

BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
April 22, 2025

The Board of Education of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, Wayne and Washtenaw Counties, Michigan, met in a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, April 22, 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. Mark Salzer, Director of Integrated Technology Systems
Mr. Andrew Steinman, Associate Director of Integrated Technology Systems
Ms. Kim Villarosa, Salem High School Principal
Mr. Greg Anglin, Plymouth High School Principal
Mr. David Reed-Nordwall, Canton High School Principal
Ms. Kimberly Doman, Starkweather Academy Principal

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

Josh Patterson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Action Item #25-04-62: 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 Resignations, Retirements, Special Meeting Minutes from April 7, 2025, Special Meeting Minutes from April 8, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes from April 8, 2025, and Final Reading Policies.

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

Resignations

Otemuyiwa, Cassandra	ELL Teacher Salem High School	Resignation Effective 6-11-25
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Retirements

Heilman, John	Media Specialist Canton High School	Retirement Effective 6-11-25
Nichoson, Debra	Elementary Classroom Hulsing Elementary School	Retirement Effective 6-11-25
Pennock III, Robert	Innovation Period Teacher Hulsing Elementary School	Retirement Effective 6-11-25
Sonk, Michelle	Elementary Classroom Hulsing Elementary School	Retirement Effective 6-11-25
Wiessner, Carol	Elementary Classroom Bentley Elementary School	Retirement Effective 6-11-25

Approval of Minutes

The Special Meeting Minutes from April 7, 2025, the Special Meeting Minutes from April 8, 2025, and the Regular Meeting Minutes from April 8, 2025, were approved as presented.

Final 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

B. Celebrating Success

Member Ahmed presented STARS Awards to two outstanding Starkweather Academy students, Precila Mary Robetrai and Dwayne Keinon III. Precila was recognized for her resilience and determination as an ESL student who successfully earned her GED. She is admired for her strong work ethic and positive spirit. Dwayne was honored for his quiet leadership and remarkable courage, most notably demonstrated when he performed CPR to save a friend's life last year.

Extra Miler Awards were also presented to three dedicated staff members for their role in fostering a supportive and welcoming school environment. Jena Scott (ESL Teacher) was recognized for her enthusiastic, student-centered approach and her ability to connect meaningfully with students. Theresa McEwen (Teacher Consultant) was commended for her wisdom, calm leadership, empathy, and steadfast support of others. Amy McGrath (Food and Nutrition Services) was celebrated for her cheerful energy and the joy she brings to school each day, greeting students and staff with a smile.

C. Board Committee Reports/ActionPresident's Report – Lauren Christenson

President Christenson noted that the Board approved an update to Policy #0167.3 through the consent agenda, allowing citizens to submit comment cards until the start of the Citizens' Comments section to make public participation more accessible. She also shared that she received further feedback on the draft Board Operating Principles and recommended that a Board workshop be scheduled to collaboratively finalize this document, ensuring it reflects the Board as a whole.

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 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 Sidhu shared that the Policy Committee met earlier this evening, where they welcomed three new community members and conducted an orientation. The committee reviewed revisions to several policies related to grant funding, reflecting updated federal guidance and Neola's recommendations. They also considered a policy change to replace staff names with titles to minimize the need for updates during personnel changes. The next Policy Committee meeting will take place on May 27, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. in the Collaboration Room at the E.J. McClendon Educational Center, and community members are welcome to attend.

Finance and Operations Committee - Patrick Kehoe

Member Kehoe shared that the Finance & Operations Committee met on April 17, 2025. The committee reviewed proposals for track equipment, Chromebook purchases, and the renewal of a district mapping system. Additional agenda items included a Food and Nutrition Services presentation, budget updates, and February financial statements. The committee also discussed updates on childhood playground equipment. The next meeting is scheduled for May 8, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. in the boardroom at the E.J. McClendon Educational Center, and community members are encouraged to attend.

Student Voice in Action Committee (SVA) - Lauren Christenson

Josh Patterson, SVA Student Co-Chair, shared that the Student Voice and Action (SVA) Committee met on

April 21, 2025, to plan activities in recognition of Mental Health Awareness Month. As part of these efforts, SVA members will be present in middle and high school cafeterias to encourage students to wear green on Monday,

May 12, in support of mental health awareness. Josh also expressed gratitude to Sae Pawar for her dedicated service during her two-year term as a committee co-chair, acknowledging the many hours she devoted to advancing the work of SVA. The next SVA Committee meeting is scheduled for May 19, 2025, at 4:30 p.m. at Pioneer Middle School. All are welcome to attend.

D. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Merritt shared information about the 2025 SJ5K, which returns to the P-CEP campus on Saturday, May 4. She introduced SJ5K student leaders who shared information about the families receiving support from this year's event.

She also invited families to attend the 4th Annual P-CCS Mental Health and Wellness Fair on Saturday, April 26, from 10 am-2 pm in Downtown Plymouth's Kellogg Park. The fair is part of the district's work to help crush the stigma surrounding mental health. It will feature more than 100 wellness booths, activities for children, therapy dogs, a petting zoo, free food, and opportunities to meet mental health experts and receive community resources.

Superintendent Merritt continued by sharing details about the upcoming Parent Council Bond Tour, which will take place on Thursday, April 24, at 9:30 a.m. This tour offers parents an inside look at major projects funded by the 2020 bond.

She then congratulated P-CEP senior Khalida Nazari, who was recognized recently for her exceptional language skills as she works to earn the prestigious Michigan Seal of Biliteracy Award. Khalida speaks seven languages and will be receiving multiple awards for her achievements.

The P-CEP Lightning Robotics team was also congratulated for a phenomenal season, advancing to the division finals at the World Championships, narrowly missing the chance to compete for the world title. The team received the prestigious FIRST Impact award under the leadership of Coach Jay Obsniuk.

In closing, Superintendent Merritt congratulated longtime P-CCS educator and Hall of Fame basketball coach Bob Brodie, who was recently named a Michigan Lottery Excellence in Education Award recipient for his many years of dedication. With 50 years of service to students and athletics, Coach Brodie is now in the running for the Michigan Lottery Educator of the Year award.

E. Citizens' Comments

- Joan Pence, Nancy Faerber, Laurie Mayers, and Rachel Hayes spoke on support for LGBTQ+ students
- Michelle Moustakas spoke on support for immigrants
- Steve Gentilia spoke on P-CEP accident reporting procedures
- Sue Moutsatson and Kevin Moutsatson spoke on staff absences for bereavement

F. Administrative Reports/Recommendations

Teaching and Learning – Bethany Rayl

High School Program Highlights (Goal A and B) (Presentation)

Hal Heard, Executive Director of High School Education, along with high school principals Kim Villarosa (Salem), Greg Anglin (Plymouth), David Reed-Nordwall (Canton), and Kim Doman (Starkweather), presented highlights from the district's 2025 high school programming. Their presentation emphasized alignment with the P-CCS Dynamic Plan and Learner Profile, with a focus on advancing a common high school vision.

The team shared how the high schools are working together to promote student engagement and build a stronger sense of belonging. Some of the initiatives highlighted included buddy study sessions, student feedback groups, the implementation of student-led belonging campaigns, and the use of attendance tracking systems to identify and support at-risk students with targeted interventions.

Academic data showed encouraging trends across the four core content areas, including an increase in the number of students earning first-semester credit and a reduction in achievement gaps for all student groups, except for multilingual learners.

Looking ahead, the district will continue to pursue equitable grading practices, strengthen common assessments, and enhance instructional strategies to support ongoing student growth and achievement.

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

First Reading Resolutions

- Consider Approval of a Resolution for 5th Grade Maturation HIV Lesson Updates. Beth Rayl, Chief Academic and Innovation Officer, provided an overview of this recommendation, which is brought forward to align with the Michigan Health Education Standards, the P-CCS Learner Profile, and to ensure cultural relevance. The team recommends adopting the video *HIV & Me: Marissa's Story (Redefine Positive)* and a slide deck with accompanying discussion and assessment. The updated lesson would be implemented during the 2025-2026 school year and beyond if approved. There is no cost associated with the new and updated materials. (First Reading)

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

Final Reading Resolutions

- Action Item #25-04-63:** It was moved by Member Kehoe and seconded by Member Picard to Approve a Resolution for New Course Materials (Piano Studies). This recommendation 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. Member Ahmed momentarily stepped out of the room and was not present for the vote. (Final Reading)

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

Nays: None

The motion was carried 6-0

- Action Item #25-04-64:** Member Kehoe requested that the total cost associated with the Purchase of Teacher Chromebooks to Support Middle School Math Instruction be revised to reflect funding from the 2023 bond rather than the 2024-2025 budget. Following discussion, Member Kehoe moved to **amend** the resolution to specify that this purchase be funded through the 2023 bond. The motion was seconded by Member Westra.

