



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, FEBRUARY 11, 2026

6:00 P.M.

MINUTES

2026 FEB 17 AM 11:05
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
RECEIVED FOR RECORD
PLYMOUTH, CT
Shirley Kulesa
TOWN CLERK

Present: Mrs. Kulesa, Mrs. Bourbonniere, Mrs. Tilton, Mr. Showers, Mr. Foote, Mrs. Palmer, Mrs. Corry and Mrs. Allen
Absent: Mr. Perugino

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 February 11, 2026, to order 6 p.m. The group joined 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 Mrs. Palmer, any discussion, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion carries.

3. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: To entertain a motion to approve:

- (a) The minutes of the **REGULAR** Meeting of the Plymouth Board of Education of **January 14, 2026**, as corrected. Motion Mr. Showers, second Mr. Foote, any discussion, if none, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion carries.

MOTION: To entertain a motion to approve:

- (b) The minutes of the Special Meeting of the Plymouth Board of Education of **January 22, 2026 (Budget Workshop #1 for 2026 – 2027)**. Motion Mr. Bourbonniere, second Mr. Showers any discussion, if none, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions (**Mr. Foote abstains**), motion carries.

PHONE: (860) 314-4783 | FAX: (860) 314-2766 | plymouth.k12.ct.us

Plymouth Board of Education is an Equal Opportunity Employer and Provider.

4. **Student Representatives**

Tianna Avallone

- Chili Cookoff – This event brought the community together and helped raise money to support students attending the Europe trip. Mr. Demetri took home the win for his chili.
- Pep Rally/Rivalry Game – Winter Pep Rally – Friday, February 13th along with the double header rivalry game at Thomaston.
- Career Center – Traveling to CCSU for a campus tour and to the Hartford Yard Goats stadium.
- Variety Show – THS Variety Show, Friday, March 6th.

Fallon Roth-Perreault

- Winter Senior Nights – Girls Basketball is celebrating on February 18th, Boys Basketball on February 20th and Wrestling on February 11th.
- SAT Strategy Session – SAT strategy session begins on March 3rd and lasts four weeks.
- NHS Induction – Twelve Juniors will be inducted on February 24th, including Tianna.
- Decorating the Halls – How to bring more color to the walls of THS, this will be done by creating large digital posters representing every sport and club THS has to offer. A subcommittee was created to tackle the sports teams first. Posters will line the gym hallway and will be mounted on the wall in frames.

5. **Public Comment** (limited to 2-minutes per speaker)

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

6. **Presentations**

- (a) **E-Sports Team** – Mr. Solarz, Terryville High School Esports Coach
E-Sports (electronic sports) is a form of competition using video games. The THS E-Sports Team is made up of nine students, seven of which are seniors. There are two teams, Team Black and Team Orange and two Team Managers. The THS E-Sports Team dominated in the State Tournament, bringing home the school's first State Championship since 2010.

Recess

Mrs. Kulesa, Board Chair, calls for a recess at 6:11 p.m. for pictures with the E-Sports Team and the Board.

Resume Regular Session

Mrs. Kulesa resumed regular session at 6:14 p.m.

- (b) **Boys and Girls Club** – PowerPoint Presentation by Jay Maia, President and CEO, Barbara Dalton, School-Based Director and Amanda Wiegaert, School Based-Director & Care4Kids Coordinator. The presentation included, their Goals, Who They Are, Mission, Vision, Priority Outcomes, 5 Key Elements for Positive Youth Development, Locations, Clubs, School-Based Before/After, Staffing, School-Based Before/After Tuition, Care4Kids and What They Can Do for The Community.

7. **Superintendent's Update**

- (1) **Area Cooperative Educational Services (ACES)** – The district was invited to participate in an interdistrict arts integration grant in the 2026 – 2027 school year. The grant allows twenty-five of our 5th and 6th grade students along with two teachers to participate in three field trips. (a) Yale Peabody Museum, (b) Connecticut Children's Museum and (c) The Lost in New Haven Experience. There is no cost to the district or its families. Expenses completely covered are: three field trips; transportation; food and staffing.

(2) Quarterly Meetings with the Board of Finance and Town Council – Rather than quarterly meetings as entire Boards, the Mayor recommended the creation of an advisory group which would consist of:

- Board Chairs (or designees)
- Mayor
- Town Council Liaison to the Board of Education
- Town's Finance Director
- Mr. Tencza, Business Manager and Mr. Falcone, Superintendent

The goal being to improve communication and getting ahead of budget questions.

(3) School Building Safety Collaboration – Request from the Mayor for additional information and clarification on the safety topic. Mr. Falcone plans on meeting with the Mayor between now and the next Board of Education Meeting.

