



PLYMOUTH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

CENTRAL OFFICE

27 NORTH HARWINTON AVENUE
TERRYVILLE, CONNECTICUT 06786

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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, May 13, 2026

6:00 P.M.

MINUTES

Present: Mrs. Kulesa, Chair; Mr. Bourbonniere, Secretary; Mr. Perugino, Secretary and Members: Mrs. Tilton, Mr. Showers, 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 May 13, 2026, to order at 6 p.m. The group joined in the Pledge to the Flag.

2. **Adoption of the Agenda**

MOTION: To entertain a motion to amend the agenda by adding the following after #7 Superintendent's Update

New Business

(a) Partnership Between Terryville High School and Cook Willow Health & Rehab Center

(b) Budget Summary Update

Motion Mr. Bourbonniere, second Mr. Perugino, any discussion, if none, all in favor, 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 April 15, 2026. Motion Mrs. Tilton, second Mr. Foote, any discussion, if none, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, (**Mr. Perugino abstains**) motion carries.
- (b) The minutes of the Plymouth Board of Education Ad Hoc Policy Committee Meeting of April 15, 2026.) Motion Mrs. Tilton, second Mrs. Palmer, any discussion, if none, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion carries.
- (c) The minutes of the Special Meeting of the Plymouth Board of Education Finance & Operations Committee of April 13, 2026. (NOTE: Need only 2 individuals from this committee to approve this motion. Motion Mrs. Palmer, second Mr. Showers, any discussion, if none, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, (**Mr. Perugino abstains**) motion carries.

4. **Student Representatives**

Eli Terry Jr. Middle School

Sebastian Pianka

(a) **Spring Sports**

Track & Field – The team has had multiple athletes qualify for the State Championship meet on May 23rd and Berkshire League Championship on May 26th.
Baseball currently (4-4) & Softball (5-3) Teams will finish their seasons on May 26th.

Grit ‘N Wit will take place on Tuesday, May 19th. This is an obstacle course with physical challenges and mental puzzles. This event is sponsored by the PTA.

End of the Year Events Over the Next Few Weeks – Spring Spirit Week & Pep Rally during the week of May 25th; Band & Chorus Spring Concert on June 2nd. Lake Compounce 8th grade trip on June 4th; Eighth grade dance June 11th; Sixth grade trip to Mystic Aquarium on June 8th; Seventh grade Trip to Adventure Park ropes course on June 16th; and Eighth grade promotion ceremony on Friday, June 19th.

Julia Matuszczak

Mean Girls: The Musical – May 1st and 2nd (THS Drama Club).
Twenty-four Eli Terry Jr. Middle School Students were featured in both cast and crew.
Drama Club field trip to New York on May 28th to see the Broadway show The Great Gatsby and then they will head off to the Hard Rock Café.

SBAC testing was completed on May 13, 2026.

Terryville High School

Tianna Avallone

Roos Night – Roos Night was hosted by the junior class and was a successful after school event held from 6 p.m. – 10 p.m. This event not only encourages student engagement and school spirit but plays an important role in fostering a sense of unity and strengthening relationships within the student body. The junior class raised \$356, contributing to future class initiatives.

Mean Girls: The Musical was presented by the Terryville High School Drama Club. The cast and crew have opportunities to be nominated for Halo Awards.

E-Sports – The E-Sports team earned the title of two-time state champions in Rocket League. The team’s performance also secured them invitations to both the New England Regional competition and the national tournament, which will take place next Monday, May 18th. Marcus Dunn, Logan Harnish and Cody Gandirillas have been recognized with All-State honors.

AP Classes: Thanks to the continued support of the Board of Education, Terryville High School has been able to offer a robust Advanced Placement Program, including 10 AP courses and a total of 127 exams taken by students this year. Courses include AP Language and Composition, AP Literature, AP U.S. History, AP Computer Science, AP Biology, AP Statistics, AP Calculus, AP Government and Politics, and AP Psychology.