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

Nays: None

The motion was carried 7-0

It was moved by Member Kehoe and seconded by Member Westra to Approve the **Amended** Resolution for the Purchase of Teacher Chromebooks to Support Middle School Math Instruction. This purchase includes 54 Lenovo Chromebook packages to enhance instructional delivery of Amplify Desmos, the district's middle school math curriculum resource. This recommended expenditure, at a cost of \$409 per device, will not exceed \$23,000. (Final Reading)

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

Nays: None

The motion was carried 7-0

Student Services – Kurt TyszkiewiczFood and Nutrition Services Program Updates (Presentation)

Kayla McDaniel, Director of Food and Nutrition Services, presented the department's 2025 updates, reaffirming its mission to provide all students with access to nutritious meals in a welcoming, supportive environment. Guided by the P-CCS Dynamic Plan and a commitment to whole-child wellness, the department focuses on four key areas: student experience, program excellence, operations and facilities, and employee experience. Each area plays a role in cultivating healthy habits and positive relationships with food that extend into adulthood.

To enhance the student experience, the department continues to source Michigan-grown foods, incorporate student feedback into menu planning, and introduce initiatives such as unlimited fruits and vegetables, allergen-friendly options, and culturally responsive meals like take-home offerings during Ramadan.

P-CCS Food and Nutrition Services was recently honored as one of seven nationwide districts to receive the 2024 Healthy Meals Award. Kayla expressed appreciation for the dedicated staff members who serve students daily, describing them as the heart of the program. Staff support remains a priority, with ongoing professional development, cross-training, and wellness initiatives.

Maintaining high standards for food safety, equipment upkeep, and storage efficiency remains a priority. Looking ahead, the department plans to expand its network of local vendors, strengthen student-led initiatives, and continue diversifying its menu with culturally relevant offerings.

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 the Renewal of a Licensing Agreement with Critical Response Group (CRG). Jill Minnick, Chief Finance and Operations Officer, provided an overview of the recommended two-year renewal of the district's mapping license agreement with CRG. This renewal is necessary to support ongoing bond-related security enhancements. Maintaining this license will ensure continued access to unlimited updates over the next two years. CRG maps have been successfully integrated into the district's emergency response plans and are actively used by the District's Security Operations Center (SOC), local law enforcement, and first responders. Special pricing has been secured for this renewal at a cost of \$31,030. The expense will be funded through the 2024–2025 31aa School Aid Funds. (First Reading)
- Consider Approval of a Resolution to Purchase Track Equipment for the Third Stadium at P-CEP. Jill Minnick, Chief Finance and Operations Officer, provided an overview of the recommended purchase from Aluminum Athletic Equipment Company (AAE) using TIPS/TAPS consortium pricing (#230203) at a total cost of \$116,354.60, funded by the 2023 bond. (First Reading)

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

Final Reading Resolutions

- **Action Item #25-04-65:** It was moved by Member Kehoe and seconded by Member Westra to Approve a Resolution to Purchase Chromebooks for P-CEP. Mark Salzer and Andrew Steinman provided an overview of this purchase recommendation. The devices currently in use are approaching end-of-life and becoming costly to maintain. To support continued student access to reliable technology, the district proposes purchasing 3,700 Dell 3120 2-in-1 Chromebooks from People Driven Technology using Midwestern Higher Education Compact (MHEC) contract pricing. The total cost will not exceed \$1,539,200 and will be funded through the 2023 bond. (First and Final Reading)

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

Nays: None

The motion was carried 7-0

- **Action Item #25-04-66:** It was moved by Member Kehoe and seconded by Member Ahmed to Approve a Resolution for Bid Packet #T-11 AV Equipment, including projectors for all four high schools and necessary AV components for bond-funded projects at Farrand Elementary and Salem High School. It is recommended that the MX Series 75" SMART boards from VSC, Inc. be purchased. 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. (Final Reading)

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

Nays: None

The motion was carried 7-0

G. Remaining Citizens' Comments

- None

H. Discussion

- None

I. Follow-up Board Questions

- The Board requested information regarding the district's sustainability and waste management procedures.
- The Board requested information to help explain the lower social studies grades reported for students with IEPs from the High School Presentation for the first semester of 2023-24.

- Regarding the sense of belonging data from the High School Presentation, the Board requested a demographic breakdown to identify which groups are represented or underrepresented.
- A link to view the Panorama survey questions will be provided in Board notes
- A link to view the 5th Grade Maturation HIV Lesson Update will be provided in Board notes.

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 May 13, 2025/dr