

BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
April 8, 2025

The Board of Education of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, Wayne and Washtenaw Counties, Michigan, met in a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, April 8, 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, Vos, and Westra
Absent: Member 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
Ms. Jill Minnick, Chief Finance and Operations Officer
Mr. Abdul Madyun, Chief Human Resource Officer
Mr. Anthony Ruela, Executive Director of Middle School Education
Mr. Mark Salzer, Director of Integrated Technology Systems

Others Present: Ms. Diane Robertson, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent and Board
Mr. Josh Patterson, SVA Student Co-Chair
Ms. Sae Pawar, SVA Student Co-Chair
Mr. Matthew Stockert, Barton Marlow Design Specialist
Mr. Brian Jesse, Barton Marlow CTS Senior Designer

Sae Pawar led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Action Item #25-04-60: It was moved by Member Kehoe and seconded by Member Picard to Adopt the Agenda and the Consent Agenda as presented. The Consent Agenda consisted of New Hires, Leaves, Resignations, Retirements, Regular Meeting Minutes from March 11, 2025, First Reading Policies, Final Reading Policies, and Out-of-Country Field Trips.

Ayes: Members Ahmed Christenson, Kehoe, Picard, Vos, and Westra
Nays: None
The motion was carried 6-0

New Hires

Howarth, Ashley	ECDD – Special Education Teacher Allen Early Learning Academy	Effective 3-17-25
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Leaves

Zander, Rebecca	Elementary Classroom Isbister Elementary School	Childcare Leave of Absence 3-22-25 through 6-11-25
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Resignations

Crecelius, Allison	ECDD – Special Education Teacher Allen Early Learning Academy	Resignation Effective 3-11-25
Mills, Courtney	Elementary Classroom Farrand Elementary School	Resignation Effective 3-11-25
Swihart, Jessica	Elementary Classroom Eriksson Elementary School	Resignation Effective 6-11-25

Retirements

Bindus, Cheryl	Vocational-Educational Foundation Canton High School	Retirement Effective 6-11-25
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Chevela, Julie	Elementary Classroom Field Elementary School	Retirement Effective 6-11-25
Stephens, Deborah	Instructional Coach-Middle School Educational Support Center	Retirement Effective 6-11-25
Tashman, Tracy	Math Discovery Middle School	Retirement Effective 6-11-25
Verduzco, Linda	Elementary Classroom Bentley Elementary School	Retirement Effective 4-30-25

Approval of Minutes

The Regular Meeting Minutes from March 11, 2025, were approved as presented.

First Reading Policies

- Policy #0167.03 - Public Participation at Board Meetings
- Policy #1130 - Conflict of Interest
- Policy #3110 - Conflict of Interest
- Policy #4110 - Conflict of Interest
- Policy #8321 – Criminal Justice Information Security

Final Reading Policies

- Policy #5340 – Student Welfare and Accidents
- Policy #7440.03 – Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems

Out-of-Country Field Trips

- Vietnam, Cambodia, and Thailand – Canton High School – Grades 9-12

B. Celebrating Success

Member Vos presented STARS Awards to a group of outstanding band and choir students from Discovery, East, Liberty, and Pioneer Middle Schools and P-CEP. These talented students have shown remarkable dedication, earning recognition at the regional, state, and national levels. The P-CEP marching band drum majors and students honored by the Michigan Philharmonic Orchestra and Detroit Symphony Orchestra Honor Band were also honored.

C. Board Committee Reports/Action

President's Report – Lauren Christenson

President Christenson welcomed everyone back from spring break and expressed hope that it was a restful and enjoyable time for all. She also spoke about Policy #2410, which was rescinded by the Board in the fall following the recommendation of Neola, to ensure compliance with changes to state laws. In response to emails received asking for this policy to be reinstated, she referenced current Policy #2414 (*Reproductive Health and Family Planning*), which affirms that school officials are not permitted to refer students for abortion services. President Christenson shared this information to provide families with clarity regarding the district's position on the issue.

