



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, SEPTEMBER 9, 2026

6:00 P.M.

MINUTES

Present: Mrs. Kulesa, Chair; Mr. Bourbonniere, Vice- Chair; Mr. Perugino, Secretary; Mr. Showers, Mrs. Tilton, (arrived at approximately 6:40 p.m.) Mr. Foote, Mrs. Palmer, Mrs. Corry and Mrs. Allen, Board Members

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 September 9, 2026, to order at 6 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 Special Meeting of the Plymouth Board of Education (Retreat) of August 12, 2026. Motion Mr. Bourbonniere, second Mr. Perugino, any discussion, if none, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion carries.
- (b) The minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Plymouth Board of Education of August 12, 2026. Motion Mr. Foote, second Mr. Showers, any discussion, if none, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion carries.

PLYMOUTH, CT
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
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2026 SEP 14 AM 11:05
TOWN CLERK

4. **Student Representatives**

Eli Terry Jr. Middle School

Julia Matuszczak – Reported on the following:

- Back to School & Homeroom Activities – Extended homeroom once every Wednesday.
- Fall Musical & Clubs – Fall performance of Into The Woods. Some clubs offered at the middle school, Yearbook Club, Sports Club, SOS Club, Video Club, and Pep Club
-

Riley Murphy – Reported on the following:

- Introduction & Unified FCS/Wellness – Introduced herself. New Unified Wellness and Unified Consumer Science classes. Unified Buddies.
- Fall Sports tryouts began last week and ended on September 8th. Sports offered are soccer, cross country, and volleyball. Also offered, cross country, boys' soccer, girls' soccer, and volleyball.

Terryville High School

Tianna Avallone – Reported on the following:

- Fall Athletics – Fall sports season is officially underway. Mergers between Terryville High School and Gilbert girls' soccer team. Both Terryville and Gilbert boys' soccer teams played their first game on September 8th. The girls' soccer team and cross country have also competed. Girls' volleyball team's first game of the season is on September 10th against Nonnewaug.
- Drama Club – Student-directed plays over the summer: Belle and the Beast and Charming. Drama Club is preparing for its fall musical, Into The Woods.
- Music Department – September 13th, UConn Band Day. October 2nd Marching Band and Color Guard to perform in the Big E Parade. September 27th Marching Band and Color Guard will perform in the Annual Bristol Mum Festival Parade.
- October 9th, Berkshire League Music Festival at Lewis Mills High School.

Aria Roth-Perreault – Reported on the following:

- Start of the School Year & Freshman Transitions - Fresh Start mentors begin with 9th grade orientation. Club Fair – school clubs set up tables to help students find new activities.
- Terryville Fair Volunteering – Leo Club members spend the weekend volunteering at various events. Band and Chorus put in long hours serving food at the baked potato booth.
- Upcoming Student & Community Events – Class of 2027 hosting a Car Wash at the Plymouth Volunteer Ambulance Corps. Class of 2028, Annual Back-to-School Carnival on September 18th. Seniors and families are preparing for College Financial Aid Night.

5. **Presentation**

Introduction of Jason Hiruo, Chief Global Officer of AESA (Association of Educational Service Agencies) presenting the possibility of an International China Partnership. There was a brief question and answer period followed by the following:

MOTION: To entertain a motion to authorize our central office team to begin the process of partnership with AESA. Motion Mr. Showers, second Mrs. Palmer, any discussion, seeing none, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion carries.

6. **Public Comment**

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

Kurt Weisheit, 57 Old Farm Road, Terryville – Requested the Board to please consider a Firearm Safety Curriculum in the schools.

Mr. Falcone indicated we do not respond to public comment; however, he will be in contact with Mr. Weisheit tomorrow (September 10th) based on what he is asking.

