

*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, December 12, 2012  
Terryville High School Cafeteria*

**MINUTES**

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

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

**1. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE TO THE FLAG**

*Mr. Perugino called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The group joined in the Pledge to the Flag.*

**2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

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

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

*MOTION: To approve the minutes of the regular meeting of November 14, 2012. Motion **Raymond Engle**, seconded **Daniel Gentile** motion passed unanimously.*

**4. PRESENTATIONS**

*The presentation for December was provided by the Technology Department and focused on the use of technology in our district. The presentation demonstrated examples of the use of instructional technology in the classroom and students presented examples of public service announcements they produced. Additionally, there was a brief presentation on the use of mobile devices and how they are utilized in the classroom.*

*Also, the Terryville Lions Club made a \$100 donation on behalf of **Lisa Aiudi**, **Gerry Bourbonniere** and the **Leo Club** for their hard work over the years for the Lion's Club Eye Programs. Their names will be placed on the Lion's Low Vision Wall of Honor, 2012*

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS

None

6. COMMUNICATIONS

Dr. Distasio was informed by the Commissioner of Education, **Stefan Pryor**, of four students who achieved at the Advanced Level on all four areas of the Connecticut Academic Performance Test administered last year. Congratulations to: **Taylor Donofrio, Bailey Doran, Nicholas Kaschak** and **Julia Pilarski**.

The Regional Office of the College Board informed Dr. Distasio that Terryville High School earned a place on the Advanced Placement Honor Roll. The district is one of 539 school districts in the United States and Canada to receive this outstanding recognition.

A number of students received All-Berkshire League Honors for the fall sports season. Congratulations went to: **Stephen Brown**, Boys' Soccer and **Anna Dupaul, Jamie Bridge**, and **Bailey Doran**, Girls' Volleyball.

**Connor Levins** received the Athlete of the Week Honors from the Bristol Press for Cross Country at Terryville High School.

7. OLD BUSINESS

None

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. 2013–2014 School Calendar

The Board Members were presented draft copies the 2013–2014 School Calendar with recommended adjustments in their packet. These adjustments will be necessary to coordinate calendars with Thomaston, Wolcott and our district. The changes are as follows:

August 28	School begins
February 14 & 17	February Break
June 9	Last Day of School (provided no emergency closing days)

The adjustments to the calendar coordinate the busing for the 3 districts which result in cost savings for all 3 districts. Approval of the adjusted calendar will be made at the January Board Meeting.

B. Bus Contracts

*Prior to the Board Meeting, the Finance Subcommittee met and discussed the costs associated with busing for the next 5 years. After a brief discussion, the Finance Subcommittee made the following recommendation to the full Board.*

*MOTION: To award **Worhunsky Bus Company** a 5 year contract for regular education and in-house special education busing and to award **Cardinal Bus Company** a 5 year contract for special education out-of-district busing. Motion **Raymond Engle**, seconded **Gerard Bourbonniere**. The Chair asked for a roll vote, **Karen Kulesa**, **Gerard Bourbonniere**, **Martin Wetzel**, **Daniel Santorso**, **Daniel Gentile**, **Anthony Orsini** and the **Chair** all voted in favor of the motion. **Mark Berube** abstained. The vote was **8** for with **1** abstention. Motion passed.*

*Just a note: Thomaston and Wolcott Boards approved contracts for both Worhunsky and Cardinal at the board meeting on Monday, December 10, 2012.*

9. BOARD MEMBER/COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Curriculum - Mrs. Kulesa

*The Curriculum Subcommittee met on December 5, 2012. The following items were discussed: (1) Professional Development & Collaboration Time – Update for September through November 2012. – There was a discussion regarding state mandates which requires training for teachers; and the use of collaboration time to align curriculum to Common Core State Standards. and (2) High School Graduation Requirement, AP Reports, & College Options Program – Review of the PE Graduation requirements and proposed modification; a letter and award from the College Board were shared with subcommittee members indicating that Plymouth earned a place on the 2012 AP Honor Roll for increasing student participation in AP courses and improving AP Test Scores; the result of the My College Options Report which showed data on students' college and career interests and high school enrollment; and a PowerPoint presentation showing all of the high schools current offerings along with courses being proposed for next year.*

B. Facilities – Mr. Engle

No Report

C. Finance – Mr. Bourbonniere

*Mr. Bourbonniere reported that the Finance Sub-Committee met prior to the Board of Education Meeting. The November accounts by facilities report was reviewed and will be forwarded to the Town of Plymouth Board of Finance.*

D. Negotiations – Mr. Wetzel

No Report.

E. Personnel – Mr. Berube

No Report

F. Policy – Mr. Berube

No Report – However, a meeting will be scheduled to discuss a new policy and regulation for automated External Defibrillators.

G. Safety & Transportation - Mr. Orsini

No Report – However, everything is moving very smoothly and safely.

