

BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
January 28, 2025

The Board of Education of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, Wayne and Washtenaw Counties, Michigan, met in a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, January 28, 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. Frank Ruggirello, Executive Director of Communications and Marketing

Others Present: Ms. Diane Robertson, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent and Board
Ms. Alicia Fenstermacher, Community Education Coordinator
Mr. Josh Patterson, SVA Student Co-Chair

Josh Patterson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Member Vos made a motion to amend the agenda to consider relocating citizens' comments on the Board agenda to appear after Committee Reports (Item C). The motion was seconded by Member Picard. The Board discussed this item and voted. President Christenson shared that this topic will be added to the upcoming Board Governance Workshop for further discussion.

Ayes: Members Picard and Vos
Nays: Members Ahmed, Christenson, Kehoe, Sidhu, and Westra
The motion failed 2-5

Action Item #25-01-46: It was moved by Member Kehoe and seconded by Member Sidhu to Adopt the Agenda and the Consent Agenda as presented. The Consent Agenda consisted of New Hires, Leaves, Resignations, Special Meeting Minutes from January 13, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes from January 14, 2025, and Final Reading Policies.

Ayes: Members Ahmed Christenson, Kehoe, Sidhu, and Westra
Nays: Members Picard and Vos
The motion was carried 5-2

New Hires

Stamatakis, Corrin	Integrated Science Pioneer Middle School	Effective 1-21-25
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Leaves

Meier, Alisa	Art Secondary Liberty Middle School	Leave of Absence Effective 11-25-24 to 3-31-25
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Resignations

Brown, Michelle	Counselor (Non-Instructional) Liberty Middle School	Resignation Effective 1-31-25
Federhofer, Claire	High School Assistant Principal Canton High School	Resignation Effective 2-3-25

Symington, Todd

Psychologist
Salem High School

Resignation Effective 1-8-25

Approval of Minutes

The Special Meeting Minutes from January 13, 2025, and the Regular Meeting Minutes from January 14, 2025, were approved as presented.

Final Reading Policies

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

B. Celebrating Success

Member Sidhu presented the Volunteer in Public Schools (VIPS) Award to the Plymouth Community United Way and the Plymouth Noon Rotary in recognition of their generous support, which helped bring the district's newest emotional support dog to Hulsing Elementary School. Acey, a labrador mix puppy, has quickly become a beloved member of the Hulsing community. Living with Principal Jen Chambers, Acey accompanies her to school each day, providing comfort and a welcoming and engaging environment to both students and staff.

C. Board Committee Reports/ActionPresidents Report – Lauren Christenson

President Christenson shared that the deadline for community members to apply to join one of the Board's four subcommittees has been extended to 4 p.m. on February 3, 2025. She encouraged interested individuals to visit the P-CCS website for application details. She also shared that the Board will discuss scheduling a Board Governance Workshop later in the meeting later in this meeting.

Student Performance and Achievement Committee (SPA) – Judy Westra

Member Westra shared that the SPA Committee has not met since the last Board meeting. 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 (F&O)– Anupam Sidhu

Member Sidhu shared that today's Policy Committee was canceled due to a meeting notification error. The next Policy meeting is scheduled for February 25, 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 23, 2025, and reviewed legislation regarding water filtration and the State Consensus Revenue Estimating Committee (CREC) outcomes. The committee also reviewed December financial statements. The next F&O meeting is scheduled for February 6, 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

Josh Patterson, SVA Student Co-Chair, shared that the SVA met on January 27, 2025, discussed the election of SVA cochairs, and gathered feedback on strategies to engage and inform students about the mental health resources available through P-CCS. The committee also explored ways to support the upcoming Mental Health and Wellness Fair. The next SVA Committee meeting is scheduled for February 24, 2025, at 4:30 p.m., with a location to be determined, and everyone is encouraged to attend.

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

Superintendent Merritt spoke about the current climate surrounding immigration and reaffirmed the district's dedication to creating a safe, welcoming, and inclusive environment for all students.