(b) Remote public comment (please go to www.plymouth.k12.ct.us for instructions on how to participate)

None

7. **Superintendent's Update**

- Great Opening of School this year at the two elementary schools and for the 6th and 9th graders.
 - * Various orientations and meet and greets were held.
 - * Teachers at all of the schools had activities set up to: Help students feel comfortable; Transition Back to school; and Reinforce the norms of how our school days are run.
- Overall
 - *Buildings look great.
 - *Buses had minimal issues.
 - *Faculty and Staff Organized
 - *Students are excited to be back.
- Update on the Boys and Girls Club Before & After School Programs
 - *15 children are enrolled in the PCS Program. An additional 10 applications pending.
 - *4 children are enrolled in the HSF Program. An additional 3 applications pending.
- The district has partnered with the Boys & Girls Club to offer 7 Fall Activities that are not currently offered by the Plymouth Parks and Recreation Department.
 - *Flag Football – 26 kids
 - *Fishing Club – 12 kids
 - *Theater Program – 24 kids
 - *Wrestling – 16 kids
 - *2nd - 3rd Grade Basketball – 16 kids
 - *4th - 6th Grade Basketball – 27 kids
 - *7th - 12th Grade Basketball – 21 kids

Total participation in the above programs 95 kids from Plymouth

With respect to concerns regarding liability and to see if a formal Memorandum of Understanding for the activities was needed, Mr. Falcone reached out to Attorney Mills. He advised against an MOU. Attorney Mills believes: Our current Board policy along with the administrative regulations and required paperwork are sufficient to support this partnership.

- Mr. Falcone congratulated Kylie Miller, a Social Studies Teacher at Terryville High School on being selected as a recipient of the 2026 Yale Educator Award. This is a tremendous and well-deserved recognition.
- Mr. Falcone welcomed the 2026 – 2027 student representatives from Eli Terry Jr. Middle School and Terryville High School.

8. **Unfinished Business** – Mrs. Kulesa, Chair

(a) **Board of Education Meeting Dates for the Calendar Year 2027**

MOTION: To entertain a motion to approve the Board of Education Meeting Dates for the Calendar Year 2027. Motion Mrs. Tilton, second Mr. Foote, any discussion, if none, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion carries.

9. **New Business**

(a) **Out-of-State Field Trip** – MOTION ITEM

MOTION: To entertain a motion to approve an out-of-state field trip on October 2, 2026, to the Eastern States Exposition (Big E) in West Springfield, Massachusetts for combined 7th – 12th grade band students in Terryville High School and Eli Terry Jr. Middle School.

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

(b) Shared Use of Eli Terry Jr. Middle School Building

Recommendation prior to possible motion: Mr. Falcone recommended this item be tabled at this point. The reason being, it has come to his attention, the entire idea and discussion regarding sharing a portion of the Eli Terry Jr. Middle School building has not been brought to the attention of the Town Council at this point. In his opinion, knowing this, Mr. Falcone suggests the Board waits to place any motion on the table until such time the Town Council has had a discussion. Whether Mr. Falcone is invited to attend a meeting with the Board Members and the Chair to discuss the thought, idea and process to see what the interest level is of the Town Council. Both groups should be working together; therefore, the Town Council needs to know about this sharing of the middle school building before the Board puts forth a motion on the table. Therefore, Mr. Falcone feels the motion should be tabled until such time as the Town Council is aware of this conversation. Out of respect for the Town Council and their feelings on this matter, this motion should be tabled.

MOTION: To entertain a motion the Board table the proposed possibility of utilizing the Eli Terry Library for Town purposes until there is a discussion with the Town Council and Mayor to move forward. Motion Mr. Bourbonniere, second Mr. Foote, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions. Motion carries. Matter is tabled for the time being.

10. 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 August 31, 2026, and 8 different submissions:
 - (1 & 2) Business Office Activity Report & Negative Balance Explanation
 - (3) Board of Education Summary through August 30, 2026
 - (4) Monthly Budget Report, August 31, 2026
 - (5) Cumulative Board of Education Budget Expenditures % by Month, August, 2026 – 2027
 - (6) Capital Improvement Needs 5-year Plan Updated August 31, 2026
 - (Capital Projects Less Than \$50,000 to be addressed through School Budget Funds or Sinking Fund Allocations)
 - (7) Capital Improvement Needs 5-year Plan Updated August 31, 2026
 - (Capital Projects In Excess of \$50,000 to be submitted to the Town of Plymouth For Capital Expenditures Consideration)
 - (8) Capital Projects Less Than \$50,000 Completed or Approved in 2025 – 2026

Summary of Some Items that were discussed:

Food Service – Universal Breakfast Free for all Students.

