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Linah Kulesa
TOWN CLERK

PLYMOUTH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

CENTRAL OFFICE
27 NORTH HARWINTON AVENUE
TERRYVILLE, CONNECTICUT 06786

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
TERRYVILLE HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA
33 NORTH HARWINTON AVENUE
TERRYVILLE, CT 06786

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12, 2026

6:00 P.M.

MINUTES

Present: Mrs. Kulesa, Chair; Mr. Bourbonniere, Vice-Chair; Mr. Perugino, Secretary and Board Members: Mr. Showers, Mrs. Tilton, Mr. Foote, Mrs. Palmer, Mrs. Corry, and Mrs. Allen

Also Present: Mr. Falcone, Superintendent, Mrs. Melillo, Assistant Superintendent and Mr. Tencza, Business, Manager

1. **Call to Order and Pledge to the Flag**

Mrs. Kulesa, Chair called the Regular Meeting of the Plymouth Board of Education of August 12, 2026, to order at 6:01 p.m. The group joins in the Pledge to the Flag.

2. **Adoption of the Agenda**

MOTION: To entertain a motion to adopt the agenda as presented.

Motion Mr. Showers, second Mr. Foote, any discussion, if none, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, Motion carries.

3. **Approval of Minutes**

MOTION: To entertain a motion to approve the following minutes

- (a) The minutes of the Regular Board of Education Meeting of June 10, 2026.
Motion Mr. Bourbonniere, second Mr. Perugino, any discussion, if none, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, (Mr. Foote abstains) motion carries.
- (b) The minutes of the Special Meeting of the Plymouth Board of Education Finance and Operations Committee Meeting of June 8, 2026. Motion Mr. Showers, second Mrs. Palmer, any discussion, if none, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion carries.

4. **Public Comment**

(a) In-person public comment (limited to 2-minutes per speaker)

Melanie Church, 328 Main Street

Suggestions: Put the Police department on this property
Put up a basement and add the Fire Department & Ambulance Corps
Upon the sale of the Ambulance Corps put the money there
Put Seniors at the Firehouse/and kids.

There is plenty of land. No need to go to the oldest building that needs repairs.

(b) Remote public comment (please go to www.plymouth.k12.ct.us for instructions on how to participate)
None

5. **Superintendent's Update**

- Mr. Falcone welcomed everyone back for the 2026 – 2027 School Year.
- New Teacher Orientation, Friday, August 21st.
- Faculty and Staff Return on Monday, August 24th.
- Professional Development Days, Tuesday, August 25th and Wednesday, August 26th.
- First Day of School for students, Thursday, August 27th.
- First Administrative Retreat:
 - Legislative Changes
 - Safety and Districtwide Protocols and Procedures
 - District Goals
 - District Five-Year Strategic Plan
 - Individual School Climate Plans
- Second Administrative Retreat:
 - Benchmark Testing
 - Student/Teacher Goal Setting Conferences
 - Technology Training
- Over the Summer: Successful Summer School Program – Mrs. Melillo, Assistant Superintendent
Mrs. Melillo reported on the Extended School Year Program and the high school Credit Recovery Program.
- Update on Cook Willow CNA Partnership:
 - *10 high school students enrolled
 - *Course work and clinical experience August 23rd and 24th. Meeting for a total of 18 days from 7:30 – 2:30 to complete mandatory hours.
 - *Students to be Certified Nursing Assistants by Martin Luther King Day with their last class meeting on January 18th. Students will then be able to apply and work as a CNA at Cook Willow or at any other nursing facility.

Mr. Falcone thanked Nicole Corry for the connection to Cook Willow and Alyssa Glaser, the district's Career Counselor, for organizing this opportunity for our students.

- Some facts from the State Department of Education over cell phone bans in schools.
 - *In Pre-K – Grade 5 Schools across the State: There is a Bell-to-Bell restriction in 70% of the school districts.
 - *In Grade 6 -8 Middle Schools across the State: There is a Bell-to-Bell restriction in 71% of the school districts.
 - * In Grade 9 - 12 High Schools across the State: There is a Bell-to-Bell restriction in 31% of the school districts.

Mr. Falcone indicated our district aligns with those numbers with our current Bell-to-Bell restriction in our Elementary and Middle Schools and restricted use in our High School.

- Student Representatives for the 2026 – 2027 School Year:
*Student Representatives, 2 from middle school and the high school will begin attending Board Meetings starting in September.

Mr. Falcone concluded his report by indicating he is looking forward to an amazing school year and is excited to be back.

6. **Unfinished Business** – Mr. Falcone, Superintendent

(a) **Update on the Plymouth Board of Education 5-year Strategic Plan (2026 – 2031)**

Mr. Falcone's recommendation to the Board:

- (a) Curriculum & Instruction Committee work to finalize the plan with the next 2 months, if possible.
- (b) Bring the plan to the Board for a first read.
- (c) Approve the plan at some point before the new year.

