

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 in succeeding in their work, personal, and family lives.

*Plymouth Board of Education
Regular Meeting
Wednesday, May 8, 2013
Terryville High School*

MINUTES

Present:

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

*Administrators: Ms. Cruz, Superintendent, Mr. Santogatta, Business Manager; Dr. Tenney,
Director of Curriculum & Instruction, and Mr. Trudeau, Director of Technology*

Excused Absence: Mr. Parenti, Director of Pupil Personnel & Special Education Services

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. Engle**, motion passed unanimously.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: To approve the minutes of: Regular Meeting, April 10, 2013; Personnel Subcommittee Meeting, April 10, 2013; Finance Subcommittee Meeting, April 10, 2013; and Curriculum Subcommittee Meeting, May 1, 2013. Motion **Mr. Wetzel**, seconded **Mr. Engle**, motion passed unanimously.

4. PRESENTATIONS

(a) The first presentation acknowledged the CAFE Student Leadership Award Winners. They are: **Trevor Jones** and **Megan Bourn** from Eli Terry Jr. Middle School and **Gabriel D'Antonio** and **Kristen Mazzini** from Terryville High School.

(b) The students at Terryville High School presented a year's worth of hard work and innovation along with other students from across the state to judges from higher education and corporations at the Connecticut Student Innovation Expo on May 4, 2013 at the Connecticut Convention Center in Hartford.

(c) Mr. Sandshaw, the district's Energy Education Specialist, informed the Board that in Recognition of superior energy performance, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency awarded the ENERGY STAR to: Harry S. Fisher Elementary School, Plymouth Center School, Eli Terry Jr. Middle School and Terryville High School. Presenting the awards was Charles D. Fasnacht, III, President, College and University Division of Cenergistics and Dr. Valerie Cushman, Marketing Executive from Cenergistics.

After the presentation, Mr. Sandshaw presented a prototype of a plaque to be displayed in each school. Motion: To approve that a plaque be displayed in each school that states: Energy Star 2013 Certification with the name of each school engraved on each plaque. Motion: **Mr. Engle**, seconded **Mr. Orsini** motion passed unanimously.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS

None

6. COMMUNICATIONS

None

7. OLD BUSINESS

None

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. Adjustment to the 2012 – 2013 School Calendar

MOTION: To approve the adjustment to the 2012 – 2013 school calendar as follows: the last **four** days of school, Tuesday, June 18 (½ day for students, ½ teacher professional development make-up), Wednesday, June 19, Thursday, June 20 and Friday, June 21 to be half days for students. Motion **Mr. Engle**, seconded **Mr. Wetzel** motion passed unanimously.

B. Appointments

MOTION: To approve the appointment of the following individuals: **Jerry Curtiss** to the position of Head Teacher at Harry S. Fisher Elementary School effective May 9, 2013 through June 30, 2015; **Diane Boylan** to the position of Head Teacher at Plymouth Center School effective May 9, 2013 through June 30, 2015; **Margrit Morley** to the position of 2013 Summer Academy School Program Coordinator (Pre-K – 5th Grade & APPLE Programs) and **Laura Gagnon** and **John Haviland** to the position of 2013 Middle and High School Summer Academy School Program Co-Coordinators. Motion **Mr. Wetzel**, seconded **Mr. Orsini** motion passed unanimously.

C. Childbearing/Childrearing Leaves

MOTION: To approve requests for childbearing leave for the following individuals: **Jennifer Briley**, grade 7 computer applications teacher at Eli Terry Jr. Middle School for on or about October 8, 2013; **Kathy Clark**, kindergarten teacher at Harry S. Fisher Elementary School for on or about June 14, 2013; **Sarah Dyer**, Speech & Language Pathologist for on or about July 25, 2013; and childbearing/childrearing leave for **Pamela Thomas**, Spanish Teacher at Terryville High School for on or about August 23, 2013 through November 22, 2013. Motion **Mr. Santorso**, seconded **Mr. Engle** motion passed unanimously.