New: This year all students qualified for reduced meal status will receive free lunch.

Building Project – Eli Terry Jr. Middle School stair project is 67% complete. Waiting for additional materials.

Building Walk Throughs – First one will be on September 23rd. E-mails will be sent out.

Roofs – Reports on Eli Terry Jr. Middle School and Harry S. Fisher Elementary School came back worse than expected. Reports on his desk. Once reviewed, Mr. Tencza will report to the Board most likely in October. Suggested the possibility of inviting contractor, who is an expert, to a meeting to explain the reports.

Once reports are put together, Mr. Tencza will forward it to the Mayor and Capital Improvements.

Mr. Bourbonniere – Suggested the possibility of inviting the Mayor, Town Council, Board of Finance and Capital Improvements Committee.

Mr. Perugino – Reports should go to Capital Improvements, Mayor, and Board of Finance

Mrs. Palmer – Update on the Rug at Harry S. Fisher Elementary School.

Mr. Falcone – Rug will be cleaned. Working with HES to professionally clean the rug. Area will not be utilized by Parks & Recs in the future for their programs. This occurs on a yearly basis. The Town steamed the rug the first year. The District took care of cleaning it this year. This is highly upsetting. It will never occur again. There was disrespect and disregard for our building and our workers.

Mr. Bourbonniere – Is there a plan for next year?

Mr. Falcone – Two options: (a) Parks & Rec to use the cafeteria at Harry S. Fisher Elementary School and utilize the playground there.
(b) Parks & Rec to use the cafeteria and gym at Eli Terry Jr. Middle School, however, the middle school does not have a playground.

Mr. Bourbonniere – Restrooms at the middle school are across the lobby. Concerned this may set the custodians behind due to the amount of waxing and refreshing the floors. Possibility of curtailing one week of camp.

Mr. Falcone – Custodians will intentionally leave some of those areas last.

Mrs. Palmer – Replacing carpeting with tile.

Mr. Tencza – This was discussed prior to carpeting being installed. Although he cannot recall the reason for not replacing the tile, he believes one reason to be the floor is not even. In order the tile, all the floors would need to be even, which would be costly.

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

(b) Personnel Report – Mr. Falcone, Superintendent

Mr. Falcone – Discussed the recent resignations of the two Speech & Language Pathologists and the challenge of filling this position. Currently, there are no individuals in the candidate pool. Exploring outside resources. Unfortunately, based on current obligations, the individuals contacted to help support the district cannot begin until October. Mrs. Melillo is working with parents who receive these services.

Retirement of Dave Morrell, Special Education Teacher at the end of December. He will be missed.

11. Public Comment

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

Rick Donnelly, 82 Sandra Avenue, Terryville

Comment – Concerned about his son who is in the Special Education Program at Plymouth Center School. He is looking for information on what the school is looking to do to fulfill his child's needs. Could someone reach out to him with a little more detail?

Mr. Falcone – Mrs. Melillo, Assistant Superintendent in charge of Special Education will contact.

Mr. Donnelly – Had positive feedback regarding the school system.

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

12.

Committee Reports

(a) Curriculum & Instruction – Mr. Falcone, Superintendent on behalf of Mrs. Tilton, Chair

The Curriculum & Instruction Committee met on Thursday, September 3, 2026. The committee discussed the following:

- IXL/DIBELS Assessment Schedule and Communication Plan
- The Plymouth Board of Education 5-year Strategic Plan (2026 – 2031) with Revision
 - Academic Achievement
 - Engagement

MOTION: To entertain a motion to adopt the Plymouth Board of Education 5-year Strategic Plan (2026 – 2031) without revisions. (NOTE: Coming out of Committee this does not require a second) Motion Mr. Showers, any discussion, if none, Mrs. Kulesa, chair calls for a Roll Call Vote

	Yes	No	Abstain
Mrs. Tilton	x		
Mr. Showers	x		
Mr. Foote	x		
Mrs. Palmer	x		
Mrs. Corry	x		
Mrs. Allen	x		
Mr. Perugino	x		
Mr. Bourbonniere	x		

YES (in favor) - 8 NO (not in favor) - 0 Abstain 0

Motion passes unanimously.