(b) **Action with Regard to the End of the Year Balance from the 2025 – 2026 School Year -**

Mr. Tencza, Business Manager

The district ended fiscal 2025 – 2026 with a small surplus of \$84,296.74, reflecting 0.31% of the overall budget. The surplus is larger than estimated on June 10, 2026. This was due to multiple Purchase Orders which were closed with additional funds on them and a DCF directed outplacement that the parents of the student never followed through with and, therefore, did not take place.

The three options he brought to the Board were:

- (a) 100% to be deposited into the 2% non-lapsing account (sinking fund)
- (b) 100% to be returned to the Town of Plymouth.
- (c) The Board may choose to split the surplus between both depositing funds into the 2% non-lapsing account and returning funds to the Town of Plymouth. The percentage for each to be determined by the Board.

Mr. Perugino – Mayor indicated take the \$84,000 and take care of some of the lesser of the Board's Capital Improvement needs. Mr. Perugino agrees to keep the money and place it into the sinking fund. To let the Finance Committee look to see how the Board can get some of the little projects done and out of way so as not to bother the Town or anyone else.

Board Members expressed their agreement.

After a brief discussion, the following motion was made:

MOTION: To entertain a motion to distribute the end of the year balance of \$84,296.74 from the 2025 – 2026 school year, 100% of it to be distributed to the non-lapsing account.

Motion Mrs. Palmer, second Mr. Bourbonniere

Mrs. Kulesa, Chair, calls for a Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Showers - Yes Mrs. Tilton - Yes Mr. Foote – Yes Mrs. Palmer - Yes

Mrs. Corry - Yes Mrs. Allen - Yes Mr. Bourbonniere - Yes Mr. Perugino – Yes

Motion passes unanimously.

- (c) Update Board of Education Policies – Mr. Falcone, Superintendent, INFORMATIONAL
- Unpaid Meal Charges – When we go to a collection agency.
 - Student Privacy - People taking photos of our children while the school day is going on and posting them. This is not about Athletics or Afterschool events.
 - Dress Code – Mr. Perugino requested this policy be looked at.
 - E-Bikes and Scooters – Pertains to on school grounds. Mr. Falcone prepared a draft.

Recommendation by Mr. Falcone – Policy Ad Hoc Committee meet as soon as possible before the district receives the big update from Shipman & Goodwin on policies which is around October or November. For the committee to review the policies and revisions, if needed, and to bring their recommendations to the Board for a first read as soon as possible.

7. **New Business**

- (a) Plymouth Board of Education Goals for the 2026 – 2027 School Year – Mr. Falcone, Superintendent

2026-2027 DISTRICT GOALS

Student Achievement Goal

Support all students in achieving their best possible learning outcomes.

Strategies:

- Expand the instructional capacity of certified and non-certified staff.
- Update and enrich the Pre-K through Grade 12 curriculum and common assessments.
- Enhance special education programs and student supports.
- Utilize the aligned MTSS (Multi-Tiered System of Supports) process Pre-K through Grade 12.
- Write and implement scope and sequence frameworks for every class and subject taught in grades Pre-K through 12.
- Utilize grade appropriate diagnostic assessments to create goals for individual student growth.

Engagement Goal

Engage students in the learning process by providing authentic learning experiences.

Strategies:

- Establish learning opportunities for students to grow and explore academically, both in and out of school.
- Develop performance based learning opportunities Pre-K through Grade 12.
- Create authentic and relevant learning opportunities for students in Pre-K through Grade 12.

Well-Being Goal

Create an environment and opportunities that support well-being for all students.

Strategies:

- Enhance wellness supports and services Pre-K through Grade 12.
- Expand safety measures at each building.
- Increase extracurricular offerings to foster student engagement in the school community.

Fiscal Oversight

Align budgetary spending with district goals and strategies.

Strategies:

- Evaluate and revise the capital improvement plan to address the district's infrastructure needs.
- Analyze, assess, and implement various strategies to use budget funding more efficiently and effectively.
- Align professional development to reflect evolving needs and instructional focus areas.

MOTION: To entertain a motion to approve the Plymouth Board of Education Goals for 2026–2027 school year as discussed at the Special Board of Education Meeting of August 12, 2026. Motion Mrs. Tilton, second Mr. Showers, any discussion, if none, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion carries.

(b) DRAFT Board of Education Meeting Dates for 2027 – Mrs. Kulesa, Chair, INFORMATIONAL

Each Board Member was provided a draft copy of the Board of Education Meeting Dates for 2027 in their packet. These dates will be voted upon at the September 9, 2026, Regular Board of Education Meeting.