D. Out-of-State Field Trip

MOTION: To approve an out-of-state field trip to New York City for members of the Senior and Junior Classes in the Drama Club and Drama Club Officers to see a professional production and tour the theater district on Saturday, June 15, 2013. Motion **Mr. Engle**, seconded **Mr. Bourbonniere** motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: To approve an out-of-state field trip for members of the 6th grade band at Eli Terry Jr. Middle School to perform at Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Boston, Massachusetts on June 10, 2013. Motion **Mr. Orsini**, seconded **Mr. Gentile** motion passed unanimously, as amended with respect to the date change from June 6, 2013 to June 10, 2013.

E. Strategic Planning

The following Board Members volunteered to serve on a committee to initiate the Strategic Planning Process due to the expiration of the Strategic Plan which expired in 2012. The following Board Members volunteered to serve on a committee: **Mr. Engle**, **Mr. Gentile**, **Mr. Berube**, **Mr. Bourbonniere** and **Mr. Perugino**.

9. BOARD MEMBER/COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Curriculum - Mrs. Kulesa, Chair

The Curriculum Subcommittee met on May 1, 2013. Dr. Tenney presented a draft of the Teacher Evaluation Model for 2013 – 2014 based on the state SEED Model. A draft was included in each Board Members packet for their review. Dr. Tenney will ask the Board's approval of the adoption of the SEED Model and that notification be given to the Connecticut State Department of Education.

B. Facilities – Mr. Engle, Chair

Bids have been received on the following: Compressor at Terryville High School; Asbestos Removal at Eli Terry Jr. Middle School and the Boiler Replacement at Eli Terry Jr. Middle School. Lighting issues on the back lot of Terryville High School were also discussed. A Facilities Subcommittee Meeting is to be scheduled in June.

C. Finance – Mr. Bourbonniere, Chair

The Finance Sub-Committee met prior to the Board of Education Meeting. The April accounts by facilities report was reviewed and will be forwarded to the Town of Plymouth Board of Finance.

*MOTION: To approve a transfer in the amount of \$25,000 to replace the air conditioning compressor at Terryville High School. Motion **Mr. Engle**, seconded **Mr. Wetzel** motion passed unanimously.*

D. Negotiations – Mr. Wetzel, Chair

Negotiations with the paraprofessionals and secretaries are being worked on.

E. Personnel – Mr. Berube, Chair

The Personnel Subcommittee met prior to the Board Meeting. All matters were addressed under new business.

F. Policy – Mr. Berube, Chair

No Report

G. Safety & Transportation – Mr. Orsini, Chair

There was no meeting of the Safety & Transportation Subcommittee. However, Mr. Orsini shared the following with the Board:

- *The Emergency Handbook & Protocols Subcommittee will be meeting on May 9, 2013 at the Fisher Elementary School beginning at 10 a.m.*
- *The School Security Task Force Committee met on April 25, 2013 at Central Office at 9:30 a.m.*
- *The next School Security Task Force Committee Meeting will be held on June 24, 2013 at Central Office from 8:30 a.m. to noon.*
- *On May 8, 2013, Mr. Orsini attended the 2013 Connecticut Emergency Management Symposium in Cromwell, Ct. One of the highlights at the symposium was a presentation by William Shea, Deputy Commissioner, DEMHS on school security planning in Connecticut. Also, Sgt. Kenneth Rigney and Detective Michael Greider from the Office of Counter Terrorism addressed school security. The new information Mr. Orsini received will be shared with the school security committees when they meet.*

H. Education Connection – Mrs. Kulesa

No Report

I. Student Representatives

Timothy King - reported on the following:

May 22 PTSA – Car Show for the After Grad from 7 a.m. – 3 p.m.
May 24 Senior Class to Holiday Hill in Prospect, CT
May 30 Scholarship Night for Seniors @ 6:30 p.m. in the auditorium
May 31 Spring Extravaganza and Talent Show @ 7 p.m.