(4) Update on three items requested by the Board during the first Budget Workshop to reach out to the Mayor about – (a) Presenting the Board's Budget at a Tri-Board Meeting

- The Mayor feels it is the responsibility of the Board of Finance to present their final budget recommendation at the Tri-Board Meeting.
- Therefore, the Mayor was not in favor of having the Board present to the Tri-Board as well.
- However, he was definitely open to the option of the Board presenting its budget to the Town Council separately, prior to the Tri-Board Meeting, to advocate for the Board's budget proposal.

(5) Items not controlled but have a negative impact on all school budgets

(a) Governor Lamont proposed his budget that flat funds the Education Cost Sharing Grant. Plymouth will see no increase in \$9,802,121 Education Cost Sharing funding in the upcoming school year.

(b) Governor Lamont's proposal eliminated \$12 million for magnet school funding which creates an increase in the district's magnet school tuition costs.

Therefore, these two actions move more public education costs onto taxpayers, without reducing mandates or obligations placed on school districts.

A list was handed to Board Members of the various mandates imposed on Boards of Education prior to October of 2025. Most of the mandates, if not all, are unfunded. Between these unfunded mandates and flat funding, it is virtually impossible for schools to keep up with the cost of living and contractual obligations.

(b) Clarification Regarding Confusion over State Reimbursable School Construction Grants for Projects, i.e. Roofs

- Per State Statute – Local Funding must be in place prior to submitting a school construction grant application.
- This includes the completion of a referendum for the project.
- The Town not only has to approve the project that needs to be completed, i.e. a roof, but
 - According to the Statute, the Town also needs to secure the fund for the project.
 - Prior to the district completing the state reimbursable school construction grant application.

Mr. Falcone hopes by sending the letter to: The Board of Finance, Town Council and Capital Improvement Committee will assist in providing accurate messaging when discussing the school district's capital needs in future meetings.

The purpose of the letter Mr. Falcone sent to the Board of Finance, Town Council and Capital Improvement Committee, which the Board received a copy of, was to clarify two important points:

- ❖ While the Board of Education is responsible for daily operations and routine maintenance of the district's buildings:
 - Major capital improvements and renovations require:
 - Town Authorization
 - Local Funding Approval
 - Have to be included in the Town's Capital Improvement Plan
 - The school district does not have the Budget Capacity or the legal Financial Structures to independently fund major capital improvements through its operating budget.

(c) Issues with Warmer Temperatures and the Melting of Snow has caused Two Issues at the Elementary Schools

- Plymouth Center School – Concerns with the front section of the roof and ceiling tiles have become saturated and fallen.
 - Harry S. Fisher Elementary School – Ice dams and water leaks near the cafeteria.
- Both roofs are already identified on the district's Capital Improvement Plan. Mr. Falcone shared an article on how delays in the roof replacement project in Torrington led to a significant increase in that district's overall roof project cost.

8. Unfinished Business

(a) Adoption of the Plymouth Board of Education 5-Year Strategic Plan

MOTION: To entertain a motion to table the Plymouth Board of Education 5-Year Strategic Plan until after the budget. Motion Mrs. Palmer, second, Mrs. Tilton any discussion, if none, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion carries.

(b) Board of Education Budget Adjustment for 2026 – 2027

Mr. Falcone presented a PowerPoint presentation to the Board which explained the adjustment to the 2026 – 2027 budget. This presentation can be found on the district website.

After a brief discussion, the Board moved on to item 9(a) – Adoption of the 2025 – 2027 Plymouth Board of Education Budget and Vote.

9. New Business

(a) Adoption of the 2026 – 2027 Plymouth Board of Education Budget and Vote -

MOTION: To entertain a motion to adopt the Plymouth Board of Education Budget for 2026 – 2027 as presented to the Board with an increase of 3.99% over last year's 2025 - 2026 budget.

Motion Mr. Showers, second Mr. Bourbonniere, any discussion, if none. After a brief discussion, Mrs. Kulesa, Board Chair called for a Roll Call Vote:

ROLL CALL VOTE:

	Yes	No	Abstained
Mrs. Tilton	X		
Mr. Showers	X		
Mr. Foote	X		
Mrs. Palmer	X		
Mrs. Corry	X		
Mrs. Allen	X		
Mr. Perugino (absent)			
Mr. Bourbonniere		X	

VOTE Yes 6 No 1 Abstained 0 Motion carries

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

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

- Included in the packet were the following - Accounts by Facilities Report for January and 8 different submissions.

- (1 & 2) Business Office Activity Report & Negative Balance Explanations
- (3) Board of Education Summary through January 31, 2026
- (4) Monthly Budget Report, January 31, 2026
- (5) Cumulative Board of Education Budget Expenditures % by Month, January 2025 – 2026
- (6) Food Services Financial Performance Year-to-Date (July 1, 2025 thru January 31, 2026)
- (7) Capital Improvement Needs/5 Year Plan Updated January 31, 2026
(Capital Projects Less Than \$50,000 to be addressed through School Budget Funds or Sinking Fund Allocations)
- (8) Capital Improvement Needs 5 Year Plan Updated January 31, 2026
(Capital Projects in excess of \$50,000 to be Submitted to the Town of Plymouth for Capital Expenditure Consideration)

Some items Mr. Tencza spoke about were Budget Expenditures 2025 – 2026; Food Service – Administrative Review and Building Walk Through Findings.

