

# Town of Plymouth

80 Main Street, Terryville, CT 06786  
[www.plymouthct.us](http://www.plymouthct.us)

# Board of Finance

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1. **Call Meeting to Order:** Jim Kilduff, Chairman called the regular March 6, 2025, Board of Finance meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. in the Community Room. Members in attendance: Victoria Carey-Vice Chairman, Jennifer Brunnoli, Eugene Croce, Tony Osipiak, and David Sekorski-excused absence, Vijay Dora, Town of Plymouth Finance Director, Brian Falcone, Superintendent - Plymouth Public Schools, Matthew Tencza, Business Manager - Plymouth Public Schools, and Board of Education members
2. **Pledge of Allegiance:** Jim Kilduff, Chairman led the group and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. **Notice of Fire Exits** – Jim Kilduff noted the Fire Exits for the record.
4. **Approval of Minutes – Follow-up**
5. **Board of Education Budget Presentation** (note hard copies were distributed for perusal)

Brian Falcone, Superintendent - Plymouth Public Schools presented and discussed in detail the Board of Education Budget – PowerPoint presentation - highlights included:

## Board of Education Goal & Budget Alignment

- ❖ Goal 1: Student Achievement Goal
- ❖ Goal 2: Engagement Goal
- ❖ Goal 3: Well-being Goal
- ❖ Goal 4: Fiscal Oversight Goal

## Projected Enrollment Staffing & Class Size

### 2024-2025 Enrollment Projection Report

### Districtwide Staffing

### Controlled & Uncontrolled Expenses

### 2025-2026 Budget Details

- ❖ Original 2025-2026 Budget Requests
- ❖ Contractual Increases within current Operating Budget
- ❖ Excess Cost Reduction
- ❖ Budget Eliminations
- ❖ Proposed Budget Eliminations
- ❖ Excess Cost Reimbursement
- ❖ Budget Additions
- ❖ Current Grant Funded Position

PLYMOUTH, CT  
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE  
RECEIVED FOR RECORD  
2025 MAR 10 PM 1:56  
*Shirley K...  
TOWN CLERK*

**Board of Education Budget**

Current BOE Adopted Operating Budget	\$26,775,293	
2025-2026 Original Submitted Budget	\$28,969,920	
Budget Eliminations	\$ 678,568	
Excess Cost Reimbursement	\$ 458,918	
Budget Additions	\$ 101,845	
2025-2026 Budget Total	\$27,934,279	
<b>Increase from the 2024-2025 Budget</b>	<b>\$ 1,158,986</b>	<b>Increase: 4.33%</b>

Vicky Carey, Board of Finance questioned budget categories driven by percentages, percentages of salaries, and percentages of transportation.

Brian Falcone, Superintendent – will provide (follow-up)

Vicky Carey questioned the maintenance of certain buildings, only \$10,000.

Matthew Tencza, Business Manager stated we budget \$10,000 for building maintenance, we find needs that need to be addressed, and if funding is left or we come to the Board of Finance to request the use of the Sinking Fund.

Vicky Carey questioned facilities - ground maintenance and athletic maintenance - is that subcontracted out?

Matthew Tencza, Business Manager stated that is completely sub-contracted.

Vicky Carey questioned vehicle maintenance/travel.

Matthew Tencza, Business Manager stated purchased a vehicle in 2023 for special education transportation. Maintenance for vehicle/special education, maintenance staff – encompasses pick up, dump truck, and van – facilities group uses. Travel for Brian Falcone, Supt. - within the school day for school work – reimbursement travel money (minimum).

Vicky Carey questioned nurse count.

Matthew Tencza, Business Manager stated “4” one in each school.

Vicky Carey questioned salaries from lowest to highest paying salary.

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Brian Falcone, Superintendent stated just re-negotiated teacher contracts.

Vicky Carey questioned when teachers are coaching do they get paid a dual salary.

Brian Falcone, Superintendent stated there is a stipend in the coaching contract.

Brian Falcone, Superintendent confirmed that instructional coaching is already in the position.

Vicky Carey questioned the athletic trainer.

Brian Falcone, Superintendent stated that a contracted service comes into the high school that works with the kids, games, practices, and injuries, (concussion protocols) go through that person.

Brian Falcone, Superintendent stated that salary-wise bachelor's degree - step 1 is \$48,194 the highest 6-year degree, second Master's Degree 13 years in the system, and pays \$98,134 (60 credits above a Bachelor's) for 2025-2026, re. Speech and Language, Psychology, Social Work, and School Counseling.