(b) Ad Hoc Policy Committee – Mr. Falcon, Superintendent on behalf of Mrs. Tilton, Chair

The Policy Committee met on Thursday, September 3, 2026 and discussed the following:

Proposed Policy Revisions & New Policy

Policy Revisions

Series 3000 – Business

- P-3008

Meal Charging Policy

Collection of Unpaid Meal Charges

Series 4000 – Personnel

- P4021

Personnel

Faculty & Staff Dress

Series 5000 – Students

- P5024

Students

Student Privacy

- P-5031

Students

Use of Private Technology Devices by Students

Board Discussion

Mr. Bourbonniere – Does the district need to ask for insurance certificates?

Mr. Falcone – Some do need them, some do not. We may need to work with the SRO since these deals with registered vehicles that are on the road.

Mr. Showers – He believes state law states there needs to be a certain horsepower before the vehicle needs to be registered.

Mr. Falcone – The policy is worded in a way that it covers the District if the vehicle needs to be registered under the state law in DMV. The vehicle needs to be registered or it cannot be ridden on school grounds. This is when the SRO would become involved.

New Policy

Series 5000 – Students

- P5038

Students

E-Bikes and E-Scooters

MOTION: To entertain a motion to bring forth the Proposed Policy Revisions and the New Policy as discussed to the full Board for a first read.

Motion Mrs. Tilton, (NOTE: Coming out of committee no second is required) any further discussion, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion carries.

Copies of the policies were placed at each Board Members seat.

Minutes of this meeting will be placed on our website.

13. Board Liaison Reports – Mrs. Kulesa, Chair

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

14. Board Comments

Summary – Excited to begin a new school year. Thank you to this year's student representatives for speaking, good job as usual. Excited about programs. Looking forward to hearing more about the presentation. Impressed with the China program for students. Not pleased with the roofs. Should meet with the committee again and they need to be aware of the problems. Possibly speak with the Board of Finance. Welcome back students and faculty. Driveway a mess. Thank you to the Board for changing the calendar. To the faculty and staff, have a good year.

Mr. Falcone – China Trip – Lowest price point to get the most kids involved, if they are interested in traveling. Introduce students to a culture that is completely different than what they will ever experience. In his former district, the trip created an opportunity for students to work together, to create bonds and friendships with the students in China as well. There were STEM projects, different trips, i.e., outlets. Very powerful program. Excited, the Board is taking this step.

Mrs. Kulesa, Chair – Excited about the new venture. Thank you to the public for coming, speaking, sharing their ideas, thoughts and suggestions. Once again, please join and support the PTAs at the schools.

15. **Next Board Meeting** –The next Regular Meeting of the Plymouth Board of Education is on Wednesday, October 14, 2026, at 6 p.m. in the cafeteria at Terryville High School.

16. **Executive Session** – (Item to be discussed in Executive Session)

(a) Personnel Issue

MOTION: To entertain a motion to enter executive session at 7:31 p.m. to discuss a personnel issue inviting Mr. Falcone, Superintendent; Mrs. Melillo, Assistant Superintendent; Mr. Tencza, Business Manager, Mrs. Calo, Principal of Plymouth Center School and Mrs. Satow, Principal of Harry S. Fisher Elementary School. Motion Mr. Showers, second Mrs. Palmer all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion carries.

17. **Resume Regular Session**

Mrs. Kulesa, Chair resumed regular session at 8:06 p.m.

18. **Possible Action From Executive Session** (if any)

MOTION: To entertain a motion to post a position for an administrator in a Special Education Elementary School Vice-Principal position to be interviewed and negotiated with by Mr. Falcone.

Motion Mr. Bourbonniere, second Mr. Showers, any discussion, all those in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion carries.

19. **Adjournment**

MOTION: To entertain a motion to adjourn at 8:07 p.m. Motion Mr. Bourbonniere, second, Mrs. Palmer, all in favor, motion carries.

Respectfully Submitted,



Patricia Piskorski
Recording Secretary
Plymouth Board of Education