

BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
November 12, 2024

The Board of Education of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, Wayne and Washtenaw Counties, Michigan, met in a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, November 12, 2024, at 7 p.m. at the E. J. McClendon Educational Center, 454 S. Harvey Street, Plymouth, Michigan, 48170.

President Christenson called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. in the Boardroom.

Present: Members Christenson, Kehoe, Picard, Sidhu, and Westra

Absent: Members Ahmed and McCain

Administrators Present: Dr. Monica Merritt, Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Liz Vartanian-Gibbs, Assistant Superintendent of Student & Family Engagement
Mr. Kurt Tyszkiewicz, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services
Ms. Jill Minnick, Chief Finance and Operations Officer
Ms. Bethany Rayl, Chief Academic and Innovation Officer
Mr. Abdul Madyun, Chief Human Resource Officer
Mr. Jonathan Flukes, Director of Data, Assessment, Research, and Evaluation
Mr. Matthew Lents, Director of Capital Programs and Facilities

Others Present: Ms. Diane Robertson, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent and Board
Ms. Sae Pawar, SVA Student Co-Chair
Mr. Josh Patterson, SVA Student Co-Chair

President Christenson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

A. Adoption of the Agenda/Approval of the Consent Agenda

Action Item #25-11-27: It was moved by Member Sidhu and seconded by Member Kehoe to Adopt the Agenda and the Consent Agenda as presented. The Consent Agenda consisted of New Hires, Resignations, Retirements, Special Meeting Minutes of October 22, 2024, and Regular Meeting Minutes of October 22, 2024.

Ayes: Members Christenson, Kehoe, Picard, Sidhu, and Westra

Nays: None

The motion was carried 5-0

New Hires

Apostolou, Amanda	Behavior Specialist Plymouth High School	Effective 10-30-24
Gawenda, Ashleigh	Language Arts/Virtual Mentor East Middle School	Effective 10-28-24
Hopp-Lee, Taylor	Elementary Classroom Bentley Elementary School	Effective 11-11-24
Pola, Andrew	Biology/Chemistry Canton High School	Effective 11-18-24

Resignation

Hammoud, Waseem	Computer Technician Educational Support Center	Resignation Effective 12-2-24
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Retirement

Davenport, Susan	Accounting Specialist Accounts Payable Administrative Building	Retirement Effective 1-17-25
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Approval of Minutes

The Special Meeting Minutes of October 22, 2024, and Regular Meeting Minutes of October 22, 2024, were approved as presented.

B. Celebrating Success

Mr. Chris Moore, Assistant Principal at Pioneer Middle School, was named the 2025 Michigan Middle School Assistant Principal of the Year by the Michigan Association of Secondary School Principals (MASSP) during a surprise presentation. Chris was recognized for his dedication to education, innovative and supportive approach, and genuine care for students and staff.

Member Picard also presented the Mary Beth Carroll Extra Miler Award to Ms. Yusra Hamadeh and Ms. Molly Long, counselors at East Middle School, in recognition of their outstanding dedication to building strong, supportive relationships with their students. Yusra and Molly have gone above and beyond to ensure East students thrive both academically and socially. They have organized many impactful events and activities that promote a sense of belonging and ensure every student feels heard and valued.

**President Christenson called for a short recess at 7:20 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 7:24 p.m.*

C. Board Committee Reports/Action

Presidents Report – Lauren Christenson

President Christenson expressed gratitude to the community for supporting the renewal of the Wayne RESA millage, which will ensure continued critical funding to support students in our district and across Wayne County. She also congratulated and warmly welcomed newly elected board member Ms. Jennifer Vos, who will officially begin her term in January 2025.

Student Performance and Achievement Committee (SPA) - Anupam Chugh Sidhu

Member Sidhu shared that the SPA Committee met on November 5, 2024, and reviewed the Fall Data Presentation and two new course proposals. The next SPA meeting is scheduled for December 4, 2024, at 5 p.m. in the Boardroom, and everyone is encouraged to attend.

Policy Advisory Committee - Patti McCoin

Member Sidhu shared that the Policy Committee has not met since the last Board meeting. The next Policy meeting is scheduled for November 26, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. in the Collaboration Room at the E.J. McClendon Educational Center, and everyone is encouraged to attend.