She congratulated Plymouth High School senior Tara Creekmore, who was recently named a Michigan High School Athletic Association finalist for this year's Scholar-Athlete Award, recognizing her athletic excellence, stellar academic record, and dedication to community service.

Superintendent Merritt also spoke about a survey launched by the P-CCS Department of Food & Nutrition Services to assess interest in take-home meal options for students observing Ramadan from February 28 to March 30.

Families whose students plan to participate in this tradition are encouraged to complete the survey, which is available on the district website and social media channels.

She congratulated the nine individuals and two teams being inducted into the Canton High School Athletics Hall of Fame next week. The inductees include the 1992 league champion boys' basketball team and the 2006 Canton football team, which achieved league, district, and regional championships. The inductees will be honored at a basketball game on January 31 and a banquet on February 1, 2025.

Additionally, she shared that P-CCS has partnered with the Plymouth and Canton Chambers of Commerce to expand student career and internship opportunities. A recent Plymouth Chamber e-bulletin was sent to local businesses to promote hiring P-CCS students and recent graduates for various positions. The district's virtual job board also connects businesses with students seeking job opportunities. The annual CTE Trades and Hiring Fair on February 27 will further facilitate direct connections between students and local businesses in the skilled trades industry.

In closing, Superintendent Merritt highlighted the positive impact of the district's six therapy and service dogs, who continue to provide valuable support and comfort to students across P-CCS.

Communications and Marketing – Frank Ruggirello

P-CCS Community Education Highlights (Strategic Goal B& C) (Presentation)

Mr. Frank Ruggirello, Executive Director of Communications and Marketing, and Ms. Alicia Fenstermacher, Community Education Coordinator, presented an overview of the wide range of courses and clinics available to students and adults through the P-CCS Community Education Program. The presentation highlighted opportunities for our community to discover, develop, and enhance their lives through quality educational, recreational, and social experiences available after school, during evenings, and on weekends. The program offers over 150 segments annually, engaging thousands of participants. Notable offerings include the CEBL basketball league, youth dance, Stay and Play, Safety Town, and various summer classes, camps, and clinics. Registration information can be viewed on the Community Education page through the P-CCS website.

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

Finance and Operations – Jill Minnick

Final Reading Resolutions

- **Action Item #25-01-47:** It was moved by Member Kehoe and seconded by Member Westra to Approve a Resolution for Bid Package #EL-5 Farrand Elementary Addition and Renovations. 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. (Final Reading)

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

Nays: None

The motion was carried 7-0

E. Citizens' Comments

- Gregory Pappas spoke on school lockdown communications
- Keegan Matta spoke on the placement of citizens' comments on agendas
- Laurie Mayer, Laisren Carroll, and Adi Peshkess spoke on inclusivity and support for all student groups

F. Action Items/Discussion

Board members reviewed their calendars and selected March 1, 2025, for an upcoming Board Governance Workshop.

G. Follow-up Board Questions

From the Community Education Presentation – The Board would like to receive data showing participation trends over the last few years.

H. Recess

President Christenson called for a recess at 8:32 p.m. to transition into a Board workshop. The meeting was reconvened at 8:43 p.m.

Special Meeting - Workshop Assessment and Data Overview

The Board of Education and district administrators participated in a workshop focused on assessment literacy. The workshop examined the components of a balanced assessment system and reviewed how evidence of student learning informs educational decisions. Facilitated by Ms. Bethany Rayl, Chief Academic and Innovation Officer, and Mr. Jonathan Flukes, Director of Data Assessment, Research, and Evaluation, the workshop provided an in-depth review of the district's efforts to establish a common language for assessment literacy and data, aligning with the goals of the P-CCS Dynamic Plan. The importance of gathering accurate assessments was emphasized. Future objectives include collaborating at all levels to create, administer, and interpret common, standards-aligned assessments to help identify what students know and to guide additional teaching support and interventions.

I. Adjournment

President Christenson adjourned the Regular Meeting at 9:33 p.m.

Judy Westra
Secretary, Board of Education

*Approved at the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education on 2-25-25/dr