



# 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, APRIL 15, 2026

6:00 P.M.

## MINUTES

Present: Mrs. Kulesa, Chair; Mr. Bourbonniere, Vice Chair, Mrs. Tilton, Mr. Showers, Mr. Foote, Mrs. Palmer, Mrs. Corry and Mrs. Allen

Absent: Mr. Perugino, Secretary

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 April 15, 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 Mrs. Palmer 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 March 11, 2026. Motion Mrs. Tilton, second Mr. Bourbonniere, any discussion, if none, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion carries.
- (b) The minutes of the Special Meeting of the Plymouth Board of Education Finance & Operations Committee of March 9, 2026. Motion Mr. Bourbonniere, second Mrs. Palmer, any discussion, if none, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion carries.

PLYMOUTH, CT  
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE  
RECEIVED FOR RECORD  
2026 APR 20 AM 11:08  
TOWN CLERK

- (c) The minutes of the Special Meeting of the Plymouth Board of Education Curriculum & Instruction Committee of March 16, 2026. Motion Mrs. Tilton, second Mr. Foote, any discussion, if none, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion carries.

4. **Student Representatives**

**Eli Terry Jr. Middle School**

**Sebastian Pianka** – Absent

**Julia Matuszczak**

- (a) Julia thanked Mr. Falcone, Superintendent, and the Board of Education, for providing them with the opportunity to represent Eli Terry Jr. Middle School at the Board Meetings.
- (b) On March 5<sup>th</sup>, the 8<sup>th</sup> grade basketball players went up against the staff. The outcome, the staff was victorious. During the game, the Student Council ran concessions and raised over \$600 for the 8<sup>th</sup> grade dance.
- (c) April 14<sup>th</sup> was the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Day of Kindness when students and staff wore purple and took part in various activities to practice showing and recognizing kindness.
- (d) SBAC Testing will take place during the week of May 6<sup>th</sup> and May 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Terryville High School**

**Tianna Avallone**

- (a) April Break – European Trip to London, Paris, and Rome. Eleven students took part in this trip. Some of their experiences were riding the London Eye, entering the British Museum, seeing the Mona Lisa at the Louvre, and marveling at the Colosseum.
- (b) Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) – The club attended their annual state conference on March 17<sup>th</sup> at the Connecticut Convention Center. Terryville High School came home with two awards for Alexa Szymczak and Aria Roth-Perreault. Alexa competed in introduction to FBLA and won 2<sup>nd</sup> place and Aria competed in Journalism and won 4<sup>th</sup> place.
- (c) Spring Musical put on by the Drama Club – Mean Girls. Performances will take place on Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup> and Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, both at 7 p.m.

**Fallon Roth-Perreault**

- (a) April 22<sup>nd</sup>, Earth Day Celebration – Goal is to encourage the recycling model of reduce, reuse, recycle. Hoping students and staff will bring items from their homes that would otherwise have been thrown out.
- (b) Unified Buddies – A group of regular and special education students who come together for events and activities to form unique friendships. Prior to April break, the club took a trip to Thomaston High School for an event filled with games and snacks.
- (c) Teacher Appreciation Week is approaching. The Student Council has planned two things to show teachers and school staff how much they are appreciated. There will be handmade personalized cards for each staff member. Prompts such as “you helped me grown as a person” and “I look forward to your class.”
- (d) May 4<sup>th</sup> is the beginning of AP Testing. For approximately two weeks students who took AP courses will take their respective tests on their testing days. To elevate stress, a request was made to have Remy, the therapy dog, come to as many days as possible before the big tests. Student Council is also providing a snack table for the first time before the test begins and during breaks for students.
- (e) Harvest Pack put on by the Leo Club was held in the cafeteria on March 19<sup>th</sup>. Club members, teachers, community members, and eager students all participated and were able to pack 13,000 meals in only a few hours to be sent to Ghana through the Orphan Grain Train.

Mr. Falcone, Superintendent - A total of 13,560 meals were packaged. Mr. Falcone thanked the following individuals Pastor Dick Dill, Leo Club advisors Ryan Valentin and Marty Sandshaw and all the community members and students who volunteered their time.

5. **Presentation**

(a) **CAPSS/LCSA Superintendent Student Recognition Award Recipients**

**Mr. Vigliotti, Principal Eli Terry Jr. Middle School**

Jaxen Scholl	Eli Terry Jr. Middle School
Harper Yanavich	Eli Terry Jr. Middle School

**Mrs. Hurd, Assistant Principal Terryville High School**

Drew Fowler	Terryville High School
Fallon Roth-Perreault	Terryville High School

Mr. Falcone will invite students and their parents to attend an Awards Program to be held on Tuesday, May 5, 2026, at the Grand Oak Villa in Oakville, CT.

(b) **Terryville High School** – Mrs. Hurd

Terryville High School Career Center will present an overview of its continued growth and development, highlighting current programming, partnerships, and opportunities available to students. The presentation will showcase how the Terryville High School Career Center is expanding access to career exploration, work-based learning, and post-secondary planning resources to better prepare students for their futures. Updates will include recent initiatives, student engagement efforts, and collaborations with local businesses and organizations. Additionally, Terryville High School students will share firsthand experiences offering insight into how participation in Career opportunities have positively influenced their career awareness, skill development, and future planning.