June 1 Senior Prom from 7 p.m. – 11 p.m.
June 11 Class Night
June 19 Senior Breakfast
June 19 - 21 Graduation Practice

Club Events: May 1st Senior Class and the FBLA attended a Financial Reality Fair at Torrington High School; AP Exams have begun and will take place for the next 2 weeks; Progress Reports for the 4th quarter will be sent out on May 10th; United Way Youth Board – Day of Caring on May 17th; Vocational Foods Class “Friendship Tea” on May 15th at the Lyceum; May 23rd School-to-Career Breakfast in the cafeteria; Mock Car Crash on May 22nd for the entire school; Walk for Drew on June 8th from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; Leo Trip on May 28th to see a Rock Cats Game; May 18th Leo Club to help the Lions clean-up the fairgrounds; Awards Breakfast and Concert at the high school on June 6th.

Being a student in Plymouth has been a great experience. He will be leaving many memories behind. High School has been the best 4 years of his life. Thank you to Mrs. Aiudi, Mr. Falcone and his parents for making him the person he is today. Excited to graduate and become a teacher. Thank you for all the great work you do for all of us.

Devyn Oakes

Excused Absence

Jonathan Zaleski – reported on the following:

Softball scoreboard recently repainted; the baseball and softball teams have both qualified for state tournaments; the track team helped with the Ganem Rotary Walk and had their team picnic; Sports Banquet was held on May 5th with Jamie Bridge and Daniel Folino recognized as scholar athletes; June 5th sports awards; June 14th Annual Drama Club Barbeque, and June 15th Drama Club to see the Revival of Annie on Broadway

10. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS/REQUESTS/INFORMATION

Mr. Parenti - Director of Pupil Personnel

Excused Absence

Dr. Tenney – Director of Curriculum and Instruction

Dr. Tenney requested the following with respect to Teacher and Administration Evaluations:

MOTION: To approve that both the teacher and administration evaluation models for 2013-2014 will be based upon the Connecticut SEED Model, as such notification is required by the State Department of Education. Motion **Mrs. Kulesa**, seconded **Mr. Berube** motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: To approve a draft of the teacher evaluation document based on the Connecticut State SEED Model with the understanding that the document will be further revised and brought to the Board for final approval before the commencement of the 2013-2014 school year. Motion **Mrs. Kulesa**, seconded **Mr. Santorso** motion passed 8 to 1. (Mr. Gentile voting “no”)

Mr. Trudeau, Director of Technology

Mr. Trudeau thanked tonight’s crew: Jeff, Matt, Ricky, Jason, Mr. Maslak; explained the reason Plymouth 16 was running without audio; updated the Board on the up-grade of the phone system with the town and schools; commented on the next phase of the mobile device initiative and the parent surveys on-line.

Mr. Santogatta, Business Manager

Mr. Santogatta reported that the Finance Subcommittee met prior to the Board Meeting and reviewed the accounts by facilities report for the month of April; a transfer was discussed relating to the replacement of the air conditioning compressor at the high school; this year’s budget looks good; no anticipation of any problems; no concern about the overall expenditures of the operation financially with respect to the Board of Education.

Ms. Cruz, Superintendent

Ms. Cruz reported on the following:

This year’s Annual Grade 5 Spelling Bee Winners were:

First Place	Julie Zaniewski – Harry S. Fisher Elementary School
Second Place	Kaitlyn Koser – Harry S. Fisher Elementary School
Third Place	Jacob Collette – Harry S. Fisher Elementary School.

May 15 Annual “Friendship Tea” to be held at the Lyceum and sponsored by the Terryville High School Vocational Foods Class

May 30 Annual Scholarship Night at Terryville High School

Approximately \$200,000 plus will be awarded to Plymouth students in the form of scholarship awards on that night. Thank you to an extremely giving community and congratulations to the students who will be receiving the scholarships.

The last day of school is on Friday, June 21. Promotion exercises for Eli Terry Jr. Middle School will be held at 10 a.m. on June 21st while the graduation ceremony will be held at 7 p.m. at Terryville High School. As a reminder to parents, the last 4 days of school are shortened days and no lunches will be served on June 18, 19, 20 and 21.

11. Public Comments Regarding Agenda or Non-Agenda Items

None

12. Board Liaisons to Schools

Mr. Perugino– Harry S. Fisher Elementary School reported on the following:

May 14	PTA Meeting - Election of Officers
May 23	Spring Chorus and Band Concert
May 24	Town Meeting @ 2 p.m.