H. Education Connection – Mrs. Kulesa

No Report

I. Student Representatives

**Tim King** – Excused Absence

**Devyn Oakes** – Excused Absence

**Jonathan Zalaski** – Excused Absence

10. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS/REQUESTS/INFORMATION

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

No Report

**Mr. Parenti** – Director of Pupil Personnel

Mr. Parenti reported his department is currently working on the budget and completing the State Compliance Report.

**Mr. Trudeau** – Director of Technology

Mr. Trudeau gave a special thank you to Mr. Bikakis, Mr. Mazelak and the students for the evening presentation.

Everything is going well on the town side.

**Mr. Santogatta**, Business Manager

Mr. Santogatta reported that last month's expenditures were reviewed by the Finance Subcommittee, currently working on the budget, everything is on target.

**Dr. Distasio**, Superintendent

Dr. Distasio reported: (1) 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 between 5 a.m. and 5:30 a.m. and to parents at approximately 5:45 a.m. (2) Holiday break will be from December 22, 2012 through January 1, 2013. Classes resume on Wednesday, January 2, 2013. On behalf of the Plymouth Board of Education, Dr. Distasio expressed sincerest wishes for a very happy holiday season.

Dr. Distasio thanked everyone for their support during his 11 plus years in Plymouth. As a proud superintendent, he thanked teachers, administrators, staff, parents, the community and the Board of Education for their support over the years. To the students of Plymouth, we have the best in the world. It's been a wonderful experience as Superintendent in Plymouth.

*Dr. Distasio informed Board Members the agreement with the company regarding cameras for the busses was signed by the Board of Education, the Police Chief and is now in the hands of the Town Council who will place it on their agenda.*

11. Public Comments Regarding Agenda or Non-Agenda Items

*Mr. James Deutsch  
34 Orchard Street  
Terryville, CT*

*Attended the meeting, to publically acknowledge the work Dr. Distasio has done in the district. He commented on Dr. Distasio's professionalism and leadership.*

12. Board Liaisons to Schools

**Mr. Perugino** – Harry S. Fisher Elementary School

<i>December 17</i>	<i>Kindergarten Gingerbread Jamboree at 12:30</i>
<i>December 21</i>	<i>Eli Terry Jr. Middle School Chorus and Band performing at 10:30 a.m.</i>
<i>December 22</i>	<i>Winter Break</i>

*Early Dismissal – Parents please notify the school office if your telephone number has changed in order receive an AlertNow message. The nurse has completed the vision and hearing screening on all students at Harry S. Fisher Elementary School.*

**Mr. Engle** – Plymouth Center School

<i>December 11</i>	<i>Holiday Craft Night @ 6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m.</i>
<i>December 12</i>	<i>Gingerbread Workshop in K– 1 p.m.</i>
<i>December 19</i>	<i>Gingerbread Workshop in Grade 2 – 1 p.m.</i>
<i>December 21</i>	<i>Eli Terry Jr. M.S. performs at PCS @ 9:20 a.m.</i>
	<i>Holiday Sing-Along – 2:30 p.m.</i>

*Have A Good Holiday.*

*Mr. Perugino read an e-mail from Mrs. Collins to Board Members. There will be an unveiling of the showcase for the original Plymouth Center School sign on loan from the Kozikowski/Matoon family on the morning of January 4<sup>th</sup> beginning at 9 a.m. A small reception will follow. All are invited to attend.*

**Mr. Orsini– Eli Terry Jr. Middle School**

November 27	PTA Meeting
December	No Meeting
January 30, 2013	PTA Meeting @ 7 p.m.

Some of the highlights of the PTA Meeting were: (1) The Fundraising Committee reported there will be a pizza party for the top fundraiser sellers; (2) Kids in the Middle will be conducting a toy drive, making Christmas cards for the American Red Cross, collecting cell phones for soldiers, and collecting money for the Kids Against Hunger Program; (3) There was a discussion regarding the proposed 2013 – 2014 school calendar; (4) Mr. Travers spoke on a new Behavior/Intervention Plan for middle school students; (5) The students in Mr. Bikakis' 8<sup>th</sup> grade Civics class collected coats to benefit local families; (6) Mr. Bikakis and his enrichment class students won 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the United Way Video Contest; (7) The second trimester began on December 5<sup>th</sup>; (8) A 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Rotary Luncheon was held on December 5<sup>th</sup>; (9) The Middle School Winter Concert was held on December 11 @ 6 p.m.; and (9) On December 21 @ 1:30 p.m. a Middle School Holiday Concert will be held in the gym for middle school students.

