

BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
November 26, 2024

The Board of Education of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, Wayne and Washtenaw Counties, Michigan, met in a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, November 26, 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 p.m. in the Boardroom.

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

Absent: Members McCain and Sidhu

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
Mr. Abdul Madyun, Chief Human Resource Officer

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 #25-11-34: It was moved by Member Kehoe and seconded by Member Westra to Adopt the Agenda and the Consent Agenda as presented. The Consent Agenda consisted of Leaves, Resignations, Retirements, Special Meeting Minutes of November 12, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes of November 12, 2024, and a Resolution for a Superintendent Salary Schedule.

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

Nays: None

The motion was carried 5-0

Leaves

Stewart, Lia	Early-On Service Provider Allen Early Learning Academy	Childcare Leave of Absence Effective 11-7-24 to 2-11-25
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Resignation

Bosanko, Tracy	Nurse Salem High School	Resignation Effective 12-20-24
Boulos, Linda	CI - High School Canton High School	Resignation Effective 11-27-24
Cornelio, Kami	Resource Room Eriksson Elementary School	Resignation Effective 11-29-24
Knezek, Matthew	Math Canton High School	Resignation Effective 11-26-24
Siegel, Shelly	Speech Pathologist Hoben Elementary School	Resignation Effective 12-6-24

Retirement

Milo, Julie	Elementary Classroom- MLL Teacher Dodson Elementary School	Retirement Effective 11-30-24
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Approval of Minutes

The Special Meeting Minutes of November 12, 2024, and the Regular Meeting Minutes of November 12, 2024, were approved as presented.

Action Items

Approved a Resolution for a Superintendent Salary Schedule (First and Final Reading)

B. Celebrating Success

Member Kehoe presented the STARS (Students with Tenacity Achieving and Reaching Success) Award to the Plymouth Boys Soccer Teams. This prestigious recognition celebrates their exceptional generosity and community spirit, demonstrated through their fundraising efforts to support beloved Plymouth High School teacher Sharon Mackey in her battle against cancer. Raising over \$10,000, the team demonstrated a remarkable sense of unity and compassion that truly embodies the spirit of our community, making them highly deserving of the STARS award.

C. Board Committee Reports/ActionPresidents Report – Lauren Christenson

President Christenson shared that the Board will soon open an application window to invite community members to serve on one of its four Board subcommittees. Each committee can include up to three community members, providing a valuable opportunity for individuals to engage and contribute to the district's work. Additional information will be shared on the district website in the coming weeks. She also expressed heartfelt thanks on behalf of the Board of Education to all students, staff, and community members and wished everyone a joyful and restful Thanksgiving holiday.

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

Member Westra shared that the SPA Committee has not met since the last Board meeting. 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 Ahmed shared that the Policy Committee met this evening to review multiple policies. She encouraged community members to consider serving on the Policy Committee when the application window opens. The following Policy meeting is scheduled for December 10, 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 has not met since the last Board meeting. He encouraged community members to consider serving on the F&O committee. The next F&O meeting is scheduled for December 5, 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 met on November 18, 2024, and reviewed the Student and Family Engagement. The committee also discussed which SVA members will attend other board committee meetings and discussed ways to tackle student mental health and wellness. The next SVA committee meeting will be held on December 16, 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 proudly announced that all P-CCS elementary and middle schools have been recognized among Michigan's top schools in 2024 for their excellence in the recently released *US News and World Report* 2024 rankings. These rankings highlight schools' achievements based on high proficiency in math, reading, and language arts state assessments. She also shared the exciting news that Gallimore Elementary School has been named Michigan's #1 top-ranked elementary school for the second year in a row. Superintendent Merritt expressed her heartfelt appreciation to the incredible teachers, staff, and administrators whose dedication provides students with a world-class education.

She also announced that the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) has recognized P-CEP's three high schools and Tonda Elementary School with the prestigious Heart Safe School designation. This program honors schools that are well-prepared to provide the best possible response to cardiac emergencies,

have staff and students on-site trained in CPR, and have AEDs readily available. These schools join the district's five middle schools, which previously earned this important designation.

In closing, Superintendent Merritt wished everyone a restful and joyful Thanksgiving break. She expressed her gratitude to the entire P-CCS community for their unwavering dedication and commitment to supporting students every day.

Student and Family Engagement – Liz Vartanian-Gibbs

Student and Family Engagement Department Updates (Strategic Goals B & C) (Presentation)

Ms. Liz Vartanian-Gibbs, Assistant Superintendent of Student and Family Engagement (SFE) presented an overview of the extensive resources the SFE Department offers to support P-CCS students and families. The presentation highlighted an impressive list of wraparound services, Family Academy programming, health and wellness initiatives, community partnerships, early childhood education options, tutoring opportunities, and classroom support programs.

Finance and Operations – Jill Minnick

First Reading Resolutions

- Consider Approval of a Resolution to Purchase Elevator Lowering Units. Mr. Kurt Tyszkiewicz, Assistant Superintendent-Student Services, provided an overview of this recommendation to install emergency down backup systems on all district elevators to ensure that elevators return to the main floor and doors open during power outages. Kone Elevators is the recommended vendor at a cost of \$130,011.12, to be paid from the district's general fund or capital improvement fund. (First Reading)

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

Final Reading Resolutions

- Action Item #25-11-35:** It was moved by Member Kehoe and seconded by Member Picard to Approve a Resolution for a Fire Alarm System Expansion for Allen Early Learning Academy. National Time and Signal (NT&S) is the recommended vendor at a cost of \$47,234. This expense will be funded using the facility maintenance and operations budget. (Final Reading)

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

Nays: None

The motion was carried 5-0

Teaching and Learning - Beth Rayl

First Reading Resolutions

- Consider Approval of a Resolution for a New Course Proposal (Evolution of Music). The P-CEP music team proposes adding this new one-semester elective course for 10-12 grade students. Student feedback and enrollment requests have indicated that students would like more opportunities to learn music concepts without a performance requirement. The total proposed cost for course development is \$640. No new course materials would be required. This new course will be implemented during the 2025-2026 school year and beyond.
- Consider Approval of a Resolution for a New Course Proposal (Soundscapes). The P-CEP music team proposes adding this new one-semester course for 10-12th grade students. Student feedback and enrollment requests have indicated that students would like more opportunities to learn music concepts without a performance requirement. In this course, students will learn to compose original music and arrange the work of established composers. Through hands-on projects, collaborative work, and critical analysis, students will gain a deeper understanding of how music is composed and arranged. The total proposed cost for materials for this course is \$1,174, and course development will be \$640 for a total cost of \$1,814. This new course will be implemented in the 2025-2026 school year and beyond.

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

E. Citizens' Comments

- Natalie Sharpe spoke on cultivating student respect for facilities
- Randy Regal and Janice Regal spoke on elementary class sizes

F. Action Items

- Consider Approval of a Resolution of Support: Protect MI Kids Bill Package to Address the Lack of Effective Statewide Tobacco Prevention Policies. Board members discussed this resolution and reviewed additional language that was presented. A section of the new language will be added to the resolution for Board members to review in Board notes prior to the final reading at the next meeting. (First Reading)

G. Follow-up Board Questions

- None

H. Adjournment

President Christenson adjourned the Regular Meeting at 8:26 p.m.

Judy Westra
Secretary, Board of Education

*Approved at the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education on 12-10-24/dr