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

(b) **Personnel Report** – Mr. Falcone, Superintendent

Mr. Falcone acknowledged the retirement of Mr. Nave, Social Studies Teacher at Terryville High School and wished him the best.

11. **Public Comment** (limited to 2-minutes per speaker)

- (a) In-person public comment:
Melanie Church, 328 Main Street, Terryville
 - Fraud Assessment
 - Pay raises for Superintendent, Business Manager, etc. should be reflected in the budget.
- (b) Remote public comment (please go to www.plymouth.k12.ct.us for instructions on how to participate) - None

12. **Committee Reports**

- (a) Special Meeting of the Plymouth Board of Education Curriculum & Instruction Committee Meeting, Thursday, February 5, 2026 – Mrs. Tilton, Chair

The committee discussed the following:

- (a) Current High School Offerings & Program of Studies
- (b) EdAdvance Pathways Program

Minutes of this meeting can be found on the district website.

- (b) Special Meeting of the Plymouth Board of Education Finance & Operations Committee Meeting, Monday, February 9, 2026 – Mr. Bourbonniere, Chair

Topics for Discussion were: (a) Accounts by Facilities Report
(b) Eli Terry Jr. Middle School Walk through January 16, 2026
(c) Harry S. Fisher Middle School Walk through January 23, 2026

Minutes of this meeting can be found on the district website.

13. **Board Liaison Reports**

Robin Palmer
2/10/2026

-- Plymouth Center School
PTA Meeting
Monster drawing/first & eighth graders
School Spirit Week has ended
Book Fair currently going on
Build A Buddy Fundraiser Coming Up

Rebecca Allen
PTA

-- Harry S. Fisher Elementary School
No meeting yet
Circus Assembly
Fourth & Fifth Grade Chorus Performance
Winter Care Packages
Spirit Week has closed out
Fifth Grade Celebration Committee
School Store
Fifth Grade Paint Night
Book Fair
Wrestling Fundraiser (partnering with EJMS)

2/13/2026
3/18/2026

Kelly Tilton/Nicole Corry
1/29/2026
2/17/2026

-- Eli Terry Jr. Middle School
PTA Meeting
Trivia Night at American Legion (babysitting
available at ETJMS)
Wrestling Night
Middle School Student Representative

Richard Foote

-- Terryville High School
Raising Money for Aftergrad
Pie Sale netted \$942
Designer Bag Bingo (November) - \$2,215
Upcoming: April, Graduation Signs
May, Mother's Day Flowers
Projected Graduation Date for – Aftergrad Party
(to be determined)

Vacant

-- EdAdvance

14. **Board Comments**

Great having the E-Sports Team at the Board Meeting. Currently, E-Sports is huge in college. The Team Black E-Sports Team is the most proficient. Best Wishes to the team at nationals. Teachers, students, etc. enjoy the week off. Superintendent's letter. Wording was stated in plain language. Easy to understand. Thank you to the Boys & Girls Club for their presentation. It was very informative. Student Representatives are the best.

Mrs. Kulesa, Chair – A lot was learned tonight from various sources. All individuals who spoke to the Board, the public and presentations. Very much appreciated. This type of interaction encourages kids to think and gives the Board something to question. Individuals are encouraged to please come to meetings, watch online or participate in public comment.

15. **Next Board Meeting** –The next Regular Meeting of the Plymouth Board of Education is on Wednesday March 11, 2026, at 6 p.m. in the cafeteria at Terryville High School.

16. **Executive Session** – (These items will be discussed in executive session)

MOTION: To entertain a motion to enter executive session at 8:16 p.m. inviting Mr. Falcone, Superintendent, Mrs. Melillo, Assistant Superintendent and Mr. Tencza, Business Manager, into executive session to discuss the following:

- (a) Plymouth School Nurses Association Contract Negotiations
- (b) Plymouth Education Association MOU (Memorandum of Understanding)

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

17. **Resume Regular Session**

Mrs. Kulesa, Chair resumed regular session at 8:54 p.m.

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

- (a) Plymouth School Nurses Association Contract Negotiations

NO ACTION TAKEN


- (b) Plymouth Education Association MOU (Memorandum of Understanding)

MOTION: To entertain a motion to approve the Plymouth Education MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) as discussed in executive session. Motion Mr. Showers, second Mr. Foote, all in favor (6), any opposed (1-Mrs. Tilton), any abstentions (none), motion carries.

19. **Adjournment**

MOTION: To entertain a motion to adjourn at 8:55 p.m. Motion Mr. Showers, second, Mrs. Palmer all in favor, motion carries.

Respectfully submitted:



Patricia Piskorski

Recording Secretary for the
Plymouth Board of Education