

BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
January 14, 2025

The Board of Education of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, Wayne and Washtenaw Counties, Michigan, met in a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, January 14, 2025, 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 p.m. in the Boardroom.

Present: Members Ahmed, Christenson, Kehoe, Picard, Sidhu, Vos, and Westra
Absent: None

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. Bethany Rayl, Chief Academic and Innovation Officer
Ms. Jill Minnick, Chief Finance and Operations Officer
Mr. Abdul Madyun, Chief Human Resource Officer
Mr. Jonathan Flukes, Director of Data, Assessment, Research, and Evaluation

Others Present: Ms. Diane Robertson, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent and Board
Mr. Brian Geasman, McCarthy and Smith Senior Project Manager
Mr. Nick Tindall, McCarthy and Smith Assistant Project Manager
Mr. Derek Dinkeloo, TMP Architecture, Inc. Senior Associate

President Christenson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Action Item #25-01-42: It was moved by Member Sidhu and seconded by Member Westra to Adopt the Agenda and the Consent Agenda as presented. The Consent Agenda consisted of New Hires, Resignations, Retirements, Regular Meeting Minutes from December 10, 2024, First Reading Policies, and Out-of-Country Field Trips.

Ayes: Members Ahmed, Christenson, Kehoe, Picard, Sidhu, Vos, and Westra
Nays: None
The motion was carried 7-0

New Hires

Ellis, Kayla	Elementary ASD Teacher Dodson Elementary School	Effective 1-6-25
Strzyzewski, Emily	Resource Room Eriksson Elementary School	Effective 1-13-25
Yuchasz, Amanda	Nurse Salem/Plymouth (Goals)	Effective 1-6-25
Caldwell, Jane	Employment Coordinator Administrative Building	Effective 1-6-25
Ji, Ke	Computer Technician Educational Support Center	Effective 1-6-25
Morris, Katelynn	Accounts Payable Administrative Building	Effective 1-13-25

Resignation

Abbate, Rebecca	Occupational Therapist Smith/Pioneer/Liberty/West	Resignation Effective 1-20-25
Bouldin, Elizabeth	Instructional Coach – Title 1 Hoben Elementary School	Resignation Effective 12-20-24

Holliday, Nichole	Science Pioneer Middle School	Resignation Effective 1-5-25
Pollard, Gwendolyn	Payroll Coordinator Administrative Building	Resignation Effective 12-20-24

Retirements

Weishaar-Wall, Mary	Art Elementary Hulsing Elementary School	Retirement Effective 1-2-25
Rayl, Bethany	Chief Academic & Innovation Officer Administrative Building	Retirement Effective 7-31-25

Approval of Minutes

The Regular Meeting Minutes of December 10, 2024, were approved as presented.

First Reading Policies

- Policy #3120.08-4120.08 – Employment of Personnel for Co-Curricular

Out-of-Country Field Trips

- Northern Ireland, Ireland, Scotland, and England – Canton High School – Grades 9-12

B. Celebrating Success

Member Westra presented the Mary Beth Carroll Extra Miler Award to Ms. Siasia Dyer, East Middle School Assistant Principal, for her exceptional dedication, leadership, and commitment to her school community. Siasia greets students, staff, and families daily with a bright smile and positive energy. Known for her collaborative approach and problem-solving abilities, Siasia is a respected and trusted leader who inspires her colleagues with her professionalism and genuine care for others.

C. Board Committee Reports/Action

Presidents Report – Lauren Christenson

President Christenson welcomed everyone back from winter break and shared best wishes for a Happy New Year. She extended a warm welcome to Jennifer Vos, attending this evening in her first official meeting as a member of the Board of Education. She also reminded everyone that the Board is still accepting letters of interest from community members interested in serving on one of its four sub-committees. She encouraged the community to consider this excellent opportunity to support and get involved with the district. Additional information can be viewed on the district website and social media outlets.

Student Performance and Achievement Committee (SPA) – Judy Westra

Member Westra shared that the SPA Committee met on January 8, 2025, reviewed highlights from the Building Equity Team, and discussed proposed topics for the remainder of the year. The committee also reviewed an out-of-country field trip. The next SPA meeting is scheduled for February 5, 2025, at 5 p.m. in the Boardroom, and everyone is encouraged to attend.

Policy Advisory Committee – Anupam Sidhu

Member Sidhu shared that the Policy Committee has not met since the last Board meeting and offered a recap of the policies reviewed at the December meeting. The next Policy meeting is scheduled for January 28, 2025, 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 January 9, 2025, and reviewed several projects, including award contracts at Farrand Elementary School and renovations at P-CEP. A Canton High School paving project and renovations at Salem High School were also discussed. Community members were encouraged to apply for the open positions on the committee, highlighting the opportunity to get involved and support the district. The next F&O meeting is scheduled for January 23, 2025, 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

Member Christenson shared that the SVA met on December 16, 2024, and reviewed the next steps to help support students' mental health and wellness. The committee also reviewed the Panorama survey results and discussed student co-chair representation. The next SVA Committee meeting is scheduled for January 27, 2025, at 4:30 p.m. at Discovery MS auditoria, and everyone is encouraged to attend.

D. Administrative Reports/Recommendations**Superintendent's Report**

In recognition of School Board Appreciation Month, Superintendent Merritt thanked Board members for their ongoing commitment and advocacy for P-CCS students and families. She expressed appreciation on behalf of the entire school community and acknowledged the leadership, dedication, and vision of the Board of Education.