Fallon Roth-Perreault

Leadership Conference – Terryville High School was invited to Cheshire High School for their annual leadership conference. Sophomores and Juniors represented Terryville High School. Students networked with other students, learned about events and leadership styles that work at their schools and had the opportunity to talk with community leaders at lunch and play games with other students, i.e., ice breakers.

Spring Concert – The Spring Concert for Band and Chorus will be on June 9th in the high school auditorium.

Upcoming Activities – May 21st, Scholarship Night.
Senior Class Trip to Holiday Hill.
Prom, Academic Awards, Senior Athletic Awards,
Senior Dinner and Graduation.

5. **Presentation**

(a) Plymouth Center School – Mrs. Calo, Principal

Overview of Presentation: Plymouth Center School is proud to highlight a recent School-Wide initiative that brought our entire learning community together centered around a mystery theme. This initiative connected a reading challenge, an interactive school-wide “Mystery of Coco the Mustang,” and a culminating author visit.

6. **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

7. **Superintendent’s Update**

- Congratulations to: Ezekiel Burgher – Salutatorian for 2026
Drew Fowler – Valedictorian – for 2026
- During Teacher Appreciation Week all employees were treated with a visit from Rita’s Italian Ice Truck at their respective school.

- Terryville High School will be supporting the Plymouth Rotary Club's Day of Service by having seniors participate in a Senior Give Back Day on Friday, May 15th.

Seniors will be:

- *Mulching, Landscaping, and painting a Fence at the:
 - *Waterwheel & Lock Museum
- *Washing & Detailing Cruisers for the:
 - *Plymouth Police Department
- *Working on various projects at each of the schools, i.e.
 - *Cleaning the courtyards
 - *Completing landscaping projects
 - *Helping teachers in the classrooms

- Plymouth Center School: (a) Lower area of the playground was roped off on Monday, May 11th to prepare for the removal of the playscape. Since the Mayor was not interested in repurposing the current playscape, we will be donating the playscape to the Boys and Girls Club as previously discussed. When the playscape is removed, preparation will begin for the installation of the new equipment. The goal is to have the new playscape fully installed for the beginning of the next school year.
- Reminders:
 - * The last 3 days of school, June 18th, 19th and 22nd, will be early dismissal days.
 - * Harry S. Fisher Promotion Ceremony will be held on June 18th at 9:30 a.m.
 - * Eli Terry Jr. Middle School Step Up Program will be held on June 19th at 9 a.m.
 - * Terryville High School Graduation Ceremony will be held on June 19th at 6 p.m. Rain or Shine. Weather permitting the ceremony will be held at the soccer field. If it rains, ceremony will be held in the auditorium.
 - * The last day of school is June 22nd.

Board Members were provided with a list of the end of the year activities happening at each school. Except for prom and the upcoming field trips, Mr. Falcone indicated he would be attending as many of these activities as possible and any Board Member is welcome to join him. Please let him know if you plan to attend any of the events.

New Business

(a) Partnership Between Terryville High School and Cook Willow Health & Rehab Center

Mrs. Tilton, Chair for the Curriculum and Instruction Committee, gave a brief description of the Partnership between Terryville High School and Cook Willow Health & Rehab. This program is a Certified Nursing Assistant Program. It will be a four-month certification program. Students will need to do 100 hours of on-site training. In order for teams not to miss learning time, schedule would be mostly on Saturdays and holidays. This program will be paid for by the district. As a pilot program, it will start out with eight students. Parents would be responsible for purchasing scrubs and paying for the certification test. Once program is completed, students will receive CNA certification and will be able to apply for positions at Cook Willow at \$20 per hour.

Mr. Falcone indicated this connection began with Mrs. Corry and her connections over at Cook Willow. After meeting with Mr. Hults, the challenge was how do we put this program in place for students so that it would be least impactful on their academics. Once this was resolved we were able to move forward. Although this program can hold up to 15 students, for the time being, we are starting out with 8 as a pilot program. Transportation is not provided by the district. Information is going to be sent home outlining all the details.