Jennifer Brunoli, Board of Finance questioned 12.75 funded by the grant - plan if you don't receive the grant.

Brian Falcone, Superintendent stated positions eliminated, would have additional cuts.

Tony Osipiak, Board of Finance questioned Math Coaches, is position mandated.

Brian Falcone, Superintendent stated "No"

Tony Osipiak, Board of Finance questioned if there are other coaches.

Brian Falcone, Superintendent stated literacy and math coaches – high school, secondary – social studies and english and elementary – reading and math (split between both elementary schools) and high school - STEM coach/coordinator that goes into science and math teachers and briefly elaborated.

Tony Osipiak questioned test scores.

Brian Falcone, Superintendent stated past 4 years new math and reading programs were both scientifically researched and based on our School District. Results will come from the bottom up and building foundation of our district, moving through and are seeing improvements in our scores (not in standardized test scores) just started these programs and briefly elaborated.

Brian Falcone, Superintendent noted new programs, time spent (teachers) actually have to do work, plan, prep, and meet and briefly elaborated. Noted the importance of professional development. Improving craft, product, and working on engagement, some obstacles (candidate applicant pool) teachers leaving for a larger salary, etc.



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Tony Ospiak questioned \$40,000 dues and how that helps the average student.

Brian Falcone, Superintendent noted the importance of accreditation high school, also dues for pre-k certification and accreditation required by organizations, New England accreditation (unfunded), members of the committee (provide accommodations in a hotel), and briefly elaborated.

Tony Ospiak questioned enrollment numbers.

Brian Falcone, Superintendent stated enrollment numbers dropped.

Tony Ospiak questioned the savings of closing a school.

Brian Falcone, Superintendent stated study prior to COVID, information did not have recently updated enrollment studies. The Board of Education rescinded its decision due to the challenge of separating middle and high school students and briefly elaborated.

Brian Falcone, Superintendent stated we are trying to do the right thing for the school district, the kids, and the community and briefly elaborated.

Vicky Carey questioned if the Board of Education was made aware of the sub-divisions approved.

Brian Falcone, Superintendent noted that the positive working relationship with the Board of Finance, Town Council, and Mayor is phenomenal we are all working together!

Jim Kilduff discussed the budget process, and briefly elaborated.

Jim Kilduff stated list of Board of Finance meetings posted online – various departments.

### **6. Public Comment**

Melanie Church, 328 Main Street, Terryville, CT - Coaches (Reading & Math) Grant, Fisher School, Accreditation, shared services, upgrade buildings, bus (cost), and college courses

David Dudley, 19 Barry Road RD Plymouth, CT – Budget - questioned Terryville High School -textbooks, World Language, pre-COVID numbers timeframe for rating of schools.

Matthew Tencza, Business Manager stated listed under curriculum and instruction (budget line item), World Language is Spanish, building from foundation up in rating of schools, putting in the right programs, building on skills consistently, and briefly elaborated.

Brian Falcone, Superintendent stated did not eliminate coaches due to the importance of the growth of teachers, services – conversations with other superintendents, magnet schools – transportation, and business manager – Waterbury - realty we pay \$112,000 out of our budget transport students to Waterbury

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Arts and Magnet and Waterbury gets reimbursed – noted formula does not work for us and we are working on this presently.

Ann Marie Rheault, 125 N. Main Street, Terryville, CT - Vice Chair of Municipal Facilities - Ad-Hoc Building Committee (trying to build a new Police Department). Noted the importance of working together to move the town forward with the facilities that we need, (Police Department). Budget approaching 40 mills, cannot sustain million-dollar increases each year to the Board of Education and another million to the town-side, noted debt service dropping and questioned capital expenditures approved.

Brian Falcone, Superintendent distributed for review the non-lapsing sinking fund requests for perusal, the present balance in the sinking fund is \$321,486. Waiting for reimbursement from the State for the camera safety project \$162,509 already requested and waiting for final approval and briefly elaborated.

Jillian Cyr, Special Education teacher in favor of the suggested fencing, etc., at school and briefly elaborated.

**7. Correspondence**

None

**8. Board Member's Comments**

Jennifer Brunoli - None

Vicky Carey - None

Eugene Croce - Thanked Board of Education

Tony Osipiak - Questioned if fence will help in the prevention of students getting to equipment on the school's property.

**9. Adjournment**

**There being no further business of the Board of Finance, a motion was made by Vicky Carey seconded by Jennifer Brunoli adjourn at 8:40 p.m. This motion was approved unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

*Michele Yokubinas*

Michele Yokubinas  
Recording Secretary