

BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
December 10, 2024

The Board of Education of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, Wayne and Washtenaw Counties, Michigan, met in a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, December 10, 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, Picard, Sidhu, and Westra
Absent: Members Kehoe 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. Bethany Rayl, Chief Academic and Innovation Officer
Ms. Jill Minnick, Chief Finance and Operations Officer
Mr. Abdul Madyun, Chief Human Resource Officer
Mr. Hal Heard, Executive Director of High School Education
Ms. Kimberly Doman, Starkweather Academy Principal
Mr. David-Reed Nordwall, Canton High School Principal
Ms. Kim Villarosa, Salem High School Principal
Mr. Greg Anglin, Plymouth High School Principal

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
Mr. Brian Galdes, Growth Works Suicide Prevention Coalition Coordinator

Josh Patterson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Action Item #25-12-36: It was moved by Member Sidhu and seconded by Member Picard to Adopt the Agenda and the Consent Agenda as presented. The Consent Agenda consisted of New Hires, Resignations, Regular Meeting Minutes of November 26, 2024, and Out-of-Country Field Trips.

Ayes: Members Ahmed, Christenson, Picard, Sidhu, and Westra
Nays: None
The motion was carried 5-0

New Hires

Camilleri, Christopher	Supervisor Center Based ASD Program Goals Building	Effective 12-16-24
Herrmann, James	Computer Technician Educational Support Center	Effective 12-2-24
Petitpren-Hayes, Jenavieve	Accounting Specialist-Payroll Administrative Building	Effective 12-9-24
Rasolonjatovo, Chrystelle	Curriculum Coordinator Science / STEM / PE Educational Support Center	Effective 11-21-24

Resignation

Johnson, Carolanne	ECDD – Special Education Teacher Allen Early Learning Academy	Resignation Effective 12-2-24
--------------------	--	-------------------------------

Approval of Minutes

The Regular Meeting Minutes of November 26, 2024, were approved as presented.

Out-of-Country Field Trips

- Vietnam, Cambodia, and Thailand - Canton High School -Grades 9-12
- Costa Rica - Salem High School - Grades 9-12

B. Celebrating Success

Member Ahmed presented the VIP (Volunteer in Public Schools) Award to Mr. Mike Hurley, a retired teacher who dedicated his career to education and continues to make a meaningful impact in his retirement. Known affectionately as "Papa Mike," Mr. Hurley volunteers weekly at Hoben Elementary School, spending countless hours reading to students and fostering a love for literature. His kindness, patience, and encouragement uplift and inspire the students and staff he works with every day.

Ms. Pam Morgan, a valued teacher at Bird Elementary School, was also honored with a certificate to commemorate her achievement as the VFW 2024 Teacher of the Year. This recognition highlights her dedication to her students and her impactful contributions to education.

C. Board Committee Reports/ActionPresidents Report – Lauren Christenson

President Christenson spoke about the upcoming winter break and the opportunity for students, staff, and families to take a well-earned rest. She encouraged everyone to relax, recharge, and enjoy time with loved ones during the holiday season.

She also expressed heartfelt gratitude to Board Member Patti McCoin, whose term on the Board concludes later this month. Member McCoin's eight years of dedicated service and unwavering devotion to the P-CCS community have been truly outstanding. A tribute video was shared highlighting key moments from her time on the board. Superintendent Merritt and fellow board members extended their appreciation to Member McCoin and wished her success in her future endeavors.

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

Member Westra shared that the SPA Committee met on December 4, 2024, and reviewed a High School Highlights presentation and the fall panorama student survey data. She encouraged community members to consider applying to serve on the SPA committee and shared that additional information would be posted on the district website. The next SPA meeting is scheduled for January 8, 2025, 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 met this evening to review updates on various policies, including those related to purchasing, employment of personnel, student accidents, drones on district property, and criminal justice security systems. These revisions ensure the district's policies align with the current state legislature. She also mentioned that community member committee positions will soon be available and encouraged everyone to visit the district website for more information. 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 all are invited to attend.

Finance and Operations Committee - Patrick Kehoe

Member Christenson shared that the F&O Committee met on December 5, 2024, and reviewed a purchase for school buses and October financial reports. The group also discussed the community member committee positions, which will open in January. The next F&O meeting is scheduled for December 19, 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 meeting. 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. The SVA committee will also be looking for community members to serve on this committee.

D. Administrative Reports/Recommendations

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Merritt congratulated the Plymouth High School E-Sports team for earning runner-up honors in the Michigan High School E-Sports League playoffs, where they competed against over 100 schools. She gave special recognition to team member Luke Meier, who received the prestigious Ultimate All-State Award for his outstanding contributions.