8. **Business Manager's Report and Personnel Report**

(a) Business Manager's Report- Mr. Tencza, Business Manager

- Included in the packet are the following – Accounts by Facilities Report for fiscal year June 30, 2026, and Accounts by Facilities Report for the Month of July 2026 and; 11 different submissions:

(1) Business Office Activity Report June/July 2026

Highlights

(a) Building Projects:

- Heat Pump Project At Harry S Fisher – Project is 95% complete. All indoor heating and cooling units have been installed in the classrooms along with the associated outdoor compressor units. Additional electrical wiring should be completed by August 10th. At that time, the project will be 100% completed.
- Library renovation at Harry S. Fisher – Carpeting completely installed and the old furniture has been removed, new furniture is scheduled to be delivered and installed on or about August 15th, painting of the space scheduled for completion during the week of August 10th, and window frosting in the interior windows is scheduled for August 17th.
- Room #54 Renovation at Harry S. Fisher - Room has been painted, carpeting replaced and ceiling tiles replaced. Project 100% complete.
- Stairway replacement at Eli Terry Jr. Middle School – Replacement of stairway treads scheduled for the week of August 10th. Project delayed due to the delivery of materials to the contractor. Contract will be completed by the opening of the school year.
- Replacement of AC unit at Eli Terry Jr. Middle School – Project is underway and expected to be completed by August 15th.
- Renovation of former exercise room at Eli Terry Jr. Middle School – This renovation will allow the adjoining special education classroom to use the space for better student management. The facilities department was able to do the project at a minimal cost, project is 100% complete and ready for use.
- Playscape at Plymouth Center School – This project is approximately 95% complete. Remaining, completion of the installation of new playground quality safety mulch. Completion: week of August 17th. Installation hold up until after Park & Recreation Program finishes. By doing so both Plymouth Center School and Harry S. Fisher can be done at the same time.
- Replacement of Sidewalks at Plymouth Center School – Project is approximately 80% complete. Remaining small portions of the project should be completed by August 15th.
- Library Carpet Replacement at Terryville High School – This project is 100% complete.
- Painting of Room 209 at Terryville High School – Vacated by a retiring teacher and after inspection the room needed painting was necessary before it could be assigned to a new teacher. This project is scheduled to be completed the week of August 3rd.

- (2) Board of Education Budget Summary through June 30, 2026 (Fiscal Year 2025 -2026)
- (3) Board of Education Budget Summary through July 31, 2026 (Fiscal Year 2026 – 2027)
- (4) Monthly Budget Report, June 30, 2026
- (5) Monthly Budget Report July 31, 2026
- (6) Cumulative Board of Education Budget Expenditures % by Month, June 2025 – 2026
- (7) Cumulative Board of Education Budget Expenditures % by Month, July 2026 – 2027
- (8) Food Services Financial Performance Year-to-Date (July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026)
- (9) Capital Improvement Needs/5 Year Plan Updated July 31, 2026
(Capital Projects Less Than \$50,000 to be addressed through School Budget Funds or Sinking Fund Allocations)
- (10) Capital Improvement Needs/5 Year Plan Updated July 31, 2026
(Capital Projects in Excess of \$50,000 to be Submitted to the Town of Plymouth for Capital Expenditures Consideration)
- (11) Capital Projects Less than \$50,000 Completed or Approved in 2025 – 2026

- The Accounts by Facilities Report will be forwarded to the Town of Plymouth Board of Finance

- (b) Personnel Report – Mr. Falcone, Superintendent – INFORMATIONAL
All certified staff positions have been filled.

9. **Public Comment**

- (a) In-person public comment (limited to 2-minutes per speaker) - None
- (b) Remote public comment (please go to www.plymouth.k12.ct.us for instructions on how to participate) - None

10. **Board Liaison Reports** – Mrs. Kulesa, Chair (Board Liaisons for the 2026 – 2027 SY)

<u>Mrs. Palmer</u>	<u>Plymouth Center School</u>
<u>Mrs. Allen</u>	<u>Harry S. Fisher Elementary School</u>
<u>Mrs. Tilton</u>	<u>Eli Terry Jr. Middle School</u>
<u>Mr. Foote</u>	<u>Terryville High School</u>
<u>Mr. Bourbonniere</u>	<u>EdAdvance</u>

11. **Board Comments**

Summary of Board Member Comments: Welcome Back; Thank you for all the work that was done over the summer and all year round; Excited to see accomplishments that were made; Summer Drama Club was a success; Improvements in the District thus far are great, Plymouth Center Roof; Summer School Program for Regular Education (conversations to take place during the budget season); Possibility for school uniforms in the future; Exciting year ahead; Thank you to the Central Office Administrators and the Board needs to be frugal in its spending.

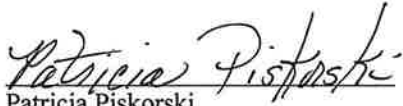
Final Comment from the Board Chair – It has been a great summer, however, now it is back to work. Very excited about the initiative, although there is risk involved. However, without risk there is no growth. We need to find ways to do things cost effectively. The district is on a good track.

12. **Next Board Meeting** –The next Regular Meeting of the Plymouth Board of Education is on Wednesday, September 9, 2026, at 6 p.m. in the cafeteria at Terryville High School.

13. **Adjournment**

MOTION: To entertain a motion to adjourn at 6:44 p.m. Motion Mr. Showers, second, Mrs. Palmer all in favor, motion carries.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Patricia Piskorski".

Patricia Piskorski

Recording Secretary

Plymouth Board of Education