Mrs. Kohl will hold her annual Art Show in conjunction with the spring concerts. Those dates and hours are as follows:

May 21	5 p.m. – 6:45 p.m.
May 22	3 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
May 23	5 p.m. – 6:45 p.m.

Mr. Bourbonniere – Terryville High School reported on the following:

Flamingo Flocking ongoing until June 1st. Information may be obtained on the Terryville High School website; Car Show/June 2, 2013 with June 9th as the rain date; Terryville Leo Club Pasta Dinner raised \$800. Donations were made to the following in \$200 increments: Fidelco-Seeing Eye Dogs for the Blind; MS Organization in the name of Katie Sekorski; SEPTA; and the Connecticut Lions Eye Research Foundation.

Mr. Engle – Plymouth Center School reported on the following:

No Report – Next Meeting May 14, 2013 @ 7 p.m.

May 21	Spring Concert for 4 th and 5 th grade chorus and band @ 7 p.m. in the gymnasium
May 23	3 rd grade Recorder Concert @ 7 p.m.
May 24	Beardsley Zoo
May 26	Grade 5 Recitation of Gettysburg Address 11 a.m.

Mr. Orsini – *Eli Terry Jr. Middle School reported on the following:*

- April 24 PTA Meeting
- May 1 Grade 6, Group B students went to Pratt Nature Center
- May 2 Hospitality Committee reported there will be a teacher's appreciation breakfast
- May 5 Ganem 5K Race
- May 6 Grade 5 students from Plymouth Center School visited to Eli Terry Jr. Middle School from 9:15 – 11:20 a.m.
- May 7 Grade 5 students from Fisher Elementary School visited the middle school from 9:15 – 11:20 a.m.
- May 9 Mentor Picnic – rain date – May 10 from 11:30 – 1 p.m.
- May 10 Spring Pictures
- May 16 Grade 6, Group A Science Students trip to Dinosaur State Park
Band Concert at 6 p.m. followed by the Chorus Concert at 7:30 p.m.
- May 17 Grade 6 Group B Science Students to Dinosaur State Park
Grade 8 students to Boston
Grade 6 & 7 dance from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
- May 18 KIM students will be helping to clean up the fairgrounds from 1 – 4 p.m.
- May 24 Grades 7 & 8 Chorus and Band to Great East Festival
- May 27 No School, Memorial Day
- May 29 PTA meeting @ 7 p.m.
- May 30 Middle School Drama Club presentation @ 7 p.m.

The Enrichment Committee reported they are looking into a nutrition/fitness related program for the next school year; and the Spiritwear Committee reported that they will be selling spirit wear this fall.

Some of the highlights of Mr. Traver's presentation: (1) the "Hall" Behavioral Lesson Plan will be presented by the Advisory Groups on May 13; (2) Mr. Travers and his staff will post behavioral expectation posters in the school. He and his staff will be looking for students doing good deeds. Mr. Travers mentioned that good behavior translates into improved academic performance, more community spirit, and fewer detentions and office referrals; (3) through the implementation of the Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS), Mr. Travers indicated that he and his staff will develop and sustain a positive learning environment in which all students can succeed academically, socially and emotionally; (4) on August 30, 2013, a high energy presentation will be held for the middle school students regarding anti-bullying, anti-drug and anti-alcohol lifestyles; (5) Mr. Travers mentioned that he met with a representative from Premier Agenda regarding the student planners for the next school year; and (6) Mr. Travers mentioned that the Grade 8 students participated in the spring Smarter Balanced Consortium Pilot Test. He indicated that this was a great opportunity to view the test items and the logistics for administering the test.

Mr. Berube – SEPTA reported on the following:

May 11 Meeting @ Eli Terry Jr. Middle School
May 16 SEPTA Meeting

There were two speakers that evening. Mr. Parenti spoke about the initiatives for 18 – 21 year old students, i.e. school store, and unified sports. Mrs. Lamey, the second speaker, who has experience in dealing with certain state agencies, i.e. Department of Developmental Services and Bureau of Rehabilitation Services encouraged anyone with questions as to where their student would be going, regardless of the child's age to please call her. She is a wonderful resource for parents.