Finance and Operations Committee - Patrick Kehoe

Member Kehoe shared that the F&O Committee met on November 7, 2024, and reviewed a fire alarm system upgrade at Allen Early Learning Academy. The committee also reviewed September financial reports. The next F&O meeting is scheduled for November 21, 2024, at 5 p.m. in the Boardroom at the E.J. McClendon Educational Center, and everyone is encouraged to attend.

Student Voice in Action Committee (SVA) - Lauren Christenson

Sae Pawar and Josh Patterson, SVA student co-chairs, shared that the SVA committee has not met since the last Board meeting. The next SVA committee meeting will be held on November 18, 2024, at 4:30 p.m. at Discovery MS auditoria, and everyone is encouraged to attend.

D. Administrative Reports/Recommendations

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Merritt expressed gratitude to the community for their overwhelming support of the Wayne County Regional Enhancement Millage renewal. This critical funding will continue to play a vital role in sustaining and enhancing educational programs and student opportunities.

She extended a special thank you to the Margaret Dunning Foundation for its generous \$43,000 grant to the district's advanced automotive training program. These funds will enable the purchase of a tire changer and electric vehicle equipment, providing students with state-of-the-art tools to prepare for future careers.

Superintendent Merritt also congratulated the talented P-CEP Marching Band for their outstanding performance at the Michigan Competing Bands Association (MCBA) State Championships at Ford Field, where they placed 3rd. She wished them great success as they travel to Indianapolis this weekend to compete at the Bands of America Grand National Championship.

Special recognition was given to Mr. Mark Salzer, Executive Director of Integrated Technology Systems, who recently received the prestigious Michigan Lottery's Excellence in Education Award. This recognition highlights Mark's exceptional contributions to advancing technology integration in education and his dedication to enriching the learning experiences of students and staff.

Superintendent Merritt encouraged the community to attend the Park Players Theatre Company's upcoming production of *Anatomy of Gray* by Jim Leonard. Performances will take place on November 15, 16, 22, and 23, 2024, at 7 p.m. in the Gloria Logan Auditorium at Salem High School. Tickets are available at the door or can be purchased in advance on the Park Players website (www.pcepparkplayers.com).

Additionally, she invited 8th-grade families within the district who do not currently attend P-CCS schools to explore the wide range of educational opportunities at P-CEP through the annual Shadow Day program on November 21, 2024. Additional information can be found on the district website.

In closing, Superintendent Merritt encouraged the community to support P-CEP's radio station, 88.1 the Park, during its annual Thanks for Giving pledge drive. The station is raising funds for a studio expansion to provide students with industry-standard technology and tools. Additional details are available on the station's website (www.881thepark.com).

Teaching and Learning - Beth Rayl

P-CCS 2024-2025 Fall Data Review (Strategic Goal A) (Presentation)

Ms. Bethany Rayl, Chief Academic and Innovation Officer, and Mr. Jonathan Flukes, Director of Data, Assessment, Research, and Evaluation, provided an overview of the district's 2024 fall data results. Their presentation showcased progress toward the goals and strategic objectives of the P-CCS Dynamic Plan and highlighted the connection between the data and the district's Multi-Tiered Systems of Supports (MTSS).

The academic performance review compared P-CCS students' achievements, proficiency, and growth to local, state, and national benchmarks. Students across all grade levels demonstrated scores at or above the national average. Key findings were further analyzed by grade level and demographic subgroups.

The presentation also addressed data on attendance, behavior, and social-emotional learning competencies, noting an improvement in attendance rates. Additionally, it outlined key activities designed to support student success and detailed the next steps for continued progress.

Board members were given an opportunity to comment and ask questions.

Final Reading Resolutions

- **Action Item #25-11-28:** It was moved by Member Sidhu and seconded by Member Westra to Approve a Resolution for a New Course Proposal (Sports Officiating). The P-CEP physical educational team proposes adding Sports Officiating as a new one-semester elective course for 10th-12th grade students. This course gives students the knowledge and skills to become sports referees, umpires, and judges. The proposed cost for materials for the course will total \$2,015. This course will be implemented during the 2025-2026 school year and beyond. (Final Reading)