Superintendent Merritt also recognized 14 bus drivers serving West Middle School who went above and beyond their daily duties. In addition to safely transporting students, this group collaborated before winter break to provide over \$800 in Meijer and Target gift cards to support students in need, spreading kindness and joy throughout the community.

Additionally, she congratulated Tesko Chaganti, a Canton High School senior, who was recently named a 2025 Regeneron Science Talent Search Scholar, showcasing his potential as a future STEM leader. Tesko earned this prestigious recognition for his exceptional math, research, and leadership skills, as well as his community involvement and creativity in scientific inquiry.

Superintendent Merritt also invited families to attend the P-CEP Academy Night on January 23, 2025, to learn about the district's specialized educational opportunities through the Arts, STEM, Business, and International Baccalaureate (IB) Academies. This event, held at Canton High School, will feature two Information Sessions at 6 and 7 p.m. with teachers from each academy available to answer questions and share additional information.

In closing, she thanked everyone who helped make the Special Olympics Basketball Game at Plymouth High School on Monday evening a success. Hosted by the Class of 2025 Student Council in partnership with Special Olympics, the event featured four special education teams scrimmaging against each other. Plymouth boys and girls basketball team members served as referees while a spirited P-CEP student section cheered the players on, creating an enjoyable evening of sportsmanship for all.

Teaching and Learning - Beth Rayl*Fall Panorama Student Survey Report (Strategic Goal C) (Presentation)*

Mr. Jonathan Flukes, Director of Data, Assessment, Research, and Evaluation, provided an overview of the 2024 Fall Panorama Student Survey Results. The presentation outlined the survey's purpose and its alignment with the goals of the P-CCS Dynamic Plan. The survey results provide valuable insights into students' mindsets, skills, attitudes, and feelings while also providing students an opportunity to share their voices and identify ways to support their individual needs. The presentation reviewed key findings by grade level, compared results to last fall's data, and to the national sample. Charts and graphs were reviewed, highlighting strengths and areas needing additional focus. The data is reviewed in both the fall and spring, provides valuable insights to guide the district's efforts, and is tied to building improvement goals to support students throughout the year. The next survey is scheduled for March 2025.

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

Finance and Operations – Jill Minnick*First Reading Resolutions*

- Consider Approval of a Resolution for Bid Package #EL-5 Farrand Elementary Addition and Renovations. Mr. Brian Gesaman and Mr. Nick Tindall from McCarthy and Smith provided an overview of this construction project, including the scope of work, timeline, bid summary, and budget overview. Mr. Derek Dinkeloo, TMP Architecture, reviewed the renderings for the scheduled addition and building updates. Noted renovations include parking lot improvements, playground upgrades, restroom and kitchen updates, locker installation, and ceiling tile and lighting replacements. The total cost for all bid divisions for this project is \$4,841,987.32 and will be paid from 2023 bond funds. (First Reading)

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

Student Services – Kurt Tyszkiewicz

Final Reading Resolutions

- **Action Item #25-01-43:** It was moved by Member Kehoe and seconded by Member Ahmed to Approve a Resolution for the Enrollment of Non-Resident Applicants for the 2025-2026 School Year Pursuant to Schools of Choice, Section 105 and 105c. This resolution will allow non-resident students from Wayne County and contiguous counties to apply for enrollment and allows for a minimum of one seat for Kindergarten through 10th grade with a maximum of 500 seats. (Final Reading)

Ayes: Members Ahmed Christenson, Kehoe, Sidhu, and Westra
Nays: Member Picard and Vos
The motion was carried 5-2
- **Action Item #25-01-44:** It was moved by Member Kehoe and seconded by Member Westra to Approve a Resolution for Enrollment of Non-Resident Students for P-CCS Employees for the 2025-2026 School Year. This option is available for current staff members who receive a P-CCS paycheck. (Final Reading)

Ayes: Members Ahmed Christenson, Kehoe, Picard, Sidhu, Vos, and Westra
Nays: None
The motion was carried 7-0

E. Citizens' Comments

- Ms. Natalie Sharpe spoke about substitute teacher feedback.

F. Action Items/Discussion

- **Action Item #25-01-45:** It was moved by Member Kehoe and seconded by Member Westra to Approve a Resolution for the Election of the Board of Education Vice President for the remainder of the 2025 school year. Member Westra nominated Member Sidhu, and Member Picard self-nominated. The Board voted on the first nomination, with Member Sidhu receiving five votes. As a result, a second vote was not required. Based on the voting outcome, Member Sidhu will serve as Vice President for the remainder of the 2025 school year. (First and Final Reading)

Ayes: Members Ahmed Christenson, Kehoe, Sidhu, and Westra
Nays: Member Picard and Vos
The motion was carried 5-0
- Member Vos moved to open discussion on the placement of Citizens' Comments on board meeting agendas, with Member Picard seconding the motion. Following a brief discussion, it was clarified that this topic will be added to a future agenda to allow all Board Members the opportunity for consideration and input.

G. Follow-up Board Questions

- From the Fall Data Presentation – The Board would like to confirm if national norms are available for the K-2 perception data.
- From the Fall Data Presentation – The Board would like to receive long trend data from the last four years.

H. Adjournment

President Christenson adjourned the Regular Meeting at 9:02 p.m.

Judy Westra
Secretary, Board of Education