Student Performance and Achievement Committee (SPA) – Judy Westra

Member Westra shared that the SPA Committee met on April 2, 2025, and reviewed Middle and High School Program Update Presentations, an out-of-country field trip, and a revision to curriculum for health-related courses. The next SPA Committee meeting is scheduled for May 7, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. in the boardroom at the E.J. McClendon Educational Center. All are welcome to attend.

Policy Advisory Committee (F&O) – Anupam Sidhu

Member Ahmed shared that the Policy Committee has not met since the last Board meeting but noted that the committee recently interviewed and selected three new community members who will be joining the committee at the next Policy meeting. That meeting is scheduled for April 22, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. in the Collaboration Room at the E.J. McClendon Educational Center. She encouraged everyone to attend.

Finance and Operations Committee - Patrick Kehoe

Member Kehoe shared that the F&O Committee met on April 3, 2025, and reviewed custodial and transportation key performance indicators. The committee also previewed the community budget survey results and discussed bringing two new community members up to date as they join the committee. The next F&O meeting is scheduled for April 17, 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 and Saeel Pawar, SVA Student Co-Chairs, shared that the SVA Committee met on March 17, 2025, where they finalized election results and worked with Panorama representatives to provide student feedback regarding the survey. The next SVA Committee meeting is scheduled for April 21, 2025, at 4:30 p.m. at Pioneer Middle School, and everyone is encouraged to attend.

D. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Merritt extended congratulations to several P-CEP student groups for their exceptional achievements:

- The P-CEP Culinary Arts Competitive Teams earned top honors at the recent ProStart Hospitality Competition, capturing the State Championship and qualifying for the National Competition in Baltimore. The Restaurant Management Team placed second, and the Quiz Bowl Team finished third. Superintendent Merritt thanked Chef Diana Woodward for her outstanding leadership of these teams.
- The Lightning Robotics Team had a strong showing recently at the state competition, reaching the semi-finals and receiving the State Quality Award. They were also honored with the prestigious FIRST Impact Award. Appreciation was extended to Jay Obsniuk for his dedication and guidance to this fantastic team.
- 88.1 The Park was recently named as the 2025 High School Radio Station of the Year by the Michigan Association of Broadcasters - marking their 8th consecutive win. Superintendent Merritt recognized the amazing student broadcasters and Station Directors Bill Keith and John Kreger for their continued dedication to the station.

Superintendent Merritt also invited the community to attend the Park Players Theatre Company's spring musical, *Brigadoon*, running April 11, 12, 18, and 19 at 7 p.m. in the Gloria Logan Auditorium. Tickets are available on the Park Players website or at the door.

She also announced that registration is now open for the 2024-2025 Kindergarten and Early Childhood programs for all students residing within district boundaries. P-CCS offers both traditional kindergarten and Young 5 classes, along with early childhood options for 3 and 4-year-old children. Details are available on the district website.

In closing, Superintendent Merritt encouraged families to share their experiences through the Spring 2025 Family-School Relationship Survey, which is open through April 18. The survey is accessible via the P-CCS website and district social media channels.

E. Citizens' Comments

- Joan Pence and Rachel Hayes spoke about support of immigrant and LGBTQ+ students
- Art Colling spoke about pay-to-participate fees
- Char Tararozzi shared positive comments about a P-CEP alumnus
- Debra Finkenbinder-Pepper spoke about students' awareness of their rights
- Colin Miranda spoke on policy revisions and the use of gender pronouns
- Sheila Dudley, Yalontae Washington, and Angelika Johnson expressed concerns related to an elementary school matter
- Victoria Czapski spoke about a Sustainability Education Program

F. Administrative Reports/Recommendations**Teaching and Learning – Bethany Rayl**Middle School Program Highlights (Goal A) (Presentation)

Anthony Ruela, Executive Director of Middle School Education, presented an update on the 2025 Middle School Programs, focusing on the implementation and impact of the Middle School Common Grading Framework.

He outlined a three-year development process that began with teachers and curriculum leaders collaborating to create a more consistent, accurate grading approach. The 2021-22 school year served as the baseline, followed by a year of committee work to develop shared language, a soft rollout, and full implementation in the 2024-25 school year.