MOTION: To entertain a motion to approve the partnership between Terryville High School and Cook Willow Health & Rehab to offer the CNA Certified Partnership Course for the 2026 – 2027 School year. Motion Mr. Showers, second Mr. Foote, any discussion, if none, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion carries.

(b) Budget Summary Update

- Part One
- (1) Supplemental Education Aid Fund issued by the State of Connecticut Supplemental Educational Aid Fund to the Town of Plymouth, not to the Board of Education.
 - (2) Fact: * A 2-year grant was received from the State of Connecticut.
 - * Each year the town will receive \$196,042 in Supplemental Educational Aid.

Three Options:

- i. Keep the Town's Budget as is and let the schools utilize the extra money on top of the district's current approved budget.
- ii. Go back and lower the amount of tax dollars going into education and use this new state money to fill that gap.
- iii. Do a mixture of both.

Recommendation: The Board approves and adopts the revised budget of \$28,703.423 (a 4.08% increase) received from the Town Council.

Depending on how the town decides to move forward with the supplemental aid, the Board may need to schedule a special meeting to address the use of that money.

- Part Two
- (1) What was approved by the Town Council.
 - *The Town Council, in good faith, requested the Board add \$30,000 to the teacher supply accounts across the district.
 - *The Town Council also restored \$68,000 with the expectation that funds be used to offset the salaries of:
 - i. 2 general education teacher aides.
 - ii. Unarmed building security monitor.

Mrs. Melillo – Assistant Superintendent

Concern: Since the Tri-Board Meeting, a concern has arisen with respect to the Pre-K program which needs to be addressed. Some of these details regarding those concerns were shared by Mrs. Melillo. Enrollment is high. There is no flexibility. A few spots were reserved for students who may be moving over the summer months that are special education and have an IEP. After about 3 weeks when decisions were mailed out to everyone, students moved into the district which pretty much back filled our full day classes for next year.

There is also concern about those children who require birth to three services who turn three during the year next school year who may qualify for special education. Unfortunately, this information will not be known until the student turns three a few months before his/her birthday. Before the child's birthday, all we know is the child's birth date. We will not know the number of students who will need to receive services in our Pre-K program.

The district is NAEYC (National Association for Education of Young Children) accredited. This was achieved since the district received the Smart Start Grant. NAEYC child to ratio figure is a 1:10 for every classroom. A certified early childhood teacher alongside an assistant is required should student enrollment increase. This increase presents a concern because the district may be visited for accreditation either in the spring or early fall. Therefore Mr. Falcone, Mr. Tencza and Mrs. Melillo have had many conversations trying to come up with ideas; however, it really comes down to what would be supported by the budget.

Mr. Falcone – Superintendent

Recommendation Regarding Pre-K: The Board wait and see what the Town decides to do with the supplemental aid before taking action on the Pre-K concern.

Two Options:

Option One:

- (a) If additional funds are received: Recommendation to add another full day Pre-K classroom.
- (b) The district would then have two years to build this additional classroom into its operating budget.

Option Two:

- (a) If the town applies the funds to offset the mill rate, the Board convert the 2 general education teacher aide positions into 2 paraprofessional positions to better support the full day Pre-K classrooms and meet the accreditation requirements.

Sinking Fund – Mr. Falcone spoke on the importance of prioritizing the use of the sinking fund for the renewal of the K-8 Reading and Math Programs. Therefore, he recommends keeping the sinking fund at a level that covers the projected cost of these program renewals at all times. This does not mean it needs to be a combination of both.

8. Unfinished Business

(a) 2027 – 2028 School Year Calendar

MOTION: To entertain a motion to approve the 2027 – 2028 school year calendar as presented. Motion Mrs. Tilton, second Mr. Foote, any discussion, if none, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion carries.

(b) Second Read and Possible Approval of the Following Revised Policies

MOTION: To entertain a motion to approve the following revised policies as presented. Motion Mrs. Tilton, second Mr. Showers any discussion, if none, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion carries.

