

Mission Statement

The Mission of Plymouth Public Schools is to challenge, inspire, and prepare all students in an ever-changing and complex world.

SPECIAL MEETING
OF
THE PLYMOUTH BOARD OF EDUCATION
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2014

MINUTES

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Present: Board: Mr. Melchionna, Mr. Perugino, Mrs. McCann, Mr. Gentile, Mr. Orsini, Mr. Goodwin, Mrs. Kulesa, and Mr. Engle

Absent: Mrs. Johnson

Others Present: Mr. Santogatta, Business Manager/Interim Superintendent and Attorney Richard Mills.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Engle called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

MOTION: To adopt the agenda as presented. Mr. Gentile, seconded Mr. Goodwin, motion passes.

3. DISCUSSION REGARDING PROPOSED AGREEMENT CONCERNING SUPERINTENDENT'S EMPLOYMENT (Note: This Agenda Item may be discussed in executive session)

4. DISCUSSION REGARDING APOINTMENT OF ACTING SUPERINTENDENT (this Agenda Item may be discussed in executive session)

MOTION: To enter into executive session at 6:31 p.m. inviting all of the Board Members, Mr. Santogatta and Attorney Mills. Motion Mr. Perugino, seconded Mr. Orsini, motion passes.

MOTION: To enter back into regular session at 7:52 p.m. Motion Mr. Gentile, seconded Mr. Perugino, motion passes.

The following action is a result of executive session.

5. MOTION CONCERNING SUPERINTENDENT'S EMPLOYMENT

MOTION: Moved, that the Board approve the proposed settlement agreement with Eleanor Cruz, based on the term discussed in executive session on September 4, 2014, including Eleanor Cruz's resignation as Superintendent of Schools, effective August 31, 2014, and MOVED FURTHER, that the Board Chair be authorized to execute the settlement agreement on behalf of the Board. Motion Mrs. McCann, seconded Mr. Perugino. Roll Vote: Mr. Melchionna, Mr. Perugino, Mrs. McCann, Mr. Gentile, Mr. Orsini, Mr. Goodwin and Mrs. Kulesa all voted in favor of the motion. Motion passes unanimously. Motion accepted.

6. MOTION REGARDI NG APPOINTMENT OF INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT

MOTION: MOVED, that the Board of Education appoint Mark Winzler, Interim Superintendent of Schools effective September 15, 2014 and continuing through June 30, 2015, or until such time as a new Superintendent of Schools begins work in Plymouth, whichever occurs first, subject to the approval of the Commissioner of Education in accordance with Section 10-157 of the Connecticut General Statute, and MOVED FURTHER , that the Board Chair be authorized to finalize and execute a contract of employment with Mark Winzler on behalf of the Board. Motion Mr. Goodwin, seconded Mr. Perugino.

Roll Vote: Mr. Melchionna, Mr. Perugino, Mrs. McCann, Mr. Gentile, Mr. Orsini, Mr. Goodwin and Mrs. Kulesa all voted in favor of the motion. Motion passes unanimously.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT (3 MINUTES)

Chris Simo-Kinzer, 52 Old Farm Road – Thanked the Board for their decision at tonight's meeting. Also, asked if the Board would consider a special meeting with the interim superintendent and the public in order that the public could address their concerns and inquire of the interim superintendent what direction he plans on following.

Pattie DeHuff – 20 Lynn Avenue – Addressed her concern regarding another teacher's resignation at the high school, Ray Lapinski. She encouraged the Board to reach out to Mr. Lapinski and ask why he has chosen to leave our school system. The Board needs to take a pro-active stand and begin asking every single person that has left why did you leave. You need to know their answer if you are going to move ahead and do what's right for the children of this community.

Melanie Church – 328 Main Street – Thanked the Board for finally taking a stand. You have a tough road ahead of you and your customers are the parents of the schools. If you don't have the parents or the students, you do not have a Board of Ed. Suggested the Board open up their lines of communication with the parents and hopes the Board will change the 3 minute limit for the parents. Suggests the Board do some house cleaning considering the number of resignations that have come through thus far. She also thanked Mr. Santogatta for stepping up and taking over in our dyer need and believes he did not know the superintendent was going to be arrested.

Mr. Engle read the following statement:

Following the Boards' Special Meeting this evening, we have some good news to report. (1) The Board and Ms. Eleanor Cruz have reached an agreement with respect to Ms. Cruz's employment as Superintendent of Schools. Under the terms of the agreement, the Board has accepted Ms. Cruz's resignation effective August 31, 2014. The Board believes the agreement resolves all matters concerning Ms. Cruz's employment is an important step in enabling the district to move forward constructively. Looking ahead, the Board of Education has appointed Mark Winzler to serve as the interim superintendent. We are fortunate to have such a person with his vast expertise, proven track record and vision for public education to lead the public schools community forward. The Board's decisions tonight hopefully provide some closure to the community on the issue. The Board is committed to moving forward by renewing its focus on student achievement and goals of the district for the 2014 -2015 school year.

8. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Motion to adjourn at 8 p.m. Motion Mr. Perugino, seconded Mr. Orsini, motion passes.

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Engle
Chair
Plymouth Board of Education