6. **Public Comment**

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

Meredith Patel – 2 Fairview Avenue, Terryville  
Comment: Thanked Alyssa Glaser for all she does for the students.

(b) Remote public comment (please go to [www.plymouth.k12.ct.us](http://www.plymouth.k12.ct.us) for instructions on how to participate) - None

7. **Superintendent's Update**

(a) Yesterday evening, Tuesday, April 14<sup>th</sup>, the Board of Education met with the Town Council to discuss: (1) the 2026 - 2027 Board of Education proposed Budget and (2) The Capital Improvement needs for the Board of Education.

Mr. Falcone indicated that typically the Board presents its budget and capital needs to the Board of Finance and the Town's Capital Improvement Committee. However, it was felt to be important to also share the Board's needs and concerns with the Town Council and the Mayor. Mr. Falcone indicated the meeting provided these individuals with the opportunity to ask clarifying questions and gain an understanding of the Board's budget and capital priorities.

Currently, the Board of Finance has reduced the Board of Education's adopted budget from the adopted 3.99% increase to Mr. Falcone's originally recommended budget increase of 3.72%. This is a \$74,750 cut, which equals the two regular education teacher aides and the daytime security position.

Mr. Falcone went on to explain, if the Town Council passes the 3.72% increase, it will preserve the current school district structure, and no additional positions will be added or eliminated. However, the final decision regarding the Board's budget will be made at the Tri-Board meeting between the Board of Finance, Town Council, and the Board of Education. This meeting will take place on Tuesday, April 21<sup>st</sup> at 6 p.m. in the Town Hall Community Room. This is the most critical meeting of the year when it comes to the education budget. Mr. Falcone encouraged as many members as possible from school community to attend the meeting and to share their thoughts on the school district's proposed budget.

(c) **School Climate Study Across all Four of our schools:**

Goal is to survey all:

- Students (with the exception of Plymouth Center School)
- Parents
- Certified and Non-Certified Staff

Purpose: To gather information that will help us modify and adjust our individual School Climate Improvement Plans. Mr. Falcone indicated he is planning to share the common themes found within each survey with the Board prior to the summer break.

8. **New Business**

(a) **Proposed 2027 – 2028 School Year Calendar**

This is an informational item and will be brought to the full Board at the May 13, 2026, Regular Board of Education Meeting for possible approval.

9. **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 March and 8 different submissions:
  - (1 & 2) Business Office Activity Report & Negative Balance Explanations
  - (3) Board of Education Summary through March 31, 2026
  - (4) Monthly Budget Report, March 31, 2026
  - (5) Cumulative Board of Education Budget Expenditures % by Month, March 2025 – 2026
  - (6) Food Services Financial Performance Year-to-Date (July 1, 2025 – March 31, 2026)
  - (7) Capital Improvement Needs/5 Year Plan Updated March 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 March 31, 2026  
(Capital Projects in Excess of \$50,000 to be Submitted to the Town of Plymouth for Capital Expenditures Consideration)
- The Accounts by Facilities Report will be forwarded to the Town of Plymouth Board of Finance

Summary of items discussed by Mr. Tencza:

- (a) Plymouth Center School Roof Project – A plan is being worked on for repair/replacement.
- (b) Harry Fisher Elementary School & Eli Terry Jr. Middle School Roof Projects – A visual inspection of both roofs was conducted. At Fisher there are obvious “soft” spots on the original sections of the building. At ETJMS there are several roof sections that need to be addressed. An infrared scan needs to be conducted at both buildings. There is a quote, however, this project needs to be placed on hold until the Plymouth Center School project is resolved.

(c) Fisher Heating System and Energy Management Project – Once the project plan is received from Tucker Mechanical and once the completed project scope is received there will be a meeting with the Finance & Operations Committee to determine the next steps to move the project forward.

(d) Plymouth Center School Playground Project – The order has been placed. HES has been notified that we are ready to move forward as soon as the ground firms up enough for work to begin. There is no impact on the operational budget for this project.

(e) Fisher Elementary School Library Carpet – Replaced over April break. No impact on the operational budget.

(f) School Parking Lots – There is still a lot of cleanup and repairs needed in our parking lots. However, we appreciate the cooperation from the Public Works Department. However, there are talks about repairing some of the damage at the high school. More to come.

(g) Nurses Contract Negotiations – Negotiations were held on March 26<sup>th</sup> and went very well. We quickly found a common ground and came to a settlement. The only outstanding issue is what the insurance numbers will look like. A meeting is scheduled in April with respect to the final insurance costs.

(h) Food Services – The program made a profit of \$2,884.07.

(i) Budget 2025 – 2026 – There will be a small surplus of approximately \$100,000.00.

(b) Personnel Report – Mr. Falcone, Superintendent

Since the report came out, we have hired a high school Social Studies teacher for the 2026 – 2027 school year.