**Mr. Bourbonniere – Terryville High School-PTSA/After Grad Committee**

December 13	Meeting 7 p.m. in the cafeteria at THS
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On November 26, the Leo Club had their induction ceremony for new Leos. Sixty freshmen students signed up. It was the largest Leo sign up in the school history. There are currently 118 members. Another organization associated with the Lions Club is CLERF (Connecticut Lions Eye Research Foundation). Twenty students will be visiting Yale New Haven Hospital to visit this facility on December 13, 2012.

**Mr. Berube – SEPTA – (Special Education Parent Teacher Association)**

November 15	SEPTA Meeting
January 17	Next Meeting

Mr. Berube reported the following: 1) de-escalation training for the entire special education staff; (2) special education budget process; (3) transition program at the high school has expanded and the program has been certified by the state, more businesses are on board; (4) bowling is being offered during the Christmas Break for members of SEPTA on December 27<sup>th</sup> at 1 p.m. at Thomaston Lanes.; (5) a scholarship committee has been established; and (6) the National PTA Website has been launched at PTA.org.

**Mr. Santorso – CABE**

*The CABE/CAPSS Convention was held a month ago and was attend by a majority of the Board Members. The workshops and speakers were quite valuable. The Board was the recipient of the Level II CABE Award. The current president of CABE was re-elected. Essentially, the CABE Meeting took place at the convention and consisted of a review of the convention itself.*

**Dr. Distasio - PTSA Council**

December 19

Eli Terry Jr. Middle School

13. Final Board Comments

**Mr. Gentile** – *To Dr. Distasio, the respect you have earned in the community is second to none. It has been a pleasure working with you all these years. You have brought this Board and Town to a level of second to none. One can conserve and save. It was great to have you as superintendent. You will be dearly missed. Congratulations to the students and their teachers on the awards.*

**Mr. Santorso** – *Mr. Bikakis and Mr. Maslak very impressive presentations. Bus contract and future savings, shows regionalization works. Tony, you really have helped this town and you will be missed.*

**Mr. Wetzel** – *Congratulations to the students on winning awards for first and second place; happy holidays and Tony it's been a pleasure. Good Luck in your retirement.*

**Mr. Bourbonniere** – *Congratulations to Mr. Bikakis and Mr. Maslak on a great presentation. Thank you Mrs. Aiudi for being in the school system. To Dr. Distasio, with your perseverance we forged our way through in order to get Terryville High School built. Personally, I am forever grateful that you were chosen as the superintendent for the Plymouth School System. You will be sorely missed. Have a great retirement. As Mr. Lovely said "Everyday will be a Saturday".*

**Mrs. Kulesa** – *As educators our biggest goals are usually two. The first is to encourage our students to be lifelong learners. The second is to view experiences as learning opportunities. So, Tony, thank you for making this a positive learning experience for me.*

**Mr. Berube** – *As a teacher and the grandfather of 2 children in the Plymouth School System, it makes me feel good to have teachers like Mr. Bikakis and Mr. Maslak in our school system. Every now and then people make a difference in our lives and Dr. Distasio you made a difference in so many people's lives. Thank you.*



**Mr. Engle** – Happy Birthday to Lisa. Thank you Mr. Bikakis and Mr. Maslak for tonight's presentation. Congratulations to all the students on their academic performance especially my neighbor, Julia Pilarski. With respect to the bus contracts, this is regional cooperation. Tony I'm going to miss those phone calls.

**Mr. Orsini** – Congratulations to Mr. Bikakis and Mr. Maslak and students for an excellent presentation.

Mr. Orsini read the following public announcement: The JRB sponsored Community Feed is being held on Saturday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at Eli Terry Jr. Middle School. The event will take place from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Anyone wishing to participate in the packaging can come on that day. Additionally, the Terryville Fire Department Rescue Truck, along with a van from Lincoln College of New England will be helping to collect canned food donations on Baldwin Street at Baldwin Park on Saturday from 1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. All proceeds will benefit the citizens of Plymouth and those in need in surrounding communities. Thank you to Mr. Orsini for helping to acquire the Rescue Truck for this event.

I've had the pleasure of working with Dr. Distasio as a Board Member and also as an Administrator. He has done a truly outstanding job in Plymouth. I wish you the best in your retirement,

**Mr. Perugino** – Thank you to all of our students. We are proud of all of you.

Dr. Distasio since we first hired you, I've watched you grow. We knew the problems we were facing as you also know but we were able to get things accomplished. I'm going to miss sitting in your office and our talks. You were a superintendent but you were also my friend. I really want to leave on that note. We spoke about what this town could do, what we could do as a board, how the board should be run and it worked out. I really appreciate everything you've done for this town. Thank You.

#### 14. Next Regular Board Meeting

Mr. Perugino stated that the next regular Board of Education Meeting will be held on January 9, 2013 at 7 p.m. at Terryville High School.

#### 15. Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m. Motion **Raymond Engle**, seconded **Daniel Gentile** motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

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Gerard Bourbonniere  
Secretary