Ayes: Members Christenson, Kehoe, Picard, Sidhu, and Westra

Nays: None

The motion was carried 5-0

- **Action Item #25-11-29:** It was moved by Member Westra and seconded by Member Picard to Approve a Resolution for a Course Name Change and Credit Attainment Proposal. This proposal is being brought forward to recommend the renaming of Political and Economic Systems (PES)-Economics to Political and Economic Systems (PES)-Economics and Personal Finance and also renaming Advanced Placement (AP) Macroeconomics to Advanced Placement (AP) Macroeconomics and Personal Finance. Additionally, this proposal would approve increasing the credit earned in each course from ½ to 1.0 while allowing them to remain as one-semester courses. (Final Reading)

Ayes: Members Christenson, Kehoe, Picard, Sidhu, and Westra

Nays: None

The motion was carried 5-0

- **Action Item #25-11-30:** It was moved by Member Westra and seconded by Member Picard to Approve a Resolution for a New Course Proposal (Peer-to-Peer Connections). Peer-to-Peer Connections is a general education course designed to foster positive peer relationships between neurotypical and neurodiverse

students. Students in general education will learn about special needs populations, leadership, and advocacy, while students who receive special education services will develop increased independence and social skills. This course will be implemented during the second semester of the 2024-2025 school year and beyond. (Final Reading)

Ayes: Members Christenson, Kehoe, Picard, Sidhu, and Westra

Nays: None

The motion was carried 5-0

- **Action Item #25-11-31:** It was moved by Member Westra and seconded by Member Picard to Approve a Resolution to Rename the Existing Course (HSE Arts to Peer-to-Peer Connections: Arts). Members of the P-CEP Team propose changing the name of the HSE course to align all similar programming to a standard name structure. There would be no cost for this proposed course name change. This change would be implemented during the 2025-2026 school year and beyond. (Final Reading)

Ayes: Members Christenson, Kehoe, Picard, Sidhu, and Westra

Nays: None

The motion was carried 5-0

- **Action Item #25-11-32:** It was moved by Member Westra and seconded by Member Kehoe to Approve a Resolution to Rename the Existing Course (HSE Foods to Peer-to-Peer Connections: Foods). Members of the P-CEP team propose changing the name of the HSE course to align all similar programming to a standard name structure. There would be no cost for this proposed course name change. This change would be implemented during the 2025-2026 school year and beyond. (Final Reading)

Ayes: Members Christenson, Kehoe, Picard, Sidhu, and Westra

Nays: None

The motion was carried 5-0

Finance and Operations – Jill Minnick

First Reading Resolutions

- Consider Approval of a Resolution for a Fire Alarm System Expansion for Allen Early Learning Academy. Mr. Matthew Lents, Director of Capital Programs and Facilities, provided details of this recommendation to provide necessary upgrades, including installing additional smoke detection units throughout the facility. National Time and Signal is the recommended vendor at a cost of \$47,234. This expense will be funded using the facility maintenance and operations budget. (First Reading)

Board members were given an opportunity to comment and ask questions.

Final Reading Resolutions

- **Action Item #25-11-33:** It was moved by Member Kehoe and seconded by Member Westra to Approve a Resolution for the Purchase of Two Rooftop Units (RTUs) for Canton High School, which are necessary to replace units that are beyond their useful life and no longer functional. Trane, U.S., Inc. is the recommended vendor at a cost of \$89,893.32, including installation. This project will be funded with 2020 and 2023 bond funds. (Final Reading)

Ayes: Members Christenson, Kehoe, Picard, Sidhu, and Westra

Nays: None

The motion was carried 5-0

E. Citizens' Comments

- None

F. Discussion

- **Resolution of Support: Protect MI Kids Bill Package** - Board members reviewed and discussed a resolution addressing the need for effective tobacco prevention policies. Member Sidhu shared insights from a recent MASB meeting, emphasizing the importance of building statewide support for the initiative. Board members were encouraged to share any proposed revisions with President Christenson before the resolution's first reading at the next Board meeting.

G. Follow-up Board Questions

- A Board member requested information from the Fall Data Presentation regarding chronic absenteeism. He is seeking a comparison of absenteeism figures for the first two months of the current school year with data from the same period over the past two years.
- A Board member requested additional information from the Fall Data Presentation to highlight why student retention is not considered beneficial.

H. Adjournment

President Christenson adjourned the Regular Meeting at 9:08 p.m.

Judy Westra
Secretary, Board of Education

*Approved at the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education on 11-26-24/dr