10. **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](http://www.plymouth.k12.ct.us) for instructions on how to participate- None

11 **Committee Reports**

**Curriculum & Instruction** – Mrs. Tilton, Chair

The Plymouth Board of Education Special Meeting of the Curriculum & Instruction Committee took place on Monday, March 16, 2026. Mrs. Tilton gave a brief report on the following topics:

(a) Special Education Programs

(b) Pupil Personnel Services

(c) Mid-Year Benchmark Data

Minutes were placed on the district website.

**Ad Hoc Policy Committee** – Mrs. Tilton, Chair

The Special Meeting of the Plymouth Board of Education Ad Hoc Policy Committee met prior to the Regular Board Meeting. After a brief discussion, it was moved the following proposed policy revisions be brought to the Full Board for a first read.

**Proposed Policy Revisions**

Series 3000 – Business

- P-3001 Budget Procedures and Line Item Transfers
- P-3008 Meal Charging Policy

Series 5000 – Students

- P-5032 Wellness

Minutes of this meeting will be placed on the district website.

**Finance & Operations** – Mr. Bourbonniere, Chair

The Plymouth Board of Education Special Meeting of the Finance & Operations Committee took place on April 13, 2026. Mr. Bourbonniere gave a brief report on the following topics:

- (a) Plymouth Center School Walk Through
- (b) Update on Heat Pumps at Harry S. Fisher Elementary School
- (c) Discussion: Possible Use of Non-Lapsing Account to Address the Heat Pump Issue at Harry S. Fisher Elementary School
- (d) Conversion concerning damage incurred at Terryville High School, Eli Terry Jr. Middle School, Harry S. Fisher Elementary School, and Plymouth Center School parking lots due to the increase in snowstorms this winter.
- (e) Summary of Nurse’s Union Contract Negotiations
- (f) Replacement of Carpet at Harry S. Fisher Elementary School
- (g) Status of Playscape at Plymouth Center School
- (h) Summary of Forecasted Budget End of the Year

Minutes of this meeting will be place on the district website.

The following Motion was made regarding the Heating Pumps at Harry S. Fisher Elementary School.

MOTION: We, the Board of Education, are allowing \$120,000 to be taken out of the non-lapsing account to address the heat pumps at Harry S. Fisher. Motion Mr. Bourbonniere, coming out of committee this does not need a second.

Any discussion, if none, Mrs. Kulesa calls for a Roll Vote:

NAME	IN FAVOR	OPPOSED	ABSENTION
Mrs. Tilton	x		
Mr. Showers	x		
Mr. Foote	x		
Mr. Bourbonniere	x		
Mrs. Palmer	x		
Mrs. Corry	x		
Mrs. Allen	x		

IN FAVOR - 7                      OPPOSED - 0                      ABSTENTIONS - 0

Motion passes

12. **Board Liaison Reports**

Mrs. Palmer  
No Report

Plymouth Center School

Mrs. Allen  
Wrestling Fundraiser  
Flowers Fundraiser  
School Store – Friday, April 17<sup>th</sup>  
Planning 5<sup>th</sup> grade graduation

Plymouth Center School

Mrs. Tilton/Mrs. Corry

Wrestling  
Planning for graduation  
Dance – April 24<sup>th</sup>

Eli Terry Jr. Middle School

Mr. Foote

Getting ready for after grad party  
Graduation Signs this month  
Mother's Day Flowers

Terryville High School

Vacant

EdAdvance

13. **Board Comments**

Summary: Congratulations to the LCSA Student Award Recipients. Teacher Appreciation. All were impressed by Alyssa Glaser's presentation and what she has brought to the Career Center. She has touched many lives of both past and present students guiding them as they journey on to the next stage of life after high school, whether it be college, the military, the trades, etc. The Board appreciated the students who spoke at the meeting sharing their high school experience and future. Great job to Julie Matuszczak, Student Representative from Eli Terry Jr. Middle School on her first Board Meeting. As always, great reports from Tianna and Fallon.

Mr. Bourbonniere – Town Council Meeting of Tuesday, April 14, 2026. He commented on the 2% increase at that meeting. However, he went on to suggest looking at the negative .51% during Dr. Semmel and Mayor Merchant's tenure in the district. He referred to a letter from the State of Connecticut indicating the district did not meet its MBR. For every dollar missed, \$2 is taken away. The town had to come up with money in order not to give back \$2. Also, there were 4 years during Dr. Distasio's tenure with the district when there was no % increase. He went on to say, we in the school district are doing the best we possibly can with money that we were never ever able to get because of a zero % increase. The district is paying for this right now.

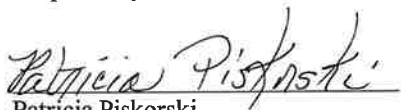
Mr. Bourbonniere spoke about the district's cost per pupil.

14. **Next Board Meeting** –The next Regular Meeting of the Plymouth Board of Education is on Wednesday, May 13, 2026, at 6 p.m. in the cafeteria at Terryville High School.

15. **Adjournment**

MOTION: To entertain a motion to adjourn at 7:24 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