A key change was the transition from a traditional 100-point scale, which was found to be mathematically inconsistent, to a 5-point scale with equal intervals. This new model ensures accurate grade averaging and provides a consistent structure across all classrooms and schools.

The Common Grading Framework aligns with the P-CCS Dynamic Plan, the Learner Profile, and the AMLE's Essential Attributes of Successful Middle Schools. The framework is designed to ensure fair, equitable grading practices, reduce achievement gaps, and better prepare students for future success.

Initial data indicates the new 5-point framework is achieving its goals by improving grading accuracy, supporting student learning through multiple demonstration opportunities, and eliminating compliance-based grading. It also provides clearer expectations for students.

Moving forward, the district will focus on refining instructional practices, enhancing the quality of assessments, and offering targeted professional learning to help teachers effectively integrate the framework into daily instruction.

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

First Reading Resolutions

- Consider Approval of a Resolution for New Course Materials (Piano Studies). Beth Rayl provided an overview of this recommendation, which includes the purchase of 40 copies of Alfred's *Basic Adult Piano Course: Lesson Book 2* and 40 copies of *Alfred's Basic Adult Piano Course Lesson Book 3*, at a cost not to exceed \$1,100. These instructional materials will allow for teaching piano skills at more advanced levels and will be funded through the 2024-25 budget and implemented during the 2025-26 school year and beyond. (First Reading)
- Consider Approval of a Resolution for Teacher Chromebooks to Support Middle School Math Instruction. Beth Rayl provided an overview of this resolution recommending the purchase of 54 Lenovo Chromebook packages to better support instructional practices for delivering Amplify Desmos, the district's middle school math curriculum resource. This recommendation, at a cost of \$409 per Chromebook, will not to exceed \$23,000. This purchase will be funded from the 2024-25 budget and implemented during the 2025-26 school year and beyond. (First Reading)

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

Finance and Operations – Jill Minnick

Community Budget Survey Results (Presentation)

Member Kehoe, Treasurer of the Board of Education, reviewed stakeholder feedback and results from the Budget Community Survey, which included input from staff members and the community. The survey gathers feedback to help identify priorities as the district enters the next budget cycle. 33 responses were received.

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

First Reading Resolutions

- Consider Approval of a Resolution for Bid Packet #T-11 – AV Category. Mark Salzer, Director of Integrated Technology Systems, along with Matthew Stockert and Brian Jesse, Design Associates from Barton Malow, presented a recommendation for the purchase of AV equipment, including projectors for all four high schools and necessary AV components for bond-funded projects at Farrand Elementary and Salem High School. Staff and student input were gathered during the evaluation process. Based on alignment with evaluation criteria—such as price, educational value, and centralized management capabilities—the recommendation is to purchase the MX Series 75" SMART boards from VSC, Inc. The proposed award to VSC, Inc. is in an amount not to exceed \$1,313,000.70, to be funded by the 2023 bond proceeds. (First Reading)

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

G. Remaining Citizens' Comments

- Elise Harbert expressed concerns related to an elementary school matter
- Natalie Sharpe spoke on the value of a growth mindset
- Steve Gentilia spoke about P-CEP outdoor facilities/water access

H. Action Items/Discussion

Final Reading Policies

- **Action Item #25-04-61:** It was moved by Member Kehoe and seconded by Member Ahmed to Approve a Resolution Calling for Full, Permanent Funding of IDEA. (First and Final Reading)

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

Nays: None

Abstention: Member Picard

The motion was carried 5-1-1

Discussion

The Board reviewed and discussed a draft of the 2025 Board Operating Principles. Board members will email President Christenson their feedback prior to the next meeting for suggested edits.

I. Follow-up Board Questions

The Board requested information regarding the district's sustainability and waste management procedures.

J. Adjournment

President Christenson adjourned the Regular Meeting at 10 p.m.

Judy Westra
Secretary, Board of Education

*Approved at the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education on 4-22-25/dr