Mr. Santorso – CABE

CABE has been addressing state policies, and unfunded mandates is a large concern, i.e. Connecticut 2013 – 2015 Budget eliminates and reduces transportation grants and eliminates and reduces funding for teacher evaluation training that was proposed and there is no funding for Common Core Implementation Transfer and there is a cap on special education excess cost grant. CABE has been advocating for the state to provide those funds which would put less stress on the property taxpayers. There has been legislation to have town government boards, i.e. Board of Finance, Town Council, and Boards of Selectmen to have these agencies make suggestions to Boards of Education for efficiencies in non-education services.

CABE has a facebook site. Final adoption of budget which includes a 2% increase in dues to keep up with inflation, next meeting June 13th in the Wethersfield office.

Ms. Cruz – PTSA Council

Reflections – There were a total of 92 students who participated district wide in the Reflections Program. Two entries are being submitted to the State Level contest. Alex Johnson (grade 11) and Christopher Johnson (grade 9) will be honored at the State Reflections dinner on May 9, 2013. They both were recognized for their work in photography, the special arts category. Congratulations to all those that participated and to the PTSA Council for sponsoring this very worthwhile endeavor. Thank you to the PTA for taking on this wonderful program.

PTSA Council – The PTSA Council met on April 22, 2013. The Council approved \$100 for Angel bricks for the Sandy Hook victims. The Council is also considering creating a brochure that will detail the work of the PTA and its commitment to the community. They are hoping to encourage increased involvement from parents and teachers. They reported on the bus cameras that were approved by the Town Council.

The Harry S. Fisher Wine Tasting was held on April 26th and was a huge success. Teacher Appreciation Week activities will be taking place in all the schools over the next two weeks. National Appreciation Day was on May 8th and May 9th is National Appreciation Nurses Day.

There will be an After Grad Party on Saturday, June 22nd. The Council also discussed the importance of transition activities, especially for 5th graders entering the Middle School from both Harry S. Fisher and Plymouth Center Schools.

13. Final Board Comments

Mr. Gentile – Thank you to our student representatives and to everyone who voted for the budget. To the community, public comment is appreciated, I encourage you to please attend Board Meetings and express your feelings and/or concerns.

Mr. Santorso – Thank you to our student representatives. To Tim King, it's nice to hear you had a good experience in the Plymouth Public Schools. You will always be welcomed back.

Mr. Wetzel – Thank you to our student representatives for their insight. The car show is on June 2nd, your support is needed. Urged students of the importance of safety on prom night.

Mr. Bourbonniere – Thank you to the high school Fansox, good concept, hopefully it will go far. To expand on Public Comment, do not be afraid to come to the microphone and speak your peace, you can come to a meeting and make a difference.

Mr. Berube – In the next few years we will be instituting common core state standards, a new evaluation program for administrators and teachers and new standardize testing which will require much time and team work. Huge changes will be taking place not only in Plymouth but throughout the state. Addressed Mr. Falcone and the outstanding programs at the high school. Students and teachers do a great job. Moved by what Tim King said because it came from the heart and happy to see he had a great experience in Terryville. Echo, we need the community to attend meetings.

Mr. Engle – Congratulations to those students that are graduating. Best Wishes in your career. Thank you to Mr. Falcone. Requested a copy of the Fansox video.

Mr. Orsini – Congratulations to the Terryville High School students and their advisor on the development of the Fansox. Congratulations to the two middle and high school students for being selected as the Connecticut Association Boards of Education Student Leaders. Thank you to our student representatives for a great job. Best Wishes in all of your endeavors. Congratulations to Mr. Sandshaw on his contribution to the Plymouth School District.

Mr. Perugino – Thank you to Marty Sandshaw for all of the work he has done, the students for their presentation, Tim King I wish you the best, and to all who participated in helping us to obtain the Energy Award and the mentor picnic is Friday, May 10th.

14. Next Regular Board Meeting

Mr. Perugino stated that the next regular Board of Education Meeting will be held on June 12, 2013 at 7 p.m. at Terryville High School.

15. Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted,

Gerard Bourbonniere
Secretary