She extended warm wishes to everyone for a joyful and restful holiday season, encouraging everyone to use the winter break to recharge and spend quality time with loved ones. A reminder was shared that the holiday break begins after school on December 20, with classes resuming on January 6, 2025.

Superintendent Merritt also introduced Mr. Brian Galdes, Growth Works Coordinator of the Suicide Prevention Coalition, who delivered a presentation highlighting the coalition's vital work. This collaborative effort brings together school districts, hospitals, and service agencies to address adolescent depression and suicide. The presentation included important statistics and showcased the coalition's initiatives to support students and families, raise mental health awareness, and empower students through leadership programs promoting well-being.

Teaching and Learning - Beth Rayl

High School Program Highlights 2024 (Goals A & B) (Presentation)

Mr. Hal Heard, Executive Director of High School Education, joined P-CEP principals Mr. David Reed-Nordwall, Ms. Kim Villarosa, Mr. Greg Anglin, and Starkweather principal Ms. Kimberly Doman to present the P-CCS 2024 Fall High School Program Highlights. The presentation provided an overview of various fall academic programs aligned with the district's Dynamic Plan and Learner Profile. It also highlighted key academic initiatives to enhance students' sense of belonging, improve behavior, and boost attendance, and included examples showing measurable improvements. The presentation also included slides to showcase various student opportunities, including Link Crew, the Student Success Room, Dual Enrollment, the Early Middle College, Academies, and the Career and Technical Education (CTE) Program, which offers more than 15 specialized pathways.

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

Final Reading Resolutions

- **Action Item #25-12-37:** It was moved by Member Westra and seconded by Member Picard to Approve a Resolution for a New Course Proposal (Evolution of Music). The P-CEP music team proposes adding this new one-semester elective course for 10-12th grade students. 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. (Final Reading)

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

Nays: None

The motion was carried 5-0

- **Action Item #25-12-38:** It was moved by Member Westra and seconded by Member Ahmed to Approve 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. In this course, students will learn to compose original music and arrange the work of established composers. 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. (Final Reading)

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

Nays: None

The motion was carried 5-0

Finance and Operations – Jill Minnick

Final Reading Resolutions

- **Action Item #25-12-39:** It was moved by Member Westra and seconded by Member Sidhu to Approve a Resolution to Purchase Elevator Lowering Units at six district locations. Mr. Kurt Tyszkiewicz, Assistant Superintendent of 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 for this purchase at a cost of \$130,011.12, which will be paid through the district's general fund or capital improvement fund. (Final Reading)

Ayes: Members Ahmed Christenson, Picard, Sidhu, and Westra
 Nays: None
 The motion was carried 5-0

- **Action Item #25-12-40:** It was moved by Member Westra and seconded by Member Sidhu to Approve a Resolution to Purchase Fourteen (14) diesel-powered general education buses from Holland Bus Company to best support the district's bus fleet. The pricing for all 84-passenger buses is based on the Michigan School Business Official purchasing consortium. The total purchase price for fourteen buses is \$2,585,226 and will be funded by the 2023 bond. This resolution is being brought forward as a first and final reading due to an anticipated price increase in January. (First and Final Reading)

Ayes: Members Ahmed Christenson, Picard, Sidhu, and Westra
 Nays: None
 The motion was carried 5-0

Student Services – Kurt Tyszkiewicz

First Reading Resolutions

- Consider Approval of 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. The 2025-2026 proposal provides for a minimum of one seat for Kindergarten through 10th grade with a maximum of 500 seats. Mr. Kurt Tyszkiewicz, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services, provided an overview of the timeline, including the advertisement window, application period, and the potential lottery if there are more applicants than seats available. (First Reading)
- Consider Approval of a Resolution for the 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. (First Reading)

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

E. Citizens' Comments

- Ms. Natalie Sharpe spoke about cultivating self-advocacy among students and promoting biking and walking.

F. Action Items

- **Action Item #25-12-41:** It was moved by Member Sidhu and seconded by Member Westra to Approve a Resolution of Support - Protect MI Kids Bill Package to Address the Lack of Effective Statewide Tobacco Prevention Policies. (Final Reading)

Ayes: Members Ahmed Christenson, Sidhu, and Westra
 Nays: None
 Abstain: Member Picard
 The motion was carried 4-0

G. Follow-up Board Questions

- From the High School Program Highlights Presentation – The Board requested percentage data reflecting the decrease in behavior incidents.

H. Adjournment

President Christenson adjourned the Regular Meeting at 9:30 p.m.

Judy Westra
 Secretary, Board of Education