scholarship Night was held on May 29, 2014 at Terryville High School. The sum of \$230,000 was awarded to Plymouth students in the form of scholarships based on the generosity of the community.

Mr. Santogatta informed Board Members that Chartwells offered a \$1,000 scholarship to a student furthering their education in culinary arts. This year's recipient was Kyle Elias of Terryville High School who will be attending Naugatuck Valley Community College.

Ms. Cruz indicated that Mr. Santogatta was very instrumental in helping this student in making some great decisions.

On behalf of the Plymouth Board of Education, Ms. Cruz thanked the administrators, teachers, staff and students for a wonderful and productive year. She wished Brian the best of luck in his next step in his journey and expects to hear great things about him in the years to come; very proud of him and the work he will do in the years moving forward. Thank you for your years of service in Plymouth.

Thank you to the Board for all of their hard work throughout the year and Ms. Cruz welcomed new board member, Roxanne McCann.

The last day of school is on Wednesday, June18th. 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.

#### 13. BOARD LIAISONS TO SCHOOLS

#### Mr. Perugino- Harry S. Fisher Elementary School

Attended the end of the year Town Hall Meeting and was impressed with the volunteers and the work done by Mrs. Worhunsky, Principal.

#### Mr. Melchionna - Plymouth Center School

Commended the students of Plymouth Center School for the great job they did in reciting the Gettysburg Address on the Plymouth Green during the Memorial Day Services.

Mrs. Johnson - SEPTA

No Report

Mr. Goodwin - Terryville High School

Absent

Vacant- Eli Terry Jr. Middle School

Mr. Engle appointed Ms. McCann liaison for Eli Terry Jr. Middle School for the 2014 - 2015 school year.

Mr. Gentile - CABE

Mr. Gentile indicated the law pertaining to concussion was passed. More information to follow.

Ms. Cruz - PTSA Council

No report

#### 14. FINAL BOARD COMMENTS

**Mr. Gentile** – Thanked all of the graduates and students; commended the bus driver who travels on route 262 at 9 a.m. for stopping to let cars pass; thanked everyone who spoke at tonight's meeting; spoke about retaliation; and the music teacher at the middle school.

**Mr. Orsini** – Congratulated Mr. Maslak, Plymouth's Teacher of the Year; impressive presentation by Mrs. Prescott and Mrs. Duffey; and outstanding job by Mr. Sandshaw.

**Ms. McCann** – Indicated she takes her position on the Board seriously and to heart; thankful for the appointment; it will be an interesting ride; and she looks forward to working with everyone/

Mr. Kulesa – Thanked everyone who came to the meeting whether it was to speak at the podium or to present to the Board or public comment. To all of the staff members leaving, thank you for your years of service; Mr. Falcone good luck to you in the future, you will be missed and to everyone, may you have a restful summer.

**Mr. Melchionna** – Congratulations to the teacher of the year, Mr. Maslak. Thank you to Mr. Santogatta for tutoring him and for his patience during the Finance Subcommittee Meetings.

Mr. Perugino – As a point of information, the sale of Prospect Street School is not being held up due to the soccer field. These fields belong to the Town. Congratulated this year's graduates and to Alex, Teacher of the Year. Mr. Perugino expressed his concerns regarding the softball team, uncalled for something needs to be done. Suggested sitting down with the Personnel Subcommittee to find out exactly what is happening. He finds it very disturbing to have parents and students come up to the podium. If there is something wrong, it needs to be corrected. He voted "no" with respect to letting the music teacher go. He is disturbed to see that Mr. Falcone leaving. He was never a complainer whether it is at the elementary, middle school or high school level. Good friend and good person. If you want to come back, you're always welcome in Terryville. Thank you for your years of service.

Mrs. Johnson – Best Wishes to Mr. Travers in his retirement, he will be missed. Congratulations to Mark, you will be missed. The awards night at Eli Terry and it was fantastic. She was impressed that Mr. Travers pointed out that the Superintendent was present. She was invited to the Senior Prom which was a wonderful and moving experience. Thanked Mr. Falcone, Mrs. Radke and Rob. She will miss the class of 2014. To Mr. Falcone, you will truly be missed and thanked him for everything he has done for her children.

**Mr. Engle** – Best Wishes to those individuals leaving the district. He wished people had come earlier to speak with respect to the music position. Thank you to Mr. Travers for all of the work he has done for the district and best wishes on his retirement. To all of those individuals who are retiring due to the incentive, thank you for all of your many years of service. Brian, thank you.

#### 15. NEXT REGULAR BOARD MEETING

**Mr. Engle** stated the next Regular Board of Education Meeting will be held on the August 13, 2014 at 7 p.m. at Terryville High School.

#### 16. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m. Motion **Mr. Perugino**, seconded **Mr. Gentile**, motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa Johnson Secretary



SECRETARY, Plymouth Board of Education

Submitted by:



SECRETARY, Plymouth Board of Education

Melissa Johnson

Submitted by: Melchion ha
Name



# SECRETARY, Plymouth Board of Education

Submitted by: Jorna M' Com
Name



SECRETARY, Plymouth Board of Education

Submitted by:



SECRETARY, Plymouth Board of Education

Melisia Johnson



SECRETARY, Plymouth Board of Education

TONY ORSINI

Submitted by: Anthry ORSIN



SECRETARY, Plymouth Board of Education

Submitted by: HAT YERUGIW O



SECRETARY, Plymouth Board of Education

Tony Orsini

Submitted by: Karen Kullan