Series 3000 – Business

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

Series 5000 – Students

- P-5032 Wellness

(c) Adoption of Assigned Budget

MOTION: To entertain a motion for the Plymouth Board of Education to adopt the assigned Budget of \$28,703,423 which is a 4.08% increase. Motion Mr. Showers, second Mr. Foote, any discussion, if none, all in favor, any opposed, any abstentions, motion carries.

(d) Review of the Plymouth Board of Education 5-Year Strategic Plan

The Board will wait on this matter until they hear the Town's decision with respect to the supplemental aid.

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 April and 8 different submissions:
 - (1 & 2) Business Office Activity Report & Negative Balance Explanations
 - (3) Board of Education Summary through April 30, 2026
 - (4) Monthly Budget Report, April 30, 2026
 - (5) Cumulative Board of Education Budget Expenditures % by Month, April 2025 – 2026
 - (6) Food Services Financial Performance Year-to-Date (July 1, 2025 – April 30, 2026)
 - (7) Capital Improvement Needs/5 Year Plan Updated April 30, 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 April 30, 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: (a) Harry S. Fisher Elementary School Heating System – Work to begin on June 23rd. (b) Plymouth Center School Sidewalks – Does the Town want to take care of the Project. How do they want to handle the project or do they want to shift the money to the district and have the district oversee the project. The district is good either way. An estimate was received which came in lower than anticipated. The Town needs to inform the Board what it chooses to do. (c) Budget 2025 – 2026 – Mr. Tencza indicated he was confident that the district will end the year with a small surplus of approximately \$100,000. At the June meeting, he will have a more accurate estimate. A number of options on how to use this money before the June 30, 2026 fiscal year: small projects, equipment purchases, Sinking Fund allocations and return of funds to the Town.

- (b) **Personnel Report** – Mr. Falcone, Superintendent
Currently, there are three certified staff openings: **Plymouth Center School**
Plymouth Center School: Art and Grade 1 Teachers
Harry S. Fisher Elementary School: Grade 3 Teacher

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 for instructions on how to participate) - None

11. **Committee Reports**

(a) **Curriculum & Instruction** – Mrs. Tilton, Chair

The Special Meeting of the Plymouth Board of Education Curriculum & Instruction Committee met at 5 p.m. on Thursday, May 7, 2026.

Mrs. Tilton, Chair, gave a brief report on the following topics:

- (a) 2026 – 2027 Professional Development Schedule
- (b) Certified Faculty Technology Lease Plan
- (c) AI Curriculum Platform
- (d) General Education Summer School
- (e) 2026 – 2027 Elementary Anticipated Class Size

Minutes of this will be placed on the district website.

(b) **Finance and Operations** – Mr. Bourbonniere, Chair

The Special Meeting of the Plymouth Board of Education Finance & Operations Committee met at 6 p.m. on Monday, May 11, 2026.

Mr. Bourbonniere, Chair, gave a brief report on the following:

- **Finance**
 - (a) General Questions/Comments
- **Operations**
 - (a) Date for Installation of Mini-Splits at Harry S. Fisher Elementary School
 - (b) Update on Sidewalk Repair at Plymouth Center School
 - (c) Update on Additional Items by the Business Manager

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

12. **Board Liaison Reports**

Mrs. Palmer **Plymouth Center School**
5/15 – 2nd grade dance (someone special dance).
Wrapping up the end of the year.
Getting ready for Field Day.

Mrs. Allen **Harry S. Fisher Elementary School**
Staff were happy with everything that was done for them. All are very much appreciated.
Work is underway for Field Day.
5th Grade Celebration.

Mrs. Tilton/Mrs. Corry **Eli Terry Jr. Middle School**
Elections took place for next year's PTA Board.
5/19 – Wit 'N Grit
8th grade dance coming up.

Mr. Foote **Terryville High School**
PTA Donations coming in slow for Sr. Night.
Business letter donations have been sent out. Letter was presented to the Lion's Club asking for additional donations.

Vacant **EdAdvance**

13. **Board Comments** (summary)
Great, outstanding presentation by Plymouth Center School, Mrs. Calo, Principal, students, and everyone involved in “Mystery of Coco the Mustang.” Great to see all the student representatives at the meeting. Teacher Appreciation Week. Beautiful art display in the Terryville High School lobby. Excited about the partnership with Cook Willow and Terryville High School. Hoping in the future there will be similar programs, i.e., CMT’s. Thank you to the Board of Finance and the Town Council for the budget. Both groups worked very hard. Understanding what is happening at the State Capitol. Governor wants to regionalize Special Education.

Final comment from Mrs. Kulesa, Board Chair: To teachers and students in the testing grades these are stressful and exhausting times for some of you. Students, finish strong. You can do it.

14. **Next Board Meeting** –The next Regular Meeting of the Plymouth Board of Education is on Wednesday, June 10, 2026, at 6 p.m. in the cafeteria at Terryville High School.

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

MOTION: To entertain a motion to enter first executive session at 7:37 p.m. to discuss the following, inviting Mr. Falcone, Superintendent, and Mr. Tencza, Business Manager.

(a) Agreement Between the Plymouth Board of Education and the Plymouth School Nurses Association

And

(b) UAW Contract Negotiations – Discussion

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

16. **Resume Regular Session**

Mrs. Kulesa, Chair resumed regular session at 8:22 p.m.

17. **Possible Action From First Executive Session** (if any)

(a) Agreement Between the Plymouth Board of Education and the Plymouth School Nurses Association

MOTION: To entertain a motion to approve the Agreement Between the Plymouth Board of Education and the Plymouth School Nurses Association as discussed in executive session.
Motion Mr. Perugino, second Mr. Bourbonniere,

Mrs. Kulesa, Chair calls for a ROLL VOTE:

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
Mr. Showers	X		
Mrs. Tilton	X		
Mr. Foote	X		
Mr. Bourbonniere	X		
Mr. Perugino	X		
Mrs. Palmer	X		
Mrs. Corry	X		
Mrs. Allen	X		

Yes - 8 No - 0 Abstain – 0 Motion carries

(b) UAW Contract Negotiations

NO ACTION TAKEN

18. Second Executive Session – (Items to be discussed in Second Executive Session)

MOTION: To entertain a motion to enter second executive session at 8:23 p.m. to discuss the following, inviting Mr. Falcone, Superintendent.

(a) Retreat

Plymouth Board of Education Evaluation Packet

1. Plymouth Board of Education Self-Evaluation
2. Superintendent Evaluation
3. Extension of the Contract for the Superintendent of Schools – Discussion and Possible Action

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

19. Resume Regular Session

Mrs. Kulesa, Chair resumed regular session at 9:47 p.m.

20. Possible Action From Second Executive Session (if any)

(a) Plymouth Board of Education Self-Evaluation

NO ACTION TAKEN

(b) Superintendent Evaluation

NO ACTION TAKEN

(c) Extension of the Contract for the Superintendent of Schools

MOTION: To entertain a motion to approve the Extension of the Contract for the Superintendent of Schools as discussed in executive session. Motion Mr. Showers, second Mr. Perugino, Mrs. Kulesa, Chair calls for a ROLL VOTE:

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
Mr. Showers	X		
Mrs. Tilton	X		
Mr. Foote	X		
Mr. Bourbonniere	X		
Mr. Perugino	X		
Mrs. Palmer	X		
Mrs. Corry	X		
Mrs. Allen	X		

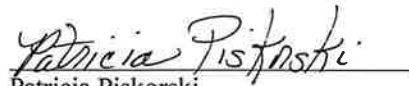
Yes - 8 No - 0 Abstain - 0

Motion carries

21. **Adjournment**

MOTION: To entertain a motion to adjourn at 9:48 p.m. Motion Mr. Bourbonniere, second, Mr. Perugino all in favor, motion carries.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patricia Piskorski". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Patricia Piskorski

Recording Secretary

For the Plymouth Board of Education